

AUG 2018 / ISSUE 35

LUCID

MAGAZINE



FEATURING

JENNA ORTEGA

LOVELYTHEBAND • SEBASTIAN TOPETE • THE WAUD TWINS

FROM THE EDITOR:

Of course, each one of Lucid's issues is special to me, but this one means something more to me. This month, Jenna Ortega graces our front cover. Personally, it was such an honor to be able to interview Jenna as she's someone who I really admire. Just last month, in response to Melania Trump's choice to wear a jacket that read, "I REALLY DON'T CARE, DO U?", on her way to visit migrant children, Jenna walked the red carpet wearing a custom made jacket of her own that read, "I DO CARE, AND U SHOULD, TOO". She is the perfect example of how to use your spot in the public eye to speak up and against what you think is wrong, and a great example for impressionable kids who watch Disney Channel. I couldn't be happier to feature Jenna on the cover of Lucid Magazine.

Another great thing about this issue (for me, at least) is that we're featuring one of my favorite bands, lovelytheband! I rarely get the chance to interview people that I'm personally a fan of, so it was pretty cool that I got to do so twice for this issue alone. The band's music has a reputation of being seemingly effortlessly relatable in the most genuine way possible, and their lyrics are nothing like I've ever heard before. They also just released their debut album, *finding it hard to smile*, and we posted a review on it on our website, so make sure to check that out as well!

In terms of photography, Caitlyn Hastings and Jhanna Shaghghi took the cake with their photos of Diana Hopper and Sebastian Topete, respectively. These photosets of theirs can best be described as clean and, overall, very aesthetically pleasing. The colors in each are so beautiful, and actually kind of go with one another which is why I've clumped both of their praisings into one paragraph.

One more photoset that is sure to catch your eye is the one for Critic Clothing by our newest team member, Nascia Garien! She is an incredible photographer with such clear visions shown in each photo she takes. Nascia has already shot two clothing brands with Lucid which resulted in amazing photosets, both of which I am completely blown away by. Only one of the photosets is featured in this issue, but the next one will be coming to you very soon!

Along with the aforementioned, Lucid's August of 2018 issue features photos from a trip to San Diego, the latest installment of The Polaroid Project, an interview with Joe and Jason Waud accompanied by some colorful shots of them at VidCon U.S. 2018, What We're Listening To, and an interview with Skyhaven.

Lastly, I'd like to give a big thanks to Lauren Spears, one of Lucid's senior photographers, for coming up with the "Who is the Team?" question for this month!

I hope that you love this issue as much as we loved making it.

Natasha

PHOTO BY CAITLYN HASTINGS
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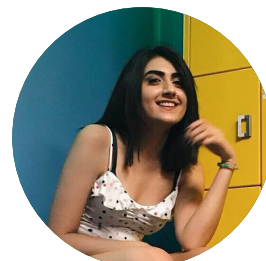


jenna ortega



WHO IS THE TEAM?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SONG THAT WAS RELEASED THIS SUMMER?



NATASHA SHAGHAGHI

editor

"Thru These Tears" by LANY



JHANNA SHAGHAGHI

manager

"Why Didn't You Stop Me?" by Mitski



NASCIAGARIEN

photographer

"Better" by SG Lewis x Clairo



ADAM VOSSEN

photographer

"God is a woman" by Ariana Grande



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FEATURED
JENNA ORTEGA

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Jhanna Shaghaghi

a trip to: san diego
PHOTOS BY ADAM VOSSEN





i had hoped we were better than this.
i had hoped one day,
you would remember.
i should have known better.



LOST TIME

THE POLAROID PROJECT
BY KYLER LUFFY

CRITIC CLOTHING



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PHOTOS BY NASCIA GARIEN / MODELING BY LATREVIOUS GRAY / T-SHIRT BY CRITIC CLOTHING

diana hopper



PHOTOS BY CAITLYN HASTINGS / MAKEUP BY DION XU / HAIR BY HALIE ARREAGA / STYLING BY MARISSA MOTLEY / TOPS BY TEEINK

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO ACTING?

"I was 11 years old when I acted in my first play. I loved the process of rehearsing every day, the sense of camaraderie between cast and crew, and, of course, the feeling of performing in front of a live audience. I was hooked."

WHAT HAS INSPIRED YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR CAREER IN ACTING?

