

# SOCIAL LIFE

JUNE 2016

*in the hamptons with*

**EMMA SLATER**

FASHION, BEAUTY  
TRAVEL, ART  
EXCLUSIVE GALA PHOTOS



## FEATURES

## EMMA SLATER



Celestial Garden lace dress by Yoana Baraschi  
Available at Ms'tique 7935 Jericho Tpke, Woodbury  
Open double bar gold vermeil ring  
Gold filled hoop with turquoise ball earrings  
Available at Replicas 190 Wheatley Plaza, Greenvale





Peacock white lace off the shoulder dress by Yoana Baraschi  
Available at Ms'tique 7935 Jericho Tpke, Woodbury  
Mother of pearl clover earrings  
Faceted multi strand blue bracelet with leather and pearl closure  
24 Carat Gold filled turquoise ring  
Open double bar gold vermeil ring  
Available at Replicas 190 Wheatley Plaza, Greenvale  
Penny Lane pompom gladiator sandals by Elina Linardaki  
Available at Jildor 8285 Jericho Tpke, Woodbury



## EMMA SLATER — UNINHIBITED

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BY CHRISTINE MONTANTI

PHOTOGRAPHY BY VITAL AGIBALOW FOR HENSEL USA

My very first conversation with Emma Slater is over the telephone. It is late in the evening in early spring and she is on the East Coast visiting family. Enamored with her undeniable talent as a professional dancer on ABC's *Dancing With the Stars*, I am eager to learn more about her celebrity. We are finalizing the details of her upcoming cover shoot and, needless to say, Emma is an absolute delight to speak with. "Hi, Christine," Emma says enthusiastically. "Thank you so much for this opportunity!" Immediately I am mesmerized by her proper English accent. Together we begin to go over the timeline of the photo shoot and later we speak about her current trip to New York. Emma explains how she is traveling with her boyfriend, Sasha Farber, who is also a professional dancer on the hit TV show. She tells me how in the midst of their busy family trip to the Northeast, they have arranged a number of coaching sessions with aspiring ballroom dancers in several local dance studios. Emma explains that they are also scheduled to perform at various charity events while in town.

I comment to Emma on the telephone how pleased I am to hear that she and Sasha are back together. I had the pleasure of working with Sasha a year ago for an editorial feature in

this magazine, and he was so much fun to collaborate with. Emma confesses to me, "Sasha and I have been back together for about a year now. It's funny how you can take a break from each other and then you're able to really put things into perspective. It was really quite cool that we did that. Sasha and I have had a relationship for five years and he is actually the reason why I am on the show. I owe that to him. He arranged for me to have a meeting with the producers so that we can work together and it was so sweet of him and it worked out really well."

I arrive on location early in the morning the day of the photo shoot. It is a beautiful warm spring day. I am pleased to see that the hair and makeup stylists are already set up and awaiting Emma's arrival. The location is a private estate that is absolutely breathtaking. The residence is situated on what seems to be endless acres of property and it is surrounded by a natural fence that consists of the most majestic trees I have ever seen. Inside the home there is an enormous contemporary kitchen that we are using for our staging area. In the background I hear a gentleman saying hello to someone who has just knocked on the door. As I turn to see, in walks Emma.





Alley mini dress by Black Halo  
Available at Ms'tique 7935 Jericho Tpke, Woodbury  
Cz lined pearl tip bangles  
Available at Replicas 190 Wheatley Plaza, Greenvale Aquazzura  
Byzantine sandals by Aquazzura  
Available at Jildor 7945 Jericho Tpke, Woodbury



Conservatively dressed in a striped blouse, blazer, and denim jeans, Emma politely makes her way over to me. We greet each other and then I take a moment to admire her natural beauty. I notice her curly blonde hair is now very straight. It's cut in a way that happens to frame her face quite beautifully. She has on just a touch of makeup and her skin looks absolutely radiant.

