

## Gia Coppola

*Her family is chock-full of big names in film (have you ever heard of grandfather Francis Ford, aunt Sofia and cousin Nicolas Cage?). With such DNA, the latest rising star of the film dynasty could not be anything but a director (after working in a bar, as a shop assistant and hostess for customers of homemade olive oil). It's just the beginning, but her praises are being sung already. Be prepared to see her with statuette in hand...*

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No Hollywood airs and graces. The slender and shy Gia speaks with a calm voice, a brunette bob and soft fawn-like features, resembling those of aunt and director Sofia. The youngest offspring of the Coppola family has just got back to Los Angeles from Coachella, the most important musical festival on the West Coast, taking place in the Californian desert, where she admired Phoenix «one of my favourite bands», she says, led by Thomas Mars (husband to Sofia and father of the couple's daughter, Romy).

23 year-old Gia Coppola's family circle is illustrious. Her grandfather is Francis Ford; her aunt Sofia and uncle Roman; her cousins, the actors Jason Schwartzman and Nicolas Cage. At the age of three she had already appeared in her grandfather's *The Godfather III*, who also directed her as a young child in *New York Stories*. Daughter of Giancarlo Coppola (who passed away in an accident at sea before she was born), and Jacqui Getty (from the famous dynasty), rather than pursuing a career in acting, Gia seems to want to follow in the footsteps of her grandfather and aunt. She's certainly not lacking in talent and has recently started experimenting with



the camera in three advertising films for fashion labels Opening Ceremony, Built by Wendy and Zac Posen. «I lived in New York» she says, «but I much prefer Hollywood: I love the sun all year round, whereas Manhattan is a difficult place, best just to visit». Gia meets *Style* in the majestic Beverly Hills villa of friends Pamela and Jeffrey Levy who are among the founder partners of the popular American label Juicy Couture.

### How did directing come about?

By chance. I had just graduated in Photography in New York and I wasn't doing anything. They asked me to film a short clip for Built by Wendy and I accepted. I also made a cool video for the girl band The Like. Yes, I was inspired by the old Beatles' clips, as well as The Supremes and photos by Richard Avedon. It was interesting «stealing» from the best. **Some of your short films are similar in style to those of aunt Sofia...**

My family will always be a reference point. In the end we have the same blood.

### So can we say that you are a director?

(*After some hesitation*, ed.). I'm only 23 years old and I'm simply experimenting, which I'm really enjoying. After all, I have tried lots of other jobs.

### Such as?

I worked in Bouchon bar, a restaurant in Beverly Hills, and I was a shop assistant for a while. But I got my first ever job when I was 13, I was the girl offering guests a taste of olive oil made on our family property in Napa Valley, here in California.

### How do you get on with your grandfather Francis?

Brilliantly. He has taken me on various trips around the world. The one I remember most vividly was when I was nine and the two of us went to Asia, on the Orient Express, that legendary train, following the same route that he had taken



at the time to appreciate it but, looking back now, I am so grateful to him for opening my mind.

### What is the Coppola ancestor like?

He's very wise and really funny.

### Are you very close as a family?

Oh yeah, a real Italian family. Each summer we all meet up in the Napa residence and spend the vacation cooking and chatting. We've also got a vegetable plot in the garden so that each ingredient is fresh that day.

### You make your own wine there too. What is your favourite among the labels that you produce?

It's called RC Reserve, and is Roman's.

### What other delicacies «mark» your dan?

Olive oil, as I mentioned before, red wine vinegar, and pasta with a spicy tomato sauce.

### You were also an actress as a little girl...

Yes, my grandfather just «threw» me into his films when he needed me, but it was never my decision. I was actually always shy in front of the cameras.

### Don't you remember anything about The Godfather?

Just some vague recollections.

### Have you ever been to Italy?

Yes, I went to Bernalda, Matera when I was 18 to discover the roots of my ancestors up close and know more about them.

### What's the relationship with your mom Jacqui like?

Fantastic. She had me when she was 19 and it's always been just me and her. I like the idea of having a super-young parent.

**Describe your ideal day....**I live in West Hollywood, near the organic market The Grove. I like spending time there, shopping from the stalls; sometimes I go to a delicious Brazilian restaurant for lunch. Ah, and I'm often in a little bar that sells fresh krapfen for breakfast.

### Cream cakes? And what about your figure?

I have to eat them or else I'd disappear.

### What do you do in the evening?

I go to some rock concerts. My boyfriend is always in the know about musical mixes, so that's how I'm up on new bands.

### What does your boyfriend do?

He's a writer, but that's all I'll say.

### You always have a sophisticated look. Are you into fashion?

I adore it. I buy clothes in vintage shops, but I also like contemporary designers, such as Marc Jacobs and Miu Miu. I also tried designing my own line some time ago, for fun. Unfortunately I can't sew, maybe I'd improvise more.

### The book on your beside table is...

A book by Roxy Music. I'm also trying to read *Anna Karenina* by Lev Tolstoj, but it's so big that I'm taking too long.

### Your favourite director, apart from Francis?

Alfred Hitchcock.

### And film?

*Bugsy Malone* by Alan Parker.

### Favourite dish?

Pizza.

### Gia's projects for the future?

I've just filmed a video for The Soft Pack, a band from San Francisco that I really like. I was the one who approached them, offering to film them with zero budget. I'm also one of the «minds» making up part of the collective of artists on [www.noretrospective.com](http://www.noretrospective.com). And then I want to work on my first screenplay too. I find it very therapeutic. 