

INTERVIEWS

The Mind Behind a Taste of Streep

We talk to the woman behind the 'gram.

By CHARLOTTE GODDU

Art by SAMANTHA RAYE



It takes a special mind to come up with [Taste of Streep](https://www.instagram.com/tasteofstreep/) (<https://www.instagram.com/tasteofstreep/>), an Instagram account entirely devoted to pictures of Meryl Streep superimposed onto pictures of food. That mind belongs to Samantha Raye, who, when she isn't photoshopping pictures of Meryl Streep and food, is an acting student and freelance graphic designer. She talked to us about creating Taste of Streep.

How did you come up with the idea for Taste of Streep?

It started with the photo of her on the pink doughnut. I don't remember why I did it. I posted it on my Instagram and the response—even just from my friends—was overwhelming.



tasteofstreep • 14 months ago

✓ Following



❤ 3,138 likes 💬 1,377 comments

Instagram

What goes into one of your posts?

I search the Internet and find a picture of her where something about her outfit reminds me of food. Sometimes it's obvious to me: the stripes on her collar in one photo reminded me immediately of the stripes on a Samoa. When I saw this photo where her dress is sparkly and gold and has ridges, it was obvious it evoked churro. But there's no real equation on how I pick them; it's just a lot of Internet browsing.



tasteofstreep • 13 months ago

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♥ 9,884 likes 💬 2,001 comments

Instagram

For instance, I found a picture of her from a couple of years ago where she's wearing a pink dress. It has a darker pink print on it, and it really resembles the marbling on a steak. So I found a picture of a raw New York strip steak, went in and altered some of the colors on her dress, cut her out, cut out the steak, and then layered them on top of each other and tried to blend them so that it looked seamless. That's the goal. It's lot of erasing—I'm actually surprised that no one comments on how shoddy my photoshopping is because I don't really know what I'm doing.



tasteofstreep • 13 months ago

✓ Following



♥ 6,843 likes 💬 1,393 comments

Instagram

Did you expect people to like the pictures as much as they did?

No, not at all. I mostly thought that it was just going to be for my friends' enjoyment. It's kind of crazy that it's exploded as much as it has. It's still kind of surreal, especially because it's such an odd concept.

Someone asked me if there's a specific audience that I noticed follows me or if the type of person that follows the account. And really, the audience is so broad, which is very surprising to me. It's not just the acting community; it's not just artsy folk. It's everyone.

I've gotten a lot of messages asking if I'm on drugs. A lot. But a lot of commenters say that the photos made their day, or that this is what the Internet is for, or that it's the weirdest Instagram account they've ever seen. I

like when people say “I don’t know why I like this but I can’t stop looking at it.”

If you could tell Meryl herself anything about Taste of Streep, what would it be?

I would tell her that I think she is an incredible artist, and I appreciate that she knows who she is and is true to herself. And that she doesn’t take herself too seriously. In the interviews that I’ve seen with her, she loves to joke around. She’s a three-time Oscar winner; you’d think someone that successful or highly regarded would be pretentious, but she seems very carefree and very fun. I would tell her I appreciate that, and I hope that she enjoys the account.

ART, FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY, MERYL STREEP