"Pursuing a career in a creative field can be extremely competitive and difficult, but the more I do it, the more I love it. There's never a limit to what I can learn from and about acting. It's the love for the craft itself that keeps me going."

WHEN YOU AREN'T ON SET, WHERE CAN WE FIND YOU?

*"In the kitchen, outdoors, or watching *The Office*."*

Along with being an amazing actress, you also have a beautiful voice! You've posted some videos of you singing on your YouTube channel - do you think that you would ever pursue a career as a recording artist?

"Thank you! That's very kind of you. I love to sing and will maybe pursue it professionally in the future, but for now, I just do it for fun. I figure that when the time is right, I will know."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GENRE OF MUSIC?

"My favorite genre changes daily with my mood, but my favorite artists are Led Zeppelin, Radiohead, Brandon Flowers, Kendrick Lamar, Third Eye Blind, and Lana Del Rey."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SONG TO COVER?

"My favorite song to cover is either 'Born to Die' by Lana Del Rey or 'Lonely Town' by Brandon Flowers."

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE SONGS AT THE MOMENT? DO YOU HAVE AN ALL-TIME FAVORITE SONG?

"Right now, I've been listening to a lot of Lights. Also, I'm really digging 'Notion' by Tash Sultana. If you haven't heard it, do yourself a massive favor and check it out. Hmm... For me, it's too hard to just pick ONE all-time favorite, but today, I'll say... 'Motion Picture Soundtrack' by Radiohead. It's so dreamy. Every time I hear it, I'm transported to another place and time."

IS THERE AN ACTOR OR ACTRESS YOU LOOK UP TO? IF SO, WHO IS IT AND WHY DO YOU LOOK UP TO THEM SO MUCH?

"Katharine Hepburn - she's incredibly versatile and captivating to watch. I read her autobiography and that really gave me an insight into who she was as a person - so strong willed, instinctual, funny, and honest. I have an enormous amount of respect for her."

WHO WOULD YOUR DREAM CAST BE FOR A MOVIE/TV SHOW?

*"First, I'd say that working with Billy [Bob Thorton] was a dream of mine before *Goliath* and I'm incredibly lucky to say I've been able to live it. Other actors I would jump at the chance to work with include Steve Carell, John Krasinski, Emily Blunt, Ricky Gervais, Mindy Kaling, Rainn Wilson (Basically, the whole cast of *The U.S. Office*), Ian McKellen, Anthony Hopkins, and Tom Hanks."*

WHAT WOULD YOUR DREAM ROLE BE? WHAT HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY?

*"I really enjoy watching historical period pieces. I'd love to play someone like Queen Elizabeth I or Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind*."*

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU IN THE FUTURE?

*"I just wrapped shooting on a film called *Bit* that tells the story of a transgender teen named Laurel who moves to L.A. She quickly falls in with a gang of feminist vampires who don't turn men because 'they can't handle power.' I play Duke, the ruthless leader of the pack. It's a fun, wild ride with a lot of heart and I can't wait to share it."*



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sebastian topete



PHOTOS BY JHANNA SHAGHAGHI
INTERVIEW BY NATASHA SHAGHAGHI

WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED POSTING ON MUSICAL.LY, WHAT WERE YOU EXPECTING TO HAPPEN?

"When I first started Musical.ly, I was just on it for fun; I loved watching my friends on it and all the funny and cool videos that were on the app."

IF YOU COULD COLLABORATE WITH ANY MUSER, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

"If I could collaborate with any Muser, it would probably be Lisa and Lena because they are really nice and make really funny videos."

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 3 TIPS FOR MAKING A GREAT MUSICAL.LY?

"My top 3 tips for making a great Musical.ly are to be yourself, have fun, and be creative."

MUSICAL.LY IS A VERY INTERACTIVE SITE. HOW DO YOU THINK THAT THIS HAS HELPED YOUR SUCCESS?

"Musical.ly has helped my success by giving me an opportunity to really show my goofy side by making funny videos to make my supporters laugh."

DESCRIBE YOUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL IN THREE WORDS.

"Random. Funny. Tea."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VIDEO THAT YOU'VE UPLOADED ON YOUTUBE SO FAR?

"My favorite video I've uploaded on my YouTube channel so far is probably the smash or pass challenge, haha."

