

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

editor: Danielle Nussbaum

Seventeen-year-old AnnaSophia Robb is more than capable of playing a brat: As the gum-smacking Violet Beauregarde, whose body famously becomes as inflated as her ego in 2005's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, she gave Johnny Depp a run for his money. This month, AnnaSophia (one word, no nicknames, please) reminds audiences that there's more to her than foot stomping when she stars as Bethany Hamilton in *Soul Surfer*, a true-life tale of the teen surf sensation who refused to let losing an arm in a shark attack stop her from getting back on her board. "It's an amazing story of the human spirit and how we can live our dream through any hardship," says the actress, who appears alongside Dennis Quaid, Helen Hunt, and big-screen first-timer Carrie Underwood. "Bethany never felt bad for herself. She does more with one arm than I can do with two."

Not that AnnaSophia is an underachiever: She began acting professionally at age eleven and wowed crowds with *Bridge to Terabithia* (2007) and *Race to Witch Mountain* (2009). When she's not on set, the Denver native and high school junior can be found juggling French club with SAT prep. (She hopes to attend Brown University after graduation.) "It's nice," she says. "I'm removed from the L.A. scene."

Well, almost. "One of the kids in my class brought in a picture of the *Soul Surfer* poster the other day. He was laughing because I look so intense." Was she annoyed? Nah. "It's just like if I were to ask someone about wrestling, soccer, or whatever," she says. "It's part of who I am."

—AMANDA FITZSIMONS

BLUE CRUSH ANNASOPHIA WEARS
A CYNTHIA STEFFE ROMPER, \$225.
ALEXIS BITTAR GREEN COLLAR, \$450.
ASSAD MOUNSER NEON NECKLACE,
\$350. DETAILS, SEE IN THIS ISSUE.
PHOTOGRAPHED BY SASHA EISENMAN.

hope floats

AnnaSophia Robb
makes a splash in this
month's *Soul Surfer*.