

Evening Standard

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On a roll

**Theodora Richards, Keith's
little girl, hits the big time**

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GET RICHARDS QUICK

The Rolling Stones have produced a crop of beautiful and ambitious children. The latest, and prettiest, to grace the catwalk is 19-year-old Theodora, daughter of Keith Richards.

Jeffrey Podolsky meets an up-and-coming young Stone

I've come to meet Theodora Richards, daughter of the legendary Keith, at a Manhattan photographic studio, but she's nowhere to be found – vanished, gone, evaporated after a photo shoot. She does, however, duly turn up to a rescheduled meeting the following afternoon. 'I'm so sorry,' the 5ft 5in, 110lb, dress size 0 girl says convincingly. 'It was Sunday. The day of rest.' Suddenly, I feel awful for disturbing the 19-year-old model on her 'day of rest'.

However, Theodora, one of Rolling Stones rocker Keith Richards' four grown-up children, is hardly in need of a day of rest: she is a full-blooded member of that particular blend of music and fashion that is the rockocracy. She's the elder of Keith's two daughters with his American heiress and former model wife Patti Hansen (the younger, Alexandra, 18, followed her by a mere 15 months). Keith also has two children by his ex Anita Pallenberg (again a one-time model): Marlon, 35, and Angela (originally named Dandelion), 32. Marlon is married to the model Lucie de la Falaise, so fashion is most definitely in the genes. Angela lives in Keith's home town of Dartford, Kent – much less rockocracy.

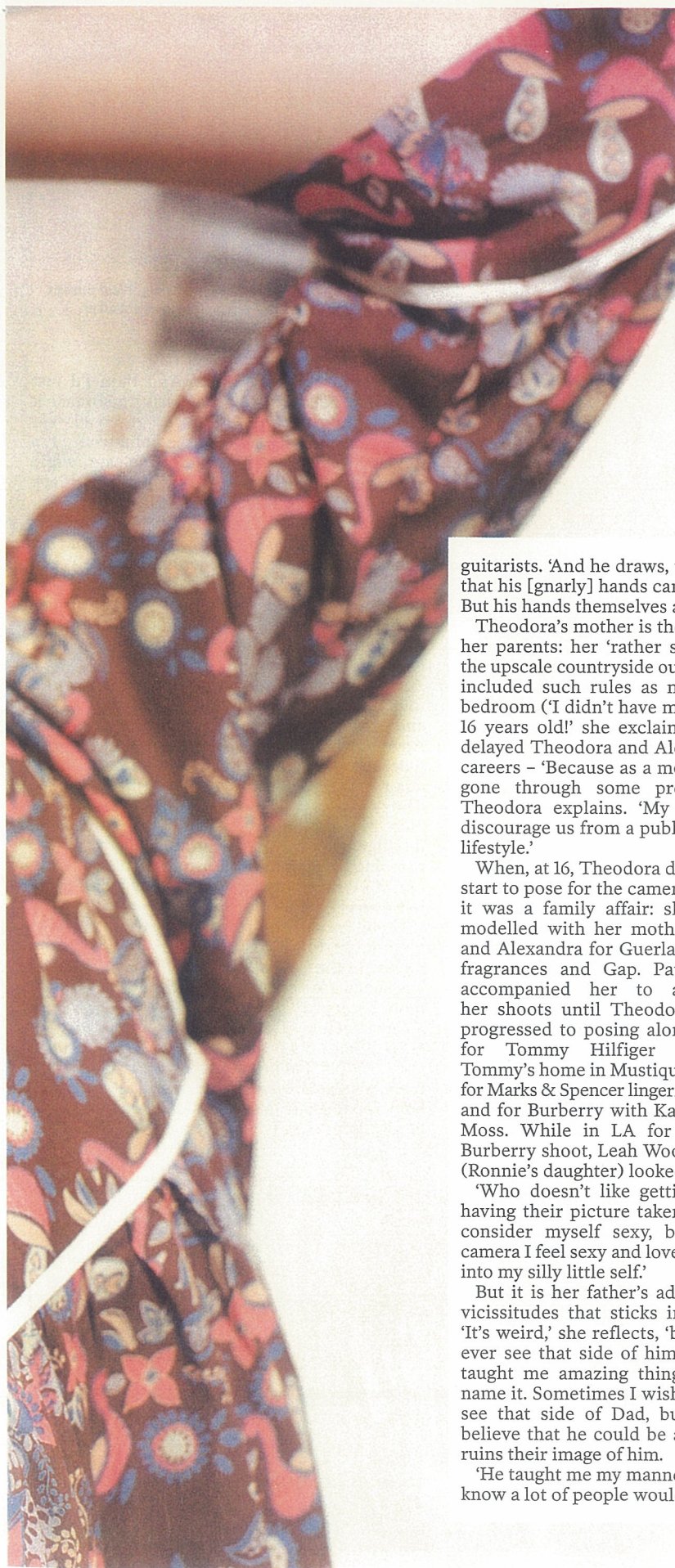
By her own admission, Theodora may be 'not very focused' at times, but you forgive her as she is a gorgeous ingénue who sips a Shirley Temple (a non-alcoholic drink of grenadine, ginger ale and a maraschino cherry) through a straw, who eats so much junk food that 'I don't know why I'm not decaying' and who was a 'puberty train wreck' clad in braces for most of her teen years. Last month she opened New Zealand designer Karen Walker's show at

