



About All Ève

It's been almost 30 years since model Ève Salvail electrified the international fashion scene. Now, she's back in front of the camera with the same spiky spirit and a fresh resolve to show the world what she's capable of

Photography by Lian Benoit

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Up, up and away



Ève Salvail is a force. She was electrifying to watch on the international catwalks in her '90s heyday. Her powerful androgynous look—shaved head, signature dragon scalp tattoo—and her runway walk, which was not the traditional sashay or stomp but pure swagger, set her apart from her peers, who happened to be Cindy, Naomi, Linda and Kate.

Salvail's path to the heights of high fashion is a study in serendipity. Born in Matane, Que., a small town at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, Salvail was a teenage model who went to work in Japan, circa 1989, doing mostly catalogue work. When she decided to shave her head, and get the tattoo, she phoned her parents to let them know. "They're both artists," she says. "They were thrilled." Her Japanese agent fired her on the spot, but on the plane home to Montreal Salvail was discovered by a scout for Jean-Paul Gaultier. That began her most significant working relationship: muse to the avant-grade futurist French designer, who was about to find fame designing Madonna's iconic conical Blond Ambition bras.

When Salvail landed on the runways, grunge was on the rise on the west coast, Nirvana had released their first album, and she became the embodiment of that rebellious mood in the supermodel pack. "I was really lucky with my timing," she says. A few years later, she branched out into acting, most notably in the 1997 Luc Besson sci-fi film *The Fifth Element*, which was costumed by Gaultier.

Salvail, now 52, has begun modelling again, for clients as diverse as former *Vogue Paris* editor Carine Roitfeld's magazine, *CR Fashion Book*, and Canadian retailer Reitmans's new campaign. Salvail's current success is part of a cultural renaissance for women in their 50s and beyond, who are breaking ground on old-fashioned beauty standards and rules. But there were many years in between when she had to create the multifaceted life she has now.

"I did that modelling career for a good while, but after that I didn't know what to do, because you start so young you don't learn any skills," she says. "Other people would babysit, go to school. I had none of that. I was just pretty. That was my resumé." She went to Wall Street to work as a stockbroker, then realized she was meant to be an artist.

"I've been a DJ for 18 years now," says Salvail, who works under the name DJ Evalicious. "The industry has changed so much. It's saturated now; everybody is a DJ. When I started, there were no girls."

Recently, she opened for Duran Duran, and not for the first time. "The first time I worked with Duran Duran was in New York, for the launch of

The Canadian supermodel with
the dragon tattoo flies again

By Leanne Delap

an album. Then we did a gig at NASA in Texas to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon launch," she says.

She began in the early 2000s playing mostly hip-hop. Now, she says, she plays more commercial tunes. "I play for the girls. In any setting, whether it is a club or corporate, if the girls dance, the boys will dance, too."

DJing, she says, is completely opposite to being a model. "The model is an extension of the art that the designer wants to portray; you are part of their storytelling," she explains. This feels different. "It's very creative. You are reading the room, constantly editing in your head. You can send them to the bathroom, or the dance floor."

In 2007, Salvail came out on fellow model Tyra Banks's talk show, becoming something of an LGBTQ+ role model. And in the years since she has moved into advocacy work, including around addiction recovery. Sober now "for years and years," she says, she went back to university to study to become an addiction counsellor.

Another project particularly dear to her heart is fundraising for the Fondation Ève Salvail, a retreat for women experiencing intimate partner violence. It's not a residential shelter but a destination for drop-in programming that is being built outside Montreal. "I don't think this is offered anywhere," she says, "a

retreat with programs for women who are victims of intimate partner violence to come and do gardening, activities, sports with their kids." The retreat will be built with ecological concerns in mind, and the architecture is described as "folded in on itself, like two arms in a half embrace, and the building is articulated around an open yet intimate courtyard." A sense of security, says Salvail, is the first step toward healing.

Salvail's charisma and ability to connect is so strong that speaking to her, even on the phone, is moving and uplifting at the same time. It's no wonder advocacy has become such a big part of her life.

