

Holiday Magic

Full-length mermaid gown with lace overlay, Biba private label, price upon request.
Beaded hoops, \$198;
beaded bracelet, \$138.

STYLING AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALISHA TOWNSEND

MODEL •
Michelle Taube
of Cameo Models
In Waterloo

HAIR • Leni Vlainic
of Capri Salon
and Spa

MAKEUP • Chrissy
Gimby of Capri Salon
and Spa

STYLING ASSISTANTS •
Morgan Napper
and Alicia Barber

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Midnight blue long-sleeve,
ruffle-collared dress,
Samuel Dong, \$242.

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Satin, V-neck slip dress,
Faviana, \$459.99;
diamond hoop necklace
with large crystal pendant, \$19.99;
diamond hoop necklace with
silver studded embellishments, \$29.99;
silver hoop necklace with
small crystal pendant and loose
chain hanging embellishments, \$29.99;
curve ring, \$19.99.
tear-drop earrings, \$29.99.

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Strapless ball gown with ribbon sash waistband and floral design, Wayne Clark, price upon request; mesh stiletto boot, Peter Kaiser, \$399; black and silver beaded band bracelet, Volanta Collection, \$278; beaded hoop earrings, Volanta Collection, \$178.

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Black cutout full-length gown with sequin embellishment and mesh top, Sherri, \$539.99; jewel band bracelet, \$19.99; flower ring, \$19.99; chandelier earrings, \$89.99.

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The holiday magic wears thin if you don't take time to relax... while looking spectacular, of course

Belted cutout full-length gown with sequin embellishment, Lucian Matis, price upon request; bracelet is part of a collection with prices ranging from \$150 to \$350; mesh stiletto boot, Peter Kaiser, \$399.

Victorian lounging slipper chair (\$149), built circa 1860, carved walnut frame. The chair appears courtesy of John Marsh, a vendor at Market Road Antiques Waterloo.

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Short, sleeveless dress, \$800,
with layered fabric sashes and chain necklace,
\$378, both by Marie Saint Pierre.
Mesh stiletto boot, Peter Kaiser, \$399.

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Michelle Taube

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

PHOTOGRAPHY • ALISHA TOWNSEND

Michelle Taube has always been athletic. So when friends and family saw fashion photos of her posing in athletic wear in the summer, the shock value was in the modelling.

At age 31, that had been her first modelling gig and people wanted to know how she found herself in that situation.

It was a good question. It had all happened so fast. A friend of Taube's had heard through the grapevine that Cameo Models in Waterloo was looking to add Guelph-based models to its roster, so the friend submitted Taube's photo. Taube works in Guelph for Mandel Scientific, where she travels mostly throughout south-western Ontario selling scientific instruments. She lives in Kitchener with Ryan, her husband of five years.

A few weeks after that friend submitted her photos, Taube found herself in front of a camera, modelling for Guelph Life magazine. At the time, she joked that she was surprised they wanted a new model over the age of 30, but Taube has the kind of youthful look that still sees her asked for identification in establishments where you have to be a certain age to enter.

While she was instantly recognizable in the July-August edition of Guelph Life, this time there might be a twist for family and friends.

"I'm not even sure if they'll recognize me," she says, because dark makeup, wild hair and moody expressions are not her usual look.

"This one was more playing a character."

A former national university champion high jumper at the University of Guelph, who now coaches Gryphon high jumpers, the athletic-wear fashion shoot for Guelph Life was much more in the former Michelle Moody's comfort zone.



Michelle Taube's modelling session for Guelph Life's July issue featured comfortable athletic wear – very different than the glamorous stylings presented in this issue in Grand.

This shoot for Grand "was more glamorous, more girly."

Hair and makeup people stayed on top of her changing look as the photographer's busy assistants kept track of all the gowns and accessories. Amid it all, Taube cut a striking figure, her five-foot-10-inch frame and long legs enhanced by high heels and big hair.

Taube says the clothes were great and it would be fun to dress like that every day, but "I don't think I'll be wearing anything that costs \$4,000 any time soon."

Surprisingly, modelling gowns "was much more physically demanding" than athletic wear.


Moving around in tight dresses, trying not to let her high heels puncture the blue paper backdrop that spilled onto the floor,

holding still while others repositioned her jewelry . . . It can take a lot out of you.

"It felt like eight hours of a pilates class," Taube says.

The oldest of three children, Taube was raised in Newmarket. She says she was interested in modelling when she was younger and dabbled in it in her late teens, doing some fashion shows, but it proved to be an aggressive, unfriendly environment.

Now, because she already has a day job, she can treat modelling as a fun sideline, even though she is open to this appearance in Grand leading to more professional modelling work.

"Hopefully this will generate something," she says. 



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