


signaturestyle

A full-page photograph of Sharon Stone. She is crouching, wearing a strapless, sequined red dress and gold high-heeled sandals. Her blonde hair is styled in a messy, voluminous way, and she is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light color.

# anything but basic

With total recall, the ever daring, always alluring Sharon Stone ruminates on two decades of instinctive style

Written by David Hutchings  
Photographed by Lee Broomfield



The Siamese cat gaze. The coquettish poses. The racy roles. Sharon Stone has always been provocative. Mixing elegance and iconoclastic fun, she dresses to be noticed. Perhaps it's because it took her 10 years to *get* noticed. In 1990 her big break came in *Total Recall*. More than 30 films later the actress, 47, has helped raise millions for AIDS and is rearing her sons Roan, 5, and 4-month-old Laird in L.A. On the London set of *Basic Instinct 2: Risk Addiction*, due out in 2006, Stone reflects on life in and out of the limelight. Scanning a photo of herself in one creative getup, she smiles. "Sometimes people like what I wear, sometimes not," she says. "Sometimes it's just about having a laugh." The last one, we might add.

## FAMILY MATTERS



**1. 2004, Sharon with her now 5-year-old son, Roan, at the Concerned Parents for AIDS Research benefit** "Roan is terrific company, and even if he weren't my son, I'd choose to be with him. I knew there would be paparazzi at this event, so I took Roan around to meet all the photographers so he wouldn't be afraid of them and he would see that some of them are really nice people. I never frame paparazzi pictures, but I had this one framed and it's hanging in my house."

**2. Circa 1968, clockwise from upper right, Sharon, sister Kelly and cousin Shauna** "As you can see, even then I was into red lipstick! And isn't that a cool haircut? My dad built us this fantastic tree house. My mom made those little drapes for us. And our aunt gave us that red china cabinet. We loved to go up there and have adventures. As a kid I was a one-on-one type of friend. I made little inventions, and I loved reading, so I'd often go into my closet to read the encyclopedia."

**3. 1975, senior class photo** "The summer before my senior year I was taking some college classes. I also gained some weight, got hips and bought some cool white jeans and ankle-high suede moccasin boots (with fringe) that I thought were fabulous! So suddenly I came back to high school as the 'new' girl. Instead of being 'Sherry,' I reinvented myself and came back as 'Sharon.' Instead of the geek, I came back in my new 'I've been to college' look."

**4. 1995, with her mom, dad and Kelly (recovering from a fall)** "My dad has a saying: 'A family is like a hand. If you cut one finger, the whole hand bleeds.' So when someone gets sick, we work like a team. We make a chart and everyone gets a job concerning the person's recovery, whether it's doctor appointments or getting medicine. When my dad had cancer my parents moved in with me. When Kelly was ill my mom moved in with her. We stay together until it's fixed."

## SCENE-STEALER

**1. 1980, *Stardust Memories***

"This was my first part in a film. Woody Allen pulled me out of line and had me cast as an extra. I showed up on set and sat around for a long time reading a children's book about infinity. Later that day someone said Woody wanted to offer me a part in the film, and could I please go immediately into hair and makeup? Now I've done three films with him."

**2. 1990, *Total Recall***

"This was a big part of my career because the film was so successful. Arnold and I are great friends, and even though I'm not a Republican, I wanted him to be governor because he is a great leader and a smart man. He taught me about how to be prepared, and he taught me a ton about how to do public relations!"

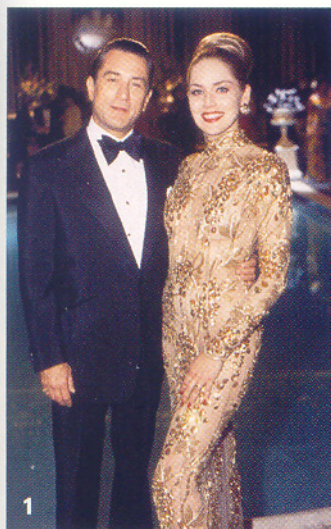
**3. 1992, *Basic Instinct***

"I loved doing this scene. It was five pages of dialogue with me sitting in a chair, talking. That's tough for a young actress because if a scene isn't interesting, it's going to end up on the cutting-room floor. I'm proud because not one second got cut. I know this is the favorite scene for so many people, and there are those who believe that's because of how I crossed my legs. But I've got news for you: People like watching this scene because I'm great in it!"

