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EDITOR: MAXWELL LOSGAR

WALLFLOWER
Alessia wears an **Arthur Arbesser** top, **Alexander Wang** pants, **Claire's** hoops, \$8. On index finger: **Lady Grey** ring, \$180. **Vans** sneakers, \$65. Details, see teenvogue.com.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY FRANCES TULK-HART.

HERE *and* NOW

Introducing **Alessia Cara**, the **confessional songstress** whose lyrics are **capturing the hearts of teenagers** avoiding the party scene.

In May, 19-year-old Alessia Caracciolo—who goes by the moniker Alessia Cara—dropped **"Here,"** a **catchy debut single** that quickly reached bona fide anthem status for antisocial pessimists everywhere. **Turned off by**

the hazy-sheep mentality of the suburban drinking scene, the singer-songwriter expresses a refreshing point of view that feels both radical and innocent.

"Two years ago, I went to a friend's house party. I thought it would be OK, but when I got there I didn't know what to do with myself. **It was hell,**" she recalls. "It wasn't because of anything that was going on—I just realized how uncomfortable I was interacting with people in

that sort of environment." Unlike many introverts, who might navigate through their social anxieties in silence, Alessia used her experience as the basis for lyrics. "The next day, I went into the studio with my co-writer Sebastian Kole and pieced together this rhyming rant," she says. **"I didn't think that anyone was going to hear it,** or that other people even felt the same way I did."

The rising star from Brampton, Ontario, now signed to Def Jam Recordings, was initially discovered after posting amateur covers of Top 40 pop songs to YouTube. Recently she revisited her comfort zone by taking a stab at **Taylor Swift's single "Bad Blood"** for BBC Radio 1. The acoustic rap version of the summer hit caught Taylor's attention, earning Alessia a **coveted shout-out on Twitter.**

Alessia is learning to get used to such public feedback, and perhaps she should—her forthcoming **full-length album, *Know It All,*** will be out in the fall. "I'm still kind of floating over my own body and watching all this happen from the outside," she says. "It doesn't feel real at all." —M.L.



web extra!

LEARN MORE ABOUT ALESSIA ON TEENVOGUE.COM

Fashion Stylist: Melaney Oldenhoff; hair: Jerome Culhena at See Management; makeup: Alle Smith using Giorgio Armani; location: Balthus Harris. Inset: S FERNANDEZ/Corbis.



GIVING BACK
Kerris wears a Diesel dress, \$228. Lady Grey ring, \$145. Details, see teenvogue.com.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY WE ARE THE RHOADS.

KERRIS DORSEY

Killer vocals? Major moves? Proven theatrics? This **talented teen can do it all**—and then some.

"I've been a ham from a young age," says Kerris Dorsey, the 17-year-old **actress, dancer, and musician** we can't get enough of. "I joined a musical theater troupe when I was 5 and started going out on auditions shortly after."

You might recognize her from movies like *Walk the Line* and *Moneyball*, or from the television drama *Brothers & Sisters*. But her coolest role yet may just be **Bridget Donovan** on the **TV crime series *Ray Donovan***. "The show is incredibly dark and edgy, and my character is really refreshing to play," she shares. "Complex parts for girls are sometimes few and far between, but Bridget is very strong and intelligent."

If you want Kerris to further gush about a gig, ask her about the episode of *Mad Men* she appeared in—or, to be specific, her costume for it. "**I love '60s style**, so I was excited to see what I'd be wearing," explains the **Miu Miu** and **Valentino** enthusiast. "It was this pink dress that had a bow on the front—it was lovely!"

Offscreen, Kerris hones her other skills, including dancing and **screenwriting**. "I wrote a short film about adolescent love called *Is This It?*" she reveals. "I'd like to get it made eventually—directing is another goal of mine." —ARIANA MARSH



Fashion Stylist: Nicolas Klamm; hair, Mark Townsend for Dove; makeup, Amy Strozzi using Chanel Les Beiges.