

Art Department



ANSEL TAKES FLIGHT

ANSEL ELGORT, *The Fault in Our Stars*' leading man, is so busy he can barely keep his feet on the ground. Photographer ARTHUR ELGORT captures his son's rise

WRITTEN BY LINDSAY SEBERMAN STYLED BY ANNE CHRISTENSEN

...nsel Elgort has just scarfed down a foot-long sausage, and now he's fidgeting mercilessly. He strains the spokes of a plastic fork, then pushes it aside and begins thump-thump-thumping a beat with his hands on a distressed wooden picnic table. We're at an airy beer garden in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, a place Elgort frequents—for the sausage, not the beer (he's 20). He recently returned from Austin, Texas, where he spent about two months filming a star-studded comedy, and soon he'll begin the onslaught of press for *The Fault in Our Stars*, a heart-wrenching drama based on John Green's best-selling YA novel. In the meantime, he's copying a month-long break, although in Ansel's world, the word "break" does not exist, and apparently, there is no such thing as sitting still. Aside from his burgeoning acting career, Elgort also produces music (under the DJ alias Anselm), paints typically miniature toys, rock climbs (at an indoor climbing gym in Brooklyn) and has a new-found addiction to video games.

Elgort is a self-proclaimed overachiever. "It's just in my blood," says the Manhattan native. "My parents used to tell me I could do whatever I wanted as long as it was productive. They weren't strict but they also did not want [my siblings and me] wasting our time. I play piano, I sing, I dance... I just don't know how anyone could sit around and do nothing."

Elgort's affinity for the arts isn't all that surprising—his father is famed fashion photographer Arthur Elgort and his mother, Grethe Barrett Holly, is an opera director. As a child, he honed his skills by going to work with his parents, performing in his mother's operas and posing for his father's photo shoots. Eventually, the hard work paid off. He made his film debut in last year's reboot of *Carrie* and starred in the sci-fi blockbuster *Divergent*. But the young actor's crowning moment is his deeply emotional portrayal of a charismatic 17-year-old cancer survivor in *The Fault in Our Stars*. "It was definitely my greatest challenge as an actor, but also the thing I am most proud of," says Elgort, who first discovered his love of performing at 13.

Despite his apparently restless nature, Elgort finds that the most appealing part of acting is "the idea of stillness." He continues, "You can be in front of all these people and there is so much power in stillness. When you're doing a scene and it's quiet, just talking can be powerful and chilling. That's probably what got to me most."

