

ANYA TAYLOR-JOY

It's a freezing Saturday afternoon in February and I've gone to interview Anya Taylor-Joy in the abandoned hotel where she's on the shoot for this very cover. After lurking in the corner for a while - and at one point bumping into her in the toilet - we grab a drink in the not-quite-so-abandoned hotel next door. "Make it a double! It is Saturday after all, happy weekend!" She and I cheers, whiskey in hand and David Bowie's "China Girl" playing on the radio.

Born in Miami, Taylor-Joy lived in Argentina until she moved to London when she was eight. "I love London! I don't actually live anywhere now, I'm just [doing] back to back movies." Does she consider London to be her home? "Home for me is truly where the people that I love are and so it depends."

Scouted at 16 by renowned model agent Sarah Doukas (of Storm Models and Kate Moss fame) when she was practicing wearing heels down the street - "I had my first party the next day!" - Taylor-Joy was overheard by *Downton Abbey's* Allen Leech reading some poetry at one of her first model assignments. He asked her to recite some lines, took her details and the next thing she knew she was signed to Leech's agent and the rest, as they say, is history.

"I think I'm a very forthright person, I go with my gut." The 21-year-old actress tells me. "I always trust that instinct and the only time I feel confused is when I don't have an instinct on something, which usually means I shouldn't do it." It's clear that Taylor-Joy's gut must be very well tuned then. Since rising to fame in the last few

years, she has been nominated for, and won a slew of awards as well as scoring upcoming roles in esteemed director M Night Shyamalan's new film *Glass* and the much-hyped new addition to the *X-Men* film series, *The New Mutants*.

Her next release, *Thoroughbreds*, is a uniquely dark yet comical adventure into the depths of what it means to be human, directed and written by Cory Finley. If you blend *American Psycho* and *Heathers* with a smattering of *Equus*, you begin to get an idea of what to expect. Taylor-Joy takes on the starring role of Lily, a seemingly privileged Connecticut schoolgirl who embarks in an intense friendship with the emotionless Amanda. "It was a film I wanted to make for a long time. As a kid I was obsessed with *Heathers*, *Cruel Intentions*, just any film like

Dress CHANEL