YOU'RE STARTING TO POST ON YOUTUBE A LOT MORE THAN BEFORE. WHICH DO YOU PREFER: YOUTUBE OR MUSICAL.LY?

"I prefer Musical.ly over YouTube because the sounds are already made - you just have to be creative with them. And it's really fun to film with friends, especially."

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES HAVE YOU GOTTEN FROM YOUR SUCCESS ONLINE?

"I've gotten a lot of opportunities from my online success. Going on tour, being in magazines, meeting new people, having amazing supporters all around the world that I get to meet.. Also, collaborating and being friends with influencers and YouTubers that I used to watch when I was a little kid."

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE READERS OF LUCID?

"Be yourself and never give up on your dreams and be different."

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PHOTOS BY JHANNA SHAGHAGHI
INTERVIEW BY NATASHA SHAGHAGHI

THE WAUD TWINS

WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED POSTING ON MUSICAL.LY, WHAT WERE YOU EXPECTING TO HAPPEN?

JASON: "Nothing. I started Musical.ly to watch an ex-girlfriend who also used Musical.ly. Then, I started enjoying the app myself."

JOE: "Nothing, really. I was just posting for fun."

IF YOU COULD COLLABORATE WITH ANY MUSER, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

JASON: "Cameron Dallas - he seems like a cool guy."

JOE: "Chase Keith because he's my best friend."

WOULD YOU SAY THAT THIS PERSON INSPIRED YOUR MUSICAL.LY PAGE IN ANY WAY?

JASON: "A little bit, yes."

JOE: "No, not really. My brother, Jason, inspired me, to be honest."

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 3 TIPS FOR MAKING A GREAT MUSICAL.LY?

JASON: "1. Have good lighting. 2. Be confident with yourself. 3. Use a pop socket - they help."

JOE: "1. Have good lighting. 2. Make sure you have a sturdy hand (No shaking). 3. Use popular sounds or popular music."

MUSICAL.LY IS A VERY INTERACTIVE SITE. HOW DO YOU THINK THAT THIS HAS HELPED YOUR SUCCESS?

JASON: "It has helped me meet new people and interact with new friends. Plus, I'm able to travel because of my success."

JOE: "It has helped by getting my name out so that others see my posts. Musical.ly is the one app that I used the most in the beginning."

MOST SIBLINGS YOUR AGE DON'T GET ALONG VERY WELL. IS IT DIFFICULT TO ALWAYS BE AROUND YOUR BROTHER OR HAVE YOUR CAREERS CREATED A STRONG BOND BETWEEN YOU TWO? HOW SO?

JASON: "Everyone has their moments. We do argue sometimes, but we are quick to get over it. We do have a strong bond, especially when it comes to our career goals."

JOE: "We have a strong bond and we have similar ideas, so we enjoy making content together and supporting one another."



jenna ortega

PHOTO BY MELISSA PENA
CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



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YOU RECENTLY ATTENDED VIDCON US 2018! HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE?

JASON: "It was good. And I can't wait to go next year!"

JOE: "It was a blast. Enjoyed every part of it!"

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES HAVE YOU GOTTEN FROM YOUR SUCCESS ONLINE?

JASON: "Travel opportunities are available now and I enjoy meeting new friends. I also get to collab with other social media influencers."

JOE: "I get to model for small companies and I get complimentary items for business deals. I also get invited to tour or to appear at events in other parts of the country."

BESIDES MAKING MUSICAL.LYS, WHAT OTHER HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE?

JASON: "I like to scooter sometimes, I play video games - I'm kinda like a normal teen, but I enjoy social media and modeling engagement."

JOE: "I like to scooter, and I play basketball and soccer."

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE READERS OF LUCID?

JASON: "If you ever want to be a social media influencer, you have to work hard and grind and go at it daily. Stay positive."