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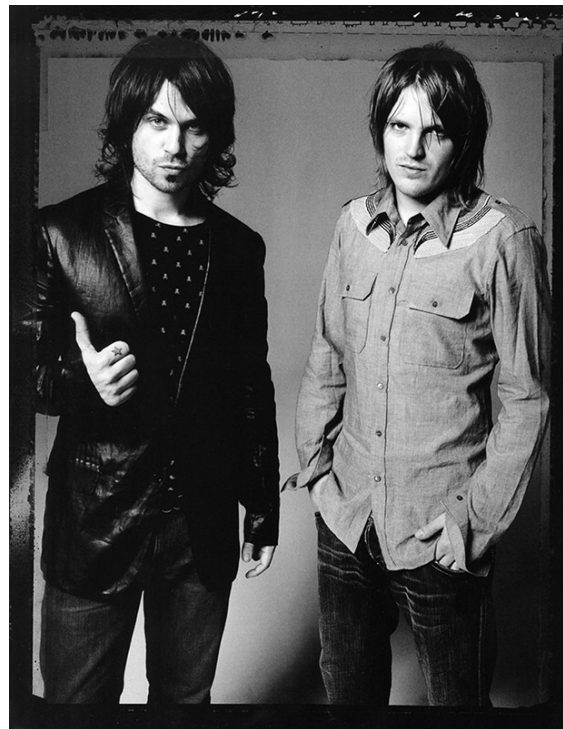
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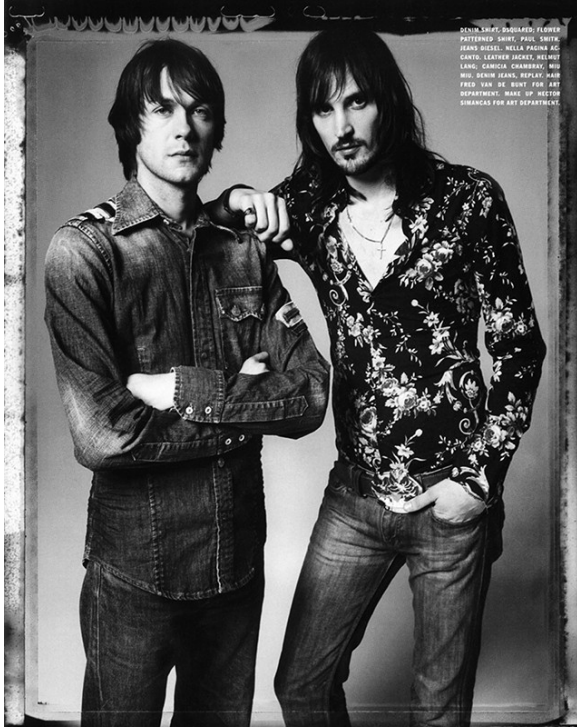
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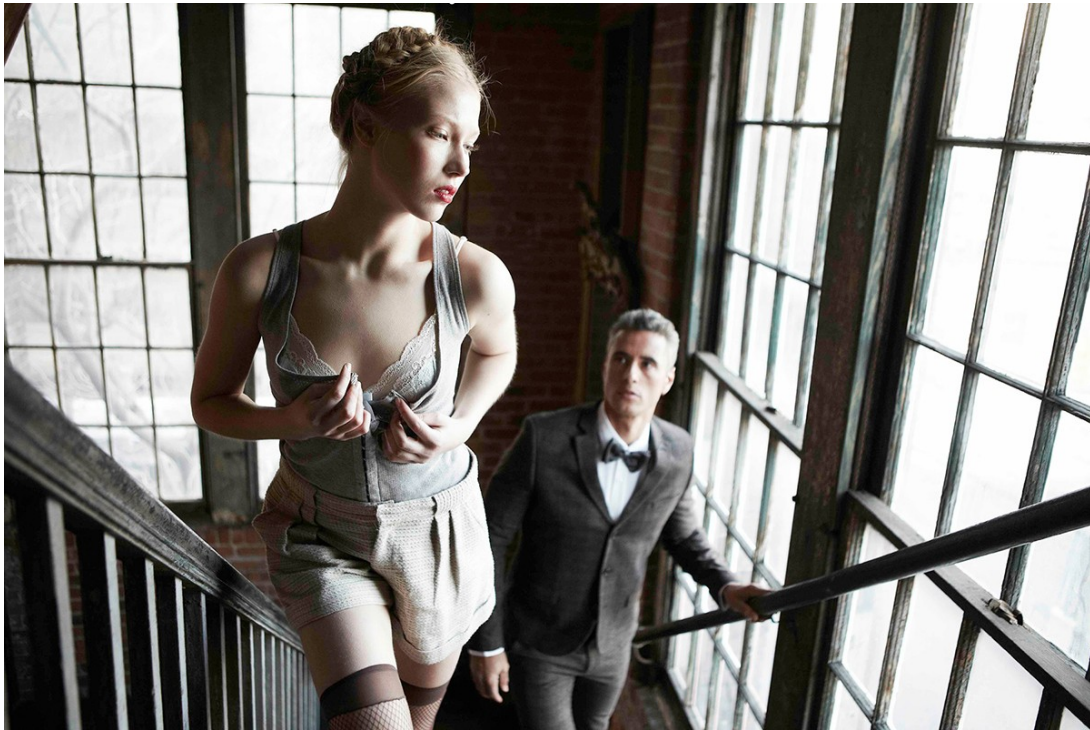
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VMA NEWS

