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DRESS 14 | SHOES 9 AU / 40 EU





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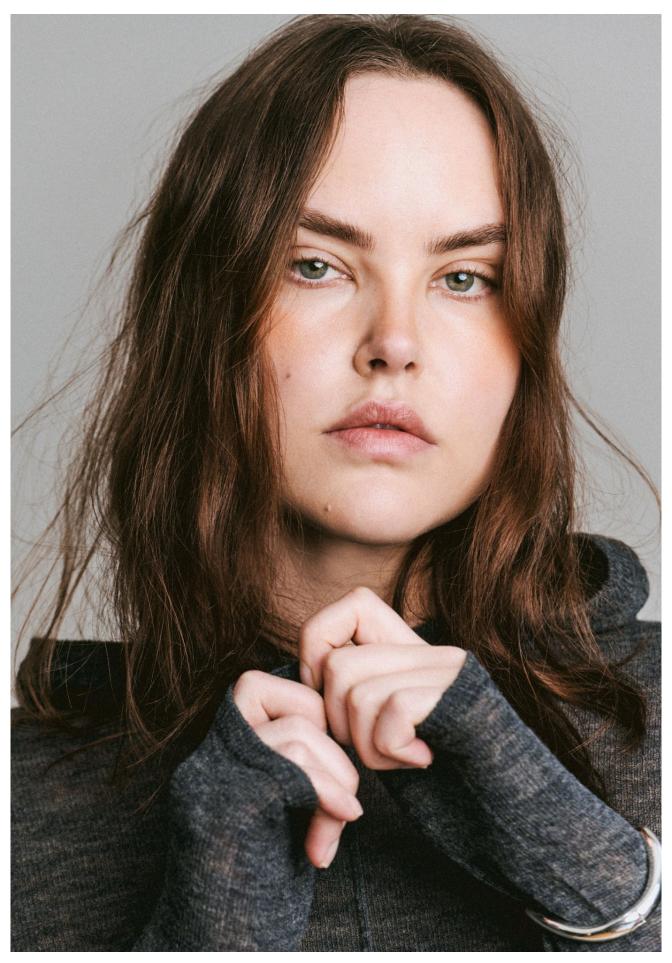




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THE SHAPE of THINGS to COME

Style

After walking the runways of London, Sydney, Copenhagen and Milan in 2023, there's no stopping Australian curve model Sophia Brennan

words by PATTY HUNTINGTON

hen Sophia Brennan opened the Henne opened the Henne was the control of the Sophia Bad finally moved on the issue of curve models in this country. Looking ultra-glamorous in a pair of aristons and a flooc-length tun wegan leather coat over a sheer, full-length tube drens, fleenant's look was the opening statement with the special part of the sephomore AAFW show of Henne designer Sophia Barth. Ada, remarkably, this was not called the special part of the sephomore AAFW show of Henne designer for the sephomore AAFW show of Henne designer for the sephomore AAFW show a called the sephomore AAFW show a summary of the sephomore AAFW shows a summary of the sephomore and the sep

doean't even offer extended sizing.

"People said in the media jinclasling
The syshey Morning Hendid that they thought
it was toleraistic. But, for me, that experience
was anything but toleraistic, it was actually
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Despite the inroads made on internation runways during the past three years by cure model pioneers such as Ashley Graham, Poline Fleenser, Precious Lee, Tess Hollidor and Jill Kortleve, the majority of runway mode main straight-steed. After circlis slamme the Melbourne Fashion Festival in March Affailing to include models over as size. Hot Afhad more curve models on its 2022 runway. Man ever before, including Cassacera floriding Cassacera floriding Berentun, Bosjia Almann and Bell Campbell, who were interarted into the model advance.

anymore. We just want to be included and given the same opportunities as our straight-size depending peers," says Brennan, who moved to London in late 2022 and now models under the professional name of Sophia Brenn. "Henne gave me that opportunity and they

should put her in the middle somewhere. It was like, 'Oh, this looks fab on you, Great. That's the first look. Done." All up, Brennan walked in seven AAFW 2023 shows. Three months earlier, she'd made her London Fashion Week debut walking for London-

isshion East emerging designer showcase. Then, in August, she walked or Gamni at Copenhagen Fushion Week, and in September, for Karoline fitto again, this time at Milan Fushion Week for Vitto's Spring 2024 show, which was sponsored under the Supported by Dolce & Gabbana' initiative.