London Fashion Week and in January she went to the Paris couture shows where, while seated at Chanel, she confessed naively that 'I had no idea that Karl Lagerfeld designed for it'.

She may favour a syrupy sweet cocktail reserved for juveniles, but Theodora's tastes can be risky, too. She openly volunteers that 'I like hash and weed occasionally. But, as my father says, everything in moderation.' She chuckles, no doubt at the irony of Keith Richards – a notorious ex-heroin addict – admonishing someone on the subject of moderation. Beyond this, she refuses to be drawn or comment too much on her father's incredible tale of survival in spite of years of abuse: Keith was hooked on heroin for almost ten years and lost his son Tara, his third child by Anita Pallenberg, as a ten-week-old (he choked to death during the night) in 1976 when Anita, too, was struggling with addiction. At 61, Keith still drinks and smokes.

Theodora and her sister Alexandra were raised in suburban Connecticut with their mother, the iconic Seventies model Patti Hansen, who married Keith 21 years ago. Though the Richards are often apart due to Keith's schedule, they are still married and the family is close-knit. Theodora sees her father – who has a house in France, one in the Turks & Caicos and a farmhouse in West Wittering, West Sussex (scene of the infamous Stones' drug bust in 1967), as well as the family home in New England – 'a fair bit', because he likes the family to visit him wherever he happens to be working. And when she isn't visiting him for a lengthy stay, the two communicate via fax.

'He writes so well,' she says of her father who, of course, is one of rock's most agile



WireImage.com

Bright young things, above: Lizzy Jagger, Theodora Richards, Jake Sumner, Lauren Bush, Alexandra Richards, Paul Stiell, Amy Lemons and Ian Webb on a Tommy Jeans photo shoot in Mustique in 2002

guitarists. 'And he draws, too. I'm blown away that his [gnarly] hands can even hold a pencil. But his hands themselves are art.'

Theodora's mother is the more protective of her parents: her 'rather strict' upbringing in the upscale countryside outside New York City included such rules as no boys ever in the bedroom ('I didn't have my first kiss till I was 16 years old!' she exclaims). Patti purposely delayed Theodora and Alexandra's modelling careers - 'Because as a model herself she had gone through some pretty wacky times,' Theodora explains. 'My mother wanted to discourage us from a public lifestyle.'

When, at 16, Theodora did start to pose for the camera, it was a family affair: she modelled with her mother and Alexandra for Guerlain fragrances and Gap. Patti accompanied her to all her shoots until Theodora progressed to posing alone for Tommy Hilfiger at Tommy's home in Mustique, for Marks & Spencer lingerie, and for Burberry with Kate Moss. While in LA for a Burberry shoot, Leah Wood (Ronnie's daughter) looked after her.

