

# CATCH HER IF YOU CAN

POWERHOUSE OLIVIA CULPO IS JET-SETTING  
AROUND THE WORLD, CHASING HER PASSIONS,  
AND LIVING HER BEST LIFE

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It's a sweltering, sunny afternoon, the sort of day that makes your skin glisten as soon as you step outside. However, the Miami heat agrees with Olivia Culpo, who is completely unfazed and looks immaculate in an off-white ensemble — Sally LaPointe cashmere boucle knit bralette and cotton silk trousers, and platform heels. Her brunette tresses are parted down the middle and tied into a low, chic ponytail that shows off her perfectly winged eyeliner and oversized hoops. The gorgeous 26-year-old commands a room simply by entering it. But as we chat in the W South Beach's chic, cavernous lounge, I wholly understand why she was crowned Miss Universe 2012 (the first winning contestant to represent the United States in 15 years!).



Since her reign, Olivia has been steadily building an ever-expanding brand as a model (she is the face of TIMEX), actress, and influencer, who just amassed 3 million followers. This year, she became a *Sports Illustrated* rookie and bared all for their "In Her Own Words" project, a continuation of the essence of *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit*. In the artsy, black and white images she proudly dons the words: woman, pain shapes, love transforms, imperfect, and strength. *Sports Illustrated* is among the reasons the Los Angeles-resident is in town for Miami Swim Week. In addition to the events and press Olivia has lined up the next couple of days, she is assisting with *SI*'s swim search. "There were like 3,000 girls that came from all over the world to be chosen and it's just a handful that will win. So, it's crazy."

So, what is your advice for the *SI* model hopefuls? "I would say, work really hard. Have a clear idea of your interests, what you're passionate about. Have a point of view. You have to be interested and interesting... I feel like the thing that makes *Sports Illustrated* so unique as a brand is the fact that it's so much more than just bikinis and the way someone looks. It's about everything: their personality, what they're passionate about, what their talents are, hobbies, so much more. It's very dimensional and a lot of the girls that are a part of this brand usually end up doing so much, in terms of branding for themselves. It's like Tyra Banks, Brooklyn Decker, Kate Upton, Chrissy Teigen —they're so much more than just a pretty face... If anything, girls should know that they have to come with more...and they really need to want it also." Sage advice from a woman who made the world take notice with her very first attempt. The first beauty pageant Olivia entered, she won (Miss Rhode Island USA 2012), and from there hit a streak, winning Miss USA 2012 next, then the ultimate honor, Miss Universe 2012. The swift ascension of the brunette beauty comes

as no surprise —Olivia knows exactly what she wants and is putting in the work for it.

When she was younger, the Rhode Island-born, middle-child-of-five thought that she would become a restaurateur —like her father— or hotel owner. The former title was achieved last summer when her family and she opened Back 40 in North Kingston, Rhode Island. "Which is kinda weird," she muses about her childhood dream, "but that's all that I thought I wanted to do...because I love the way that I grew up," beams Olivia. Back 40 serves up "coastal comfort food" like lobster mac 'n' cheese, and Philly Cheese Benedict and Maple-Sriracha Chicken & Waffles for brunch. Now, *this* is my kind of restaurant. "I grew up in restaurants and I saw the way that it brought people together and I always had so much fun when I could go and see so many familiar faces and see families coming together eating and enjoying good food!"

Now that Olivia is an adult, her horizons have broadened, and she's thinking bigger than a single career. When you're passionate about so many things, why not fulfill them all? Olivia has embraced her inner thespian, appearing in a small role in the comedy, *I Feel Pretty* with Amy Schumer ("It was such an honor to work with Amy. She's so fun, so nice, so easy to work with.") and in the action-thriller, *Reprisal*, alongside Bruce Willis and Frank Grillo, in theaters on August 31st. "I play the wife of a banker who is involved in a robbery at the bank that he works at...so my neighbor Bruce Willis and my husband combine to try and find the robber... but I'm held hostage with our daughter." Filming, which took place in Cincinnati, was fun, especially since Olivia got to work with her good friend, Randall Emmett. "It makes such a big difference when you know familiar people. Frank Grillo was the other co-cast member, which was really fun. Of course, Bruce Willis is a legend, so that was awesome.

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Hopefully more to come 'cause I love acting. You meet so many interesting people."

Olivia goes from the silver screen to the small screen on September 4th in E! docu-series, *Model Squad*. Right in time for New York Fashion Week, the series will follow models Ashley Moore, Hannah Ferguson, Nadine Leopold, Shanina Shaik, Caroline Lowe, Daniela Brag, Ping Ha, Devon Windsor, and Olivia, as they prepare for fall runway season. "The cast is with my really good friends. One of my best friends, Devon Windsor, we spend a lot of time on the show together. It was so fun. It took up so much time." The series highlights her journey with *Sports Illustrated*, a "devastating" experience with a photographer, and working with her family on her Rhode Island restaurant. "There was a lot highlighted of my personal life that I've never done before, so I'm excited for people to just get to know me a little bit more."

