

# THIS IS R.A.D

WORDS—KRISTEN FOGLE

Gracing our cover this month is the charismatic and accomplished mother of Kingston, the resplendent vision of handbag perfection, and vocal luminary known now by only one name: Gwen. And though we customarily experience her in an array of costumage, decked out in a given month's fashion du jour, we have never quite beheld such a unique representation of her.

The artwork may look familiar (*the artist's work has been featured in In Touch and ads for the popular Kitson boutique in Beverly Hills for starters,*) but Robert A. Degadillo is preparing to expand his talents to reach many more still. Read on for additional info on "**Radboy**," his journey thus far, and where he plans on taking his craft from here.



**Warning:** How did you develop your artistic abilities?

**Robert A. Degadillo:** My parents tell me I was drawing before walking or talking, so let's just say I was born with it. In addition, (*there were*) years of formal study in the arts with everyone from animators to fashion designers. I had a hunger for knowledge that nothing could satisfy.

**W:** Were there cartoon shows or comic books that you wanted to emulate when you were young?

**RAD:** My two heroes/inspirations growing up were Walt Disney and Hugh Hefner. I loved the classic Disney films and watched devotedly. I started collecting Playboys as a kid, (*my parents were pretty liberal,*) and I admired the illustrations that were featured in the magazine. Classic Hollywood was also a big influence in my art. I was mesmerized by stars like Marilyn Monroe and Cary Grant.

**W:** How did you first gain notoriety for your drawings?

**RAD:** It all started with a trip to New York in 2004, to see Hugh Jackman in a Broadway Show- *The Boy From Oz*. The night before my trip, I decided to do a drawing for him and was determined to give it to him in person. As fate would have it, mission accomplished- it was an incredible experience. Some fans of Jackman saw the drawing and wanted to purchase copies from me. They created a buzz and the rest is history.

**W:** How do you choose which celebs to profile? Do they come to you? Do you choose based on who you're inspired by?

**RAD:** Typically someone in the artist's circle will contact me and ask me to create work for them. I only draw celebs that I like. To date, everyone I have illustrated I am a fan of. If the appreciation for the star isn't there, the artwork simply wouldn't work.

# GWEN

## Escape With Stefani

**W:** Why do you think your "**Temptation**" drawing depicting Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt as Adam and Eve caused such a stir?

**RAD:** I went to see Mr. and Mrs. Smith, as am I huge fan of both, and got very inspired to do a piece that would depict them as larger than life. I included the work in my first show, right at that time all the press started to circulate about them being romantically involved. The timing was crazy as the artwork generated alot of buzz and was assumed to be this big "statement" about their relationship.

**W:** I was pleasantly surprised to learn that you had done the illustrations for (Beverly Hills boutique) Kitson. How did that relationship materialize?

**RAD:** I was asked to do a portrait of the owner Fraser Ross. He loved the work and commissioned me to do some art for the store/dressing rooms. I was later asked to do the ads for their shoes/jeans and to date I am still working with the store. Kitson and my artwork were made for each other; they are a fusion of all that is pop culutre.

**W:** Are you showing your illustrations anywhere currently?

**RAD:** I am currently working on my first gallery series of prints. Very excited about that. I will determine by the end of summer where I want to display/sell them. Aside from that, my website [www.radboy.com](http://www.radboy.com) is the best way for people to view my work.

**W:** What are your future plans for your illustrations?

**RAD:** Lots of projects in mind, but my series again is a big priority for me. I have also been developing a collection of prints of Latin celebs, as that's a market I am very interested in. In addition, I will continue working on the ads for Kitson and other projects as they come up.

**W:** Is there a company or celebrity that you're just dying to work with?

**RAD:** Too many to name! That's a tough one. I've met so many people the last two years, it's been wild! Would love to meet Madonna, she's brilliant!

Balancing a multi-platinum music career, a fashion line, the occasional acting gig, and new motherhood- the "**Harajuku Lover**" has never looked so good.

Gwen Stefani seems to have the whole glamorous lifestyle thing down to a science and after being in the business for nearly **20 years**, this Orange County native has more going on than ever before.

Her jet-setting has only increased since the kickoff of her Sweet Escape Tour with Akon and Lady Sovereign in April. New dates are still being added as the shows continue to sell out. Her sophomore album blend of rock, rap, and even yodeling, has proved to be irresistible to fans. And even though she's on a non-stop world tour, Gwen won't be leaving her young son Kingston behind. She plans to rock the baby to sleep before rocking out on stage every night.

A successful solo music career is hardly the only thing currently on the style icon's plate. With designer changes coming at **L.A.M.B.**, an additional side collection that was recently released, and even plans for a fragrance, Gwen's fashion career continues to evolve. Her new Harajuku Lovers line, inspired by the progressive Tokyo style, is more affordable than **L.A.M.B.** but just as funky and trend-setting. As if this wasn't enough, Gwen has confirmed a forthcoming No Doubt album. It will be the band's first since Rock Steady in **2001**.

Gwen Stefani definitely takes the phrase "**keeping busy**" very seriously. There's nothing this career mom can't do, and we can't wait to see what's next on the horizon.

**WORDS- NATALIE ALDERN**

