

ON DURHAM Red-and-white print sundress, \$995, **Moschino Style**, Bergdorf Goodman, (888) 774-2424. Hand-carved jade teardrop pendant set in 18-karat gold, \$375, **Elsa Peretti for Tiffany & Co.**, (800) 526-0649. Custom-assembled sterling-and-enamel 50-state vintage charm bracelet, \$3,200, **M & B Vintage**, mandbvintage.com.

ON MICHAEL Infant baby ribbed short-sleeve lap tee, \$12, **American Apparel**, americanapparel.net. Brown cords, \$45, **Ralph Lauren Childrenswear**, bloomingdales.com for stores.





MODEL MOM

A fixture on the international modeling scene from age 16, **Rhea Durham** has taken the past few years off to raise her two children. While holding down the fort, she shows off this season's prettiest pieces.

BY **DANA WOOD**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
MATTHEW HRANEK

She's still two years shy of 30, but model **Rhea Durham** is already sailing through Act Two: being a mom.

"I know people might read this and think, *Ugh*," she says, "but I love my life. It's hectic and stressful at times. But I'm really happy." Honestly, who could blame her? With the birth of their son, Michael, early last year, Durham and her longtime love, actor Mark Wahlberg—already parents to 3-year-old Ella—now have two impossibly cute kids underfoot. And the tight-knit quartet might need to make room for a few additions. "I'd like two more," Durham reveals.

The Florida native moved to New York City at 16 to model. For the next seven years, her life was a nonstop blur of magazine covers, runway work, and ad campaigns for big-ticket brands, including Revlon, Christian Dior, and Tommy Hilfiger. But in 2001, she decided to pull up stakes and move to Los Angeles because, she says, "I needed a change. I wanted something similar to what I grew up with—the beach, a house, a car."

These days that car, as it is for most mothers of toddlers, is more like a shuttle, running Ella to and from preschool. "We don't have a nanny on the weekends—or on Wednesdays, so that's my day with the kids by myself," Durham says. "Mark is home sometimes, too, of course. But he also works a lot."

Together, she and Wahlberg are parenting in an admittedly conservative manner that's similar to the way they themselves were raised, but is also a reaction to the fast-paced fashion and movie worlds. "We talk about discipline and schools all the time now," Durham says. And she freely admits that self-doubt frequently rears its ugly head: "As a parent, you constantly have to be on your game. You're forming adults. Disciplining—staying consistent with it—is hard. There's always guilt involved: that you're not doing enough, that you're not up to par."

Still, Durham has learned to trust her maternal instincts. For instance, Michael recently celebrated his first birthday with an intimate Elmo-themed party. "I didn't hire someone dressed as Elmo, because I thought it might scare him," she says. "So it was just the four of us. But it was really cute." She's also learned to carve out couple time—usually for high-profile events like the Academy Awards or the season premiere of *Entourage*, which Wahlberg executive-produces. For the Oscars, she donned a jeweled Marchesa gown, but the jacket-and-jeans combo she wore to the *Entourage* bash is more her style. "That's the real me," she says.

Though Durham is now dipping her toes back into modeling, she says her globe-trotting days are behind her: "I love the traditions of family and home. Babies, kids, holidays—that's what I'm good at."



ON DURHAM Paisley-print cape coat, \$2,595, **Gucci**, gucci.com for stores.

ON MICHAEL Skull Baby tee, \$20, **Babies Rock**, babiesrock.com.


ON ELLA (OPPOSITE)
Three-tiered dress, \$280,
Bonnie Young, Donna Karan
Collection, (212) 861-1001.



ON DURHAM Eyelet shift dress, \$1,990, **Carolina Herrera**, (323) 782-9090. Classima Executives watch, \$1,895, **Baume & Mercier**, (800) 637-2437. Activa heels, \$875, **Christian Louboutin**, christianlouboutin.fr for stores.

ON KIDS, LEFT TO RIGHT Baby ribbed tee, \$15, **American Apparel**, americanapparel.net. Impala dress, \$160, **Floriane**, Greenstone's, (212) 580-4322. Baby ribbed 3/4-sleeve raglan, \$15, **American Apparel**, americanapparel.net. Jeans (available in August), \$18, **Levi's**, walmart.com. Samba sneakers, \$47, **adidas**, shopadidas.com.



A close-up photograph of a woman with long, wavy brown hair and a baby lying together. The woman is wearing a black and white patterned top and is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The baby is lying on its back, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The baby is wearing striped socks. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light.

ON DURHAM Gaudie Trapeze dress, \$598, Jill Stuart, (212) 343-2300.

ON MICHAEL Striped cuff pants, \$50, eyeSpy, Stinky Pants, (773) 281-4002.

BEAUTY NOTE Gentle, plant-based lotions are perfect for Mom and baby. Baby Calendula lotion, \$13, Weleda, beautyhabit.com.

“He’s edible,”
Durham
says of
1-year-old
Michael.
“What a little
butterball—
23 pounds of
pure love.”

ON DURHAM Silk tank dress, \$1,750, and navy pinstripe vest, \$590, **Derek Lam**, Bergdorf Goodman, (888) 774-2424.

ON MICHAEL Pullover hoodie, \$90, **eyeSpy**, Jax Children's Boutique, (310) 477-0306. Jeans, \$25, **babyGap**, gap.com.

“I don’t
really enjoy
having my
hair and
makeup done.
It’s hard
for me to
sit still for
that long now.
I’m used
to going
and going.”



ON DURHAM Blouson-sleeve minidress, \$430, **3.1 Phillip Lim**, Castor & Pollux, (212) 645-6572. Roisel sandals, \$450, **Bally**, (212) 751-9082.

ON ELLA Floppy bikini, \$75, **Best & Co.**, Bergdorf Goodman, (212) 872-8847.

Styling by Jennifer Smith
Prop styling by Dane Holweger
Hair by Laura De Leon
Makeup by Linda Choi