

**FEEL it.**  
THE CLASS  
OF ISSUE 071

**KSENIYA**  
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# UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL: KSENIA DESHCHEKINA

INTERVIEW BY JOEL MARASIGAN

In addition to that triple distilled Vodka we love so damn much, the ultra-banging Ksenia really helps take the edge off our past Russian stereotypes—I mean, Russia was the “bad guy” in most ’80s movies. Russians stole Firefox, had a boxer who beat Rocky’s ass to a pulp, and Russia is one of the few countries other than Thailand and the Philippines to export women. This month we flew down Los Angeles’ 10 freeway to the city’s outskirts for a coupling of a different set of imports—Japanese power and Russian beauty.

ZNR: You don’t have a serious Russian accent.

K: Thank you. My parents took me to really good schools. I started learning English when I was seven.

ZNR: Was it hard to leave Russia at 15?

K: It was scarier at 15 than it is now, but I never really left. I still go home twice a year. I just visited in October. It’s a 13-hour trip. It’s hard to fly for a long time, but business class makes the trip easier.

ZNR: Most fun you’ve had?

K: The whole process is a lot of fun. Meeting new people and going to different places is fun, but I really enjoy traveling.

ZNR: What’s your day like?

K: I do runway shows, commercials, print—everything I can. How busy I am depends on the season, but I’m either out on a job or doing castings. It’s like having job interviews everyday. Then I just go home and have dinner.

ZNR: What do you like to do in your down time?

K: I like to just sit in the sun and tan. I try not to be too active.

ZNR: I’m guessing there aren’t too many beaches in your hometown.

K: There are beaches, but I go to rivers and bays. In the summer it’s warm. Here in L.A. it’s like one long summer. I miss the four seasons.

ZNR: Saint Petersburg is a large town?

K: Oh yes! You’ve never been to St. Petersburg? Moscow is the capitol but these are the two largest cities. Czars lived in both places so they’re really nice architecturally.

ZNR: So do you like cars?

K: I like cars, although I don’t have one—or a driver’s license for that matter. I’m working on it though!

ZNR: This is Los Angeles. How do you get around with out a car?

K: I have a driver from the agency who takes me to where I need to be. In Europe, New York, and back home, I’m spoiled with public transportation.

ZNR: Where do you go out on the weekends?

K: I did that a lot when I was younger. Right now I like staying at home or walking around. Everything in Los Angeles is

so spread apart. But I really like the city: the hills, the palm trees, the beaches.

ZNR: You’d be an easy date. Take you to the beach, sit you under a palm tree, hand you a book, maybe feed you.

K: No. Feed me—Russian food preferably.

ZNR: Russian food?

K: It’s really just a lot of meat and potatoes. I like our soups and stews and these dumpling-type foods filled with, of course, meat and potatoes. Another good food is Blini (Russian pancakes). It’s like a crepe. You eat it with caviar, honey, jelly. It’s neither sweet nor sour so you can eat it with anything you want.

ZNR: Sounds like a tortilla.

K: No I don’t think so. It’s a lot better than a tortilla.

ZNR: What American foods do you like?

K: What is American food? Fast food? I like burgers and fries! In-N-Out and Jack in the Box mostly.

ZNR: How do you stay so thin?

K: I work out. I haven’t lately, but I try. I need a personal trainer for the first two weeks but after that it gets easier.

ZNR: You can’t tell you feast on burgers, fries and those Russian tortillas. Let’s talk about music.

K: I listen to pretty much everything. I love classical music but I listen to Russian rock and hip hop.

ZNR: Russian rock?

K: You’ve never heard of it?

ZNR: Uh. No. What’s in your iPod?

K: I don’t have one yet but my iTunes library is packed with about 600 songs.

ZNR: After you get your license and you get a car what would you pick?

K: A Lamborgini.

ZNR: I meant within your budget.

K: A Honda Accord or a Mitsubishi. I like sports cars—fast cars. I think when I get confident with my car, I’ll drive fast.

ZNR: There goes your license! So you like doing things fast paced?

K: L.A. slows me down but I do like a fast-paced lifestyle.

Even though New York is really hectic I like the people and that they mind their own business. It’s more of a European city. Sometimes in L.A. people get in your face and judge you too much.

ZNR: Which coast would you choose to live on?

K: I like the weather here, but I like the people there. I’d be bi-coastal. I’d take two months here and two months there—and of course two months in Russia.

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CAMILLE  
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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black dress and high-heeled boots, leans against the open driver-side door of a bright yellow car. The car has "INTEGRA TYPE R" branding on the door. In the background, the Seattle Space Needle is illuminated with purple light against a dark sky.

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LEAH  
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INTEGRA  
TYPE R