

170 GIFTS THEY'LL BRAG ABOUT TOWN & COUNTRY

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

HOW TO CELEBRATE

(DESPITE IT ALL)

America's
FAIRYTALE
WEDDING

FAMILY
SCANDAL
A HOLIDAY
SURVIVAL GUIDE

XMAS in EXTREMIS

\$15,000 Trees!
\$12,000 Turtledoves!
Status Desserts!
Giuliani vs. Giuliani!



Is Santa a Jedi?
**KERI
RUSSELL**
on all the
STAR WARS
Secrets

BY ERIK MAZA

Dietrich was speaking as a movie star who had long ago made peace with the professional burden of always having to look the part. She was also acutely aware of her own agency in the act of dressing up. Here was a way to manage the public's gaze, to be in charge of how she was perceived: strong, »»»»»

ALLIE HOLLOWAY, STYLED BY DANIA URTIZ (MAX MARA LOOK). HAIR BY LUDHA FRANCIS. MAKEUP BY YUMI KATZUKA. NAILS BY BEIHANY NEWELL.



Ute Lemper, seen here channeling Marlene Dietrich, performs "Weimar Holiday" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on December 14. \$75, METMUSEUM.ORG

37 AND CAMEL...
MAX MARA JACKET (\$1,840),
TROUSERS (\$965), AND BELT
(\$525), 212-879-6100



38 WITH A LADYLIKE SHOE...
VALENTINO GARAVANI SLINGBACKS (\$895),
VALENTINO BOUTIQUES NATIONWIDE

unflappable, in command.

When Max Mara creative director Ian Griffiths was putting together the house's 2020 cruise collection, he had Dietrich's conviction, and the lessons of her wardrobe, in mind. "Clothes are empowering if, when you put

them on, you can forget that you're wearing them," he says. "You don't have to worry about whether you're young enough or thin enough or tall enough, because you just are. You can be yourself."

Appropriately, Griffiths selected one of Dietrich's best-known interpreters, the German actress and singer Ute Lemper, to walk in his show at Berlin's Neues Museum. After a long procession of young models, Lemper, 56, emerged on the runway looking as regal as the bust of Nefertiti that is one of the museum's most treasured possessions. Recalling a fabulous portrait of Dietrich taken aboard the SS Europa in 1933, Lemper strutted confidently in an impeccable all-white tuxedo with a pressed pleat, wide leg, and sharp shoulders spiked with floral appliqué inspired by



39 A RICH GIRL BAG...
CH CAROLINA HERRERA HANDBAG (\$1,755),
212-744-2076

Meissen porcelain. "I do not intend to hide in my room the way Marlene did as she aged," Lemper says. On the runway she felt "comfortable and emancipated."

Lemper is not the only woman in recent memory who has sought refuge in the protective armor of Max Mara. Nancy Pelosi signaled that she had come to do battle with the Fire Coat she wore to a contentious White House meeting last December. And at the first Democratic presidential debate in June, Kamala Harris crackled in steely prosecutorial black. Even the women of HBO's *Succession* strap on their don't-mess-with-me duds for difficult moments. Discussing how a red coat worn by J. Smith-Cameron's character, Gerri, echoed Pelosi's coat, *Succession* costume designer Michelle Matland tells *T&C*, "These things are superhero costumes. You could jump out of an airplane and you'd be safe."

Women like these are never far from Griffiths's mood boards when he sketches. "I'm much more likely to think about a real woman and the complications of her life—trying to juggle a demanding job, family life, social life—than models walking the runway," he says. In Berlin they were one and the same. Still, there's one woman Griffiths has yet to dress: "I would love to see Angela Merkel wearing something that I designed." *T&C*



40 AND A PERFECTLY TASTEFUL TIMEPIECE
JAEGER-LECOULTRE
WATCH (\$13,700),
JAEGER-LECOULTRE.COM

MAKE IT NICE! **41** How to get out of the house: *A Christmas Carol* on Broadway, with Andrea Martin, at the Lyceum Theatre. ACHRISTMASCAROLBROADWAY.COM
42 In Aspen, bundle up the kids in Brunello Bambini for cocoa at the Little Nell's tree lighting, Dec. 8. FROM \$4,500, BRUNELLOCUCINELLI.COM >>



COURTESY MAX MARA (LEMPER)