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Center
STAGE

*From the DISNEY CHANNEL to ABC's
DANCING WITH THE STARS, ZENDAYA
COLEMAN GIVES US A LESSON in STYLE
and CONFIDENCE.* By L. LONDELL McMILLAN

Zendaya Coleman isn't your typical teenager. On late nights when most teens are prepping for school, she's up working and creating. And while most teens are taking on extracurricular activities, she's taking on extra careers. Her résumé boasts several titles—actor, artist, dancer, model, and, most recently, author. Most youth all over the globe know her as that school-smart, responsible and driven character, Rocky Blue, on her popular hit Disney show, *Shake It Up*. Recently, as the youngest person to grace the stage of ABC's hit show *Dancing With the Stars*, the 16-year-old made a huge impact. Though she was our “winner” (as well as the show's judges and most in her generation) she came in second place for the Mirror Ball Trophy in a controversial finale (reportedly the ABC website crashed during the broadcast on last show so none of the votes cast through the ABC website were counted). Nonetheless, Zendaya is a class act, as she performed brilliantly and inspired millions in her generation to live their dreams. Throughout her career, this Oakland native has stayed true to herself. Let's take a look at this young fashionista...

PHOTOGRAPHED BY *Matthew Jordan Smith*

STYLED BY *Law Roach*

HAIR *Larry Sims*

MAKEUP *Samuel Paul*

FASHION ASSISTANT *Maggie SanFilippo*

Pia Pauro Cropped Jacket with Yarn and Mirror Embellishments & Navy Trousers with Gold and Orange Embellishments Down Sides of Legs, **Misope** Sleeveless Crop Lace Top in Neon Yellow, **Givenchy** Gold Chain, **Dolce Vita** Color Block Shoes, **YSL** Blue Visor, **Aqua** Gold Bangles, **Nadri** Gold Hoops



JOYRICH x Gerlan
Jeans Crayon Skirt,
Equipment Silk
Green Button Down
Blouse, **Happy Socks**
Color Blocked Socks,
Henri Bendel Charm
Necklace, **Schutz** Yellow
Gold Spike Heels,
Aqua Bangles, **Diesel**
Sunglasses



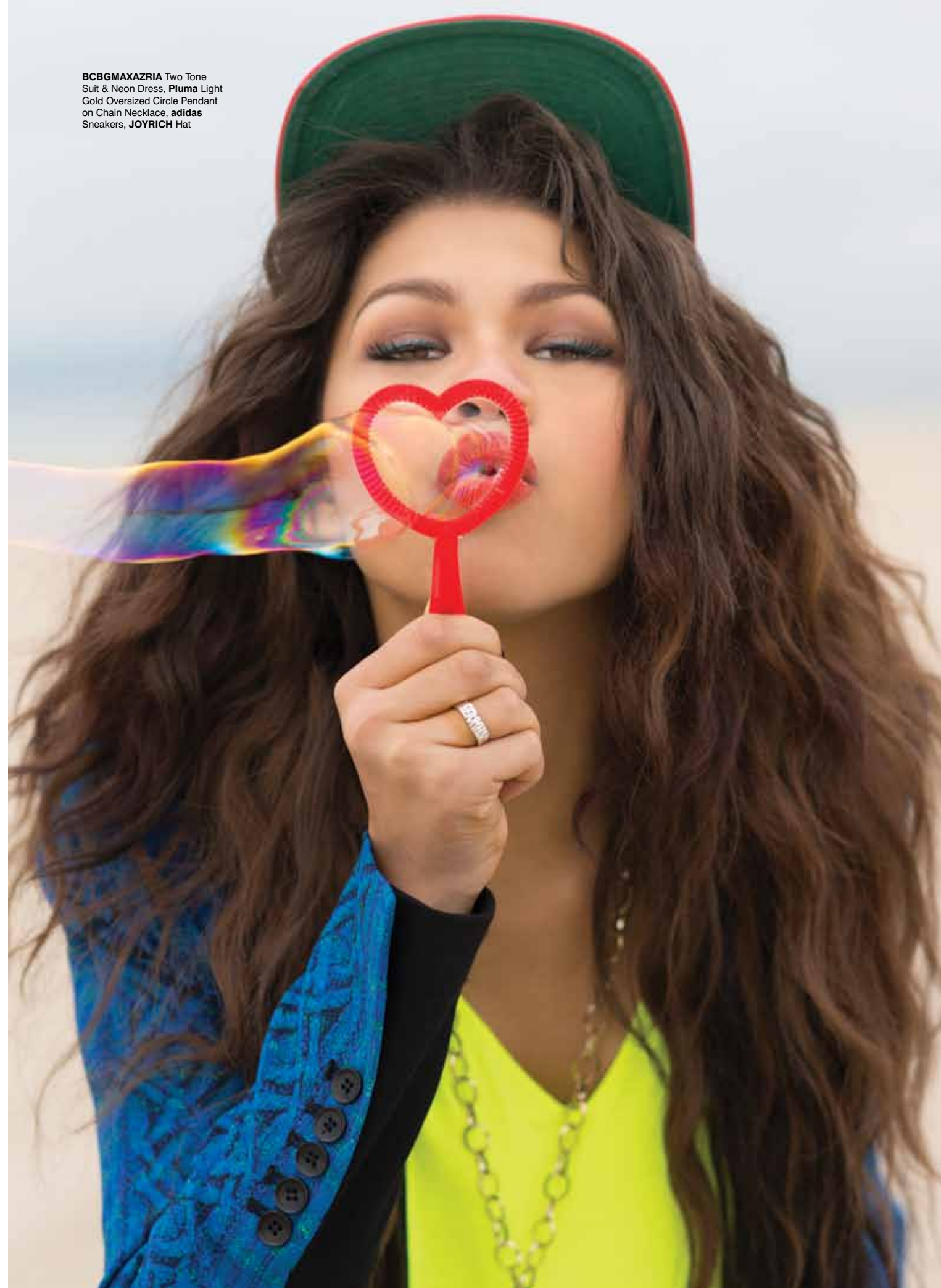
Rachel Zoe Orange Suit, **JOYRICH**
Jersey, **PRB STUDIO Private Collec-**
tion Swarovski Crystal Circle Neck-
lace, **Mishka Piat** Honey Comb Cuff,
Gemma Simone Coral "Maria" Ring,
Betsy Johnson Gold and Orange
Heart Earrings, **Aqua** Gold Bangles,
B by Brian Atwood Heels



