

# ROYAL FLUSH

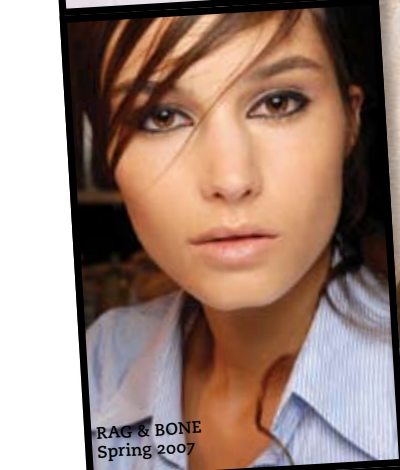
Kim Izzo reports on the new matte skin that takes its cues from the European aristocracy—and Hollywood.



BEHNAZ SARAPPOUR  
Spring 2007



VIKTOR & ROLF  
Spring 2007



RAG & BONE  
Spring 2007



ALEXANDER McQUEEN  
Spring 2007



CINEMA INSPIRES FROM  
TOP: *THE OTHER BOLEYN  
GIRL*; *THE GOLDEN AGE*;  
*MARIE ANTOINETTE*



To say we are fascinated by royal courts and the princesses-in-waiting who call them home is an understatement. Judging by last year's *Marie Antoinette* and award-winning *The Queen*, we're obsessed with women who rule. Never far behind pop culture, fashion and beauty have once again taken their cue from the movies. When Alexander McQueen sent heavily powdered models down the catwalk for Spring 2007, it was clear that his interpretation of the regal complexion was a witty yet literal nod to the historic courts of Europe, where powder was the beauty mark of power. In those days, a pale face was considered proof of your status as an aristocrat—only peasants who toiled in the sun had tans. Recall the powder white face of Cate Blanchett, who was Oscar-nominated for her portrayal of *Elizabeth's* titular queen. But let's face it: Fashion moment aside, no one walking down Bloor or Robson Street will dare do it. Thankfully, the look trickled down to us mere mortals on the runways of Ralph Lauren, Missoni and Balenciaga, where a clean matte face was the rage. "Matte skin can be a little bit more photogenic, and also powerful and striking," says Gucci Westman Neville, international artistic director for Lancôme makeup, who created the look at Behnaz Sarafpour, Peter Som, Rag & Bone and Proenza Schouler. Will matte stand the test of time? Fast-forward and the royal look remains onscreen, with matte gorgeousness in *The Other Boleyn Girl*, starring Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman. Also look for Blanchett to reprise her role as the powdered Virgin Queen in *The Golden Age*, the sequel to the Oscar-winning *Elizabeth* (which won for makeup, no less). For the rest of us, it's time to stock up on blotting paper and powder... □

PHOTOGRAPHY: MODELS BY BEAUTYTAKES; *BOLEYN* BY COLUMBIA PICTURES; *GOLDEN AGE* BY UNIVERSAL/EVERETT COLLECTION; *MARIE ANTOINETTE* BY SONY PICTURES