TOP TO BOTTOM Brennan; backstage at Ganni spring/summer 2024; Henne at Afternay Australia Exchion Work 2022

who's now walked alongside some of her curve-mode idols. "Meeting Paloma Elsesser at Ganni – that wa incredible, And in Milan when I walked for Karolin Vitto, Ashley Graham opened the show, and I cam out second behind her. That was such a huge momer for me, and I really had to mich prosed?"

forme, and Ireally had to pirch myself?

On Elssesser and Graham, the adds "They are my queens. They are amazing women and they'te lit a tilte fire in my belly. I think it takes so much courage to be Jamong the first and to be navigating a space to be Jamong the first and to be navigating a space that has historically been so close-minded. They've provided the references for creatives to see that we can be shot and seen through a faishion lens and look fience doing it. Also, the more runways they walk, the more sample sites are created to give to up-and-

Long before Breman started grappling with the size police of the fashion industry, she had to contend with the equally draconian aesthetic gatekeepers of the dance world, where thin has always been in and eating disorders are rife. According to a 2014 study published in the European Esting Disorders Review, dancers are three times more likely than the general production to outline from an action disorder.

"There are a lot of mirrors that I had in the performing arts industry that [loop blew in fashion says Bernam, who was born and raised in Sydne and studied hip loop, juzz and mustical theatre. Sh gained an Advanced Diploma in Performing Arts from Sydney's EDSILentational academy and later works. Grant State Sta

In 2017, she entered an online competition rur by Australian curve-model specialist agency Bella Management. Founded by Chelsea Bonner, Bella Management launched the career of Robyn Lawley, to date Australia's most successful curve model.

The Melbourne Fashion Festival was not the outrunway showcase to recive criticism of late. Despite the rise of body directivy on international runways in recent years, The New York Past proclaimed in late 2022: "Bye-bye booty: Heroin chie is back". In Marcia in response to the models of the Fall 2023 show season, Nylom magazine suggested "the industry' 'body positive reckoning' was always performative and the most recent runway season confirmed it."

castings with many other peers and I'd be lying if I

dt he result waard deflating," says Brennan, who's represented by odds! in London and IMG in Austrila. "But it waard for a lack of tions. We were there, we were working the castings. I don't buy into la figuranted! — I have to broldes were just trending for a season or two. I nik that's a ridiculous statement. When it comes to fashion weeks, the use is that everything is to last minus. Ess diversity needs to not be an est that everything is to last minus. Ess diversity needs to not be an extribought. For me, fashion is most exciting when it offers a different resocrive and not when it's always the saune."

Her dream jobs? Walking for Alexander McQueen at Paris Fashiot Week. Shooting a campaign for New York fashion label Khaite. Ann aabbing a fragrance campaign, where she could deploy her dance skill: Curve models are not going anywhere" she savs. "We're here to stay."

January 2024



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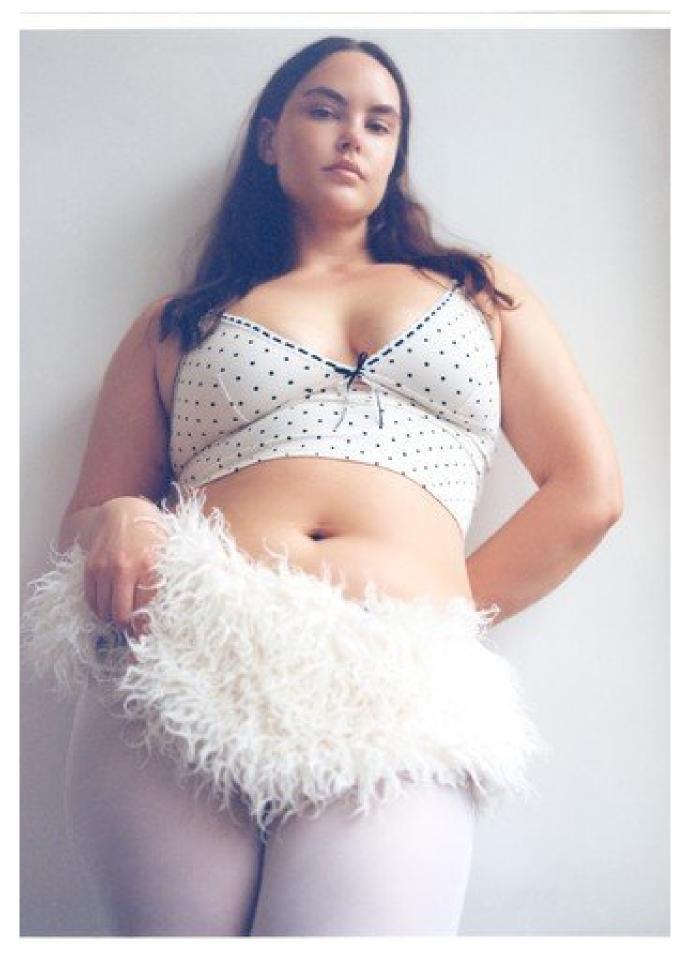




