

Close Encounters

FACE TO FACE WITH THE BIGGEST STARS

MIA GOTH

The rising star behind Maxine talks *Infinity Pool* and her X trilogy

Words by Jack Shepherd

Mia Goth's trapped in a Berlin hotel room, having been whisked straight there from an airport. "I haven't seen any of the city yet," she says. "I've just been in the hotel." This isn't the beginning of a horror movie (we hope), but the reality of doing press junkets at the Berlin Film Festival. The actor – who has become one of the buzziest names in show business thanks to leading roles in *X* and *Pearl* – is here to promote her spectacular, trippy, terrifying new movie *Infinity Pool*, from the cursed mind of Brandon Cronenberg.

Although Goth doesn't think she gives good interview answers, *SFX* would like to differ after she reveals new details about *MaXXXine*, the final instalment in the *X* trilogy.

***Infinity Pool* is wild. In one scene, you're screaming with a gun pointed at a bus loaded with people. Is it tricky giving yourself over to a character like that?**

➔ You just have to jump into the deep end and go for it. Otherwise it wouldn't work. And there's something really liberating about that. Especially for me – there's something very quintessentially British about me and I'm always trying to maintain my composure and I'm thinking about what others are thinking. And so it's quite a nice contrast to then be on set and just be totally wild and be able to step outside of that momentarily.

Has anything surprised you about the reaction to the movie?

➔ When we were back at Sundance, and we were doing our midnight screening, I was quite taken aback by how funny people thought the movie was. Watching it with a crowd is such a different experience because, the first time around, they had sent me a link and I watched it on my computer in my bedroom, and then to have the total opposite experience of being with a crowd and seeing that reaction. They really picked up on humour that is very particular to Brandon. It's definitely something that should be experienced with a group of people.

You've become something of a horror queen thanks to *Pearl* and *X*. What is it about the genre that's so attractive to you? And why do you think we're living through such a good period for horror currently?

➔ Having really talented directors, like Brandon Cronenberg, helm these types of movies is something that has really ushered horror into this mainstream arena. People want to feel something when they watch a movie. You can end up reading these rather bland scripts and they usually end up becoming bland movies, and you watch them and they really don't do anything for you.

People are so desperate to feel something. You go through your day and you go to work, you come home, you have your dinner, and then you can get into this routine of just feeling generally quite numb.

And so you have these watching experiences, and hopefully these communal experiences, where you can watch these movies and it's a surefire way that you're going to react to what you're seeing on screen in some sort of tangible way. And I think people are really drawn to that.

With *Pearl*, *X* and now *Infinity Pool*, your profile has really been raised. Have you noticed differences in projects you're getting sent – or anything else – because of that elevation?

➔ I feel that the top of one mountain is just the bottom of another. You achieve something but that feeling dissolves pretty quickly and gives way to other desires and aspirations that you have for yourself. You do one thing and then you end up getting sent a hundred scripts that are pretty much the same thing that you've done before. And that's the last thing that I want, to be boxed in as one thing. I think a nose [for good scripts] is probably one of the most important things that an actor can have, to choose their projects wisely.

You've previously described *MaXXXine* as being the biggest in terms of scope of the *X* trilogy. Are we going to see Maxine at her most unhinged?

➔ I see *MaXXXine* as a superhero movie – that's how I read the script. Maxine, as a character, has come a long way. She's a survivor, she's gone through a lot. When we meet her again, in this new world that she's in, she's really fought for everything that she has, and she's not about to give that up. She's going to fight for what she has. She's a badass. There's a strength to her. And she's a really proactive, determined, focused woman. She goes after what she wants, and she's not really going to take no for an answer. ●

Infinity Pool is out now.

BIODATA

From
London

Greatest Hits
Maxine and Pearl in *X*; doomed dancer Sara in *Suspria*; spa patient Hannah in *A Cure For Wellness*.

Random Fact
Goth's grandmother is the famous Brazilian actor Maria Gladys, and her grandfather is the artist Lee Jaffe.

SWAN GALLET/WWD/PENSKEN MEDIA, GETTY

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