



Model: LESLIE-PAGE YOUNG. Agency: WILHELMINA'S N.Y.  
 Photographer: BENJAMIN KANAREK for L'OFFICIAL Paris

# Profile: International

Sacha Lilić is 24 years old and began his working life as a hairdresser. Sacha, whose surname is pronounced lill-itch with a slight stress on the first syllable, was born in Yugoslavia, has Russian blood, and grew up in Germany and France. Now a successful make up artist in constant demand internationally, he has worked in London, Nassau Bahamas, and all over the United States as well as Germany, France and Italy. A cosmopolitan in every sense of the word, he is fluent in five languages: Serbo-Croat, French, German, Russian and, fortunately, English. He also has a smattering of Spanish and Italian; he speaks with a thick, almost syrupy French accent.

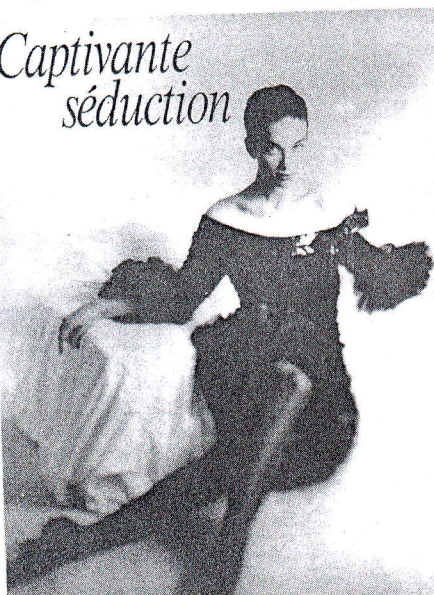
his models, not himself he wanted Sacha to work on.

One thing led to another and he was soon doing make up for Pavlok, and another German fashion photographer, Klaus Rudolph, who is currently shooting for Spanish magazine Marie-Claire. He did a lot more work with Klaus and Werner, and this led him into doing make up for films. Sacha uses the quaint old-fashioned Americanism "movies" to describe anything shot on celluloid. He became involved with Roland Emmerich, a German film director; a lot

Model Journal caught up with Sacha in between stops at the office of his London agent, Alex Michon of Elite. Like Sacha, Elite is international; they have offices in New York, Paris, Milan and have just opened one in Moscow.

*Does he set trends or follow them? He dismisses both suggestions as ridiculous...*

*Captivante séduction*



Sacha's parents left Yugoslavia when he was six years old, "probably for economic and political reasons," he can't be sure. He was raised by an aunt in Paris until he was eight or nine then moved to Germany with his parents.

With his unquestionable flair for languages a career in interpreting or even the diplomatic corp might have been a more natural choice, but he never even gave that a thought because "I hate wearing ties," he laughs. His first serious ambition was to become a fashion designer, but he started work as a trainee hairdresser in what he says was a small salon in a little village in the south of Germany, "unimportant, but with international connections." The salon itself may have been unimportant but its owner appears to have aspired to greater things, and sent his people out to learn their trade internationally. So although Sacha graduated from an ordi-

by Alexander Baron

nary state hairdressing school he found himself attending courses in Paris and working in London with Vidal Sassoon. During his somewhat unusual apprenticeship he learned beauty treatment, massage and make up, but never considered a career in make up.

*...most of the guests were better dressed than the models...*

Sacha is notoriously vague and somewhat reluctant to discuss his early career, but says he did his first show in 1984 or 85 in Stuttgart, Germany. He met

Nico, a fashion designer who had decided to put on a "Russian night with fur and glimmer." To keep expenses down the two of them recruited the models for the show in the street. (Note - don't ever accept such an invitation). Just for fun they invited a lot of people from the fashion world to attend the show, and surprisingly a lot of them accepted. Sacha laughs in his thick French accent, "What else do you do on a Wednesday night?"