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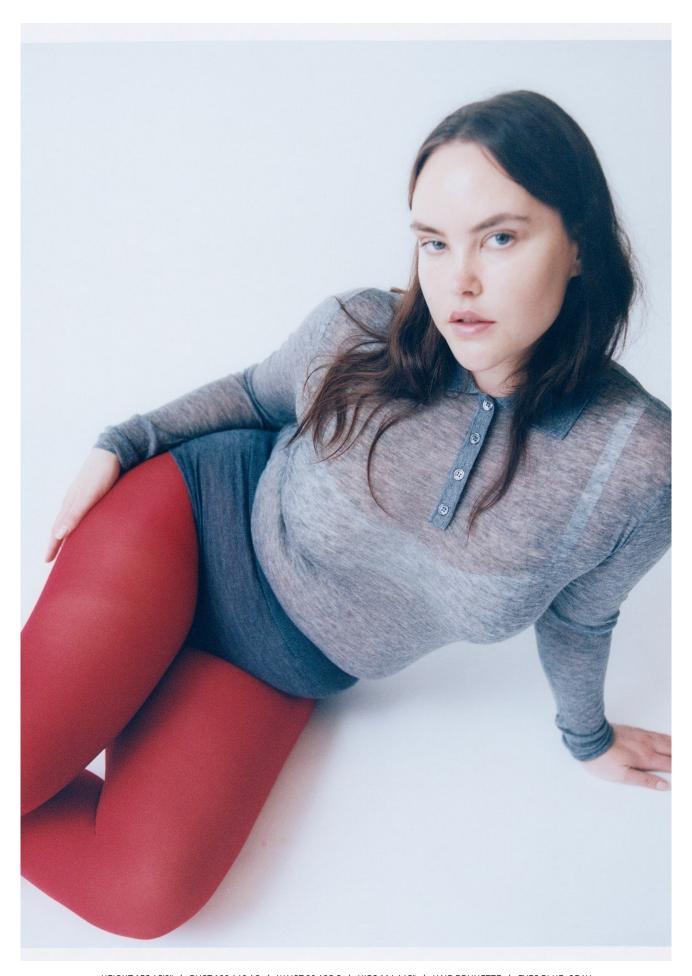




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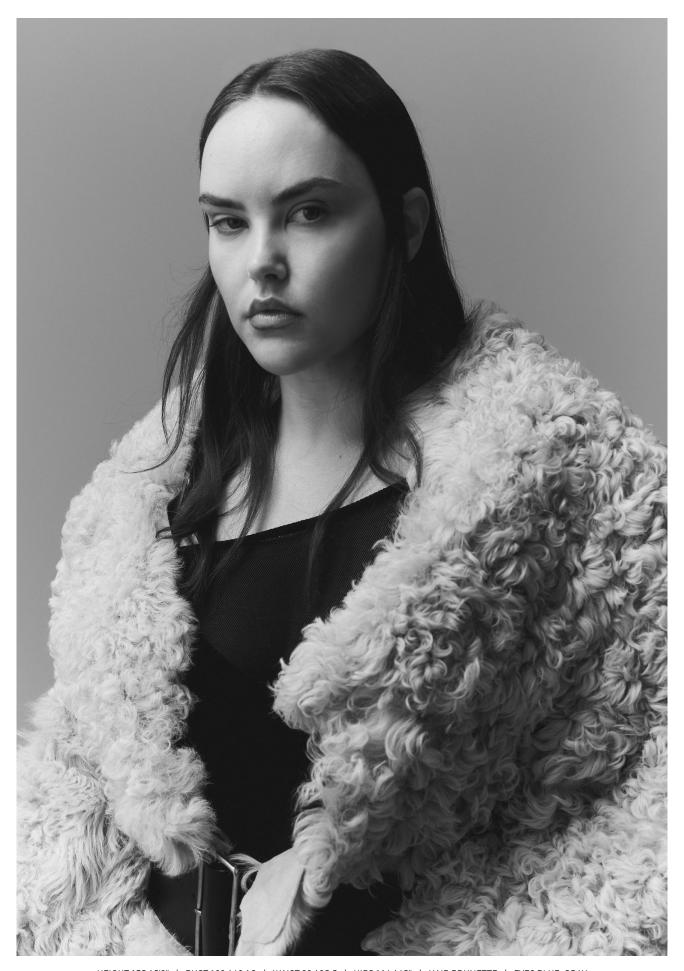




