

In the closet with

Victoria Broom

The *Marcella* actress is a country girl at heart Words and styling by Tricia Welch

Victoria plays a high-powered businesswoman in the current series of crime drama *Marcella*. She also stars in the film *Viking Destiny* and TV series *Different For Girls*, which will be released this year. A black belt in kung fu, she won the rising star category in last year's Diversity in Media Awards. Victoria lives in east London.

How would you describe your style? Country chic. I love walking my Labrador Milo and hiking in the mountains. I live in London but I'm an outdoorsy girl at heart.

Which colours and shapes suit you best? As a redhead I suit dark greens, blues and occasionally red. Shape-wise, I'm petite and can wear pretty much anything, but I naturally go for very fitted dresses, jackets with shirts and skinny jeans.

What are the costumes like for your *Marcella* character? I play Sascha Kyte, a chief financial officer for a charity, and her wardrobe is very glamorous. She wears clothes I'd never dream of wearing in real life but I loved them. The costume designer, Yves, and I went shopping for her beforehand and one of the outfits he chose was fabulous – towering, red heels and a green dress, which he cinched in with a purple belt, colours I would never have dreamed of combining, set off by fab jewellery. Sascha also

styles her hair very differently from me. I wear it down whereas she has slick up-dos.

What about the characters we'll see you playing soon?

Later this year I play Fran in the TV series *Different For Girls*. She's much trendier than I am and wears edgy tops, black nail polish and leather trousers with funky flat shoes. In *Viking Destiny* I play a Viking queen in a dramatic full-and-floaty green gown and my hair is much longer with lots of long red, curly extensions. Great fun.

Which is your favourite fashion era? Probably the 40s. Not just for the outfits, but the hairstyles, make-up and accessories.

What are your favourite high-street brands? All Saints is top of my list, especially the Bicester Village outlet. Plus Zara, Rag & Bone and Hennes. I love their singlet tops.

Who is your favourite designer? Ralph Lauren for dresses and Valentino and Vivienne Westwood for shirts.

What do you like to wear on the red carpet? When I won my award last year I wore a pair of black, high-waisted trousers with braces by Mo&Co with a Valentino tuxedo shirt and Manolo Blahnik black patent heels.

Victoria wore these Mo&Co trousers and braces with a white Valentino shirt on the red carpet when she won Diversity in the Media's rising star award



Do you have a style icon? Ruby Rose for her individuality. But I also love the style of Vanessa Kirby as Princess Margaret in *The Crown*. Her riding outfits are to die for.

What is your best beauty secret? I brush my hair as little as possible as I swear that stops it getting damaged. And I always use an eye mask before filming.

Are you a hoarder or do you clear out your wardrobe each season? It depends. I hang on to key pieces, which I know I'll wear forever, but I do get rid of stuff hanging neglected in the wardrobe.

Are you a fan of vintage? I can appreciate it on other people but it's not for me.

How many handbags and pairs of shoes do you own? Counting all footwear, about 20 pairs, and around 10 handbags.

What is the best fashion advice you have ever been given? I've been told to accessorise more



She likes fitted styles and goes for the glamorous look in this blue bodycon Bailey dress and black patent Louboutins

– it's 10 years old now – followed by my Mulberry handbag. My best bargain is a black, fitted blazer by Tart Collections I bought on The Outnet, reduced from £500 to £68.

What is the oldest item in your wardrobe? A rose-gold and amethyst brooch my great-grandmother gave me years ago. She died aged 106 in 2000. It was given to her by her grandmother, so it is seriously old. I very rarely wear it because I'm terrified of losing it. Plus, as I have confessed, I'm not one for accessorising.

Who would you like to make your wedding dress? Oscar de la Renta. I decided as a child to wear one of his dresses if I ever got married but I can't even remember why. I would also take a look at Stella McCartney and Vera Wang.

What is your favourite piece of jewellery? My Cartier watch.

Have you ever made a fashion faux pas? In my early twenties, when I'd just moved to London, I thought it was cool to wear stripes and spots together. My friends, quite rightly, didn't hold back and teased me mercilessly. I've never worn either since.

What item of clothing would you save from a burning house? Nothing is that precious. I'd just grab my dog and my partner and run like the wind.

Marcella is on ITV at 9pm on Mondays.



Clockwise from top: "I've been told to accessorise more," the *Marcella* star reveals. Her jewellery collection includes her Cartier watch, this Links of London bracelet, a pearl and silver ring that was a gift and her silver and rose-gold Gill Wing ring

The Mulberry Bag, seen here with a matching purse, was one of her most costly buys. The clutch is by Diane von Furstenberg

because I just don't do it. I don't own any belts and wear very little jewellery. This year I'm determined to get more into accessories.

What is your go-to outfit? A black singlet top teamed with a pair of black, silk Kit and Ace trousers, a cashmere The Kooples jacket, a Mulberry handbag and my fabulous black Louboutin heels. It works, summer and winter.

How much do you spend on clothes each month? If I like something I'll buy it, regardless of the price. I'm not a random or impulsive shopper. My purchases are planned. On that basis, between zero to more than £300.

What is the most expensive item in your wardrobe? And your best bargain? My Cartier watch is the most expensive

Her two favourite jackets are this military-style tunic by Ralph Lauren Denim & Supply and a burgundy cashmere jacket from The Kooples

She picked up this khaki coat at All Saints. The scarf is by Jasper Conran and the black satchel is from Rag & Bone

She loves her "investment buys" of Christian Louboutin stilettos and Joseph Cheaney & Sons walking boots

Both of these bodycon dresses are by Ralph Lauren, one of Victoria's favourite designers



"I love walking my labrador Milo," says the actress. She teams a Barbour with an All Saints top, Rag & Bone jeans and Joseph Cheaney & Sons boots for her hiking expeditions