**4. 1995, *The Quick and the Dead***

"I starred in and co-produced this movie, and I fought the studio for every single man you see in this photo. Leo was new, and no one understood why I wanted him. Russell Crowe was an Australian actor they had never heard of. And when I demanded that Gene Hackman, a legend, get top billing over me, they thought I was a jerk. The film didn't do well, but I got to perform with the coolest, sexiest and finest actors working today."

FAVORITE LEADING MEN (AND WOMEN)



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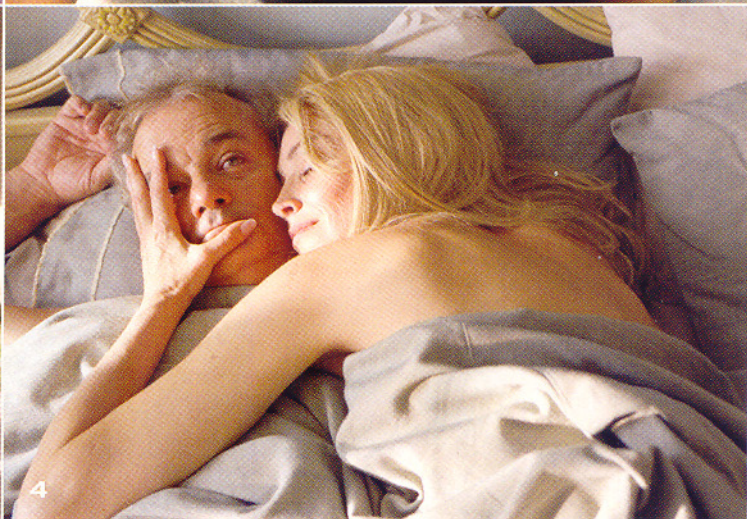
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**1. & 2. 1995, *Casino*, with Robert De Niro** "When I started to study acting my teacher asked me, if I could do anything, what would it be? I told him I wanted to be good enough to sit across the table from Robert De Niro and hold my own. That was my goal, and 10 years later I got to work with him. I worked so hard in this performance. I ripped out my guts, my liver, my heart and my brain! And my skin! The gold dress I'm wearing in that scene was so heavy it cut my skin and made me bleed."

**3. 2000, *If These Walls Could Talk 2*, with Ellen DeGeneres** "This was a fantastic experience for me. As a woman and an activist, and as a friend to Ellen and Anne [Heche], to get to work with them in this wonderful piece of historic filmmaking was extraordinary. Ellen and I play a female couple who want to raise a child together, and I think you can see the real love between us here. I profoundly believe that it's not *who* you love but *that* you love. What we did here was important, honest and true."

**4. 2005, *Broken Flowers*, with Bill Murray** "I'm very fond of brilliant men. That's the real turn-on for me. [Director] Jim Jarmusch and Bill Murray are both geniuses; every minute working with them was an education. I play a woman who was once married to a drag-car racer. My own brother was a race-car driver when he was in the Air Force, and I worked in his pit crew for a while. I also met some female drivers and got a sense of how they looked. In the film I wear a fall, which I thought was beautiful."

**5. 2006, *Basic Instinct 2: Risk Addiction*, with David Morrissey** "I never anticipated I'd be doing a sequel this much later, but it has been fun. My character, Catherine, is seasoned now, and every time I walk on the set I think, This is a girl who may have been killing for the last 25 years, so she's very smooth. By this time she'd almost be a vampire! As we get older in life, we move less and observe more. Catherine is like that. I loved making this film in London."

## AWARD-WINNING MOMENTS



**1. 1993, Academy Awards** "I've always felt that the Oscars is a place where artists go, and I always believed I should clothe myself with my own artistic vision. When I wore this Vera Wang dress to the Oscars, people weren't really wearing ball gowns to special events. I wanted something that reflected my dream of going to the Academy Awards."