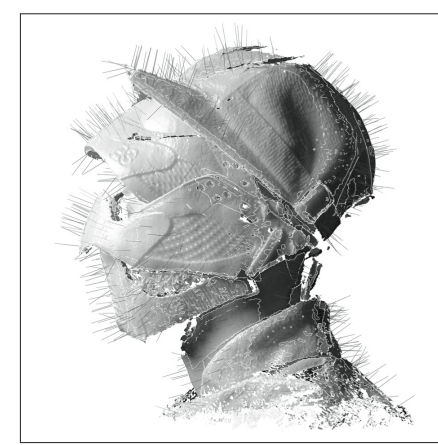
JOE: "Follow your dreams!"



what were listening to



BY JHANNA SHAGHAGHI



Woodkid - The Golden Age
Favorite Track: **I Love You**



Lauv - I met you when I was 18. (the playlist)
Favorite Track: **Comfortable**



Sarah and the Sundays - Moving On (single)



LAUNDRY DAY - Keep It Bright
Favorite Track: **Jane**



Declan McKenna - What Do You Think About the Car?
Favorite Track: **Why Do You Feel So Down**



PHOTOS BY KAY KAY BLAISDELL / INTERVIEW BY NATASHA SHAGHAGHI

HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THAT YOU HAD A PASSION FOR MUSIC?

"We all found a passion for music at young ages from our families exposing us to it."

WHO CAME UP WITH THE NAME "LOVELY THE BAND" AND WHAT DOES THE NAME MEAN TO YOU?

"Mitchy came up with the word 'lovely' and we felt it was a word that represented the vibe of the songs that were being written. Since it was so simple, it wasn't available as just 'lovely' on all the social media platforms, so we added 'theband'. You know, like Chance The Rapper... We're lovelytheband."

HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO MAKE THE TRACK, "FINDING IT HARD TO SMILE", THE TITLE OF YOUR DEBUT ALBUM AS WELL?

"The album title came from first. It's a lyric in the closing song on the album, 'everything i could never say...to you'. The track was created to set the tone for the album."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TRACK OFF OF THE ALBUM TO LISTEN TO?

*Sam: "walk from here".
Mitchy: "your whatever".
Jordan: "everything i could never say...to you".*

WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE YOUR FAVORITE TRACK OFF OF THE ALBUM TO PERFORM?

"Hard to guess, but 'walk from here' is a lot of fun."

"BROKEN" IS EASILY YOUR MOST POPULAR SONG. DID YOU EVER EXPECT THAT WHEN YOU FIRST WROTE AND RECORDED IT? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IT'S RESONATED SO WELL WITH PEOPLE?

"You never could predict how people will react to something you create. The fact that people are finding hope or enjoyment from the song means the world to us - it's an honor to hear someone has connected with the song. I think the song speaks to people who maybe need to hear that their problems don't define them and that there is somebody out there who they can share love with."

HOW DO YOU THINK THAT TOURING HAS HELPED YOU GROW AS MUSICIANS?

"It's like going to the gym or training in general - everything gets tighter and more efficient."

WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING HEADLINING TOUR?

"It'll be the best lovelytheband show we've played yet. And it'll be really special that everyone is there to share their night specifically with us."

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WRAP OF YOUR "BROKEN LIKE ME" TOUR, YOU'LL BE JOINING 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER FOR THEIR "MEET YOU THERE" TOUR. HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT BEING INVITED TO SUPPORT THEM ON TOUR?

"We are fans and friends of those guys, so we will be both in awe and excited to share the stage with them every night. We can't express in words how grateful we are for the love and support they've shown for us and our music."

DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE MORE EXHAUSTED OR EXCITED BY THE TIME THE LATTER TOUR COMES AROUND?

"We are always excited and always exhausted, so nothing will change."

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR?

"To meet as many like-minded people as possible. Music brings us together with people every day, and it's a very rewarding and comforting experience."

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE READERS OF LUCID?

"Come to a show, we'll be just about everywhere this year!"

CATCH LOVELY THE BAND ON THEIR "BROKEN LIKE ME" TOUR!