As for her plans for the remainder of the summer, she has some work (a Calzedonia shoot and a tentative movie filming in Jamaica) and free time for some fun. "My family has a beach house that we're all going to go to in August. I have four brothers and sisters, and my sister just had a baby, so all of us are at the beach house, which will be really fun. And I'll get to check on my restaurant. And then going to Vancouver for a little bit. And then, fashion week will start early September and I'll be in New York and Paris and Milan, and everywhere," she laughs. It's go-go-go for Olivia, which works for her since she's the kinda person that doesn't know how to sit on a couch, she professes. Seriously, peep her Instagram and you'll see that she is in a new location every few days.

How do you do it all? "Good time management and I also really know



the things that I need to keep going. My advice would be, figure out what it is that *you* need for you, and then make time to do that so you're using your free time wisely." Olivia recharges by spending time with her family, journaling, and working out. She loves to be outside —hiking, running, playing softball or volleyball—and really enjoys classes like, Soul Cycle, Pilates, Barre, Barry's Bootcamp, and Orangetheory.

Her other favorite pastime — shopping. "Retail therapy is a real thing, for me," she laughs, "even if it's Home Goods or grocery shopping. I just love buying things and like, I dunno, I love being able to choose out of options and then take things home. It's weird." While a massage would be nice, her busy schedule normally doesn't permit such a luxury. And yes, she does find time to *really* unwind, which involves grilling out at home and enjoying the sunset with a glass of champagne.

Undoubtedly living her best life, Olivia has some great tips on how to achieve that on her lifestyle website, [OliviaCulpo.com](http://OliviaCulpo.com). Here, visitors can get to know Olivia better and find fun guides, party-planning ideas, as well as beauty and fashion tips. You can even cop her incredible style by clicking on "Get the Look." A few months ago, the style maven, who describes her overall style as "pretty edgy and sleek, not super girly" designed and launched a capsule collection with Revolve and Marled, Marled X Olivia Culpo. The collection featured sporty, street-style pieces and sets, "a lot of track suits, jumpers, rompers. I'm trying to go for more of the cool-girl, classic vibe." She's presently working on more fashion projects, but could not reveal any details at the time of our interview.

If you weren't in entertainment or a restaurateur, what do you think you'd be doing? "I'd kinda be designing, but I



already do that." You have it all covered. "I'm doing it all-*ish*." Every single passion that you have. "Am I? Let me think. I mean, maybe." "You could sing more," her manager Nikki chimes in. "Yeah, yeah, yeah, but I am doing that. But I can definitely sing more. I love music. People don't realize how much I grew up with music." Her musically-inclined parents (her dad plays the trumpet and mom plays the viola) met in college orchestra, and passed down the music gene to their five children, who all play instruments. Olivia has been playing the cello all of her life. Former flame Nick Jonas' "Jealous" music video, which Olivia stars in, is making a whole lot more sense now, right? (She's filmed with the cello.) FYI: In a 2014 interview on Fuse.TV.com, Nick shared that his song "Jealous" was inspired by someone staring at Olivia *too* long.

"I love music, but it just kinda has never taken the forefront for some reason. But if all else fails, I'll definitely have a music career," she laughs. "It would be nice to do a feature, and then if it worked and I felt like I was able to balance everything, I would definitely do it. It would just be a matter of whether it made sense with *all* of the other things that I have going on, or if it would take away from the other things I have going on," says Olivia. From food and fashion to acting and modeling, the list of projects Olivia has her hands in continues to grow every day—so a music career just might be on the horizon. I mean, I wouldn't be surprised. You don't become Miss Universe unless you're the whole package, and more. **ML**

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Keep up with Olivia at [OliviaCulpo.com](http://OliviaCulpo.com)  
and follow her on  
Instagram @[OliviaCulpo](https://www.instagram.com/OliviaCulpo)  
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# WE WANT MORE!

## Your Instagram is full of amazing pictures, what are your tips for the perfect photo?

"It's all about lighting. If you have good lighting, you can take a beautiful photo. That's why all the photos on beaches with natural light always look the best. It's just the light is so good."

## And angles?

"I feel like for angles, everybody just has to play up their own, what works for them, and that's just trial and error. You always should practice and figure out what your angles are. Of course, everyone's is different based on their face and features, and what not."

## What one word would you use to describe yourself?

"Umm... Oh my gosh, what's the one word? You can't answer it about yourself. Intentional! That could be a really good thing or a bad thing, if I were a terrible human," she laughs.

## When you're in Miami, where do you go?

"I really like to go to the little workout area where there's the Barry's Bootcamp and Flywheel. And there's that really good food place called Dirt, and this place, Dr Smood. Love to go boating... I love how Miami is, obviously, on the coast, so you can get to so many beautiful beach destinations. Always going to the beach. I love Miami so much. It's so vivacious, everybody has such a spice for life. There's just so much color and attitude and charisma and personality, and I love that. Something else that I love about Miami, in particular, is the fashion and the way that women dress and take care of themselves and love to go out and dance and have fun, pamper themselves. I just feel like it's really healthy and obviously, as a girly-girl, I appreciate that."