

NEW FACE / NEW DESIGNER

# Jennifer Lawrence

## *Wears Bibhu Mohapatra*

She's only 19, but this bright young talent has an eye for scripts and chic silhouettes. So the designs by an equally gifted fashion newcomer suit her just fine. No wonder there's buzz about both



Jennifer Lawrence has the kind of fresh-faced look you'd expect of someone scoring honey-drenched, girl-next-door parts. But a dark cloud seems to hover over the actress—at least on set. In the just-released drama *Winter's Bone*, which won the Sundance Grand Jury Prize, she plays a teenager in the Ozarks out to prove that her meth-dealing father is dead in order to keep her impoverished family safe. "Those are just the sorts of roles I get," explains Lawrence. "Not sure what that says about me!"

That Lawrence seems like a natural at, say, gutting a squirrel—as she did in the movie ("Fortunately, I grew up in Kentucky, so it wasn't *that* foreign to me")—speaks to the fact that the girl's got depth. In her first feature, *The Poker House* (2008), she aced an even more disturbing scene, playing a daughter who comes on to her mom's pimp boyfriend. These roles, she says, allow her to be bolder than she otherwise might be in her day-to-day life: "I like really strong girls—and I get to be them for a few months," says Lawrence.

And though the actress has been in the business for five years—she was discovered while on a family trip to New York at 14—she hasn't lost her enthusiasm for typical teenage fun. "I like getting ready for parties. It's the best part of the night!" Soon enough we'll get to see her perkier side onscreen: Later this year, she'll play the smart, pretty girlfriend of Anton Yelchin in *The Beaver*, a dark comedy directed by Jodie Foster. The chance to get her hair done and eyelashes curled is a welcome one. "I mean, I'm a girl. I'm excited when I look good." —ERICA CERULO

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SASHA EISENMAN  
STYLED BY JESSICA DE RUITER



Bibhu Mohapatra silk dress. Tom Binns sterling silver bangle. Yves Saint Laurent metal cuff. Alyssa Norton sterling silver, silk, and rhinestone bracelet. Pierre Hardy linen lace-ups. Cat named Gracie! Opposite: Tom Binns sterling silver earrings.

## *designer to watch*

### **BIBHU MOHAPATRA**

Growing up in India, Bibhu Mohapatra created clothes for his sister on an old sewing machine that had been his grandmother's. "Poor girl, she would try on everything I would make for her out of tablecloths and old saris!" he recalls with a laugh. But those early projects were an essential part of his fashion training. "I was always trying to grasp the technical aspect of it," says the 35-year-old designer. After moving to New York in the '90s and honing his skills at Halston and J. Mendel, Mohapatra struck out on his own last year. Fans came fast to his siren gowns—silky chiffrons and crêpes pleated and draped just so for an urban goddess effect. No doubt his ethereal looks will be floating down red carpets soon.

To see his latest collection, go to [bibhu.com](http://bibhu.com).