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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 SILBERMAN STYLED BY ANNE CHRISTENSEN

musel Elgart has just sparked down a foot-long sausage, and now she's fidgeting nervously. He strums the spokes of a plastic fork, then pushes it aside and begins thump-thumping a beard with his hands on a distressed wooden picnic table.

We're at an airy beer garden in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, a place Elgart frequents—for the sausages, not the beer (he's 29). He recently returned from Austin, Texas, where he spent about two months filming a stand-still comedy, and soon he'll begin the onslaught of press for *The Fund for Our Future*, a heart-wrenching documentary about Green's best-selling YA novel, *In the Skin of a Lion*.

It's a long break, although in Anet's world, the word "break" doesn't exist, and, apparently, there is no such thing as sitting still. As much as his burgeoning acting career, Elgart also produces music (under the DJ alias Animo), paints (typically miniature toys), rock climbs (at an indoor climbing gym in Brooklyn) and has a new and famous fondation to video games.

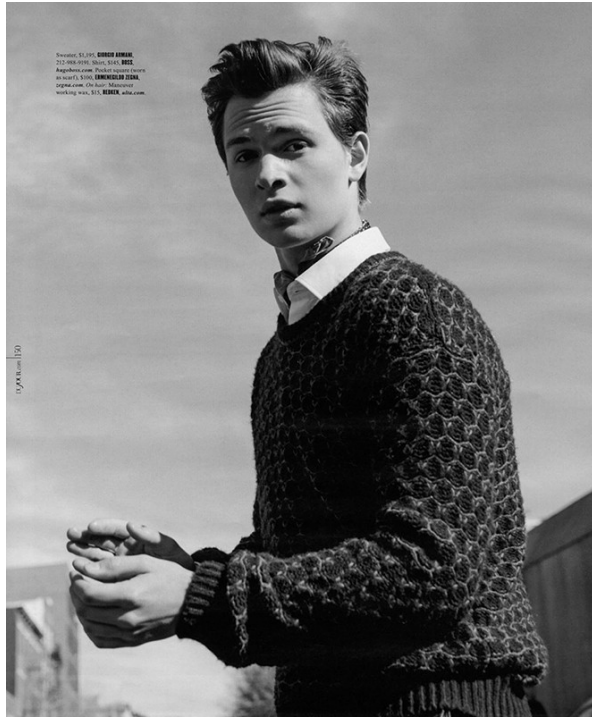
