

# ON THE RUN

WITH A CIGARETTE BETWEEN HER LIPS AND THE PAPARAZZI ON  
HER TAIL, SELMA BLAIR HITS THE TOWN TO CELEBRATE HER ROLE AS  
KRIS JENNER IN RYAN MURPHY'S *AMERICAN CRIME STORY*

PHOTOGRAPHS BRAD ELTERMAN  
FASHION MARYAM MALAKPOUR

126



SELMA BLAIR WEARS  
JUMPSUIT THE BLONDS  
SHOES JIMMY CHOO



THIS PAGE:  
CLOTHING AND SCARVES RODARTE  
OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT:  
MAGGIE LAINE WEARS DRESS TOM FORD  
JEWELRY LYNN BAN  
SHOES STUART WEITZMAN  
SELMA WEARS DRESS ALEXANDRE VAUTHIER  
BRACELETS (ON LEFT WRIST) BULGARI AND  
MICHAEL SCHMIDT  
BRACELETS (ON RIGHT WRIST)  
MICHAEL SCHMIDT



friendship with Jenner. “We do text and I’d like to see her more, but I think she’s someone who will actually be in my life.”

While Blair has never been a Kardashian savant, she did enjoy an abstract connection to the family before her involvement in *American Crime Story*: “I always had them on in the background,” she explains. “Someone came over to my house five years ago and was like, ‘You are kidding me that you have this on. You read the *Economist* and you watch the Kardashians nonstop?’ And I was like, ‘You know what? They’re comforting. They’re ridiculous but they have good lighting and beautiful makeup and they really love each other.’ I had no problems with the Kardashians from the start. ‘Oh my God, this is everything that’s wrong with our culture.’ Well, there are a few more things that are wrong with our culture. I could name ten and the Kardashians aren’t one of them. I don’t follow the storylines, so I can’t say I know what’s going on in their family but they were always there and I think they’re beautiful.”

Blair considered the format for herself when reality show producers approached her during her pregnancy. “I thought, well, this is possible. At the time, I was with Jason, my child’s father, and he leads an interesting life,” she recalls. “But the problem was that I don’t have a gaggle of goofy friends. A reality show with me would take reality to a whole new reality level. I’m a loner. I read books. Can you imagine? How boring would that be on TV? I have a gay friend. He’s funny, but we don’t want to be around each other all the time. A reality show with me would be interesting but it would last half an episode. It’s a real life. Yeah, sure, if you want to look at postpartum depression and how to deal with it, but that was going to be it.” She says that she hasn’t watched a reality show since she attended viewing parties of *Joe Millionaire* at Matthew Perry’s house in 2003, and that she

hadn’t seen *Project Runway* before her brilliant appearance as a guest judge in 2010, when she described a contestant’s design as something that might be found in “a store in the mall that has a name like Dazzles.” Would she consider signing on to an ensemble show and becoming an official *Housewife*? “I couldn’t deal with the drama of it,” she says. “And then you get involved in the gossip and someone would make up something about me and I’d get upset and then I’d try to find out who my real friends are. Yeah, no. But it’s a job. We’ll see how badly I want my kid to go to private school.”

“I’ve been around a while,” she continues. “I’ve been the independent girl who’s been a part of some iconic films and that’s a pleasure, but I always end up going back to the zero-paying indie films where people are trying to get their voices heard.” Is that just what interests her? “No. God, no,” she says laughing, almost choking on food. “I think that’s the only group that’s interested in me. I think they see me as a little bit of the loner or the misfit or I’m kind enough to do the film for \$300 dollars a week and some diet soda from craft services. Some, like Todd Solondz films, I would do every day of my life. I would live in his brain and say his words every day.”

“Even at this age, like in this shoot, I’m playing a punk. And even though I’m 43 and a mom, in Beverly Hills I’m still the punk. I’m still the outcast. Not in a bad way. I’m the chink in the armor.” That’s nice though. “It is nice. Because I don’t know what else I would be. But David Foster is single now. So maybe,” she says and breaks into a singsong voice, “there’s hope for me!” Blair is referring to the wildly successful music producer’s separation from his wife Yolanda, one of the stars of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. “Oh, I know David Foster. He has no interest in me. But alas, a girl can dream.”



Location: The Dresden www.thedresden.com



## SELMA BLAIR ON KRIS JENNER, O. J. SIMPSON, TODD SOLONDZ, REAL HOUSEWIVES, AND WHY SHE'LL ALWAYS PLAY THE PUNK

WORDS MARK JACOBS

"People acted like I was playing the queen," Selma Blair says, describing the response to being cast as Kris Jenner in *American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson*, the ten-episode FX Networks miniseries that recreates the events surrounding the 1994-95 trial of retired football star O.J. Simpson for the murder of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman. "The response was huge. I felt like, Oh God, I don't want you to think I am this whole show!"

It is a splashy return for Blair, who has maintained a relatively low profile while raising her four-year-old son, Arthur Saint, with ex-boyfriend Jason Bleick. It's also exactly the kind of cherry-on-top casting choice that has become a signature of *American Horror Story* creators and *American Crime Story* executive producers Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk. And while Blair modestly describes the role as "just a little splash here and there," it remains decidedly sensational. Jenner attended the trial, while pregnant with daughter Kendall, and watched as her ex-husband, the late attorney Robert Kardashian (played by David Schwimmer), defended the man that she believed killed her best friend. The proceedings were significant for many reasons, including the moment that Kardashian first became a household name. Blair steals the series' official trailer when she whispers, while costumed in a Rodeo Drive bereavement ensemble, "Do you think he did it?" Connie Britton, playing future adjunct *Real Housewife of Beverly Hills* Faye Resnick, whispers back, "She was terrified of him."

