

Ghost Whisperer

Luan Parle talks fashion, icons and cracking America with *Irish Tatler*

"Never look at the vastness of the road. Try to take it step by step." Chic chanteuse Luan Parle is explaining how she keeps her sanity during a whistle-stop promotional tour that has seen her traverse the country two times in as many days. The Wicklow-born singer has experienced a whirlwind year, releasing her single *Ghost* and subsequent album *Free* to wide acclaim from the music press in addition to being presented with the *Irish Tatler* Woman Of The Year Music Award 2007.

At twenty seven, Parle's lengthy career belies her years, having written her first song at eleven and recording an album at the tender age of twelve. Time spent honing her craft in the presence of musical greats including Bill Patell (with whom she co-wrote *Free*) afforded her a very practical view of the world she inhabits. "This business is tough, and at first it seems as though everything is open to you. I got into the business when I was very young, so I had to have a head on my shoulders," she says.

Her dual loves of music and fashion are expressed in her style, a mix of rock chick and vintage romance that she carries with an ethereal grace. "In another life I would love to be a stylist or to have my own fashion label," she confides. "I have loved fashion ever since I was very young, and have grown to appreciate it by styling myself for stage."

She aspires toward an old school glamour, citing Brigitte Bardot as her style icon. "I adore that sixties vibe, but I'm a rock chick at heart. I try to mix vintage stuff with pieces from the high street. Fashion is very much a personal thing," she enthuses. Luan has formed a close partnership with Irish designer Jennifer Rothwell, wearing her designs for special nights out. "I always feel that I'm going to look amazing in one of Jennifer's dresses."

And dresses she will need. Over the next few months Luan will be launching herself across America, a challenge she approaches with vigour and enthusiasm. "I love the promotional side of things, and it's great when people are interested in my work," she says. "This time next year I would love to say that I've made a good attempt at the States." This singer need not hope: her success is so imminent it's palpable. ■



Camera Shy: Luan has just finished recording the video for her latest single, *Ghost*, in which she wears a dress by Irish designer Jennifer Rothwell. Below: Parle was the proud recipient of the *Irish Tatler* Woman of the Year Music award in 2007.