AUGUST 21 @ HI-FI IN INDIANAPOLIS, IN
AUGUST 23 @ IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY IN AMES, IA
SEPTEMBER 17 @ THE RECORD BAR IN KANSAS CITY, MO
SEPTEMBER 19 @ GLOBE HALL IN DENVER, CO
SEPTEMBER 27 @ THE ROXY THEATRE IN LOS ANGELES, CA
SEPTEMBER 28 @ POPSCENE AT RICKSHAW STOP IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA
OCTOBER 02 @ OBSERVATORY IN SANTA ANA, CA
OCTOBER 03 @ TEMPE MARKET PLACE IN TEMPE, AZ
OCTOBER 06 @ CAMBRIDGE ROOM AT HOUSE OF BLUES DALLAS IN DALLAS, TEXAS
OCTOBER 07 @ HOUSE OF BLUES HOUSTON IN HOUSTON, TX
OCTOBER 10 @ HIGH WATT IN NASHVILLE, TN
OCTOBER 12 @ ROCK & ROLL HOTEL IN WASHINGTON, DC
OCTOBER 13 @ THE SINCLAIR IN CAMBRIDGE, MA
OCTOBER 14 @ THE FILLMORE PHILADELPHIA IN PHILADELPHIA, PA
OCTOBER 15 @ BOWERY BALLROOM IN NEW YORK, NY
OCTOBER 17 @ STAGE AE IN PITTSBURGH, PA
OCTOBER 18 @ THE AGORA BALLROOM IN CLEVELAND, OH
OCTOBER 19 @ THE BASEMENT IN COLUMBUS, OH
OCTOBER 20 @ LINCOLN HALL IN CHICAGO, IL
OCTOBER 21 @ 7TH ST. ENTRY IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN

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SKYHAVEN



PHOTOS BY AUSTIN BEERY
INTERVIEW BY NATASHA SHAGHAGHI



HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THAT YOU HAD A PASSION FOR MUSIC?

DOMINIC: "Definitely just from being raised in an environment where I was always listening and enjoying all different kinds of music with my family, and eventually the curiosity of playing an instrument came along."

JAKE: "We all started being involved with music at a pretty young age - it was always a part of our lives and our families' lives. Garrett's middle name is Perry, named after Joe Perry from Aerosmith. So, you can see that everyone was really raised around music being the artistic focal point. Most of our parents or close

family members played some instrument that inspired us all to start."

WHO CAME UP WITH THE NAME "SKYHAVEN" AND WHAT DOES THE NAME MEAN TO YOU?

DOMINIC: "When it was just Jake's project, it was called 'Skye'. When Braeden joined the band, he and Jake came up with 'Skyhaven' and it just stuck. To me, I think of the music being my own 'haven', so to speak, and I want people to take it in at that same way as a safe haven to escape to, and interpret the music in each own's way."



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR SOUND?

DOMINIC: "It's been called so many things. Technical pop music, prog rock, Protronica... Guitar-based pop music seems to be the consensus when trying to describe it to a new person. It would be super convenient to fit into one genre, but, at this point, we're trying to carve our own genre out with our new album."

DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR SOUND HAS CHANGED SINCE THE RELEASE OF YOUR FIRST AND ONLY E.P., LIFTOFF?

JAKE: "It absolutely has changed a lot. Liftoff still had a little bit of those heavy influences like 'Periphery' and 'Monuments' in it, whereas we feel that our newer music is further away from that than ever, and now more focused on carving our way through this release with a genre that is new to the scene. We wrote Liftoff when still discovering how we worked as a band; this may have put a little bit of a dampener on the creativity of the album, and we really vowed to try to produce something different with this new record."

DESCRIBE THE MEANING BEHIND YOUR LATEST SINGLE, "ROSEGOLD".

JAKE: "Rosegold" was one of those songs that clicked right away with everyone. Dominic always talks about how much he enjoys playing that song live. And while 'Rosegold' is a bit more on the 'bubblegummy' side of our new record, that song was really a stepping stone in starting to discover our new sound. Plus, it always has a really awesome reaction whenever we play it live; that makes us a lot more inclined to show it off."

HOW DID FANS REACT TO "ROSEGOLD"?

JAKE: "The reactions were mixed. When we released 'Free' we lost a lot of our old fans due to the genre change. The same cycle happened when we released 'Rosegold'. It was expected,

though. We realize that if we're going to try to push boundaries and try new things with our band, we're going to lose support from certain people. We've all accepted that as part of the process, and it makes us appreciate the new fans that much more!"

DO YOU PREFER MAKING MUSIC ONLY WITHIN YOUR BAND OR COLLABORATING WITH OTHERS? WHY?

"When we collaborate, it's super cool to be able to get an outside opinion. Our producer, Dex Barsted, is almost like part of the band at this point. He's technically a collaborator, but people like that are really who tie the band down sometimes. When working with outside vocalists, it's always refreshing to get an actual vocal line into our music versus just guitars, and it's pretty inspiring to all of us to hear that. That all being said, there's really nothing like making a song with your best friends start to finish, and just being so proud of it when you're done."

