

PEOPLE WE LIKE

Naomi Melati Bishop (of Aliomi)

How would you describe Aliomi?

We sell vintage, customized and DIY apparel. We also carry our own line and collaborate with up-and-coming local designers and artists. Through our blog, forums, events, style and attitude, Aliomi aims to be more than just a brand, but an edgy, avant-garde influenced lifestyle, personalizing and touching upon niche aspects many main-stream fashion houses and publications seem to skim over. So we hope that our lifestyle brand speaks to fashionistas, hipsters, society girls and biker chicks alike.

Who is the quintessential Aliomi costumer?

Aliomi can be any girl, but our muse is downtown NYC street chick. New York seems to be a key element within the Aliomi band.

What is it about New York that inspires Aliomi?

Our e-boutique sells clothing inspired by New York City's sidewalks. We grew up together in NYC; it's our stomping ground and springboard of motivation. In NYC everyone has such unique style and it's inspiring.

When you ladies aren't working on the brand what are you up to?

Working at our day jobs, which are: photographer, advertising, public relations, graduate school student, personal assistant and finance. We also meet up for dinners, parties, events, etc. together!



Photograph: Provided by Naomi

Naomi Bishop, Founder & Creative Director of lifestyle brand and e-commerce site, Aliomi, has made a culture out of tough, vintage clothing. Best paired with really expensive pieces as we did in Ladygunn, Aliomi is the best way to accessories your clothes with... clothes! Already they have been featured in Seventeen, Teen Vogue and Ladygunn with their vintage wheelin' and dealin'.

From PR person to fashion photographer to web entrepreneur, Sophie Elgort is taking the New York fashion scene by storm. Daughter of famed NY photographer, Arthur Elgort, she has the city of New York at her creative fingertips. Her photographs are captivating, smart and chic. This fashion photography royal child has shot capaigns for ALIMOI, Julia Warmflash, Ladygunn and more. Her style is a very girly and utilitarian take on being an active, traveling photographer. Here, she gives us a glimpse into some of her inspirations.



Photograph: Arthur Elgort.

Sophie Elgort

What do you love most about what you do?

From the time I was little I have always loved playing dress up and creating scenes with my friends and the outfits we put on—even making up dances in the clothes. That was always my favorite thing to do on “playdates.” I'd say the thing I love most about what I do is being able to create these same types of scenes, now to photograph, years later for work.

What did you want to be when you were little?

A New York Knicks dancer. I still know the theme song by heart. I can't dance, so that always stood in the way.

Where do you get your inspiration?

I get my inspiration from my dad, Arthur Elgort. He loves photography so much, it has never been a job for him, but rather his life's passion. He takes such beautiful photographs and has such a distinct style. It inspires me to find my own style, which I think I have definitely begun to find. I am always influenced by peoples' personalities, I love trying to capture them through the photos.

Who are some of your favorite photographers?

My dad (Arthur Elgort), Richard Avedon, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Pamela Hanson, Ansel Adams, Patrick Demarchelier.

What was your most memorable shoot.

Probably a shoot I did for this Brazilian publication *U Magazine*. We did some shots at the end where we definitely didn't have permission to use the space (an old run-down boathouse, so we were guerilla style shooting—hair and makeup [were] on the lookout for cops while we quickly got the shot done. Afterwards we all stayed over on location in the Hamptons, went swimming, had a BBQ, drank wine. It was just a really great time with great people.

Malene Younglao

So you were a Jazz major in college?

I was a Jazz major. Jazz is the first American music from the belly of New Orleans. I love Jazz. I have always felt like I was born in the wrong era. Billy Holiday and I share the same birthday. I have always had this strange draw to her, because she is me. I totally see myself in her, even in the self destructive aspects, even in her genius and her ability to put a record across, to make everybody kinda feel it. Jazz is my first love because Jazz singers were hard women. They were hard drinking, hard loving, in the clubs in the time when it wasn't acceptable, like Sarah Vaughan, Billy Holiday, Shug Avery, that character in the *Color Purple*. I am that woman. I think those types of women need to be celebrated. We are those types of women, [those] who make the world go around. I am fabulous and amazing. Jazz, Blues have that true grit. It's real, no gloss. It's the essence of everything I do. I like gritty. I like honest and Jazz is the truth. That is what inspired me to be a Jazz major.

What is on your playlist?

On my play list now? Let me look at my Iphone. Wow, I have a message from my lover. Saucy. Right now I have Kid Cudi,112, Prince, Kings of Leon, *I Want to Sex You Up* by Color me Bad, Al Green, *Fly Like A G6*, PJ Harvey, Corinne Baily Rae, Trey Songs, Drake. It's really popping over here.



Photograph: Quentin Fears



Broadway sensation Rebecca Naomi Jones is best known for her work as Whatsername in the hit musical, **American Idiot**, and as multiple characters in the musical, **Passing Strange**. Rebecca opens up about growing up in New York City, the beginnings of her acting career, performing on the Grammys, handling her rising fame and her passionate love life. Rebecca is in the beginning stages of working on an album and making the leap to television and movies. *Ladygunn* can't wait to see her star blazing on the big screen. Rebecca Naomi Jones is definitely one to watch.

Rebecca Naomi Jones

Hey Becca! How is your day going so far?

I'm really well. I woke up really late today. I slept really, really late, so I woke up late. I wasn't quite partying. It was a friend's birthday who had come to the show, and then we went out and had dinner. Then I had martinis with my man. It wasn't a terribly early night. I did what you have to do when you have a late night, you have a late morning. But I'm feeling good today. I'm having my coffee and good conversation.

Tell me a little bit about how did you get into acting? What was the spark?

I grow up listening to music. My dad was a musician and my mother is a photographer. Growing up in New York City, my entire upbringing was art filled. Everyday of the week there was some type of class or lesson. There were dance classes, acting classes and piano lessons. I also sang at the Metropolitan Opera as a kid. A couple of times a week we would have class and work on the kid choras parts that were coming up in that season. Not only was it an amazing experience being able to sing in a beautiful huge opera space, wearing the costumes and being backstage, it was also an early lesson on how to be professional.