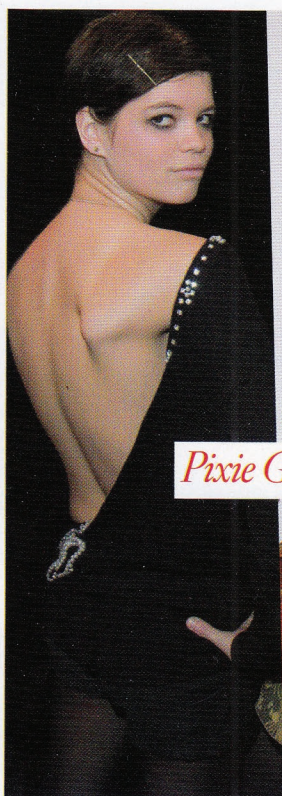




Coco Sumner, 17



Pixie Geldof, 17



Georgia Jagger, 15



Emma Watson, 17



Under-age dressing

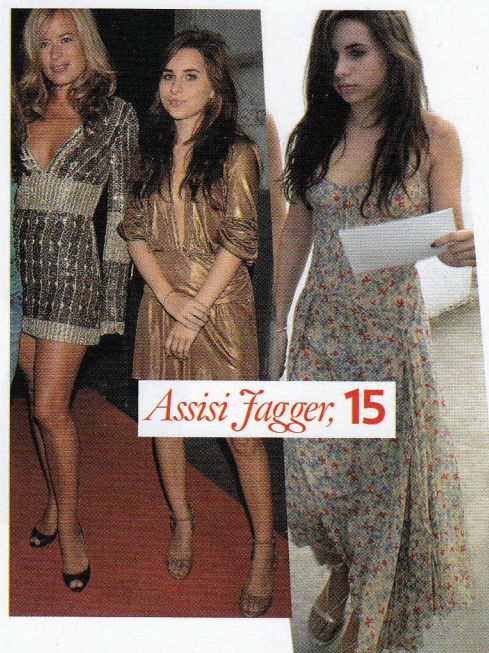
Teen stars are vying with adults in the fashion stakes, but is this, wonders Grace Timothy, a case of too much, too young?

Increasingly, young starlets are equipped with the latest ready-to-wear ensembles before they are old enough to wear them to Bungalow 8. While most teenage girls are busy customising their school uniforms, these ingénues have Karl Lagerfeld on speed dial. Are they lucky? Undoubtedly. But as ordinary children, watching *Spiderman* instead of Prada's spring/summer show, will tell you, with great power comes great responsibility. And some of these girls are falling rather short in that department.

Many fashion houses fête youth. Chanel and Marc Jacobs have jumped to dress stars like Dakota Fanning and Emma Watson. The problem is that these collections are designed for women, not girls, and so often jar with adolescent shapes and childlike manners. The junior luminary is often precariously

stuck on a sliding scale, with a clone of her mother at one end and a disturbingly sexual Lolita at the other. Plunging necklines and provocative slogans are as perilous a route as the mature and often difficult shapes worn by the middle-aged fashion set.

The most successful of the style-conscious minors, often seen on the front row with their superstar parents, don age-appropriate outfits with quirky and creative details, mercifully displaying a little less flesh than their more precocious counterparts. Their effortless dressing up, coupled with a grasp of fashion fads, hits the right balance between modesty and youthful flamboyance. And although the Fendi totes slung over their young wrists may be a little unsettling to some, at least they're roomy enough for a skipping rope and a Nancy Drew. ■



Assisi Jagger, 15