


 Sarah Jane Walsh and Megan Rizzo in their New Farm store



# time warp

**LAUREN BURVILL** DISCOVERS THE EVER-EXPANDING WORLD OF ALMOST FAMOUS, WHERE STEPPING BACK IN TIME IS AS EASY AS A SHOPPING TRIP.

IF THE LATEST range of techno phones with fancy touchscreens, voice activation and internet access don't tickle your fancy, then perhaps you might be interested in a phone that looks like a hamburger. Or maybe you'd prefer to talk to your loved ones through a set of giant lips? Perhaps a high-heel phone is more your style? While they may be phones made for the home only, if your house looks anything like the kitsch and colourful Almost Famous stores, you probably won't ever want to leave anyway.

Run by vintage-loving sisters Sarah Jane Walsh and Megan Rizzo, Almost Famous is home to an eclectic range of items, from vintage clothes, art deco furniture, retro bags, toys and, of course, cute-as-can-be phones.

Almost Famous stocks anything and everything from days gone by when men wore safari suits, women donned Jackie

O sunglasses and flower power was at its groovy best. Megan, 35, lists her favorite era as the brash and bold '80s. "I love anything sparkly from the '80s," she says. "But my sister definitely is in the '70s – we think she was born in the wrong era."

The sisters' passion for quirky recycling was sparked when playing dress-ups as children and later on in life when Sarah Jane, 31, worked as an assistant director in film and television, and Megan as a photographer and artist. With Sarah Jane's knowledge of what set designers were looking for and Megan's artistic flair, the two combined their skills as Brisbane's youngest antique dealers.

"When we first started we were sort of looked down upon by other dealers – like we didn't have an idea of what we were doing because we were young," says Megan. "It's definitely an older generation

game, but I think we've begun to get a little more credit as antique dealers."

After a year of supplying Paddington shoppers with a dizzying array of collectables, Almost Famous is about to become a lot more famous thanks to the launch of their second store at the New Farm Antique Centre. Both stores feature walls painted in their label's signature retro green. The expansion has seen Almost Famous in Paddington become the go-to store for dress-ups while the New Farm store caters to the more serious antique collector.



**ALMOST FAMOUS**  
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