CAN WE EXPECT NEW MUSIC BEING RELEASED IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

DOMINIC: "We're planning to release an album this year. We're finishing it all up right now and are very excited to start to promote it."

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR?

JAKE: "To really polish this album and make it the piece of art that we all envisioned. We want this record to be boundary pushing, so we're trying to do all we can to make that happen right now."

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE READERS OF LUCID?

DOMINIC: "Thank you for taking the time to read about us, and we hope you guys will check out our new record when it's out later this year."

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jenna ortega

PHOTOS BY CAITLYN HASTINGS & MELISSA PENA
STORY BY NATASHA SHAGHAGHI

*Ever since the 2018 Radio Disney Music Awards back in June, Jenna Ortega has been on everyone's radar. In response to Melania Trump's choice to wear a jacket that read, "I REALLY DON'T CARE, DO U?", on her way to visit migrant children, Jenna walked the red carpet wearing a custom made jacket of her own that read, "I DO CARE, AND U SHOULD, TOO". Ortega is the perfect example of how to use your spot in the public eye to speak up and against what you think is wrong, and a great example for impressionable kids who watch Disney Channel. Lucid had the wonderful opportunity to meet up with the young star for a chat about her thoughts on the lack of Latina representation in Hollywood, the premature series finale of *Stuck in the Middle*, and much more!*





At the young age of 15 years old, **JENNA ORTEGA** already has a firm grasp on how the world works. She believes that this is partly due to her early start in acting; Jenna was only 9 years old when she booked her first gig. "I fell in love with it," she tells us, "Portraying all of these different characters allowed me to view the world in a different light and literally step in somebody else's shoes for a day."

Growing up in the acting industry, Ortega has quickly learned many life lessons and picked up many great skills. She elaborates, "It's helped me develop a good work ethic. It's taught me that you have to work hard for what you want." More specifically, from working alongside many successful and talented actors and actresses, Jenna has learned something different and equally as important from each and every one of them. "I've figured out what I like and what I dislike. I know how important is it to be prepared. I've learned that, for certain jobs, less is more, and for others, you gotta amp up the energy as much as possible. So many factors go into acting, and I've just been picking up tips and tricks as I go."

Like most child actors, Jenna has had to grow up faster than the average 15-year-old, "I've been working in an adult environment for several years, so I think I've matured in certain areas rather quickly." However, the most important thing that she has learned has to do with her own identity as a Latina. "It's really hard to be turned down from an amazing role - not because you didn't do a great job, but because they're looking for someone of another ethnicity," Jenna says. She then further explains, "You get so many nos in the industry, and Latinas aren't represented well on TV/film as it is, so it can be really frustrating when you lose out on a part due to something you can't change." Ortega has gotten her fair share of wonderful opportunities to represent Latinas in shows like *Jane the Virgin* and *Elena of Avalor*, but, according to Jenna herself, none top her leading role as Harley Diaz in *Stuck in the Middle*. "I don't think I've ever related to a character more than Harley. We are both proud Latinas, middle children in big families, we both like math and science, and we both have a goofy side," Jenna gushes.

Stuck in the Middle is a Disney Channel TV show about what it feels like to be a middle child within a family of eight. Jenna plays Harley Diaz - a tween, middle child, inventor, and the narrator of the show. Harley's inventions are viewed as a way for her to try and stand out in her crowded home, where it can be easy to be forgotten with everything else that's going on with her

many siblings. Ortega describes her experience on the show as "incredible", and tells us that the cast is like her second family. "I love them all so much, and I couldn't imagine experiencing that journey with anybody else. I made some lifelong friends on that set and I'm so grateful."

When she thinks about her time on set of *Stuck in the Middle*, she is met with her memory of the first time the cast all met each other. "We all had just gotten to know each other, but the sibling chemistry was there already." Ortega says that the Diaz family was sitting around her character's first invention, a remote-controlled conveyor-belt dinner table, eating donuts. "Us girls were telling Isaak [Presley] to slow down on the donuts, Malachi [Barton] and Nic [Bechtel] were wrestling, and Kayla [Maisonet] and I were talking about our new favorite songs," she recalls. Looking back, Jenna tells us, "It was at that moment when I realized that this was gonna be a fun ride."