Although most of the guests were better dressed than the models, this proved to be another turning point in Sacha's already extraordinary career. He met top German fashion photographer Werner Pavlok who asked him if he had done the make up for the show. When Sacha said he had, Pavlok asked him if he would like to do the same for him. Sacha eyed him up and down and replied somewhat naively that he wasn't sure, but the photographer explained it was

more film work followed. He has worked on numerous commercials in Germany and in the USA. Stateside he has also worked on "underground films." He most unusual project though was working on an American horror film called Hollywood Monsters. This involved learning about special effects: creating detached heads and all sorts of other delightful projects. Sacha said this was enjoyable but extremely hard and time consuming work.

In 1986 Sacha became involved with UPART AGENCY in Germany, then was sent to Paris to

*Captivante séduction*



Model: ANGE.  
 Photographer: JEAN-PAUL BOUK for VITAL



Model: PIA LIND.  
 Photographer: CELIA A. von HÖRNSTEIN

# SACHA LILIC

## Make-Up Artist

work for the Lucy St Clare Agency. According to Sacha the agency was a mess, and but for Carole..... would have collapsed. Eventually Carole left the agency and her clients followed her. Sacha continued to work for Carole and, after meeting one of Elite's bookers in Paris earlier this year, began working for them as well.

Recently Sacha has been doing fashion work in Miami. His magazine credits include Miss Vogue, Cosmopolitan, New Woman, Ritz, Officiel: a veritable parade of

internationally respected big names. He also does make up for German mail order catalogues, explaining that although

*"My job is to bring a kind of harmony into the whole picture."*

such assignments are not as glamorous as the big fashion magazines they are still bread and butter work. "Editorial doesn't pay much," he says.

Dress wise one might not naturally expect a make up artist to be overt, extravagant even, but Sacha dresses down rather than up; he turned up at Elite's Long Acre office wearing a black leather jacket and matching black hat. Another contradiction about Sacha is his laid back attitude. Most people who work non-stop for long periods, as he does, seem to thrive on stress. Not only does Sacha take this all in his stride, he says he has no ambitions, or more precisely, no plans for the future. He says emphatically he does not intend to get married in ten years, but a house in five years or run his life to any sort of timetable. His plans, in as much as he plans anything, include fashion designing, but for the moment this remains a hobby. Sacha sees his role as a make up artist to create something for a photographer, though he works with the photographer rather than for him, the photographer or the client has the final word.

"My job is to bring a kind of harmony into the whole picture." Somebody else creates the basic image and he completes it, adding a face on top which he thinks would match it. Although he has very definite ideas about creative freedom he does think it is important not to "usurp" the photographer's or the client's image. Does he set trends or follow them? He dismisses both suggestions as ridiculous, ex-

plaining that he uses his own style, and so should everyone else. People who try simply to

*Sacha has very definite ideas about creative freedom...*

copy others always end up producing second rate work. "Take what you like," he says, and presumably leave what you don't.

By the same token, Sacha has no advice to offer other make up artists apart from "Be yourself." Nor has he any aspirations to work with specific photographers, including those he admires greatly. He dismisses any such suggestion as a cliché, and he says he has no time for clichés.

Sacha and his agent don't see eye to eye on his status as a make up artist. He insists he is not one of the very top make up men, and

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would not mention himself in the same breath as Stephan Marais and Steve Marino. His agent sees thing differently, and it is difficult to side with him against her knowing he is in such heavy demand on both sides of the pond. Sacha can be working on a shoot in London at one thirty

*"I would rather not start a job than only do half of it."*

am, and the next day he'll be packing his brushes and comb to fly out to Miami stopping off at Nassau en route. Whatever it is, Sacha Lilic is not one to allow success to go to his head, for wherever he may be jetting off to next, he has both feet planted firmly on the ground.□



Models: JULIA JASON at LINK PARIS & BERNHARD at BANANAS. Styling: MARTINE FOUSSADIER



Model: KIM SNOWDEN  
Photographer: PHILIP FUSS

elite