

THE RAPPER

IGGY AZALEA

Whether she's posing on the cover of hip-hop mag *XXL* – the first woman ever to do so – or going topless in the video clip for “Change Your Life” to promote positive body image, Iggy Azalea does things her way. As a 23-year-old white girl from Mullumbimby, NSW, in the macho world of rap music, she's had to. “I have to do things 100 per cent because I know people are looking for an excuse to not like me,” she tells *marie claire*. Just 18 months after her single “Pu\$\$y” gained worldwide attention, the self-confessed perfectionist has a major record contract, a support gig on Beyoncé's world tour and two fashion campaigns under her belt. “Change Your Life” is out now.

Scan this page using the [netpage](#) app to watch Iggy Azalea's video for “Change Your Life”.



**ONES
TO
WATCH**

If you don't know their names, you soon will. *marie claire* meets the best and brightest Australasians making waves in fashion, film, music and more

IGGY AZALEA PHOTOGRAPHED BY RANKIN/ SNAPPER MEDIA

THE DANCER

AKO KONDO

Sometimes you have months to prepare for your big break. Other times it comes along while you're relaxing on the couch on your day off – as was the case for Ako Kondo. “A guy got injured right before the performance,” she recalls. “The ballet staff called me saying, ‘Guys, I'm sorry, but you're both on,’” says the dancer of landing her dream role as Kitri in The Australian Ballet's 2012 production of *Don Quixote*, opposite real-life partner Chengwu Guo. The lack of preparation didn't stop the rave reviews. Originally from Japan, Kondo has been training since she was three, and joined The Australian Ballet in 2010 as one of its youngest recruits. At 22, she's already been promoted to soloist. “Ballet is not just jumping or turning,” she insists. “You have to be an actress and tell a story.”

Ako Kondo is in The Australian Ballet's La Sylphide, November 7–25 at the Sydney Opera House. ▶





THE DIRECTOR

KINGA BURZA

Just three years after graduating from film school, Kinga Burza found herself in LA shooting a music clip for a then unknown female singer. Today, that singer, Katy Perry, is a pop sensation, the video – “I Kissed A Girl” – has had more than 44 million views on YouTube, and Burza has become a sought-after film director. The 33 year old, who cut her teeth on “little projects that played on [ABC music program] *Rage at midnight*”, says that when she started out female directors were an anomaly. “In some ways being a girl might have made it easier to get noticed because it was different and exciting back when I first started,” reasons Burza, who recently made a fashion film for label Ellery. “[Now] there seems to be so many more girls throwing themselves into it.”

Burza is currently working on a music video for a UK act.

THE ACTRESS

MARGOT ROBBIE

From Ramsay St to Martin Scorsese’s *The Wolf Of Wall Street*, Margot Robbie’s rise has been nothing short of meteoric. The 23-year-old *Neighbours* alum hit the big time just weeks after moving to LA in 2011, landing a lead role in retro series *Pan Am* alongside Christina Ricci. But it’s her racy turn opposite Leonardo DiCaprio’s pill-popping, fast-living stockbroker, Jordan Belfort, in *The Wolf Of Wall Street* that has people taking note. Despite filming in New York being interrupted by Hurricane Sandy, Robbie says the hardest part was interpreting DiCaprio and Scorsese’s near-telepathic connection. “They are both powerhouses ... If you don’t keep up you get left behind,” she has said. *The Wolf Of Wall Street* is out soon. ▶

Scan these pages using the [netpage](#) app to watch the video for “I Kissed A Girl” and the trailer for *The Wolf Of Wall Street*.

KINGA BURZA PHOTOGRAPHED BY DANIEL NADEL, MARGOT ROBBIE PHOTOGRAPHED BY RYAN PFLUGER/RAVEN & SNOW



THE ARTIST

JUZ KITSON

“Ceramic has been condemned as a craft, but I challenge people’s perception of the material as much as anything else,” asserts 26-year-old Juz Kitson of her elaborate, painstakingly detailed sculptures. Exploring themes of love, death and desire, she uses porcelain alongside natural materials such as horsehair, bones and wool, and splits her time between Jingdezhen, China’s ancient porcelain capital, and her isolated studio on NSW’s Central Coast. Kitson has gone from strength to strength, most recently being selected for *Primavera 2013*, the Museum of Contemporary Art’s pick of emerging artists 35 and under. *Primavera 2013 is on at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia until November 17, 2013.*

Scan this page using the [netpage](#) app to see a gallery of Juz Kitson’s work. It’s free from the App Store or Google Play.



THE WRITER

ELEANOR CATTON

At 28, this prodigious author is the youngest-ever novelist to win The Man Booker Prize. It’s only her second book, but *The Luminaries* is a sprawling, ambitious novel set in mid 1860s New Zealand. (Her first, *The Rehearsal*, was shortlisted for the *Guardian* First Book Award in 2009.) In spite of the accolades, the Auckland-based writer observes that the literary world is still suspicious of young women with big ideas. “People of all stripes have this general idea that women do not have a philosophical dimension to their lives,” she has said. “If they’re intellectually inclined, it’s because they’re swots.” *The Luminaries (Allen & Unwin, \$29.99) is out now.* ■

JUZ KITSON PHOTOGRAPHED BY JUSTIN RIDLER/THE ARTIST GROUP. HAIR AND MAKE-UP BY MICHELLE DUBÉ. ELEANOR CATTON PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBERT CATTO