

M & V

*muses
&
visionaries*

TRAVEL

SECRET ISLES
leave reality behind

VOLUNTOURISM

+

FROM PARIS
Avec Amour

QUEEN BEE
*CONSTANCE
ZIMMER*

**Effortless
Style in
Tulum**



\$6.95

07



0 74470 26934 2



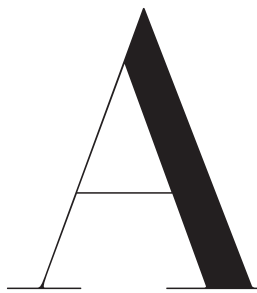


The
Avant-Garde
ACTRESS

CONSTANCE ZIMMER'S CAREER TRAJECTORY
PROVES IT'S A WOMAN'S WORLD.

By Lola Thélin
Photography by Norman Nelson

“I’m grateful that my roles are these incredibly strong, not soft-spoken women. People always ask me if the roles I play are feminist. Yes! Of course, they are. But it’s funny how everyone automatically second-guesses if they are feminist just because they are strong and aggressive.”



actress Constance Zimmer is quite possibly suffering from the best kind of Hollywood typecasting. “I blame it all on Dana Gordon of *Entourage*,” Zimmer says of the movie executive character she played on the popular HBO series. “Whatever

you do in your job, if you do it well, they’ll continue to want you to do that again and again and again.”

Watch any of Zimmer’s recent acting jobs, and the typecast is easy to identify. She plays the woman many of us dream of being—the woman that is intelligent, vocal and determined. And most importantly, she plays the woman who doesn’t apologize for being who she is. “I’m grateful that the parts are these incredibly strong, not soft-spoken women,” adds Zimmer, who claims that in her own life she tends toward a quieter tongue.

This is the summer of Zimmer. Her film *Results*, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival this year and stars Guy Pearce, Cobie Smulders and Kevin Corrigan, released May 29. She reprises her role as Dana Gordon in the June 3 release of the much-anticipated *Entourage* movie, and will also recurring roles on USA Network’s new thriller series *Complications* and *The Marc Maron Show* for FX. Then there’s *UnREAL*, a new scripted series produced by A&E and premiering June 1 on Lifetime that captures the behind-the-scenes making of a reality dating show ti-

tled *Everlasting*. Zimmer plays the demanding executive director/producer. “She is the queen bee of all these strong characters that I have ever played. They keep finding me in different variations of them, and with this new character, I don’t know if I can go much further than her.”

Zimmer portrays the woman many of us dream of being—the woman that is intelligent, vocal and determined. Most importantly, she plays the woman who doesn’t apologize for being who she is.

Off screen, life for Zimmer is as quiet as it can be, considering it’s a Los Angeles life, with husband Russ Lamoureux, a producer, director and photographer, seven-year-old daughter Colette, aka Coco, and a dog, two cats and a fish. The couple recently moved into a new LA neighborhood for the sole purpose of slowing down and enjoying moments like walking their daughter to school. “We were living bi-coastal in New York and LA for about six years. We did that more so because I wanted [my daughter] to understand there are cities where people walk everywhere and interact with people on a daily basis. In LA, you are stuck to cars and driving to a park.” Zimmer, who is bilingual thanks to German parents, spent her summers from the age

of five until her senior year in high school in Germany. “I really got the mother lode of culture, seasons and walking places and being able to control where I wanted to go without a car. I want her to be aware of that, and I’m going to try to instill that any way I can.”

Of course, the relationship works both ways: Colette pulls at her mom’s heartstrings. “It’s crazy how you learn something new every day about why you love being a mom. It’s gratifying. What I love





"I get excited about Instagram because we are getting eyes into worlds that we would never have seen before. Yet it's also frustrating because no one lives in the moment anymore."

the most is being able to watch her grow before my eyes. It's also exhausting and terrifying." Zimmer tries to accept roles based on the filming schedule and commitments, while recognizing that she can't turn too many down. Colette is too young to watch or appreciate many of her mother's roles, but there's a new role they both can relish. Zimmer voices Strongarm, the new female Transformer in the animated series *Transformers: Robots in Disguise* on Cartoon Network. She is happy that Colette will see her in the role of a strong woman.