Blair chooses to meet at the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles, near her home in Laurel Canyon, a location that is so familiar to her that she planned to home-birth her son there. "It didn't work out that way but it was going to be at the Chateau," she says. "I'm more comfortable here than in my own house." She wears head-to-toe black: a long Rick Owens knit ("That has a lot of dog hair on it"); a Chanel bag ("That Karl had given me years ago"); Prada boots ("That my sister gave me"); and Saint Laurent leather leggings. A newly adopted 12-year-old Chihuahua-pug named Ducky sits on her lap in a hooded sweatshirt and a Bottega Veneta collar. "She has the build of Judy Garland but the eyes of Maggie Smith," Blair explains. "We call her Dame Ducky."

Blair grew up in suburban Detroit, studied to become a photographer, fell toward acting (almost winning the Joey Potter role on *Dawson's Creek* that went to Katie Holmes), and then made a name for herself with the dark, complex goofiness she demonstrated in 1999's unexpectedly effective teen drama *Cruel Intentions*, in which she shared an MTV Movie Award-winning kiss with Sarah Michelle Gellar. In 2001, she made her career-defining swing from playing Elle Woods' nemesis in the bubbly mainstream comedy *Legally Blonde* to a lead role in director Todd Solondz' provocative-by-design independent drama

*Storytelling*. She has appeared on two Hollywood issue covers of *Vanity Fair* (2000 and 2002); one Pirelli calendar (2002); and in a 2005 Miu Miu campaign and a 2006 Chanel campaign, the latter photographed by Karl Lagerfeld, who also made her two dresses to wear to her 2004 wedding to Ahmet Zappa at Carrie Fisher's house. (They divorced two years later.)

After starring in 2008's *Hellboy 2: The Golden Army* and a season of the American attempt at translating the Australian cult sitcom *Kath & Kin*, Blair stopped working, save for a finite number of television appearances and independent films (including *Dark Horse*, in which she reprised her character from *Storytelling*). "I was just getting myself in order, getting to be happy again after falling into a little bit of despair," Blair says. She focused on horseback riding, an early love, with the goal of returning to competitive show jumping, until discovering she was pregnant, after which she intrepidly co-starred opposite Charlie Sheen for 2 seasons of the troubled actor's comeback sitcom *Anger Management*.

*American Crime Story* is the perfect vehicle for Blair, as it allows her to glamorously demonstrate the value she brings to projects that make use of her keen high-low sensibility. It's even more personal for her as she lived around the corner from the Nicole Brown Simpson residence in Brentwood at the time of the murders after just moving to Los Angeles. "I followed the case so closely and have for years," she says. "It really has been an obsession of mine, so even to get to play this little role in it was like it was all meant to be, like I'm somehow really meant to know these people or this case. I know I sound like a weird Long Island medium but I just feel very connected somehow."

The role is doubly perfect as the actor's physical resemblance to Jenner at the time of the trial is fantastic, requiring little more than the application of black eyeliner on her lower lids to complete the effect. "She was much cuter than I ever was," says Blair, who has not been unaware of the resemblance. "I'm fine, I'm interesting-looking and perfectly happy with what God gave me, but Kris Jenner was truly adorable. It's funny because when I'm next to her now, she looks so much younger than me. It's not even a joke. I can't even be next to her. I look like I'm playing her mother. It's such a different world. She is garage-kept. I am not! I've been out and about without the maintenance and it shows." Blair laughs and then playfully lowers her voice. "And I may make a trip to the doctor." Is that her takeaway from this experience? "That's the takeaway! Damn, Kris Jenner looks so much better than me!"

Blair first met Kris Jenner on a step-and-repeat at a Beverly Hills charity event for Kelly Rutherford's Children's Justice Campaign the day after she was cast in *American Crime Story*. "I instantly really liked her," says Blair, who has since cultivated a



ABOVE:  
JACKET COACH 1941  
BODYSUIT VIONNET  
TIGHTS (THROUGHOUT)  
WOLFFORD



BELOW: DRESS  
LOUIS VUITTON  
EARRINGS LYNN BAN  
SCARF THE ELDER  
STATSMAN  
SHOES JIMMY CHOO





SELMA WEARS CLOTHING  
HAIDER ACKERMANN  
SUNGLASSES ISABEL MARANT  
PAR OLIVER PEOPLES  
RINGS LYNN BAN  
MAGGIE WEARS JACKET AND  
BAG VERSACE



Location: Hd Los Angeles installation; Rodney Bingenheimer's English Disco by Dennis Heekstra.



MAGGIE WEARS DRESS JITROIS  
SHOES STUART WEITZMAN  
SELMA WEARS JUMPSUIT THE BLONDS  
JACKET (IN LEFT HAND) REDEMPTION  
JEWELRY LYNN BAN  
MAKEUP MELISSA ROGERS USING  
CHARLOTTE TILBURY  
HAIR PAMELA NEAL USING DAVINES  
MANICURE CARLA KAY USING  
THE SYSTEM BY FORMULA X/  
CLOUTIER REMIX  
FASHION ASSISTANT CATLIN MYERS  
PRODUCTION AND  
ART DIRECTION RICHIE DAVIS