

ELEVEN TO: NAOMI CAMPBELL

Talk Soup

Getting Chatty With the Queen of the Catwalk

Words By Jeremiah Shaw Photos By Bryan Anderson

Naomi Campbell was not only the first Black model to appear on the cover of *Time* and *British Vogue*, but she's also graced the cover of over 40 magazines all over the world. And in 2005, Naomi Campbell wasn't only strutting down runways and posing in front of (insert any world-famous fashion photographer's name here)'s expensive lens, she was creating Fashion Relief—an organization that raised over one million dollars for Hurricane Katrina victims. Naomi came to the South this time to spread the love about Fashion Week Live, what she says "is an amazing collaboration. Normally, fashion shows are just for those in the fashion industry, like editors and celebrities. We're bringing the show to the public (in Houston and Dallas early next month)—the people who normally wouldn't be able to see it. It's really exciting. It's the real deal. Pre-party, show and an after-party."

When taking quick company with such a natural specimen of beauty—one that was once associated with not getting out of bed for under \$10,000 a day—we chose to ask her questions that we felt were of dire importance to the future of the world, rather than simply adding more lube to an already whirring pr machine. Despite the initial fear of being bludgeoned by her Blackberry, we not only walked out with a smile on our faces, but there was one on hers, too.

What's the best vessel for caffeine intake?

Naomi: Oh, well I don't drink coffee.

Okay, no caffeine then.

Naomi: I do drink Coke.

That counts. Polyester is superior to Rayon in every way. Discuss.

Naomi: Well polyester is scratchy isn't it? It's coarser. Rayon is much softer and smoother. I'm going to have to disagree with you there. Rayon is superior.

So what is the new black, really?

Naomi: Black.

Gianni or Donatella [Versace]?

Naomi: [face falls a little] Gianni, of course. He was a genius. Just an amazing person. I'm actually giving a lifetime achievement award to him next month. Donatella is going to accept it on his behalf. On February 8th, during Fashion Week.

Paris Hilton: Fashion plate or teen marketing bait?

Naomi: Oh Paris. [Sighs] She's the inspired, you know? She looks at us. We inspire her. It's certainly not the other way around.

Pirates or ninjas?

Naomi: What's a ninja?

Wears all black, face mask, big sword ... kills for money ...

Naomi: Pirates then. [Laughs]

Do you prefer runway or photo work?

Naomi: I don't really have a preference. But it's funny—I don't think I look like myself in magazine photos. I don't even recognize myself. But I do enjoy photos where I'm in character. When I'm made to look like someone else. Those are my favorite.

Finish this sentence: 'Men are at their best when they are...'

Naomi: When they're lying on the couch and in your arms.

[Stammering] Right. Right. Yeah. Where was I? Okay. Favorite vacation spot?

Naomi: Goldeneye, Jamaica.

A Blackberry or a Blackjack?

Naomi: Blackberry.

What one word would best describe the life of a supermodel?

Naomi: Rushed. No, no, not that. Um, air miles.

Air miles?

Naomi: Yes.

Err ... that's ... nevermind.

Fashion Week Live will be at Uptown Water Wall in Houston on March 6th and in Victory Park in Dallas on March 8th. Tickets for both are available at fashionweeklive.com.