SISLEY BOY
ARTIST DAN COLEN DONS HIS RECENT JACKET FOR EDDY INTERNATIONAL FASHION BRAND SISLEY

"You never can tell on a day like this," says Vance, the existential nihilist motorcycle gang leader in cult classic indie film *The Loveless*. "Things could be good" take one minute then— presto—before you know it, you're history." The quote, referring to the fateful die of the murderous, high-octane bikers, might also describe the fate of many young artists: not one second, gone the next. Dan Colen, however, might be different. A gritty, guttural voice in the art world for nearly a decade, Colen recently sold out his solo show, "Theory," at the globally renowned Gagosian Gallery, firmly establishing the 31-year-old as one of the generation's biggest success stories. And Colen's work extends beyond the gallery space, with high-profile collaborations like his recent commission for edgy Italian luxury brand Diesel, for whom he customized a motorcycle jacket to be included in its Andy Warhol Museum exhibition.

"Let his exciting place in the fashion world," says the oft-provocative Colen. "That said," he continues, "I'm glad they intersect as frequently as they do." Despite his cheeky sarcasm, Colen's take on the iconic leather jacket is pitch-perfect. As for his inspiration? "Kenneth Anger's *Scorpio Rising*," he says, referring to the transgressive experimental film from 1964 that shocked the mainstream with its portrayal of the fetishistic rebel culture of the leather jacket, without which there would be no *Loveless*. Let alone people like David Lynch. "I basically just copied him." Self-deprecation isn't unusual when Colen finally begins to collect on hard-earned success, but that too shall pass, as Colen's clearly going nowhere but up. **DALLAS WINSTON**

DAN COLEN IN NEW YORK CITY, OCTOBER 2012
 PHOTOGRAPHY TERRY RICHARDSON
 STYLING YUKI JAMES
 JACKET DAN COLEN FOR THE SISLEY ART PROJECT,
 TO BENEFIT THE ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM
 ALL OTHER CLOTHING COLEN'S OWN

VMA 33

TAKERU KOBAYASHI

THE WORLD-FAMOUS COMPETITIVE EATER EMBRACES THE ART OF WAR

Kobayashi is an utterly ordinary-looking 26-year-old Japanese speed-eater who has become a modern-day Steve McQueen, the famous long-distance runner and popularizer of that sport, who once credited his incredible records not to his being faster than his competitors, but to his capacity to endure more pain. "I'm the smallest of all the competitors, and that puts me at a severe disadvantage," says Kobayashi. "But I know my pain threshold exceeds my disability of being smaller."

Regardless of the competition, Kobayashi prepares by drinking water, typically working toward the ability to drink 3 gallons in one sitting. "It has nothing to do with eating food," Kobayashi continues. "This is sport. This is a competition. I train. I train with water. Only during the competition do I actually eat food to be eaten."

"I'm not thinking much," the speed-eater asked what goes through his mind while he's forcing food into his mouth. "This is before the field is front of me. I don't think beyond the next few minutes. But it's just really a matter of the food. It's more a war against fatigue, because what our eyes tell us can't be done. Kobayashi isn't a paragon of public sin. But as a professional ambassador of the impossible, he's got to be a little bit of a hero." **VICTOR ARWELL**

TAKERU KOBAYASHI IN NEW YORK CITY, SEPTEMBER 2012
 PHOTOGRAPHY TERRY RICHARDSON
 STYLING YUKI JAMES
 HAIR ANDRÉS BRESS
 I SHIRT CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION S/S 2011
 JEANS DIESEL S/O
 BRACELETS AND RINGS CES ROYCE; CHROME HEARTS RING (LEFT); DAVID YURMAN

VMA 36

IS IT TIME TO START LYING ABOUT YOUR AGE?