'Who doesn't like getting dressed up and having their picture taken?' she says. 'I don't consider myself sexy, but in front of the camera I feel sexy and love it - then I turn back into my silly little self.'

But it is her father's advice regarding life's vicissitudes that sticks in Theodora's mind. 'It's weird,' she reflects, 'because nobody will ever see that side of him which I have. He's taught me amazing things: about guys, you name it. Sometimes I wish other people could see that side of Dad, but the more people believe that he could be a father, the more it ruins their image of him.'

'He taught me my manners,' she continues. 'I know a lot of people would never think so. But

he's one of the most gracious men I'll ever know. He would give the shirt off his back. I learned that from him.'

In some ways, Theodora is clueless about her father's life - a quality that she proudly attributes to growing up in 'boring' Connecticut where she could cycle to her state school in five minutes. 'I'm not a club girl. For a long time I thought Van Morrison was Mick Jagger!' She went to the local shopping mall for a good time, worshipped *The Sound of Music* and can just barely carry a tune. 'Most of the kids whom I've recently met have been through

rehab by age 14 and again by 16. I'm so happy that I had a childhood. I didn't go to clubs when I was still playing with dolls. I'm still a kid, for that matter.'

She's the sort of girl who looks like she's just rolled out of bed, yet looks effortlessly chic in a Marc Jacobs peppermint tweed coat, her mother's old James Pearce T-shirt 'because I think it's sexy', and her sister's tan cords. She shows off a very rare pair of studiously unlaced,

black Nike high-tops made from New Zealand wool that her beau of one year, Paul, 18 (about whom she is coyly shy), gave her, plus a sleek pair of bright green leather racing gloves which Alexandra gave her for Christmas, a dainty emerald bracelet recently bestowed upon her by her parents, and her treasured Tibetan Buddha beads, also a gift from Paul.

Nevertheless, she finds wearing a pair of high heels 'so exhilarating' and isn't beyond donning a pair of 'low-low-low'-rise jeans, and the odd miniskirt. 'What girl can't wear a miniskirt sometimes?' Theodora opines. 'There's something about feeling the breeze. It's like you're walking down the street almost naked.' She used to be 'obsessed' with black eyeliner and eyeshadow to the point that 'it

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Above: the family home in West Wittering, West Sussex.
Left: Theodora wears dress from the Karen Walker autumn/winter 2005/2006 collection

was constantly in my eyes. And then I'd just sleep in it, because I was too exhausted to take it off, and wake up with purple and green all over my face. So now it's come to the point where I'm too lazy to even wash my face,' she says, while savouring a Marlboro Red and painting black nail polish on her fingernails.

Theodora and Alexandra now live on their own in Manhattan, in Gramercy Park, paying their rent out of their modelling wages. 'We're learning the value of the dollar,' she says proudly. 'I just realised that people are recognising me for being sperm. But I want to be known first as Theodora Richards, then as Keith Richards' daughter.'

She enjoys London, which she visits about four times a year, staying in Lizzy Jagger's flat and getting to see her half-siblings, Marlon and Angela (who are still in touch with their father). 'I definitely feel more American,' says the transatlantic hybrid. 'But I wish I was more British. They're definitely more mature, civilised. The kids I've met there always have something intelligent to say rather than just sitting and listening to rap music and being enthralled with our MTV lifestyle. Here, everybody wants to be like everybody else.'

Theodora can't help dreaming of having been old enough to have lived on the road with the Stones in the Seventies: 'I would have loved to have been a kid then. It must have been so much more hardcore.'

Nevertheless, Theodora is, no doubt, on the cusp of her own professional peak. This month she turns 20. 'I'm not going to be a teenager any more,' she moans. 'I'm a little upset, but I'm ready. Some people age gracefully, but I don't want to be any older than I am. I'm happy right now.'

Right, from left: Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood with their families at Mick Jagger's 50th birthday party (Theodora is in the front, third from left); Theodora with sister Alexandra and mother Patti Hansen at a Donna Karan party in October 2004; with Karl Lagerfeld at the Chanel Haute Couture fashion show in Paris; with boyfriend Paul in June 2004

