



Father-daughter acting  
greats **Barry** and  
**Miranda Otto** bring  
a touch of luxe to a  
suburban setting, with  
this season's delightfully  
eclectic looks.

# Meet the ottos

OPPOSITE: Barry wears wool dressing gown, \$400, and Cotton Cabana shirt, \$500 (part of a set including shorts); both at The Vintage Clothing Shop, 02-9238 0090. Pal Zileri silk pocket handkerchief, \$65; at Harrolds, 1300 888 828. Miranda wears Lisa Ho silk-spandex top, \$439, linen-viscose skirt, \$499, gold-plated brass necklaces, \$570 each, and leather heels, \$499; 02-8303 7888. Lurex turban, \$200; at The Vintage Clothing Shop, 02-9238 0090. Maniamania brass cuff, \$400; themaniamania.com. Paloma Picasso for Tiffany & Co. gold and mandarin garnet ring (on right hand), \$23,500; 1800 731 131.



*“Dad’s approach  
[to life] is from  
a place of joy.  
It reminds me not  
to be so serious.”*

—Miranda Otto



THIS PAGE: Chanel cotton-blend dress, \$4,050, silk-blend crinoline (worn underneath), \$1,350, and leather and wooden clogs, \$1,120; 02-9233 4800. Roberto Cavalli metal and enamel cuff, \$1,195; at Loula, 03-9820 8006. OPPOSITE: Barry wears rayon dressing gown, \$300; at The Vintage Clothing Shop, 02-9238 0090. Givenchy cotton shirt, \$495; at Attic, 02-9327 2999. Pal Zileri silk pocket handkerchief, \$65; at Harrolds, 1300 888 828. Miranda wears Lanvin silk dress, \$6,800; at Arida, 02-9357 4788. Paloma Picasso for Tiffany & Co. chrysoprase necklace (top), \$3,750; 1800 731 131. Lanvin perspex, crystal and ribbon necklace, \$1,950; at Christine, 03-9654 2011. Cartier white-gold, amethyst and diamond ring, \$9,700; 1800 130 000. Louis Vuitton leather heels, \$2,170; 1300 883 880.



*“People think I’m eccentric, but I know what I feel good in.”*

—Barry Otto



THIS PAGE: Silk scarfs, \$120 each; at The Vintage Clothing Shop, 02-9238 0090. OPPOSITE: Barry wears Givenchy linen suit, \$1,675, and cotton shirt, \$430; at Attic, 02-9327 2999. Silk-blend scarf, \$120; at The Vintage Clothing Shop, 02-9238 0090. Miranda wears Cheap Monday cotton-blend trench, \$180; 02-8335 4502. Easton Pearson taffeta dress, \$969; 02-9331 4433. Paloma Picasso for Tiffany & Co. yellow-gold and diamond necklace, \$88,500; 1800 731 131. Louis Vuitton sequined clutch, \$2,670; 1800 883 880. Givenchy leather heels, approx. \$1,100; at Cosmopolitan Shoes, 02-9362 0510.



MIRANDA OTTO SWEEPS INTO THE FRAME, A SHIMMERING AQUAMARINE gown trailing behind her and those porcelain features a picture of unshakeable focus. Her father, Barry, watches with elation. “Miranda’s an incredible professional,” he whispers. “She always has a certain poise and concentration.” It’s a fashion shoot, but blink and you could be on a film set, a cross between *Grey Gardens* and a Roald Dahl adaptation. And Miranda and Barry take to this wacky would-be world with gusto.

Teaming up in front of the camera is nothing new for the pair, having shared both screen and stage before, first in the 1997 film *Dead Letter Office*, and again, eight years later in the Sydney Theatre Company production of *Boy Meets Girl*. This winter, they co-star once more, in *South Solitary* (in cinemas July 29). Despite their previous on-set experiences, never before have the pair shared so much time on screen. Playing an uncle and niece, their characters are bonded together by difficult circumstances and isolation; they share a companionship that is, at best, uneasy. Miranda, 42, describes their cinematic relationship as “Presbyterian, in some ways. There is love there,” she says, “but it’s very much withheld.” Barry, 69, concurs: his character is “tough, cranky and sometimes cruel. And he’s particularly strict on her,” referring to Miranda’s character, Meredith.

What is it like to act with such a close family member? “It’s the strangest thing, when you look into the eyes of your own child, while not being yourself,” admits Barry. The fact that their characters are nothing like the actors playing them, however, proved to be advantageous. “It’s easier when you play parts that are not so close to home,” Miranda explains.

Watching them, you can imagine the pair swotting up on scripts in preparation for their performances, or, in between takes, playing with the third generation of Ottos—Miranda’s five-year-old daughter with actor Peter O’Brien, Darcey, who is also Barry’s only grandchild. The bond between Miranda and Barry is strong: they share a love of acting and admiration for each other’s talents. Miranda talks of her father’s “unflappable enthusiasm” and his passion for his craft. “He’s never so happy as when he’s working,” she laughs, “and everyone on set adores him.” In return, Barry, who is also father to actress, Gracie, 23, and Eddie, 25, is effusive on the topic of his eldest daughter’s career. “I’ve been acting for 40 years and I still wake up with the feeling, sometimes, that she is more experienced than I am! And I think, ‘How did that happen?’”. She’s got international credits, has been out in the great ocean of film and made a name for herself. I was privileged to work with her,” he says, in his most fitting role to date—proud father. —Jo McKay



*“Fashion is like costume—it’s dress-ups, it’s fun.”*  
—Miranda Otto

THIS PAGE: Jayson Brunson sequined-silk dress, \$1,299; 02-9387 8884. Crystal and metal earrings, \$220; at Harlequin Market, 02-9357 4433. OPPOSITE: Alex Perry tulle dress, \$1,399; 02-9233 6555. Lanvin metal, crystal and ribbon cuff, \$595; at Christine, 03-9654 2011. Hair: Michael Brennan. Make-up: Liz Kelsh.