

i-Didn't, i-Did, i-Don't, i-Do

"The recent interest in Edie has been terrific. I think she would have been delighted if she'd survived her youth. People will always romanticise her self-destruction; but for me it was all about the enchantment that glimmered and shone within her despite everything else — a testament to her power." BIBBE HANSEN

Bibbe Hansen

The baby of Warhol's protégées, Bibbe Hansen starred in her first Warhol film, *Prison*, at the tender age of 13.

Text: Karen Leong Photography: Billy Name



HER CO-STAR was the premier Warhol babe, Edie Sedgwick; they bonded over girly chatter about cake mascara, false eyelashes and the blackest of black eyeliners. Hansen also appeared in Warhol's first *Restaurant* film in 1965 and two other Warhol films (*10 Beautiful Girls* and *10 More Beautiful Girls*). The Factory's reputation as a drugs-fueled and 24-hour party place is refuted by Hansen. "So many people that cruised through and/or wrote about the Factory actually came from quite middle class backgrounds and were easily horrified, I think. So much worse was going on in the shooting galleries, crash pads, and thieves' dens that I was living and playing in at that time - the Factory was quite calm and tame by comparison." Hansen arrived at The Factory not as the angel that her blonde-haired blue-eyed looks often led people to believe; she had done all the growing up before The Factory beckoned. "I was 13 going on 43 when I first arrived at the Factory." If not for her hell-raiser antics, Hansen and Warhol's paths might never have crossed. On the Saturday after her release from juvenile jail, Hansen and her father went around visiting galleries. Hansen's father is the Norwegian/American Fluxus artist Al Hansen. After their final stop at the Castelli Gallery, father and daughter went to a nearby restaurant where Roy Lichtenstein, Ivan Karp, Andy Warhol, Chuck Wein, Gerard Malanga were seated around a large table at the back of the restaurant. "Roy bought my dad and I hamburgers. I was bored with the dull art chat. After a bit, I was aware of Andy studying me intently. 'And what do you do?' he asked curiously." Her Factory years hold many great memories for Hansen. And of Andy, she looks back fondly of the time they had dinner at Waverly Place restaurant, with him explaining a sex change operation and drawing accompanying diagrams on the napkins. "Fascinating," says Hansen, who watches medical shows to this day. Despite living her life fast and furious, Hansen lived to tell her tale. After leaving the Factory in early 1966, she was arrested and sent back to prison. Hansen then went on to have three children, Beck (pop musician), Channing (fine artist) and Rain (poet), moved to Los Angeles and is now back living in the city of her childhood: New York. These days, her time is spent on several sensible projects: a John Aes-Nihil movie, two novels, one autobiography, her art work, and best friend Vaginal Davis, and her work with the band Alice Bag And Johnny Stingray, an online digital gallery with her son Channing, and her father's art archive. Compared to the other Factory acolytes, Hansen came away relatively unscathed, imparted with beautiful memories and experiences that will never again be replicated. In ten years time Bibbe believes you will find her lounging on the veranda of the Andy Warhol Home For Aging Superstars with Holly Woodlawn and Mary Woronov playing canasta. May her irrepressible spirit live long and strong.

Bibbe (pictured right with Edie Sedgwick) was also in a girl band called The Whippets when she was a teen.