JOYRICH Mickey Mouse Sweater,
French Connection Black Lace Shorts,
Henri Bendel Sequin Headband,
Happy Socks Socks, **Aqua** Bangles,
AMI Triangle Ring with Color Block
Stone, **Mishka Piat** Silver Crystal
Bibbed Charm Necklace



BCBGMAXAZRIA Two Tone
Suit & Neon Dress, **Pluma** Light
Gold Oversized Circle Pendant
on Chain Necklace, **adidas**
Sneakers, **JOYRICH** Hat



Alice + Olivia Floral Print Gown,
Henri Bendel Necklace, B-Low The
Belt from Seventh House Leather
Belt with Gold Buckle



I WANTED to SHOW a lot of YOUNG LADIES that you COULD BE BEAUTIFUL and JUST as STUNNING as EVERYONE ELSE WITHOUT SHOWING EVERY SINGLE INCH of YOUR BODY...

As the world witnesses your success, how would you describe your life at this point?

It's all about putting things in perspective and knowing that I have to make little sacrifices. It's a give and take. I'm very happy with my life. A lot of people might say I'm missing out on my childhood. This is my childhood. This might not be normal for most but I'm having a childhood. And it's fun. I get to accomplish a lot of things at a young age.

Your level of confidence is amazing for your age. On *Dancing With the Stars*, your mom talked about how shy you were growing up. What helped you break out of your shell?

When I started working in L.A., I became more confident in myself as a person. I wouldn't say I was shy, I was just worried about what other people thought about me and how they perceived me. Shyness isn't allowed in L.A. I started wearing funkier clothes and I would dress as the characters of whatever I was auditioning for. That's how I got comfortable in my own skin.

You showed strength and independence on *Dancing With the Stars* in the fact that you wouldn't show too much skin or get a spray tan. How do you stick to your guns when dealing with adults?

I think it's important to always be very confident in yourself and your beliefs and stay strong in that. Of course, I have parents so that was a beneficial factor. I'm 16. I wanted to show a lot of young ladies that you could be beautiful and just as stunning as everyone else without showing every single inch of your body. All of the adjustments that my age brought to the show, I think it was a breath of fresh air.

As you keep moving forward in all of these different careers, what motivates you?

I truly feel like this is for me. This is what I do. I don't get time off or have too much time to hang out with my friends but I'm living my dream. I have a really strong passion for what I do. I don't see myself doing anything else. I can't see myself just going to school. I think this is my normal and I'm very happy with it. I'm not just doing it to do it. I'm doing it to inspire the younger generation to look up to me. I think they're missing that role model, especially young women. Sometimes we don't have the best influences.

And you pride yourself on being that role model?

Yes. My main thing is to inspire kids my age and younger. I want to show them that you don't have to be older to live your dreams; you can do it at any age. It's possible. That's what I'm here for.

What are some of your favorite beauty products?

I really, really like Smashbox foundation. I've been using it for a while. It's a 24-hour wear. It literally lasts all day and my job requires that.

When we see you on television and red carpets, you're wearing a lot of colors. How would you describe your fashion sense?

My personal style is very urban chic. It has a more tomboy edge. That's where I am on a day-to-day basis. But when I'm on the red carpet, I like to take the classic pieces and do something with them. I like to spice it up and make it original.

How would you turn a casual look like jeans and a T-shirt into a sleek outfit?

For an outfit like that, you can take really bold accessories, like a chunky necklace, or add a blazer on it, pop some heels on, and you'll have something great but it has to fit your own personality.

What fashion trends are you into right now?

I'm one of those people that doesn't follow trends. I set them. There's this dress I wore to the Kids' Choice Awards that a few celebrities had already worn. I wanted to wear it and make it my own. I wanted to do something different to it so that it doesn't look like the dress. We threw a crewneck on top of it and had the collar of the shirt poke out and paired it with some really cool sandals that didn't really match. It gave the dress an edge to where people didn't know that was the same dress that other people had already worn.

For kids looking to follow in your footsteps, what's your advice to the parents?

Help your kids follow their passion. You can't push your kid to do anything they aren't willing to do. Make sure they actually have the passion for it and it's more than a hobby. Also, give your kid a voice. A lot of parents talk for their kids. If an agent is asking your kid about school, they are trying to get to know your kid. Sometimes parents can be protective or just proud of their kids and end up speaking for them, but the industry is interested in the kid, not the parent. My parents let me speak and allowed me to be what it is that I wanted to be. Lastly, nurture your kid's talent. If they have a knack for something, try to give them things that will help them in that craft. If it's dance, get them dance classes. If it's acting, get acting lessons. Let them be around their art and grow and prosper. It's a good way of filtering out the hobbies from the real deal. The arts are also helpful for learning. Most important, let them be the best they wish to be. ●