

# GLAMOUR

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# hello, hayden!

She sings (a Top 40 country hit), she protests (for animal rights), and man, does she act—the world is obsessed with her sexy, nasty *Nashville* character. Now Ms. Panettiere tells you everything.

*By Lauren Brown*

photographs by Peggy Sirota



# S

he may be young—just 23—but Hayden Panettiere's had a lifetime of experience. She landed

her first gig when she was only 11 months old, in a Playskool commercial; had multiyear parts in two soap operas; and by the time she was 16, had been cast as the cheerleader who saves the world on *Heroes*. But she worried that this last role could leave her typecast and wanted her next important move to be a bold one. And was it ever: These days Panettiere is wowing everyone as the sexy, conniving Juliette Barnes on *Nashville* and hitting the Top 40 charts as a singer too, with "Telescope," a song she performed on the show. In person this superstar is nothing like her diva character: Wearing jeans with a sweater over a geometric-print tank, her hair slicked back in a bun, she gave me a huge hug, settled in for a cocktail, and opened up about her career and personal life—past, present, and future. Listen in.

**GLAMOUR:** You're now living and working down south in Tennessee full-time. How's that going?

**HAYDEN PANETTIERE:** I've never had an easier time making friends in my life—never. People there are real; they aren't

With Meeshka, the dog she rescued. Sweater, Michael Kors; bikini bottoms, OMO Norma Kamali.



afraid to be themselves. You go to The Bluebird Cafe to listen to amazing music, and sometimes they'll mess up, and nobody cares—you're getting a glimpse of who you really are. In Hollywood it's a bunch of people who feel that being different opens you up for criticism and judgment. You let down your guard, and then you become the subject of major, harsh criticism.

**GLAMOUR:** You've been in the business for a long time and came up with a lot of other young stars.

**HP:** I came up in the Messy Generation. The generation of the disaster child.

**GLAMOUR:** How did you *not* become one? Lindsay Lohan—that could have been you had you made different choices.

**HP:** It's not that I didn't go to clubs, have my picture taken. I was 16 years old. I was experimenting just like any kid. But I had friends and family around me to yank me back when I was heading in the wrong direction. Every turn that I made, somebody was waiting for me to fall on my face and catch it on film. The thing that really saved me was that I still had that healthy fear of my parents—I still had a midnight curfew at 18!

**GLAMOUR:** What do you think when you see some of these younger stars now? Do you want to shake them?

**HP:** Frankly, I think this new generation has gotten worse. There's a sense of entitlement. It's scary when you genuinely think that you should be allowed to do whatever you want. But people like to make it seem like it's only kids in the industry experimenting with drugs or alcohol. I mean, you think kids in *college* are drinking juice boxes? Let's be realistic.

**GLAMOUR:** Many young girls probably do look up to you—how do you feel about that?

**HP:** I never put my name in the ballot box and said, "Hey, I want you to vote me as your teen leader and icon and your Miss Perfect." I will never say that I'm perfect; I will never pretend to be perfect. That's just unrealistic. You're kind of unexpectedly put in this position of becoming a role model; that's not something you choose.

**GLAMOUR:** People hear you sing every week on *Nashville*. But you actually started an album when you were younger and then walked away from it. What happened?

**HP:** I worked on it for five years, and it never quite came together. I felt like I was given only a little box to move around in and one option of what to be. I remember the moment where I just said, "This is crazy." I was terrified of putting something out there that I couldn't take back.

**GLAMOUR:** Do you feel being on *Nashville* and singing is giving you a second chance? *Continued on page 242* ▶

## The New Southern Belle

*She was born in New York, but Hayden's come around to country a little:*

**Ever have grits?**

"Yes! I like them with butter."

**Biscuits with every meal.**

**Do or Don't?**  
"Don't."

**Do you drink sweet tea?**

"With vodka!"

**Hot rollers or curling iron?**

"Curling iron."

**Your Southern anthem?**

"Hell on Heels." It's my theme song."



**HP:** I don't look at it as a second chance; I look at it as where I'm supposed to be. Even if I'm not perfect at it, even if my voice takes work, this is where my heart is. People used to ask me, "What kind of music do you like?" I'd say, "Country." Then they'd go, "But you're from New York." I thought people would think I was trying to be something I'm not. But the industry of country music is unbelievably accepting. The fans are unreal. There's no judgment; it's just, Let's all get together in a massive backyard and have a barbecue and drink and have fun.

**GLAMOUR:** You've said that you struggle with stage fright. When did that start?

**HP:** I was 16 when I first started dealing with the paparazzi. Somebody took a picture and said I had cellulite. It crushed me. And about that time, I sang the national anthem on the lawn of the Capitol. I was shaking, and my heart was beating out of my chest. From that moment on, I couldn't get up and present an award without my knees almost buckling.

