

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

BY KATE ROSENBLATT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN SCHUDE



DIONYSUS NEVER LOOKED THIS GOOD: The Liquid Muse at work.

SHAKE IT UP *Cocktail blogger and mixologist to the stars, Natalie Bovis-Nelsen calls the shots*

Move over Dale DeGroff, Natalie Bovis-Nelsen is the chic, young thing driving a cadre of bold-face names to drink. In between cooking up over-the-top signature cocktails for the likes of Rachel Ray and billionaire Calvin Ayre, this saucy scribe's star is rising and she's telling all.

The ebullient redhead started her blog, *The Liquid Muse*, in 2006 while living in DC. She translated her years as a struggling actress (a.k.a. waitress, hostess and bartender) and her passion for spirits into a career as a writer. In addition to her online fare, she pens for national pubs while concocting louche libations and teaching classes on all things shaken if not stirred.

Now on the West coast, Natalie has devised drinks for everyone

from the Playboy Bunnies to The Donald and was even tapped to write a non-alcoholic recipe for a post-rehab Lindsay Lohan. When she's coming up with her creations, Bovis-Nelsen doesn't check ID for age, but for personality. "I ask a lot of questions, I really want the drink to be a reflection of who they are, of their lifestyle and taste," she says.

Besides scripting recipes for savvy sippers, Bovis-Nelsen is working on a book for better bar orders. "People tend to load up vodka and sugar and put a cutesy name to it and we're supposed to be satisfied with that?" she asks. The effervescent Bovis-Nelsen prefers the bubbly herself—and these days her cup runneth over. ■

HOTS: Rasika bartender Gina Chersevani, the Celery Cup cocktail at Central, Todd Thrasher, Willard Hotel's Round Robin, champagne cocktails, the story of Domaine Carneros CEO Eileen Crane. **NOTS:** Pretentious bartenders, sweet and sour mix, colored vodka, over-plumped lips, cigarette smoke, bottled lime juice, spilling drinks onto other people's clothes, dessert drinks served any time other than dessert.