I offer Emma a cup of hot coffee as she takes a seat in the hair stylist's chair. We immediately start conversing about her experience on *DWTS*. "Eight seasons ago I joined the troupe of *DWTS*, Emma tells me. "The troupe choreographs many of the artists' performances, especially at the start of the episode and then again at the end. Three seasons in, I became a professional dancer on the show and I was paired with a celebrity. My first partner was Bill Engvall. He was a blue collar comedian and he was loved so much by the audience watching at home. We actually made it all the way to the finals. He was so charismatic and such a loveable man that people really warmed up to his personality. They found him to be the most relatable; therefore, we did really well."

I ask Emma if it is an exhausting experience having a job as a professional dancer on the show. Emma takes a sip of her coffee, looks up at me, and says, "*DWTS* is very demanding. You have to decide what your partner looks good at doing and what they don't look good at doing. It's like you are constantly assessing the situation, and if something doesn't work you have to change the routine."

As the stylist creates beautiful soft curls with Emma's hair, we continue talking about the show. I ask Emma if she has encountered any difficult partners. Emma responds, "I have never had a difficult partner. Generally the celebrities really want to be on the show. It's such a fun TV show and it is so enjoyable. It's a really a great experience whether you are at week one, or you win the mirror ball trophy. The experience is life changing. It brings out the best in people."

Emma is finally finished with hair and the makeup artist escorts her over to a tall stool. I take a seat next to the stool at a massive dining table so we can continue talking. The makeup is spread out on a dazzling countertop adjacent to the table that is made out of ice quartz. I have never seen a countertop so beautiful. The homeowner explained to me that the ice quartz has healing properties in it which can help to purify your body and the environment.

After the makeup artist shows Emma some photographs of the makeup style we are going for today, Emma begins to tell me about work she was involved in prior to *DWTS*. "I was in a production, that was sort of the London version of Broadway," Emma explains. "I actually did Broadway in 2009. The production was called Burn the Floor. That is where I first met other professional dancers, such as Sharna Burgess, Maksim Chmerkovskiy, and Sasha Farber. Quite a few profes-

sional dancers from *DWTS* originated from Burn the Floor. I am really grateful to that show because it got me into a world tour. Traveling is something that I really like to do. I really believe that you should see the world before you leave it, and the opportunity to travel has been amazing. I absolutely love it."

While the makeup artist is doing the finishing touches on Emma, she tells me about a feature film she starred in. Emma enthusiastically explains, "I had the opportunity to do the movie *Mamma Mia!* 10 years ago. I was 18 when we filmed it in North London. I had been on tour when the agent that I was working with called me and said I had to come to this audition. My agent explained that they were looking for someone just like me. I ended up leaving the tour to do the movie. At the time I didn't know that Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, and Colin Firth were part of the movie. When Meryl walked into rehearsal I nearly died. It's a musical and there is this part in the movie where Meryl does this split in the air and she was amazing. She has the best work ethic." Emma even sang on the soundtrack. She insists that she wouldn't go so far as to say that she is a singer, but growing up she did get involved with musical theatre.

It is now time to get Emma dressed for her first look so we can begin shooting. As we walk to the dressing area toward the grand entrance of the house, Emma describes to me what her career aspirations are for the future. She explains that during the live broadcast of *Dancing with the Stars*, she hosts *All Access*, which broadcasts live during the show. "It is kind of like live streaming," Emma says. "They have different co-hosts each week. A lot of people from the show do it. Hosting is something I found a love for. During the off season, if we are not touring with the *Dancing with the Stars* production, we have the opportunity to do some hosting. For me, hosting is a passion I found out about later on in life. You can be yourself and be natural. I think it would be really fun. I have never been passionate about anything else other than dancing. I definitely want to put the focus on my career toward hosting in the future. Wouldn't that be the most amazing job in the world: to travel and to host?"

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*Executive Producer and Art Director: Christine Montanti*

*Photography: Vital Agibalov for Hensel USA*

*Director of Photography: Joe Lipari*

*Fashion Stylist: Rita Grossman of Replicas New York*

*Hair Styling and Makeup Artistry: Leonard Calandra and*

*Ryann Figueroa of Nubest Salon & Spa*

*Styling Assistant: Kate Romanoff*

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*You are a gem.*