

SEXY GIRL

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BLANCA SUAREZ

From horror soap opera to Pedro Almodóvar's gothic *The Skin I Live In*, **Blanca Suárez** is soaring from small to silver screen. Now the director who made Penélope Cruz a household name upgrades his latest Iberian muse in sky-riding Spanish send-up *I'm So Excited*

TAKES OFF

Photographed by SIMON EMMETT Styling by JOANA DE LA FUENTE

Interview by MATT GLASBY



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has a **DARK SIDE**.
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I REALLY DO’

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Blanca Suárez is not used to being left behind. Having won the patronage of Pedro Almodóvar – a manoeuvre that has worked wonders for the likes of Penélope Cruz – and secured herself a part in his 2011 gothic melodrama, *The Skin I Live In*, the 24-year-old has become the starlet of the moment in her native Spain. Now, she's going global with the director's latest, *I'm So Excited*, a comic confection set aboard a stricken passenger flight, in which Suárez plays a spurned girlfriend, Ruth, stranded on the ground.

Vertiginously high camp, *I'm So Excited* reads as an x-rated Iberian *Airplane!*, with the rest of the characters – including Ruth's dastardly ex – sharing catty laughs, mescaline-spiked cocktails and even bodily fluids up in the air. “Sadly, I was almost completely on my own,” she says of filming. “But the actors on the plane could tell you some stories. They tried to make that cocktail for real, but it didn't work out quite as well without a certain ‘extra-special ingredient’.”

Suárez might be all sweetness and light in the movie (appositely, her first name is Spanish for “pure”), but she is not afraid of skewing dark. She launched her career in TV horror-soap *El Internado* (*The Boarding School*), before graduating to macabre movies such as 2008's *Shiver*. “Everyone has a dark side,” she says. “I don't lose my temper often, but when I do... I really do.” And it's precisely that fieriness, combined with a modelling contract for Missoni and a Goya Award (Spanish Oscar) nomination for *The Skin I Live In*, that has propelled this “Chica Almodóvar” towards the stratosphere. **GO**

I'm So Excited is out on 3 May.

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‘PUREE’

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