

# Art Department



Donald Simrock

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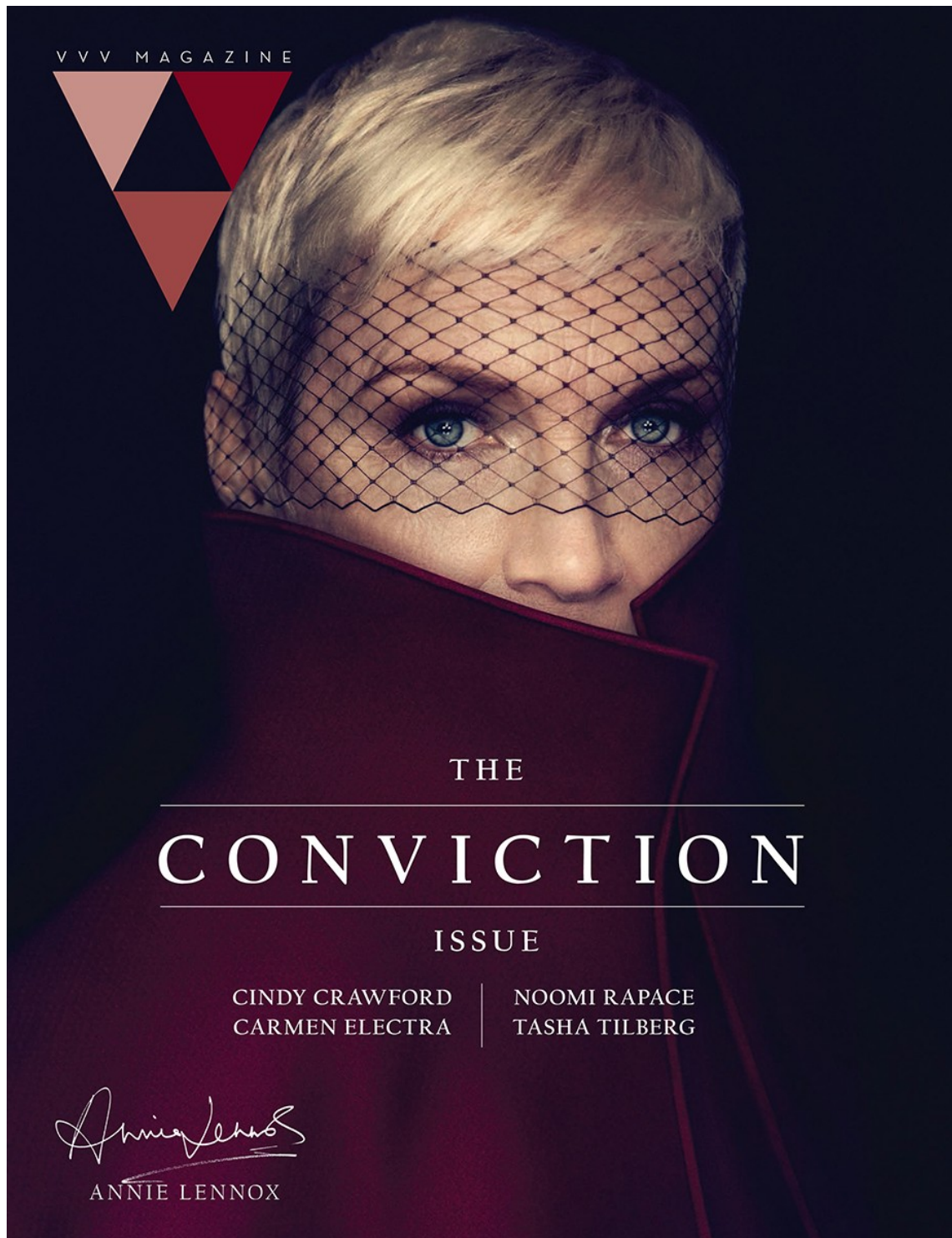


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## YOUNG ARTIST THE KIMBRA INTERVIEW

PHOTO & WORDS  
ANDREW MACPHERSON

Kimbra achieved worldwide recognition after winning a Grammy for Record of the Year and Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, for her collaboration with Gotye on “Somebody That I Used to Know”. She is poised to take on the music and fashion world with her eclectic style and sultry sounds. Here Kimbra sits down for an exclusive interview with famed photographer Andrew Macpherson.

