



# GAGA FOR INGA!

The key to a great pair of shoes is practical purpose without sacrificing chic, and vice versa. Inga Savits calls it: “Perfect form and a heel; the marriage between the two.” Her vast collection of daring and equally wearable shoes walk a super fine line between street-smart standout and lustful comfort. For her last collection, the second in a line of many more to come, Savits went back to basics, delivering versatile soles that mixed and matched the extremely feminine with the ever-so-slightly masculine. In September, Savits will present her third collection. It is just the beginning, as the supermodel turned super designer would say. Savits reveals all that there is to know about the budding brand and what it’s like to walk a mile in her shoes, here and now.

By Lisa Velasco

## GROWING UP GIFTED

“I was born in Tallinn, Estonia and grew up in a small city nearby. Because I couldn’t have all that I wanted, I started making my own clothing at age thirteen.

I was looking at every possible fashion magazine and after I saw my first fashion show, Yves Saint Laurent, I really wanted to be one of those models. Ironically, my first fashion show as a model was for Yves Saint Laurent.”

## SOLE SEARCHING

“I have a very high arch. Very problematic. Very difficult to find a good

pair of shoes. My grandmother gave me two pairs of shoes from the fifties; black velvet pointy ballerina flats and a black patterned round toe leather pump. I always knew that one day I would have all of the beautiful shoes that I ever dreamed of. But back then, I had no idea that one day I would create them.”

## IT’S A SHOE THING

“After modeling for ten years, I learned that a perfect pair of shoes can change everything. When I was working with Donatella Versace, I was able to spend time with her team. Brian Atwood was the shoe designer there at the time. All wanted to do, was to do what he did.”

## MODEL BEGINNINGS

“I started as an intern at a fashion house in Tallinn. Designers would ask me to model for them. I was also stopped on the street a few times and finally, I attended a casting in Paris. Today, I’m kind of going back to where I started, creating my own models. But not in clothing. In shoes.”

## GO-TO PAIR

“Day to day, I wear only my shoes. Right now, I’m wearing the Raquel leopard. After all, I’m a shoe designer. People look at my feet first”

## PROUDEST MOMENTS

“I loved doing the Dior and Versace shows. They were the most extravagant. I was always lucky to receive important dresses from those collections.”

## HOW HIGH IS TOO HIGH

“There is absolutely such thing as too high of a heel. Women should move like a cat. As soon as the heels are too high, that graceful walk is out the window.”

## SAVITS FETISH

“Every woman should be wearing Raquel, Sofia, Ariel, Anastasia, and Yves designs, all from my collection.”

## TOP MODELING TIPS & TRICKS OF THE TRADE

“I love to mix the old and the new. I love that fashion is always changing, adding color and some fun to everyday life. But now I know what it takes to get that sort of glamour; it means feeling more confident and possessing a sense of fashion freedom.”

## LEARNING FROM THE MASTER

“Brian (Atwood) was just starting to work on his own line and I had the opportunity to follow the creative process from start to finish. My favorite part was going to the factory, seeing how his drawings became the real thing. His attention to detail and choice of color is what I admire most. I was very lucky to learn from Brian.”

## DESIGN INFATUATIONS

“I met Edmundo Castillo a few years ago and was amazed at how his shoes fit perfectly, even on my high arched feet. I love Lanvin, Helmut Lang, Balenciaga, Chanel, and of course my dear friend Mabilie. All of my chemises, jackets, and pants are from him. Perfect cut.”

## ULTIMATE MUSE

“Coco Chanel. My design aesthetic comes from her: Luxury must be comfortable, otherwise it is no luxury.”

## INGA SAVITS WOMAN

“She is a contemporary woman. Feminine, confident, stylish, self-assured, strong and fragile all at the same time. She is open-minded and possesses a young and curious spirit, with a great sense of humor. Even if she’s eighty years old.”

## WALKING A MILE IN HER SHOES

“The experience would feel as if it wasn’t the first time, as I make sure that every fit is perfect.”

## WALKING A MILE IN HIS SHOES

“If I could go back in time, I would love to walk a mile in Roger Vivier’s shoes.”

## SOULFUL SOLES

“I would love to see Angelina Jolie, Kate Moss, Madonna, Kate Middleton, the girl next door, you all wearing my shoes. Just because all of these women are so different.

## WALK THE LINE

“The best advice I can give is this: Do what you love and fight for it.” ■