Still, modelling comes easily, even now. "It feels like brushing my teeth. I don't need to think about it; it is part of my DNA," she says. "I had the best freaking career I could have hoped for. This is fun, but I don't need a major comeback."

Unfortunately for Salvail, the camera begs to differ.



OPPOSITE: COPERNI DRESS, \$1,065, SAINT LAURENT SHOES, \$1,209, HOLITRENPREW.COM, DIOR EARRINGS, PRICE UPON REQUEST, DIOR.COM

ABOVE: CHANEL SWEATER, \$3,575, EARRINGS, \$15,250, RING, \$12,200, CHANEL.COM



ABOVE AND ON COVER: LOUIS VUITTON BLAZER, \$5,900, PANTS, \$4,850, SHOES, \$1,500, LOUISVUITTON.COM



DIOR JACKET, \$6,200, SHIRT, \$1,650, SCARF, EARRING, NECKLACE, PRICE UPON REQUEST, DIOR.COM

PHOTOGRAPHY: LIAN BENOIT (RODÉE PRODUCTION), STYLING: MANUELA BARTOLOMEO (FOLIO MONTREAL), HAIR & MAKEUP: RONNIE TREMBLAY (FOLIO MONTREAL)



THE NOT-WHAT-IT-SEEMS T-SHIRT

For those who don't want to bare any skin at all, this Alexander McQueen T-shirt checks the trend box, thanks to its trompe-l'oeil lace print. Pair it with a ball gown skirt for a Carrie Bradshaw-approved moment or black leather pants and booties for a cool, casual look.

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN T-SHIRT, \$590, ALEXANDERMCKQUEEN.COM



THE ASYMMETRICAL SKIRT

For Fall 2023, designers showcased lace in a way that was less revealing, more romantic. Case in point: Fendi's cream-coloured knit turtleneck paired with this gauzy asymmetrical midi skirt that's equally cozy and sensual.

FENDI SKIRT, \$4,500, FENDI.COM



The lace effect

The ethereal fabric is everywhere right now—and not just for evening. Here are nine gorgeous ways to wear fall's sultry lace trend for everyday

By Renée Tse



THE NOT-SO-BASIC WHITE SHIRT

If you love white poplin shirts, treat this Self-Portrait pussy-bow corded-lace top like any crisp button-down in your closet. Underpin it with a matching camisole or bralette to tone down the see-through finish.

SELF-PORTRAIT TOP, \$548, NET-A-PORTER.COM



THE SHOW-STEALING EARRINGS

Take on a larger-than-life persona with Chopard chandelier earrings made up of diamonds linked together to mimic the look of delicate lace.

CHOPARD EARRINGS, PRICE UPON REQUEST, CHOPARD.COM



THE FEMME FATALE DRESS

This Ahiri lace-panelled maxi dress shows off just enough skin without revealing too much. Wear it on its own as a stand-alone piece with a pair of strappy heels for an evening out, or throw on an oversized chunky turtleneck knit sweater and knee-high boots for a work-appropriate look.

AHIRI DRESS, \$179, AHIRI.CA



THE BALLERINA-APPROVED BODYSUIT

To make this lace Reformation x New York City Ballet bodysuit work outside a dance studio, think of it like a camisole and partner it with your choice of bottoms (mini skirt, blue jeans, dress pants). Or, throw a blazer overtop for a just-a-sliver-of-lace moment.

REFORMATION BODYSUIT, \$148, THEREFORMATION.COM

THE WORK-OF-ART SHOES

A pair of lace sling-back heels can be your secret styling weapon this season, adding an unexpected twist and a hint of opulence to your fall uniform.

CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN SHOES, \$1,295, CHRISTIAN-LOUBOUTIN.COM



THE BRA YOU'LL WANT TO SHOW OFF

Take a page from a chic French woman's lookbook and style this black lace bra with its unique square-neck design and scalloped lace trim under a white poplin shirt, tastefully peeking out.

COS BRA, \$79, COS.COM



THE DREAMY BAG

A head-to-toe lace look may not be everyone's cup of tea. Add a small flourish of lace with this embroidered Dior Lady D-Lite Bag featuring a lace-inspired pattern. It's ornate dressing in the subtlest way.