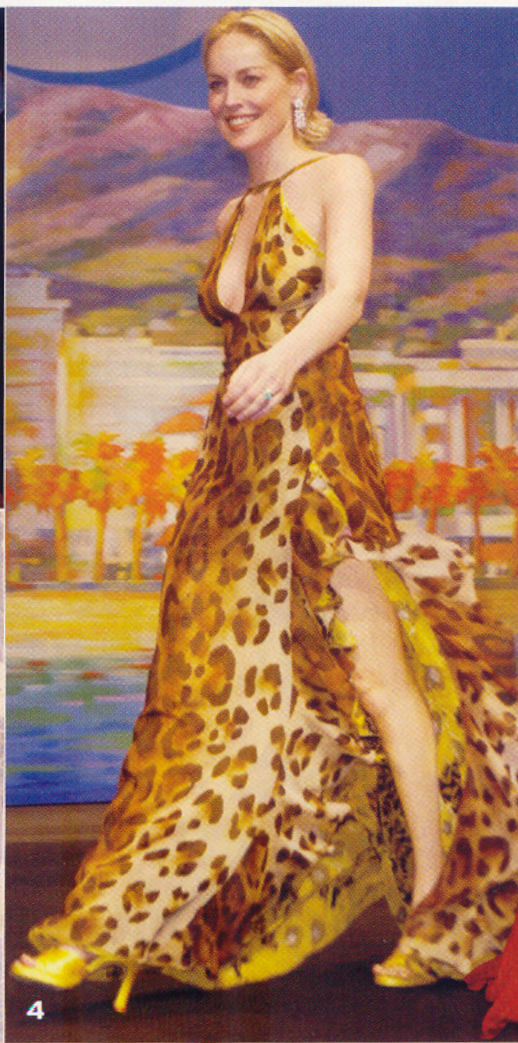
**2. 1996, Golden Globes** "I called Vera Wang and told her that I was nominated for a Golden Globe for *Casino* and that the chances of my winning were nonexistent, so I needed a dress that made me look like a winner. When they called my name I was stunned. Thank God Tom Hanks grabbed me and said, 'Snap out of it. You deserve this, so get up there.'"

**3. 1996, Academy Awards** "My friend Ellen suggested I go into my closet and get out five of my favorite pieces. I'm wearing a Valentino ready-to-wear skirt, an Armani dress worn as a coat and a Gap T-shirt. I thought, A Gap T-shirt to the Oscars? Hey, I'm nominated, and I'm presenting two Oscars, so why not have some attitude?"

**4. 1998, Academy Awards** "I told Vera Wang I wanted to wear one of my husband's shirts to the Oscars, and I wanted a Dorothy Lamour-type sarong. She said, 'You can't be serious.' But I was. I went to her studio and saw all her brilliant fabrics and ended up wearing this beautiful sarong wrapped in the back with a butterfly, and I carried a real Chinese lacquer box."

**5. 2002, Academy Awards** "This was an emotional night for me. It was the first time I came back to Hollywood after I had my stroke, and I was feeling very fragile. I was asked to present an Oscar only two weeks before, so I had to rush to get a gown. This is a lovely Versace dress, and wearing it after recuperating from a stroke was a big moment for me."

## FROM L.A. TO CANNES



**1. 1992, California Fashion Industry Friends of AIDS event**

"I'd spent years working to fight pediatric AIDS. In 1995 I hosted the benefit for Amfar [American Foundation for AIDS Research] in Cannes and have been involved ever since. Besides my kids, it's the most important thing I do in life. As for what I'm wearing—it's a fashion event, so why not go as a fashion victim?"

**2. 1992, with Drew Barrymore** "Drew and I have been friends

ever since she was a little girl and I carried her down the red carpet on my hip. This photo was taken during the L.A. riots when the city was burning. She asked if I'd join her in protesting the behavior of the police, and I said I would. It was hot outside, so I put on my shirt supporting black women."

**3. 1993, MTV Movie Awards (she won best actress and most desirable female)**

"Since this was MTV I thought I'd dress funny, but in a marvelous fashion. So I wore this *Breakfast at Tiffany's* kind of thing. At the time my friend Roy was dying of AIDS, and I knew this would be the only award he'd see me win. Although it was sort of silly, it was a very big deal for me."

**4. 2002, Cannes Film Festival** "Isn't this a beautiful dress

by Donatella Versace? It's really unusual. What I thought was so marvelous about it was the yellow floral underneath the leopard. Both are made from chiffon. I thought putting lemon sandals underneath made it really fresh. I was on the jury that year, and I wore this on opening night."

**5. 2004, Amfar event**

"I was going to wear another dress for the event, but then Donatella sent this over. I had already done my hair and makeup, but my friend Mimi told me that wearing something red would be so nice for Amfar. I slipped it on to see how it would look. When a dress fits like that, what are you to do? I'm not getting any younger!" ■