

BY MALLORY RICE.
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
MELODIE MCDANIEL

top by stro,
skirt by magda
berliner, shoes
by christian
louboutin.

Sitting daintily on a poolside chair, the sunny star of Disney's action-adventure film, *Race to Witch Mountain*, AnnaSophia Robb is all blonde hair and thick, black lashes that make her lids bob like a baby doll when she blinks. She seems like she could be a twenty-something college student one moment and the next she's describing the size of something as "ginormous," and you remember that she's actually too young to legally operate a car by herself.

"I've wanted to [be an actress] since I was really young," she says, spinning the cap on her bottle of water. "At first my mom was like, 'Yeah, whatever, every little girl wants to be in the movies.'"

It didn't take long for it to become clear how dyed-in-the-wool her aspirations were though. By the time she was eight, she had a manager and within the year she had booked her first job.

"I remember my first real role was in a McDonald's commercial," says Robb, fondly. "I was so excited. I was like, 'I can't believe this is real. It's going to be national!'"

But the burger and fry peddling didn't last long. In 2005, Robb had her breakout role as the iconic gum-smacking Violet Beauregarde in Tim Burton's adaptation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Roles in big-budget films including *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jumper* followed quickly after. Despite her rapidly growing success, Robb still lives at home in Denver, Colorado, where she attends a public high school. "I think it's important, because I want to have a regular life," she says. "It helps keep everything in perspective." A week after our interview, *Race to Witch Mountain* opens number one at the box office.

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