Of course, all good things must come to an end, and after three seasons, the show was took its descent last month. Jenna says that the series finale, "Stuck in Harley's Quinceañera", was actually her favorite episode of the entire show! "It was such a beautiful way to end the series," she shares. She explains that this was due to many things - the entire family was back together, her character had her quinceañera, she showed off her aerial skills, and, most importantly, "every character got their own moment to stand out in their own way." She says that it was perfect in every way - dysfunctional, heartwarming, exciting, and sad. "The last scene is probably my favorite because it mirrors the scene from the pilot, where Harley's talking about how she feels overlooked in her family. At the end of the show, Harley talks about how she's not overlooked, and how being the middle child is awesome because she gets love from all sides... The finale was everything it needed to be and captured all of the Diazes perfectly."

As it turns out, Jenna wasn't the only one who was moved by *Stuck in the Middle*'s finale. She says that since the episode aired, she's been tagged in countless bittersweet posts online regarding the show's departure. "Most of the notes talk about what the show meant to everyone, how it changed their lives, and how they're sad to see it go, but are so happy it happened!" Ortega exclaims that she couldn't have explained her feelings any better! "I'm so grateful that my show influenced the audience in a positive way and it's so nice to see that it meant so much to others as it did to me."

“I DO
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AND U
SHOULD,
TOO.”



The cast and crew all managed to bond instantly, so it's no surprise that Ortega already misses being around them 24/7. "We've become a family and it's hard to go from seeing them everyday to not seeing them at all. They're all amazing, and I wish them the best." Touching again on her friendship with Kayla Maisonet, who played Georgie Diaz on the show, Jenna says that she had the most in common with her and that they were always able to make each other laugh. "Whenever we were on set and things got stressful, we could always count on each other to lighten the mood and make the best of our situation." As well as all of the talented actors that she has gotten to work alongside, she knows that she will miss the fictional characters a part of the show just as much, "I will love Harley forever and will always keep the Diaz family close to my heart!"

Briefly aforementioned, Jenna understands the world more than many others her age, but she wasn't always like this. Ortega explains that, when she was younger, she had no real concept of what Hollywood really was! "I used to think that all TV was reality TV, meaning there was hidden cameras in everyone's house and these producers just got really good gossip and put it on air. Sometimes, I would improvise scenes in front of my dresser hoping that these producers would like it and put me on TV! *laughs*" This leads her to believe that acting was something that she had always wanted to do, even before she understood what it was.

Although she has always wanted to act, that doesn't mean that she's never had any doubts about becoming a professional actress. "It's so hard being in this business because you never know when your next job could be. You could go from working nonstop for a few months to not working at all for a few months." Jenna continues, "Those quiet periods could get to your

head." Whenever she's not actively working on a project, she's constantly wondering if she's good enough, if she'll ever book another job again, and if she's working hard enough.

Ortega won't have to worry about her place in the acting industry anytime soon, as Disney Junior's *Elena of Avalor*, in which she voices Princess Isabel, will be back for a third season! Being as Jenna is a voiceover actress and an on-screen actress, we wondered which she prefers. She tells us that although voiceover work is a little bit more challenging, she doesn't prefer one over the other. Jenna elaborates, "When you're acting on-screen, you can use your facial expressions to explain what the character is feeling. When you're recording for animation, the audience can't see your face, so you have to make your character's emotion come across in your voice." Ultimately, she has a great time on set of every project, no matter what it is.

That being said, when we asked her what her favorite project that she's worked on was, she was conflicted. She narrowed it down to two: *CSI: NY* and *Stuck in the Middle*. Ultimately, she chose *Stuck in the Middle*, "Three years of my life were dedicated to that show and it was a learning experience for me." She then adds, "But then again, dying on *CSI: NY* was a pretty crazy experience, too!"

Aside from acting, Jenna loves playing soccer, swimming, drawing, and hanging out with her friends. But lately, she's been trying to expand her interests, "I'm starting to learn about writing scripts and directing, so that's really fun and exciting for me." In fact, her number one goal for this year is to write a script! "Doesn't matter if it's a short or a show or a film - just something." Whatever more she ends up accomplishing this year, we're excited to see it.



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