

# CULTURE

IDEAS, ISSUES, DOERS AND THINKERS



## Back *in* Town

*In her latest role, Drew Barrymore is killing it—literally.*

*By D'Lorraine Miranda*

**I**f there's one person who has perfected the art of being, and looking, cool, it's Drew Barrymore. It's early February in New York, and the city is experiencing an intense snowstorm—an unwelcome surprise seeing as the day before was reminiscent of spring. Barrymore is sitting across from me in a cushy chair and looks absolutely radiant. She exudes a calm, cool vibe, and her ensemble is all sorts of dope. Decked out in a slinky ankle-length sequined skirt by Tory Burch, a white T-shirt emblazoned with the word "Tomboy" and a long plaid button-up shirt, she looks just as effortless as the cigarette-puffing, leather-jacket-wearing teen she was in the early '90s. »

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIEGO UCHITEL / TRUNK ARCHIVE



BARRYMORE STARS AS SHEILA HAMMOND IN *SANTA CLARITA DIET* ALONGSIDE TIMOTHY OLYPHANT (SHEILA'S HUSBAND, JOEL) AND LIV HEWSON (ABBY, THE COUPLE'S DAUGHTER).



We're tucked in a room on the 28th floor of the The New York Edition hotel in the Flatiron District, overlooking snow-covered Madison Square Park. It's press day for *Santa Clarita Diet*, the new Netflix black comedy in which she stars. "I love this show so much," she says. "It's different and fresh and cool, and it's been so positive for my life," explains the 42-year-old. And boy, is it ever different—especially for a zombie show.

**T**he 10-episode series chronicles the lives of Sheila and Joel Hammond, who reside in a typical two-storey home in suburban Santa Clarita, Calif., with their caustic but warm-hearted teenage daughter, Abby (played by Australian newcomer Liv Hewson).

The family goes through the motions: Sheila, unhappy with her weight, is in dire need of a self-esteem boost; Joel (Timothy Olyphant) has taken to smoking weed as a pastime; and the duo's sex life is practically non-existent after 20 years of marriage. Of course, the monotonous routine changes after Sheila undergoes a transformation: She becomes a zombie, albeit not the mouth-breathing *Walking Dead* type; she's just dead on the inside. This results in the couple surreptitiously killing people (usually criminals) in order to satiate Sheila's irrepressible appetite for flesh.

It gets grisly: a severed toe here, projectile vomiting there—this is the stuff that gore fiends live for. Beyond the indelible images of carnage, *Santa Clarita Diet* is ultimately a show rooted in themes of family, self-discovery and love, with Joel supporting his wife through the unhinged events. "I'm so in love with Sheila," says Barrymore. The actress also points out that the role came to her at a low point in her life, perhaps alluding to her high-profile split from husband Will Kopelman in 2016.

"I really was excited about playing a woman who was becoming empowered, losing weight, pulling her shit together, finding a new confidence, finding that when your life really does fall apart, you don't ditch everything in it," she said earlier at a Netflix panel, likening Sheila's situation to her own.

The gig marks her return to acting. (Her last major role was in the 2015 film *Miss You Already*.) "I don't want to work [just for the sake of working], but this show was undeniable for me," says Barrymore, who lost 20 pounds while filming. "I thought it was really bad timing, but it turned out to be the best timing."

When asked "Why television?" Barrymore is straight up with her response. "The game has completely changed," she explains, referring to the rise in online streaming. "If anything, it seems like the tide is actually going that way, so I feel lucky. I feel like I'm in the cool kids club, and that's super-fun." □



## PANTENE AIRSPRAY FOR HEALTHY HAIRPLAY

No alcohol,\* no harsh scent, no stiffness, no stickiness. Nothing but strong, beautiful, brushable hold.

**STRONG IS BEAUTIFUL™**

\*contains no ethanol ©2017 P&G