



at 12, Alexi Melvin took her first steps into the modeling world. At 19, she became a regular at AfterEllen with her fashion vlog, Alexi's Closet, giving fashion advice to the ladies who love ladies. Now at 23, Melvin is taking on new challenges: Acting, writing, producing and improv—and this out Jill-of-all-trades is only just beginning to tap into her creative potential. "Right now I'm at a discovery point in my life. There's a lot of things that I love and I'm trying to push through them all in their own ways," says Melvin who is endorsed by the lesbian owned and operated Lyon Fine Jewelry.

Aside from writing a screenplay, developing a memoir, modeling and co-producing a film, Melvin is also a spokeswoman for juvenile diabetes. Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 14, she has been an advocate ever since. "I'm always trying to raise money and awareness," Melvin says. "I actually started a cause on Facebook called Cure Diabetes and it's one of the biggest causes on Facebook, ever."

Melvin is refreshing, sincere and passionate—and full of great fashion tips. Ask her about the hottest lesbian trend and she'll tell you: flannel button-ups. When asked about the biggest fashion mistake a lesbian can make, she'll give it to you straight: "I would say as a whole, just a little bit too laid back. It's fine to throw on a hoodie, jeans and sneakers every now and then, but also every now and then, throw on a pair of boots, a nice button up or maybe a cool jacket." On her fashion inspiration and favorite designers, "I'm really into [the style of] movie stars from the '50s, like the very sophisticated Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly" and "I really like Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen's line called The Row. They're really talented as fashion designers."

Never short on opinions or the moxy to express them, Melvin shares her thoughts on what she feels is the biggest misconception people have with the modeling industry: "Airbrushing—because I don't think people really realize how much airbrushing is involved. I swear, we don't look like that. It's just ridiculous." (aleximelvin.com) ■

renaissance woman



**alex melvin does
it all with style.**

By Emelina Minero

real life role models the l project

the U.K.'s
leading lesbian
musicians lend
their voices to it
gets better.

By Sheryl Kay

in a new effort to cast a greater light on the issue of bullying of gay youth, "It Gets Better," a Sapphic single hit the air waves in February, a product of the efforts of more than a dozen of the U.K.'s leading lesbian musicians.

Recorded at the Dean Street Studios in London, the catchy, upbeat melodic song brings together renowned artists Georgey & Emma (Greymatter), Sofia Antonia Milone (Geekgirl), Sandra MacBeth, Amber (HeadsHearts), Mel Sanson (Kenelis), Nina McCann, O'Hooley & Tidow, Lorna Thomas, Leanna Goring, Juey, Jess Gardham, Amy Sutton (Neon Choir), Nicky Mitchell, Ella Chambers and Scottish legend, Horse, all under the name The L Project. The women performed pro bono, and all proceeds generated from the sale of the single will go to Diversity Role Models and Stonewall, two groups that specifically address the issue of bullying in schools.

Writer, and co-organizer Georgey Payne notes that bullying is not just an American phenomenon, recalling the case of 15-year-old Dominic Crouch, who walked out of school during his lunch break and jumped off a six-story building to his death in England back in 2010. A year later, Dominic's father Roger Crouch, took his life as well.

"It's everywhere," she says. "This is the harsh reality of just how bullying messes up whole families' lives."

Payne says it's about time for the gay community to have a song of its own, one which raises money and awareness for the community and at the same time will help gay youth who feel alone. "If this song stops only one person from committing suicide upon hearing it, then that makes everything that everyone has ever done for this project worthwhile," Payne says. ([facebook.com/TheLProject](https://www.facebook.com/TheLProject)) ■

The L Project team: Helen Setchell (from left), Anita Notenboom, Nicky Mitchell, Emma Denmark, Heidi Gammon, Alice Billy Twits-Wolfe, Amy Sutton, Sofia Antonia Milone, Horse, Lorna Thomas, Juey, Sandra Macbeth, Georgey Payne, Amber Taylor-Groves, Emma Kavanagh and Nina McCann