**Congratulations on the amazing show at The Bowery Ballroom, it was great seeing you take New York by storm. I'd love to start our interview by asking why you titled the album *The Golden Echo*.**

The words Golden Echo came to me in a dream. It's a flower named after the Greek mythological figure Narcissus, who fell so deeply in love with his reflection in a pond that he couldn't tear himself away from it. He died on the water's edge still gazing at himself, and the legend says that's where the Golden Echo first grew. Narcissus' tale has a powerful resonance today because we're surrounded by the social media imaging of ourselves everywhere. The Golden Echo is secret calling, a warning even, to turn away from our new found narcissism, and really be in the world.

**Great insight and idea. Let's talk about the album, what was your favorite part about making it?**

I love the process of production, bringing all the sounds together to create the identities of each song. Rich Costey co-produced with me, and really helped me nail the intention of each musical

moment. It was like they were scenes in a film with each part of the songs being a character, so hearing them all come together was like tapestries of characters being revealed.

**The album is jam-packed with references and with echoes of things that have gone before. Was that echo an intentional part of its construction?**

I set out with the intention of innovation, to create something entirely new, but in doing that you constantly reference things you love. There's echoes of the intensity of the rhythms and syncopation of the '80s and the R&B resurgence of the '90s, but not with the intention to replicate them, more to find a new way to recycle them into something fresh and innovative.

**So the idea an echo has many levels?**

Yes, after I titled the album, I realized all the different ways it was a thread running through it.

**What made you want to be a musician?**

It's been a calling since I was a little kid. Creating music has always been natural, almost like a second language I've instinctively been able to

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SHEER EVENING GOWN WITH BLACK LASER CUT DETAILS ON NECK AND HIPS  
WHITE/BROWN/BLACK FUR JACKET WITH LEATHER AT TOP AND DARK METALLIC STUDS

FALGUNI & SHANE PEACOCK

ENOLESS ROSE

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THE YEAR THAT WAS • ENTERTAINERS OF THE YEAR

No. 8

**Adam Lambert**  
{IDOL'S GLAM GOD}

A full-page photograph of Adam Lambert in a black leather jacket and pants, riding a motorcycle. He is leaning back, holding the handlebars with one hand, and looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The motorcycle's headlight and mirrors are visible in the foreground.

"Before I auditioned for *American Idol*," says Adam Lambert, "I had just left the cast of *Wicked* in L.A. I was burned-out, and I was bored." Oh, how quickly life can change. With his unbridled rock-god voice, Elvis-like swagger, and preternatural ability to choose the right song (okay, save for "Play That Funky Music"), the 27-year-old jolted *Idol* to vibrant life just when the TV juggernaut was beginning to ossify with cynicism. His unabashed sexuality, meanwhile, ignited endless Twitter-pation over whether he was gay—and then, when he came out after the show's run, whether he was too gay, or not gay enough. "If no one had been talking about [my sexuality]," he says now, "I probably would have kept it private, to be honest." As his infamous performance on the American Music Awards proved, however, Lambert simply can't keep people from talking about him, which is pretty much the definition of a rock star. And probably why his post-*Idol* album, *For Your Entertainment*, debuted several notches higher than the album of this season's *Idol* champ, Kris Allen. "This is what I asked for," Lambert says, "and I'm not complaining." Neither are we.

