

## 'I OFFERED HER £100 TO STOP WEARING COWBOY BOOTS'

**Polly Devlin, 63, is an author, broadcaster, conservationist and former features editor of *Vogue*.**

**Married to philanthropist Adrian Garnett, she has three daughters, Rose, 34, Daisy, 32, and Bay, 31, a stylist who often works with Matthew Williamson.**

**Polly says:** 'There was a time when Bay's individual style drove us mad: when she was 12, she lived in a pair of cowboy boots and wouldn't take them off, even when we promised her £100 never to wear them again. Now I love the way she looks – it's casual in a sense, yet she puts an incredible amount of thought and cunning into getting dressed in the morning.

'Bay has an innate sense of style that didn't come naturally to me. It took me a while to relax enough to spend money on clothes, as I'd grown up in post-war Ireland, where the magazines I devoured every month looked like an archive of the future.

'Never did I imagine that I would move to London

and start working with model Jean Shrimpton, as well as seminal fashion photographers David Bailey, Richard Avedon and Irving Penn. The photographic shoots were in the same building as the *Vogue* offices, so I'd wander up from my desk to discover Bailey shooting Mick Jagger in a fur hat. Being surrounded by such wonderful people gave me the confidence to wear beautiful clothes. The highlight was the lace and rhinestone wedding dress Jean Muir made for me.

'These days, I generally have two wardrobes, because I spend half my life in Somerset. In the country, I'll wear Brora sweaters and jeans; in town, Nicole Farhi and Betty Jackson. Bay has a huge influence on what I wear. If I see something beautiful, I'll buy it just because I think she will approve. She's given me the bravery to buy wonderful things like my leopard-skin Azzedine Alaïa coat, or a fitted Louis Vuitton jacket.'

**Bay says:** 'I grew up surrounded by wonderful books on fashion, some of which were nearly as big as I was. There are loads of photos of me holding my mum's handbags, or wearing a pair of her red, patent boots. I never had to fight with Mum over what to wear: she let me have my ears pierced at seven and was cool with me getting a tattoo at 18.

'Mum's own style is very conventional: she wears Caroline Charles, Chanel... it's appropriate for her age and she looks great. Much of my stuff is inspired by movie characters such as Sissy Spacek in *Badlands*. I buy in thrift shops and experiment. For example, last week I went out in a '70s polo neck, Matthew Williamson shirt, black YSL belt and a long skirt.'

### POLLY AND BAY'S STYLE TIPS

**Polly:** 'Go into a shop that would normally scare you. You might find one item you'll love and it will last for years.'

**Bay:** 'Persevere with thrift shopping: try charity shops in rich areas as you're more likely to find quality cast-offs.'

● Below: Polly (left) is inspired to buy clothes that daughter, Bay, will approve of



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BAY GARNETT