

The Actress ... Elisabeth Moss

A New Yorker since she was 19, Elisabeth Moss (now 26) is savvy and poised — not to mention blessed with the incredible ability to know a good role when she sees one. On *Mad Men*, she plays Peggy Olson, a secretary-turned-copywriter in the male-dominated (and smoke-filled) offices of 1960s Manhattan ad agency Sterling-Cooper. On stage, Moss is set to make her Broadway debut, starring as another secretary — Karen, a Hollywood ditz originally played 20 years ago by Madonna — in the revival production of David Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow*. Type-cast? She is not. But Moss is recreating history, one role at a time.

—Rachel Bowie



What do you love about New York?

I love walking around the city. I think New York is beautiful. There are so many different areas. I love the brownstones, I even love the graffiti. It's such an individual place.

You divide your time on both coasts since *Mad Men* shoots in Los Angeles. How do they compare?

I prefer New York. It's an incredible city. The thing about LA is that it's not as beautiful of a city. It's very boring architecturally and spread out. There are a zillion mini-malls and it's hard to get around and there's traffic. In New York, I love that I can just run out of my apartment and across the street to the deli and grab whatever I need. If I don't have anything to wear, I can go across the street to a store and buy something to wear. I can jump on a train and, in 20 minutes, be at one of the most incredible art museums in the world. You don't get that in LA.

What is your favorite only-in-New York moment?

I went to see Woody Allen play piano at the Carlyle Hotel and David

Mamet sat in. It was a very surreal experience — you can't get more New York than that. My friend was like, 'What, is Diane Keaton going to get up and start singing now?'

When do you feel most like a New Yorker?

When I'm walking around and taking the train. When you're on the subway, you are just like anyone else and you have to pay your \$2 toll and you're jammed up against a million other people and everyone's rushing. People get in your way and you get annoyed.

New York is constantly changing. Where do you see the city in five years?

A lot of people say that the city has changed. I believe that it has, but I think that New York will always retain its individual energy and will always be New York. The different kinds of people that you get here and the different things that you can do — it's like no other city in the world. I've had a love affair with it for many years.



Wine Bar



Central Park



Angus

Elisabeth's Picks

Neighborhood East Village. People have said that it has changed a lot, but it still maintains that downtown quality.

Hidden Gem Pinkyotto. They carry a ton of independent designers and it's very small. It's the type of place that you can go and find something great to wear that no one else will be wearing.

Pre-Theater Snack I love Angus. I know it's kind of tried and true, but I have a soft spot for it.

Best People-Watching Central Park. There are so many different kinds of people and so many different things to do. You can go and have a more active day or you can go and sit and read a book and not be bothered by anyone.

Night Out Wine Bar in the East Village. In the winter, it's nice and cozy inside and very comfortable and unassuming. In the summer, you can sit outside. It's not super chichi. It's great to go to with a friend if you just want to catch up for an hour or two.