**GLAMOUR:** So how do you film the concert scenes on the show?

**HP:** Because I'm hiding behind a character, I'm hiding behind a microphone. It's still something that I have to work on. But the other day for the first time, I was shooting a scene onstage with Chip [Charles Esten, who plays Deacon] in front of 200 extras. It was the first time that I'd ever really sung live where I was really comfortable and having fun—I was like, What's next? What's the next one? That was a huge step for me.

**GLAMOUR:** People are set on comparing your character, Juliette, to Taylor Swift. Does that bother you?

**HP:** Yes, because it's *constant*. [For Juliette] I've pulled mostly from myself, my own experiences growing up in the spotlight of a massive and very critical industry.

**GLAMOUR:** How do you keep yourself from being too caught up in that negative headspace?

**HP:** It really took me a long time—there was no epiphany where all of a sudden I was OK with myself. I could pick myself apart with the best of them. I have a saying that always made me feel better: Beauty is an opinion; it's not a fact.

**GLAMOUR:** Did anyone ever try to put you on a diet?

**HP:** Absolutely. I refused myself a lot of things for a long time, and the more I did that, the more I wanted foods I wasn't supposed to have. Now I'm on my feet for 16 hours a day, and I need energy, so I eat constantly. Every two hours, you should be throwing something in, a handful of nuts or a piece of fruit.

**GLAMOUR:** And rumor has it you're back together with Wladimir Klitschko?

**HP:** [Huge smile.] I think it's pretty obvious. I'm not going to deny it.



**"We've never not been close."**

—Panettiere, on her boyfriend, professional boxer Wladimir Klitschko



**GLAMOUR:** How does a girl from New York transplanted to Nashville meet a Ukrainian boxer?

**HP:** [Laughs.] Life is like a lunchroom at school. In this industry you've got little individual tables of actors, singers, rap stars, this, that, the other. But it's a big industry that also encompasses anyone in the public eye. An acquaintance of ours did a coffee-table book, and the proceeds went to genocide prevention. We met at the party for the launch of the book; we've been friends for five years—we've never not been close.

**GLAMOUR:** So what's different this time?

**HP:** It's like the 2.0 version. I've always had great relationships and stayed really good friends with the guys I've dated. It blows my mind sometimes that us getting together has gotten so much attention. It's like, Really? *This* is breaking news?

**GLAMOUR:** How would you say your parents have affected your relationships?





## sunshine girl

"I can't stand working out," says Panetti. "If it feels like a chore, I avoid it like the plague." Sweater, bikini bottoms, Peter Som; sunglasses, Fantas-Eyes; wedges, Robert Clergerie. See Glamour Shopper for more information.

Hair: Roque for Tracey Mattingly; makeup: Jeannia Robinette for Starworks Artists; manicure: Mary Soul for Cloutier Remix; production: Bauerfeind Productions; prop stylist: Belinda Scott.

**HP:** They split up when I was 18. There was this whole thing, and my dad went to jail. [In 2008 her father was arrested for allegedly striking her mother in the face.] When it happened, I knew my denying it or saying it was false wasn't going to do anything. People would just say, "Oh, she's in denial." My parents are really good people—they just are not meant to be together.

**GLAMOUR:** It seems that everyone in Hollywood is getting married younger and younger these days. What's the timing going to be for you?

**HP:** I don't really have a plan. I've lived a very big life, and I don't feel my age, and I feel like I was born to be a mother. Sometimes people speak about [having kids] like, "Your life ends—you're never going to be able to do anything again!" And I'm like, "What are you talking about?" Motherhood is the most beautiful, exciting thing, and there's nothing that I feel like I

can't accomplish while having children in my life. I would sacrifice having more years of being wherever I want whenever I want for years with my kids.

**GLAMOUR:** Could you be with the father of your children now?

**HP:** It wouldn't shock me!

**GLAMOUR:** Tell me what your tattoo on your left side means.

**HP:** It's Italian: *Vivere senza rimpianti*. When I was younger, I was upset, and my dad said he wanted to show me something. He slammed one door of the bathroom, and the closet door popped open—it was a trick with the air. He said, "Whenever one door closes, another one always opens." So my tattoo means "Live without regrets." It's not that you don't regret things in life, but you at least try to learn from them. It's misspelled too [accidentally, as *rimipianti*!—so I literally have to live by that advice! ■

### Tablet Bonus!



Panty-terre?  
Pied-à-terre?  
Planetarium?

Watch Hayden set the record straight on her name in our digital edition.