DETAILS

EXCLUSIVE:
 Don't Smoke That Joint: The New Kier Buzz

MATT DAMON
 JUST ANOTHER AVERAGE WHITE GUY

Dating the Perfect Woman (So What if She Used to Be a Man?)
 Why Michael J. Fox Is Making Us Sick
 The Details Fertility Test: We Gave at the Office

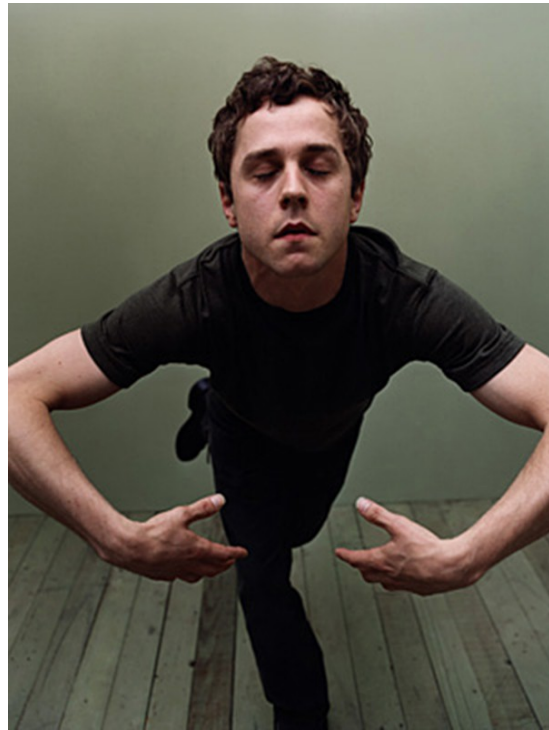
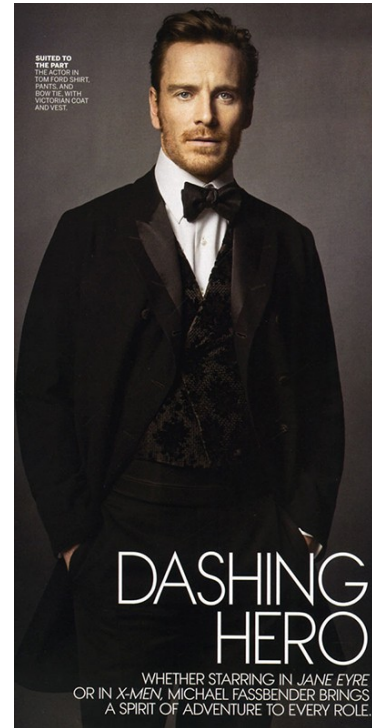