Elgart is a self-proclaimed overachiever. "It's just in my blood," says the Manhattan native. "My parents used to tell me I could do whatever I wanted as long as it was productive. They weren't strict but they also did not want [my siblings and me] wasting our time. I play piano, I sing, I dance... I 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 Holby, 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 perpetually restless nature, Elgart 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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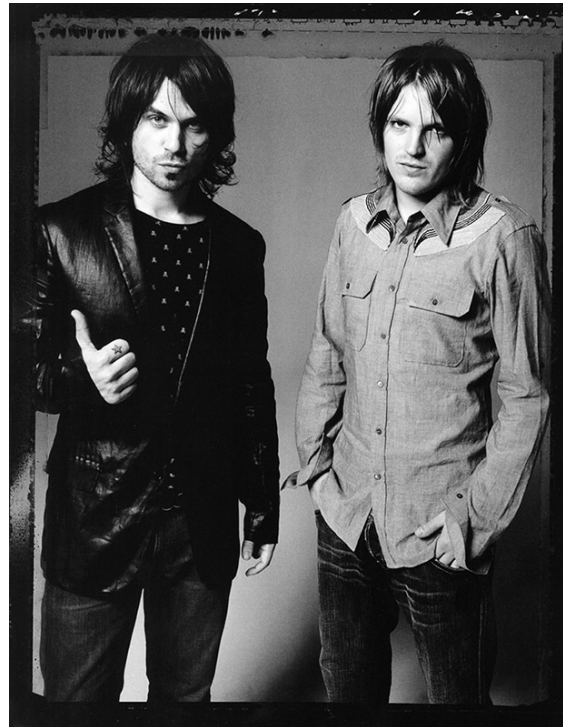
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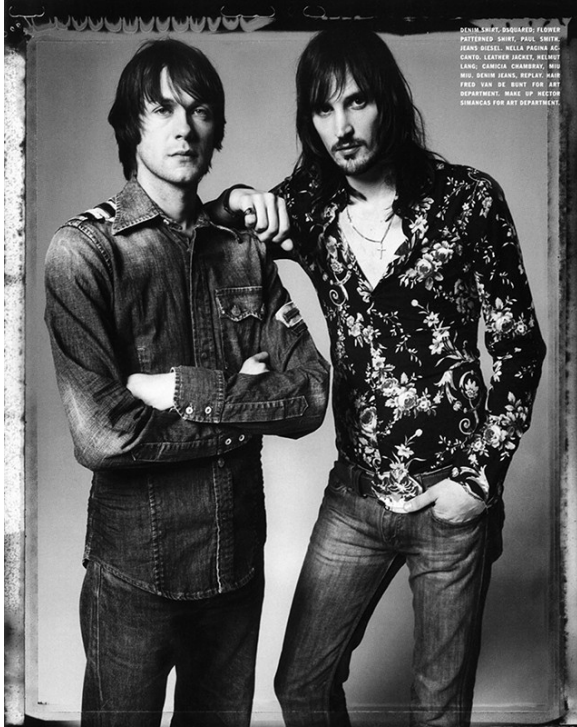
