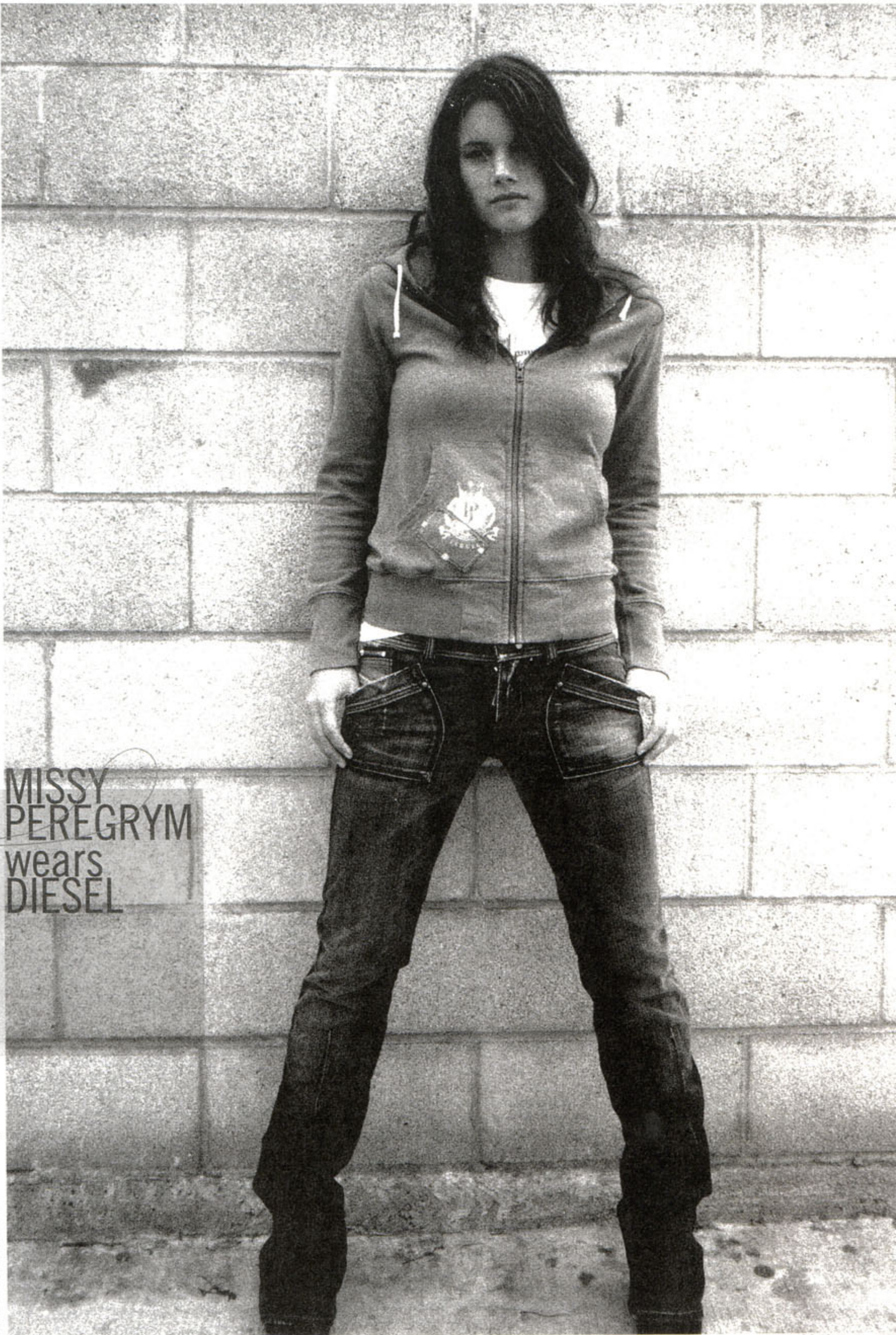


Stick It star Missy Peregrym appears to be having a difficult day: "First of all, I have a deep," she says. "And it's been pouring, these torrential rains, and I'd taken the top off, so now there's a pool in there." She's not flustered, though. Peregrym seems like the kind of person who wants to identify a problem, analyze the solutions, and focus on it until it's fixed: a difficult temperament for Hollywood, where so much depends on the grace and goodwill of strangers. "It can be really frustrating—I can't tell you how many times I've contemplated quitting," she says. "I like to work hard and go for it—but now I'm waiting for someone out there to create a project I want to be a part of. There's just so much I can't control about this industry."

For now, Peregrym, 24, is focusing on the basics: She's on a soccer team with her *Stick It* co-star Vanessa Lengies and just started playing in a basketball league; she also plans to coach a team from L.A.'s Dream Center, which offers housing, food, and job training to underprivileged children and adults. "It's really easy to get down on yourself and get really self-centered in this industry," she says. "If you don't get the role, it's because of the way you look—it's always about you." Maybe it's the fact that her father's a minister, but Peregrym seems remarkably balanced, highly aware of the caustic side of fame. "It's not working for me to let go of everything I stand for, just to make a lot of money—I'm not going to do nudity, I'm not going to be in a horror film," she says. If she's worried that position will cost her jobs, she's not showing it: "To tell you the truth, I hope I don't have to be here forever," she says. "The only thing I've ever wanted in my life is to be a mom and a wife. And really, would I want to raise my family here? Probably not."

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARVIN SCOTT JARRETT. stylist: gena tuso. hair: creighton at exclusive artists. makeup: kiki benet at thereagency.com. special thanks to splashlight studios. hoodie by plain jane couture, top by luxury, jeans by diesel, necklace by bonnie basham. shoes by ddc lab

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