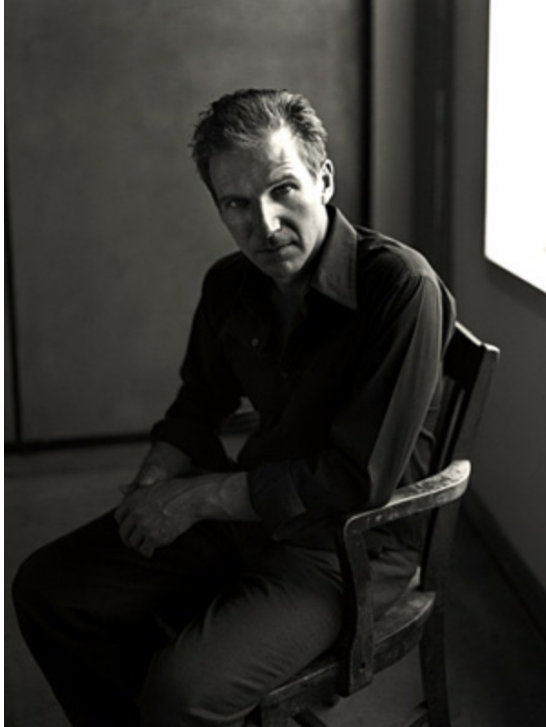
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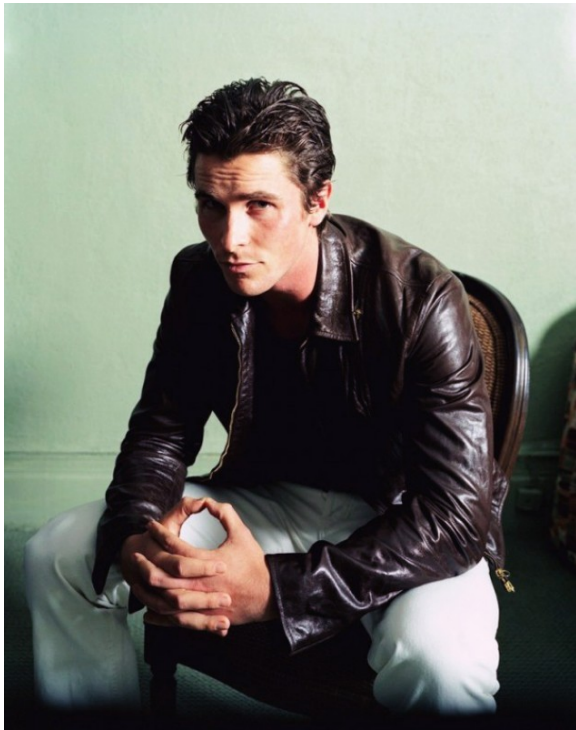
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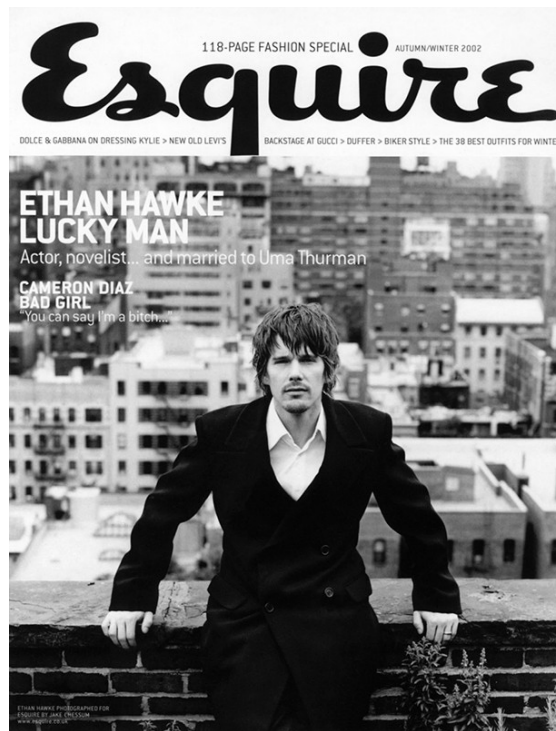
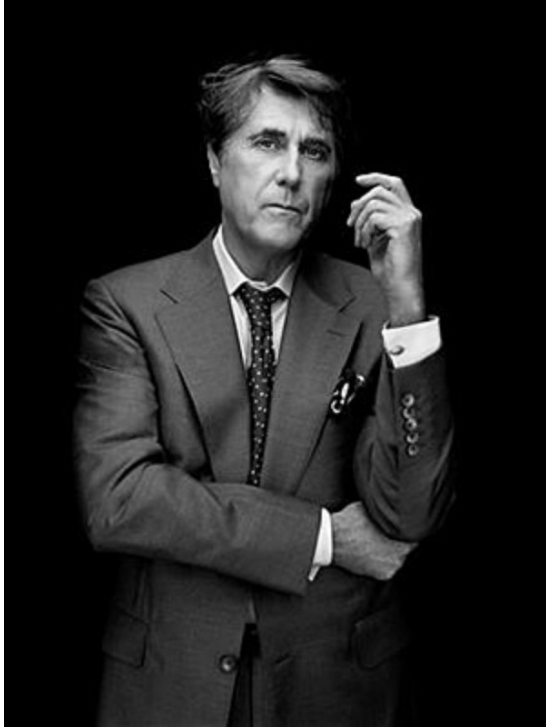
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