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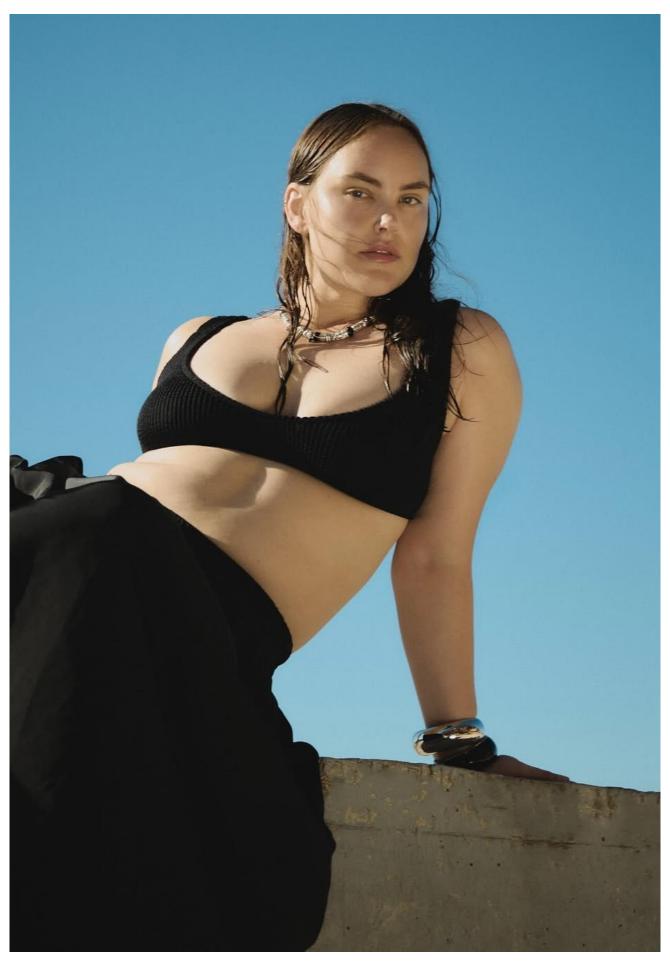




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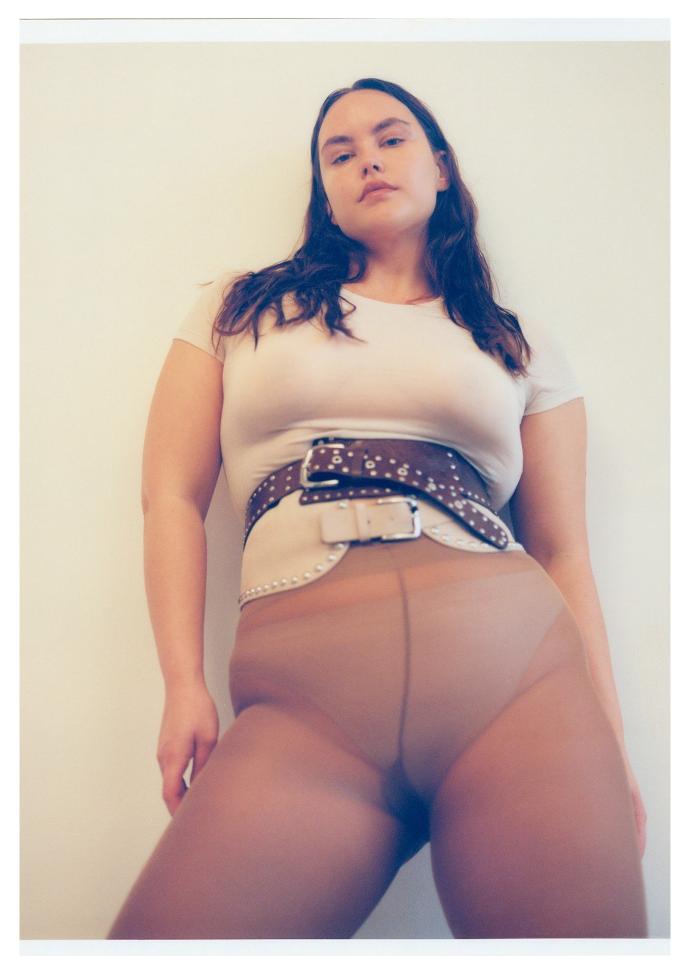




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