

TV
extra



**SHE'S THE
CHART-TOPPING
SOAP STAR WHOSE
KIDS' FASHION
LABEL IS TAKING
TINSELTOWN
BY STORM...**

Nat Bass



Former *The X Factor* judge Nat (left) cherishes family time with Hendrix, Harper and husband Cameron (right).



She's a showbiz all-rounder: multi-Logie nominated actress, chart-topping singer, successful stage star and primetime TV presenter.

Now Natalie Bassingthwaite can add entrepreneur to her ever-expanding résumé, after launching Chi Khi – an all-natural range of kids' clothes and accessories – following her struggle to find cool threads that also catered to her children's sensitive skin.

In nine short months, the label has already garnered fans across the globe, expanding its range and debuting a new skincare line – and the Wollongong-born beauty couldn't be prouder.

'It's pretty overwhelming, but it feels nice, I won't deny it!' a beaming Nat tells *New Idea*.

'My husband and I have invested in properties and pubs, but this is the first time I've built a brand, launched it and watched it grow.'

Chi Khi's bold designs have already caught the eyes of some of Hollywood's most fashionable tots, with super-stylist-turned-designer Rachel Zoe and singer Fergie both dressing their young sons in the label's funky designs.

'I can't imagine how many pieces of clothing someone like Rachel Zoe is gifted. Out of everything she was sent for her

little boy, she dressed him in one of our pieces,' she smiles. 'Getting an endorsement from the queen of style is a big deal!'

So who's next on Natalie's celebrity bub wishlist? 'I think Harper Beckham would be a great one,' she says. 'North West, too – she'd totally rock our stuff.'

Having achieved success with the range in such a short time, some people might be tempted to take a break – but Nat's already signed up to play racing driver Peter Brock's girlfriend Julie Bamford in a new TV movie.

wonder that Nat's children – daughter Harper, five, and son Hendrix, two – are showing signs of following in her footsteps.

'My daughter is funny,' explains the star, who recently turned 40. 'She can be quite extreme – either she's very shy or a complete extrovert.'

'In a way, I feel like she'll be an actress more than anything else. She puts on shows and is always doing different accents.'

Hendrix, Natalie says, takes after his musical dad, drummer Cameron McGlinchey, 40.

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'I'm always like: "What's next?" I've never been afraid of a challenge. I want to know what I'm capable of as a woman, what boundaries I can push and how far I can take it.'

Her success is testimony to her work ethic. A veteran of four seasons judging *The X Factor*, she was also part of the *Neighbours* cast, as well as lead singer of the globally successful electro-pop band Rogue Traders.

With such strong stage and screen credentials, it's little

'He's only two, but he's already showing signs of talent,' says the proud mum. 'A few months ago, he went into my husband's music room, picked up some drumsticks, went to play and then noticed they were the wrong way around, flipped them and started to play.'

'He also picked up a plectrum and started to strum a few guitars. I think he has a natural ability.'

Becoming a mum was a dream come true, but Nat is the first to acknowledge that parenthood has its challenges – in particular,



Chi Khi Bare and Chi Khi Mini (plus new range Chi Khi Lounge) are available through chikhi.co.



Nat's edgy designs have won fans around the world.

she says, 'sleep deprivation!'

'Even now, I'll wake up at 4am and think: "I can't deal with it!"' she laughs, although the pros clearly far outweigh the cons for this busy mumpreneur.

'Being a mum has changed me a lot,' she reflects. 'It has definitely changed my priorities – my life is now more about encouraging them to be all that they can be, as opposed to thinking about my career.'

'I want my kids to know that we'll support them in everything they want to do.'

By Paul Ewart NZ

Nat reveals her top five style secrets in an exclusive *New Idea* video. Head to newidea.com.au to check it out.



Celeb stylist Rachel Zoe and her son Skyler love Nat's range.



WHERE THERE'S ONE



THERE'S MORE. MORTEIN KILL & PROTECT.

Photos of Nat and family, Rachel and Skyler, and Chi Khi store: instagram.com.