It Girl

How Rosamund Pike landed the most coveted role of the year in David Fincher’s ‘Gone Girl’

By Ramin Setoodeh p.26
CAMERON DIAZ
A twentiesomething model with no acting experience when she landed her debut role opposite Jim Carrey in "The Mask," Cameron Diaz blew away stereotypes when she not only stole scenes from her comedy icon co-star, but became one of the most likable and relatable actresses in Hollywood — no easy task for a 5'10" blonde. At 42, the actress has evolved from goofy comedienne, speaking openly about body image and projecting the confidence of an independent woman, all while continuing to elicit laughter in comedies like this year's "Sex Tape," which basically foreshadowed the nude celebrity photo leak of 2014. Up next, she'll take on the role of Miss Hannigan in this year's "Annie" reboot.

ZOE SALDANA
Some stars like to play the warm-and-fuzzy card. Zoe Saldana, who stars in this year's biggest box office hit, "Guardians of the Galaxy," exudes strength, confidence and toughness. The formula has earned her the respect of audiences — especially adult Latinas, who appreciate her intelligence and unwillingness to conform to Hollywood standards that often infantilize women. The 36-year-old actress is also sought out and admired by the biggest directors in the business, from James Cameron to J.J. Abrams, because she can be simultaneously feminine and strong. What's more, she deftly deflects the attention on her personal life to causes and issues that are important to her, like the politics of gender and race.

JESSICA ALBA
Early in her career, Alba routinely topped magazines' "hottest" and "most beautiful" lists. After the birth of her daughter Honor in 2008 (she welcomed her second child, Haven, with husband Cash Warren in 2011), Alba set the trend for celebrity lifestyle gurus with The Honest Company, a lifestyle company that has grown into a business worth nearly $1 billion today. Her social media feeds (which reach a combined 12 million people, including young, hip Latina moms) focus more on helping families live better lives than feeding male fantasies. "Being an entrepreneur has changed me as a person," Alba told Variety Latino. "I don't feel the heaviness of my whole identity attached to my career as an actress."