

Show girl

Smart, funny and a fashion fanatic – the refreshingly cool Amanda Byram talks true style with **JO LINEHAN**.



I LOVE FASHION ...

I always have. Stella McCartney, Suzanne Neville, Etro and Matthew Williamson are my favourites, but they're not always affordable, so I like to mix it up with some great high street pieces. There's nothing better than getting a compliment on a piece you've bought from ASOS or Penneys.

THIS SUMMER, I'M WEARING ...

Umit Kutluk. I had heard great things about him, so I made it my business to visit his studio on a recent trip home. I fell head over heels with his dresses – so much so that I scrapped the gown I had planned on wearing to the IFTAs just hours before the awards ceremony and wore Umit instead! Thankfully, it fit, and I felt fabulous. I'm thinking I'll wear him again to the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at The Curragh.

FASHION TO ME IS ...

Not what you wear, but how you wear it. It's all about confidence. As a model, I spent a long time feeling insecure about my shape and size. It's great to come to terms with that and actually feel really good in what you wear, inside and out. That's important to me.

MY NEW FAVOURITE PIECE THIS SUMMER IS ...

A pair of 1970s high-waisted jeans from Zara. Trends come and go, but I love to have fun embracing them while they're around.

MY EXCITING NEWS ...

Is that I'm designing my own range of leisurewear. I work out loads and live in Lucas Hugh, but I've always wanted to create my own line that's bright, bold, printed and patterned, really affordable and great quality. I can't wait to get working on it.

IN LONDON, I LOVE TO SHOP AT ...

Katie & Jo, a chic boutique around the corner from my home in Fulham. In Dublin, Loulerie is my go-to. I love all the Alexis Bittar Louise always has in stock.

WHEN I NEED TO EAT ...

I grab a bite from 777, Balfes, Yamamori and San Lorenzo's in Dublin. In London, I'm all about the quirky finds. Last week, my friend Gok Wan brought me to a little Chinese eatery near the British Museum, and it was incredible – truly authentic food. I love that.

MY FONDEST MEMORIES OF DUBLIN ...

Are of Yvonne Keating and I spending hours in the Westbury. When we modelled together, we would sit in that wonderful foyer soaking up the atmosphere while we sipped tea and ate scones. It's still one of my favourite places.

TRAVELLING IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS TO DO.

I write travel features for *The Huffington Post*, so I'm always on the road. On my never-ending list of destinations are Vietnam, Cambodia and Nepal. My best friend lives in Sydney,

so I'm planning to spend Christmas and New Year's there, properly exploring Australia.

MY WORKOUT REGIME ...

Is mixed. I do weights a couple times a week and then get in an intense 15-minute workout I designed when I'm on the road.

THIS SUMMER, I'LL BE ...

In LA for work for a couple weeks, and once my work there is done, my boyfriend (Julian Okines) will come join me for some downtime. I love hanging out on Venice Beach, eating at Gjelina. Last time I was there, I spotted Ben Affleck and Vince Vaughn.

GREAT STYLE TO ME IS ...

All about subtlety. For me, less is more. Yes, bigger and bolder will get you noticed, but I want a statement to be made in a clever way. I hate anything matchy matchy, but colour is always great – it is summertime, after all! Incorporating individual pieces that work well on their own but that complement each other when put together is a skill.

Amanda is the official style ambassador for the 2015 Derby Day at The Curragh racecourse. For ticket details, see curragh.ie.