DIOR BAG, \$7,500, DIOR BOUTIQUES



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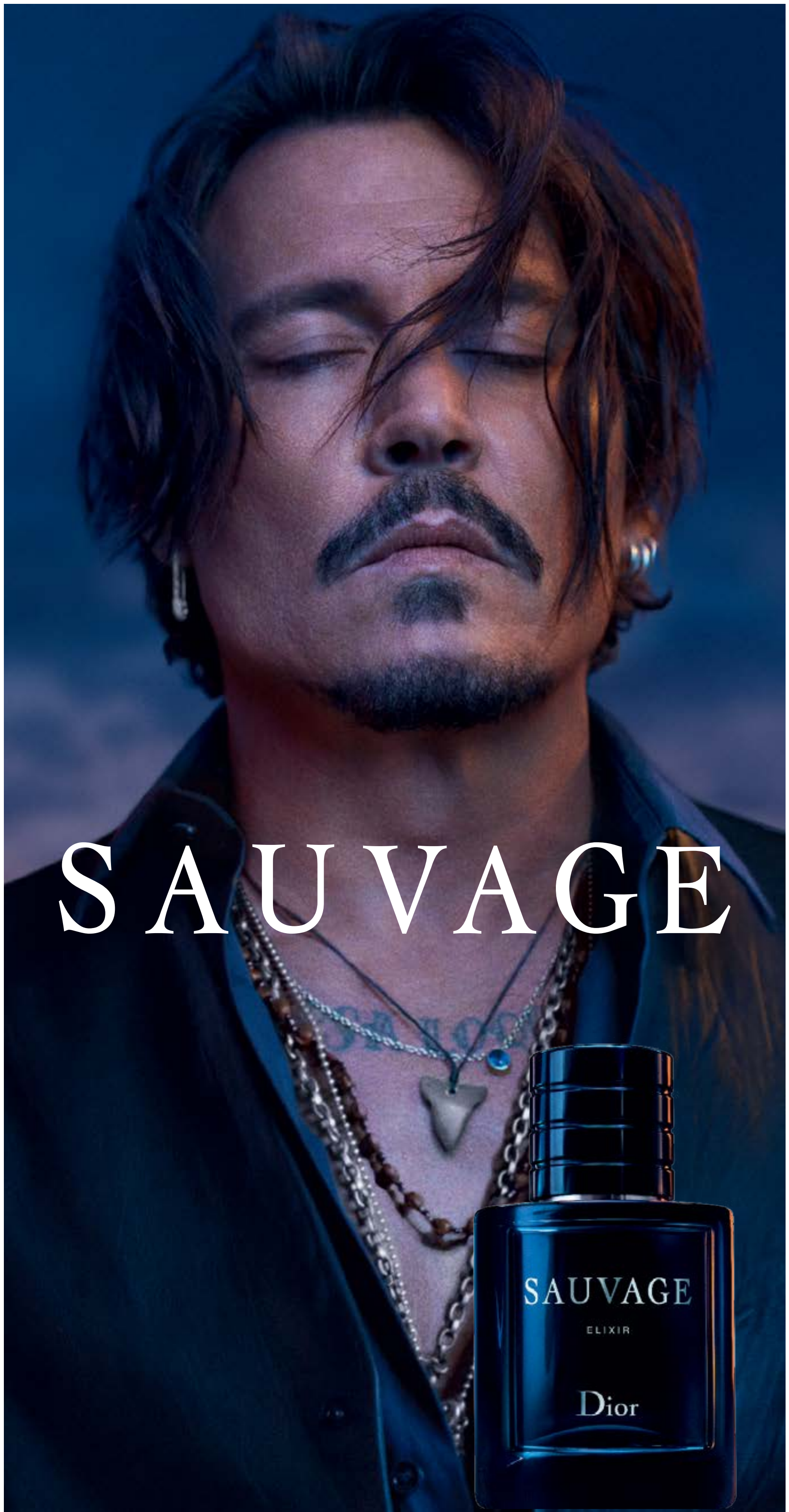


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