—Adam B. Vary

Entertainment Weekly 57

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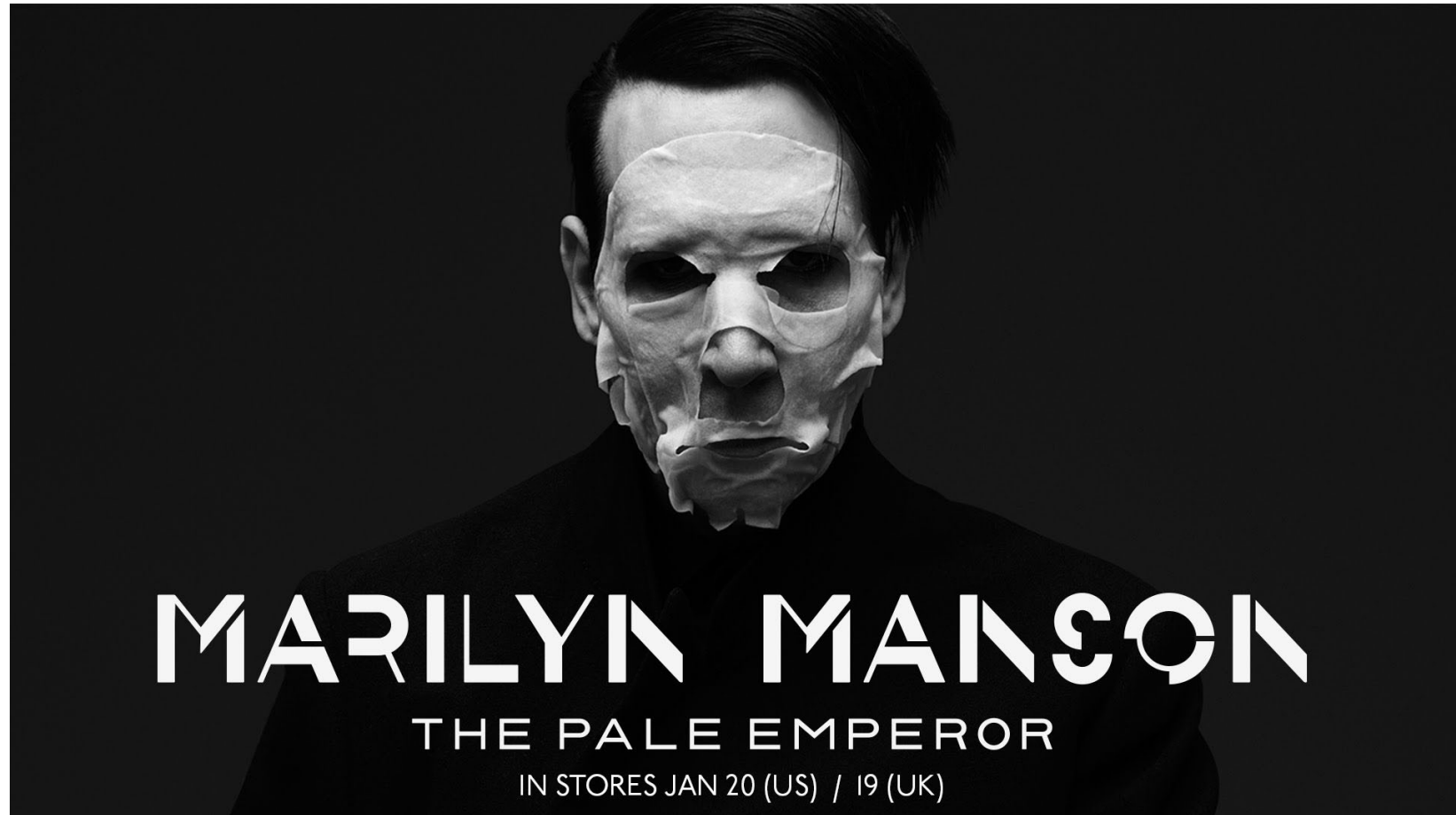


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