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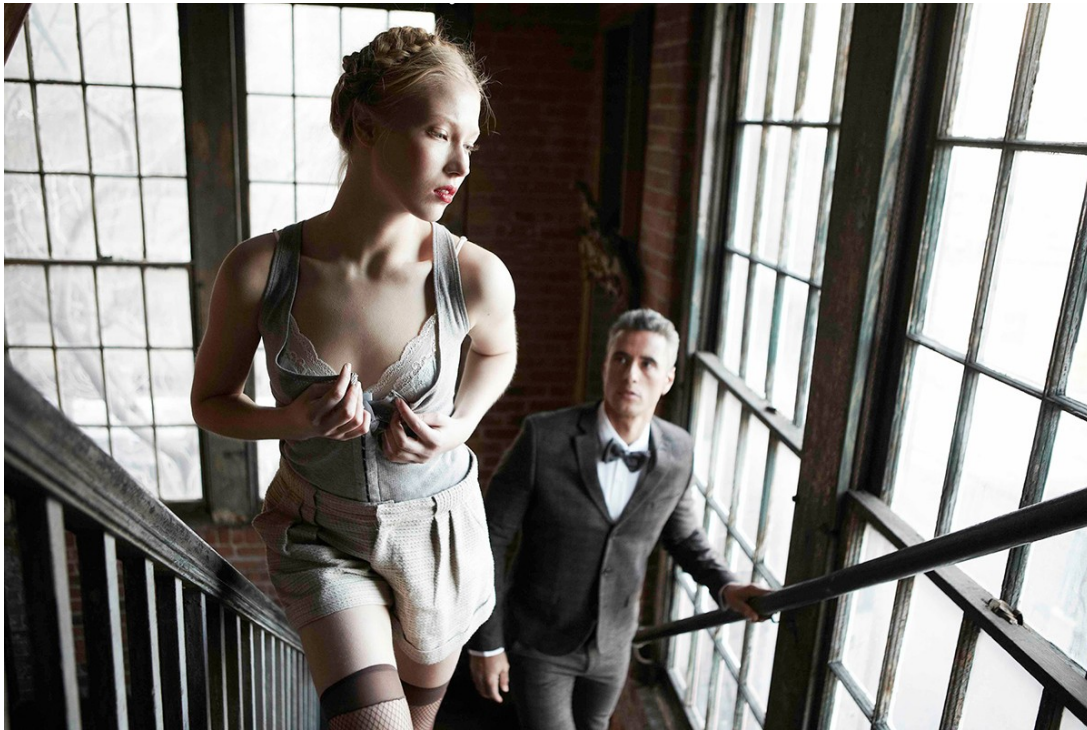
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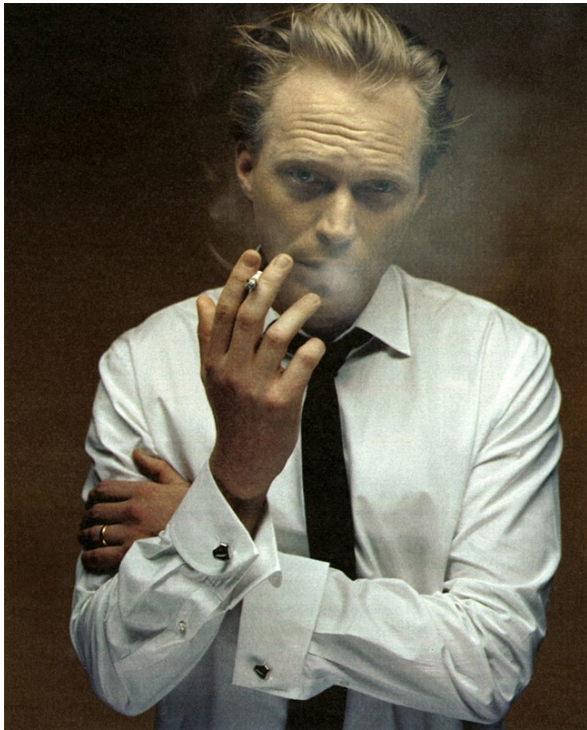
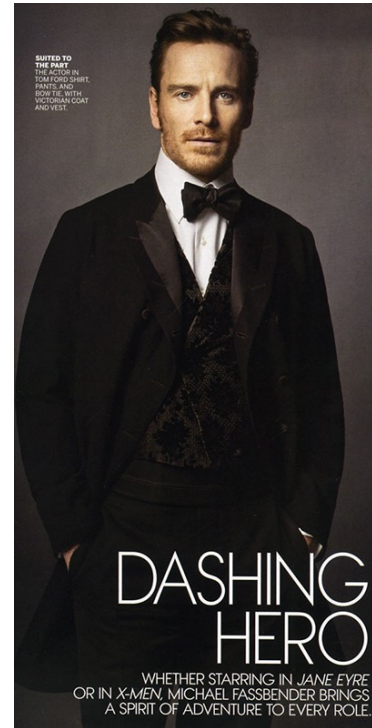
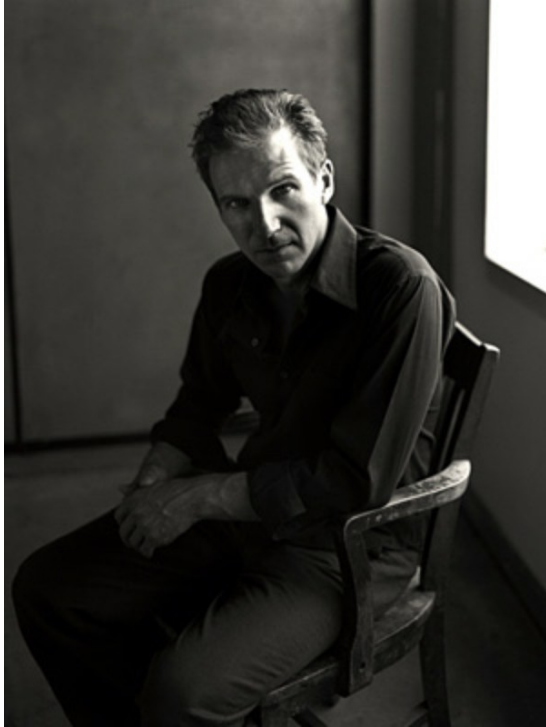
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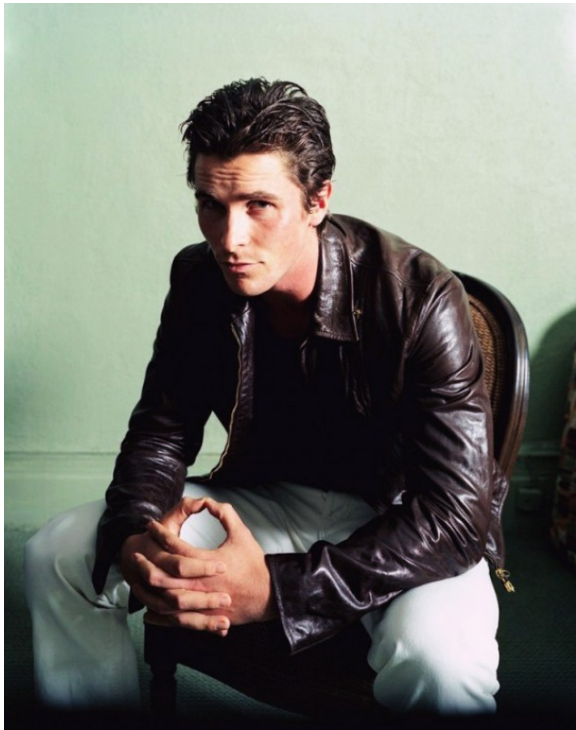
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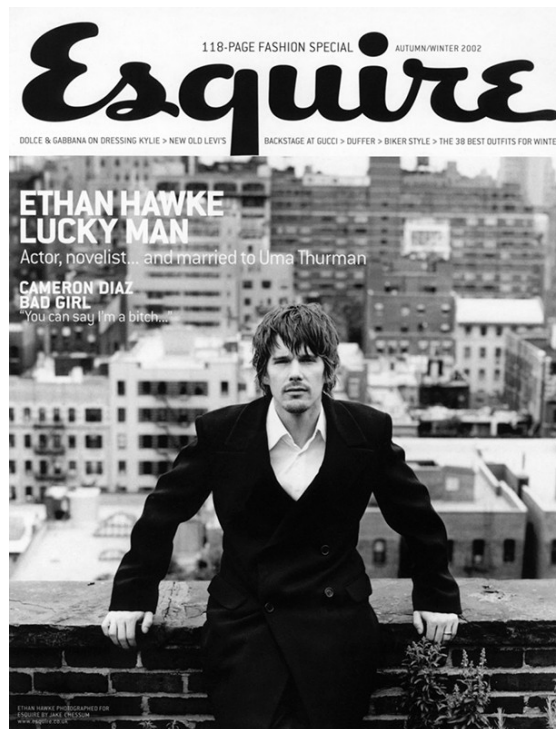
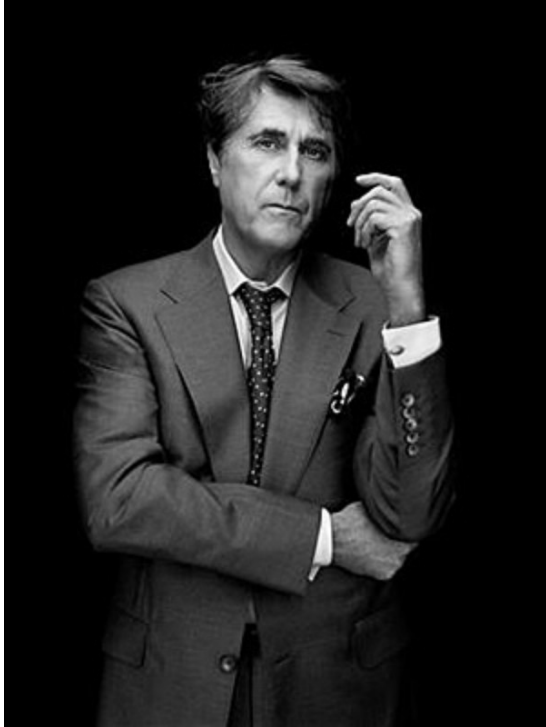
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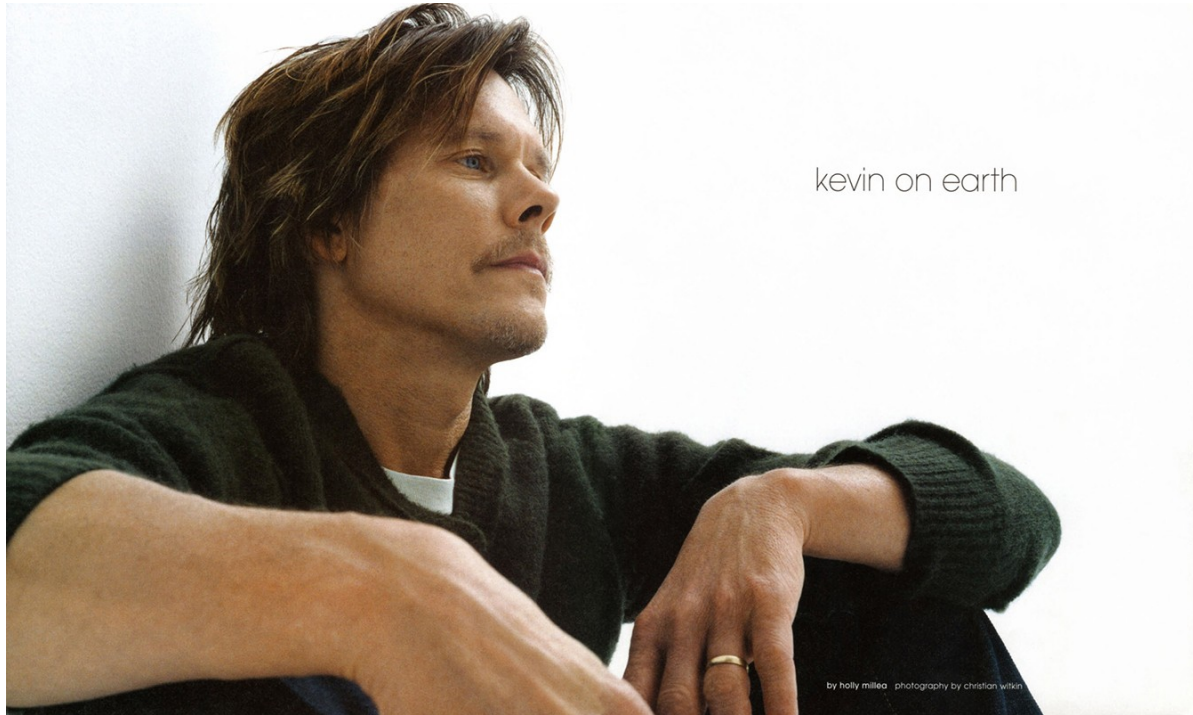
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