



The girls: Nancy & Anna

The date: August, 2002

The destination: Languedoc, France

Actually the third production trip of this year was supposed to take us to Denmark, to provide a little change of scenery. But the weather in middle and northern Europe once again just wouldn't be suitable for nude photos, and since we were already so well into summer, I just couldn't wait any more. Thus, the tried-and-true south of France had to come to our rescue again - after the two trips in 2001 and the last one with Nastassja and Manuela just four weeks ago,

already the fourth trip there. But at least we could again rely on the weather there this time, too.

So that we wouldn't lose any time, Nancy and Anna had to come to Kassel already on the previous day. Unlike the last trip with Nastassja and Manuela, this time we won't be going directly to Provence, but rather to the more western-situated Languedoc.

Monday, August 5th, 2002: Day of arrival

8:30 a.m.: Since we have a long way ahead of us, I've urged an early start. That was also necessary, as it turns out: after the first 100 kilometers we are already stuck in a traffic jam. It was not to be the last, either.

2:00 p.m.: Not until we reached France did it get better. Set the cruise control and let the diesel hum - that's how I like travel! In spite of this, the 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) stretch out tremen-

dously. I should have spread the journey over two days.

10:15 p.m.: It's been dark already for a while, as we finally reach our hotel, located in a little health resort area. Fortunately, there's still someone at the reception! It's cool and raining a little; hopefully tomorrow will be different. There isn't very much time left for sleeping, unfortunately.

Tuesday, August 6th: First day of work

6:30 a.m.: Today, Nancy begins, and as always, I've already sent her early to get made up. Heike, the make-up artist, is complaining of the bad light - well, of course, before sunrise there isn't much light outside and the lighting in the hotel room is somewhat dim.

8:00 a.m.: For the morning shoot, I've sought out a very beautiful ravine with white granite rocks and a brook. Unfortunately, the ravine is a well-known tourist attraction and runs in the direction north-south. The former means that during the day, this place is teeming with people;



Always and everywhere, ready for action: Heike's mobile makeup and hairdressing studio.



the latter, that the morning sun is concealed by the high mountains and at this time, the ravine lies in deep shadows. The light isn't exactly favorable and besides, it's rather cool. In spite of this, Nancy even plays a little in the water. But after just an hour, the first visitors already show up; this doesn't bother me, but Nancy all the more, and because she is constantly distracted



Careful: the job isn't without danger!

from now on, we soon call it a day. Back to the hotel, eat a quick breakfast, pack Heike and Anna in the car, and take off again.

11:00 a.m.: We'd like to quickly stop and buy something to eat for the day. In a supermarket parking lot, an incautious Frenchman puts a dent in my rental car. I'm pretty annoyed, because this means a huge fuss and it doesn't exactly speed up our day's schedule.

1:00 p.m.: In a little wine field, it's Anna's turn. Before we start, though, she must absolutely gobble up a few wine berries that are ripe for the picking. Unfortunately, the location doesn't yield very much. So, on to the next one.

2:00 p.m.: We drive once again to the ruin village which I'd already visited last year with Vanessa and Bianca. With no guests to disturb us, it's a very fruitful location, which should keep us busy well through the afternoon. Finally we make some good progress with our work!



Fright at midday:



...the freckle goes around!



Immediately viewable: digital technology is a wonderful thing!

5:00 p.m.: On the way back to the hotel, we stop off at a dilapidated house and a couple picturesque sandstone rocks. Sadly, there's a street in visual range that goes by both places. Naturally, the people risk a quick look in passing, and both Nancy as well as Anna prove to be extremely

sensitive in this respect, which time and again ensures interruptions.

8:00 p.m.: Since it's already late, we eat at the hotel. After having spent a good half hour decoding the French menu with the dictionary, the waiter proudly presents us with an English menu. Thanks a lot!

Wednesday, August 7th: **Second day of work**

7:00 a.m.: Today, it's Anna turn for the morning duty. While getting her hair done, she makes a terrible face because I asked Heike to roll curls. It doesn't especially suit her well, but still, that's no reason to spread such a mood. We brush the hair straight again.

8:00 a.m.: I drive once again to the ravine with the brook, where I already worked with Nancy yesterday. Anna bitches again: she's cold, she definitely will not go into the water, and already the first tourists are showing up. She poses stiffly and reluctantly, and after fifteen minutes and forty lousy photos, I give up, the morning is gone. The day sure begins well!

1:00 p.m.: After breakfast, much driving around and shopping, we finally reach the second location, some small church ruins. Now Nancy goes first; the light conditions are super, but unfortunately the nearby river attracts many tourists for swimming, who, in passing also look at the ruins. Nancy can't stand spectators and likewise refuses to work after ten minutes.



A find: a locust's hull.



3:00 p.m.: Now, only the fortress ruins, which already provided an excellent backdrop for Vanessa last year, can save me. We're also alone up here, but unfortunately in the meantime, the mistral has come up: the notorious north wind, which reliably brings nice weather, is however rather cool and sweeps with force around the high-situated fortress. Nancy is freezing, but

bravely sticks it out, just her hair keeps blowing in her face, which doesn't look so great in the photos. After a half hour, we also have to give up here.

Some good advice would really come in handy now. We're well into the day, three locations have failed us, the models are annoyed with all the driving around, and I've just accomplished only about 20% of the day's quota. Above all, Anna must absolutely have another turn! I still know of some pretty cloister ruins, but it's far and if we also truck all the way there now, the girls will beat me. So I decide to drive once again to the sandstone rocks from yesterday evening - they're located on the way to the hotel, after all, and should still yield something.

5:00 p.m.: Ten minutes before we arrive, Anna makes a scene: always just driving, driving, driving, she's absolutely had enough of it, it isn't normal, and at her last job in Italy, it was completely different. I have no desire to bicker with her, so I just keep my mouth shut. When she's finished with her scolding fit, we arrive: the light is great, it's nice and warm and not too windy. Only now Anna doesn't want to work anymore and I have a big problem: if I threaten her with a reduction in her pay, sneak on her at the agency or force her in some other way, she'll still stand in front of the camera, but she will make faces as if she were at the dentist the whole time. Nobody wants pictures like that, so I get over my anger, turn on the old charm and beg her in the nicest



Super for the kitchen: wild rosemary!



A souvenir photo is a must.



A monument in gratitude to the founder of the health resort.



Beloved souvenir from southern France: perfumed soap.

way. And as a matter of fact: Anna is still moody, but also easy to influence and doesn't manage to stay angry at me. She even lets her fantastic smile show, the evening is saved!

7:00 p.m.: We're back again and finally have some time to take a walk and enjoy the slightly faded charm of our health resort town, which must have once experienced grand times. Now the girls are suddenly in a good mood! Nancy would like to take a few souvenir photos; I lend her my spare camera and some film.



Faded luster of a grand time: the resort baths of Lamalou-les-Bains.

Thursday, August 8th: Day of departure

9:00 a.m.: Again stress on the highway. I planned the return trip especially for a Thursday, in order to escape the big onrush on the weekend, but it hasn't helped much. The return trip

stretches over a hefty 15 hours. Anna is very sweet today, I think she's feeling guilty about yesterday evening. That should have occurred to her sooner!