Zimmer has a solid base of extracurricular activities. She's an amateur photographer and even brought her own camera to the M&V photo shoot in early April. As a young adult, she took as many trips as possible—Bali, Thailand and Africa—and captured her journeys with a Nikon D70. "This is when I had too much time on my hands, but it was feeding the artist in me. It was a creative outlet. Now with my husband being a director and an incredible photographer, I have a lot more to live up to."

Like most of us, Zimmer has switched to digital. "I get excited about Instagram because we are getting eyes into worlds that we would never have seen before. Yet it's also frustrating because no one lives in the moment anymore." The answer? Zimmer has a Polaroid camera and is known for bringing it to children's birthday parties, snapping lots of photos and leaving the footage behind for anyone to take.

Then there's EMA, formally known as the Environmental Media Association, an entertainment community that uses TV, film and music to influence the environmental awareness of millions of people. Zimmer has been a part of the EMA for more than 10 years helping raise awareness of the entertainment business' influence on people and their ability to make even the smallest changes in their lives. "Their mission just spoke to me, and I became more and more involved," says Zimmer, who served on EMA's Young Hollywood Board and is now chair of the Parent Board.

For Earth Day, the board partnered with Disney and its world premier of *Monkey Kingdom*. "We planted a movable garden that we will donate to a school in need. It is about reminding people that you don't have to be crazy to do something good for the environment. You can do one percent and recycle, and you are already doing more than the average person."

Zimmer is also involved with other nonprofits. Her favorites include children-related causes such as Baby2Baby (provides low-income children with diapers, clothing and basic needs) and Milk + Bookies™ (gives books to children who need them and inspires in them a spirit of giving), as well as environmental organizations like Natural Resources Defense Council, World Wildlife Fund and Oceana.

Serious issues aside, Zimmer is quite the comedian. "I love when people are surprised, and say, 'Oh, you're so funny.' Yep, because that's who I am." Early in her career, she had parts on *Seinfeld* and *Ellen*, and her first regular role was for NBC's comedy series *Good Morning, Miami*, created by the creators of *Will & Grace*. "I remember my team saying, 'It's going to be hard to break out of sitcoms.' We made a concerted effort to pick a drama after the sitcoms, so people would see I could do both. I've only done one-hour [dramas] since then, which is crazy because I come from comedy. When I do get a comedy, I get so excited. I'm going back to my roots."

Most recently, you've seen Zimmer recurring on *Grey's Anatomy*, *The Newsroom* and *House of Cards*—an impressive lineup, especially considering that her first foray into acting was as a senior in high school as Patty Simcox in *Grease*. Like most high school girls in the seventies, *Grease* and *Saturday Night Fever* were her favorite movies, and Zimmer was in love with John Travolta. "I did the play, and it clicked. It integrated everything that I had ever done. It integrated dance, gymnastics and being in front of an audience."

Since entering the acting field in 1993, Zimmer has consistently put women's issues front and center. A quick glance at her Instagram account reveals a T-shirt that has a recurring role in her wardrobe. It spells out the word feminism in bold typography. "I love that shirt. I wear it all the time, and when I do people always ask me if

the roles I play are feminist. Yes! Of course, they are. But it's funny how everyone automatically second-guesses if they are feminist just because they are strong and aggressive."

Zimmer looks toward women like Lena Dunham and Shonda Rhimes, who make the entertainment business come to them. "We are now in this time of focusing on equality for women. Everyone still thinks you have to fit into a mold, but the women that are breaking out of the mold are the ones who are so inspiring for anyone of any age." ■

