



AISHWARYA RAI'S AUSTEN POWER

FINALLY, the rest of the planet is catching up with Aishwarya Rai. Hailed as the Queen of Bollywood, the 31-year-old former *Miss World* is already one of the most famous women on the other side of the globe, with more than twenty films, fifty music videos, and approximately 2 billion fans to her credit. Rai's now set to conquer America with her first English-language film, *Bride & Prejudice*—a Bollywood-meets-Jane Austen extravaganza directed by *Bend It Like Beckham*'s Gurinder Chadha. Rai plays Lalita Bakshi, an Indian update of Austen's headstrong heroine, Elizabeth Bennet. Is Rai ready for some Western Hemisphere adulation? "I'm not technically a newcomer," she says confidently. "All this has happened ten years ago in my life."

—HOWIE KAHN

STYLIST: LOUISE HEALY. HAIR: JONATHAN CONNELLY AT ART DEPARTMENT FOR REDKEN. MAKEUP: LYZ MARSDEN USING MAC COSMETICS. LOCATION: COURTESY OF THE SOHO HOTEL, LONDON. TANK TOP: VERSACE.