

TRIPLE THREAT

BROADWAY BEAUTY
CRISTIN MILIOTI EMBRACES
LIFE IN HOLLYWOOD.

By Lindzi Scharf

Actress Cristin Milioti has had a whirlwind couple of years. Following her breakout Tony-nominated performance as the piano-playing lead in Broadway's *Once*, she garnered attention as the charming—and highly anticipated—“Mother” on *How I Met Your Mother*. Now she's gracing the silver screen in her biggest role yet: playing Leonardo DiCaprio's tough-as-nails wife in the Martin Scorsese-directed drama *The Wolf of Wall Street*, currently in theaters. However, there's one character she's not yet used to portraying: that of a Hollywood starlet. “Yesterday someone tapped me on the shoulder and asked if they could take a picture with me. That's very, very new for me,” laughs the 28-year-old native of Cherry Hill, N.J., who splits her time between Brooklyn and Silver Lake. “I had no makeup on. I had a gross hat on. I looked like a schlub.” She'd better get used to the attention, though getting to this point hasn't been without struggle. Milioti remembers auditioning for guest spots on shows like *Gossip Girl*, and wondering not only if she'd be cast, but also if she'd fit the role. “It made me feel like I wasn't pretty enough,” she says, “or [that] I was too weird. Oddly, that's now something that I love. I haven't been pigeonholed, [so am] able to move in and out of these wildly different characters and genres.” Indeed, Milioti has proved herself to be a true chameleon, pulling double-duty by filming *The Wolf of Wall Street* by day while performing *Once* at night. “I know it's such a cliché thing to say, but this year has been a dream come true,” she muses. “I want to pinch myself, I've been so immensely lucky. I'm having the time of my life!”



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