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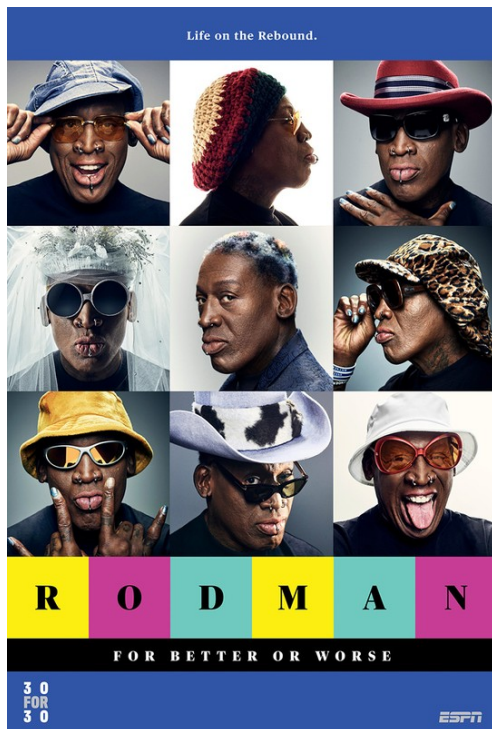
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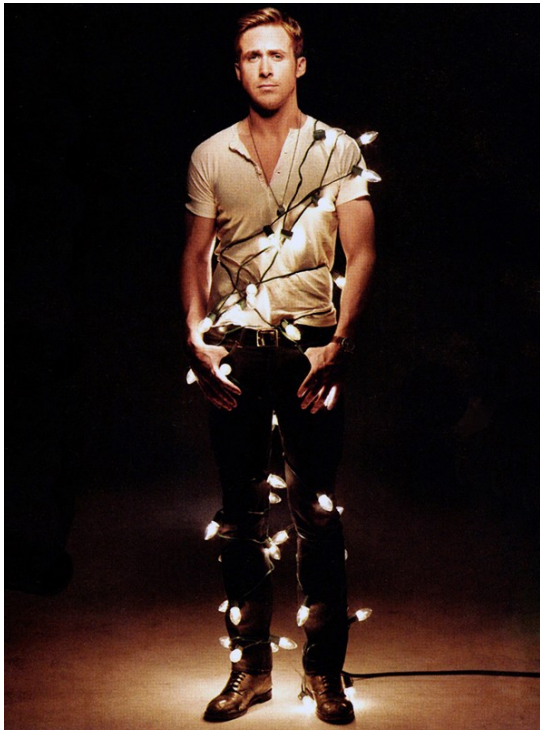
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NOT AN ACTION FIGURE

This year, Ryan Gosling and a band of similarly arty, polymathic weirdos are leading a revolt against the plastic leading man. **By Logan Hill**

THE MOLOTOV COCKTAIL—a Stolli bottle filled with flammable strawberry liqueur—was his idea. He wanted it to look legit, so he studied James Nachtwey's documentary photos of rioters in Gaza to get the position of his hand on the bottle just right. The original plan was to toss it at a blown-up photo of himself, but the necessary printer wasn't available. Also, there was the possibility of burning the building down. So he found a target at the end of the Culver City alleyway behind the photographer's studio, practicing for a while with empty bottles. Then, as the camera clicked away, Ryan Gosling lit up and hunked, laughing dementedly at the subsequent explosion, before blowing it all out with a fire extinguisher. (Reverberate for your pleasure on the next page.)

Playing the ukulele was Gosling's idea, too.

Like a lot of men in their twenties and thirties (and he's just 30), Gosling is meandering toward adulthood. He has a boyish enthusiasm for risk and danger, and some of his affectations can border on precious. But his charm is too inescapable for us to care. (How else to explain that, even when the Canadian admits to faking his gravelly Brooklyn accent, you like him all the more.) "Ryan is kind and adorable," says actress Kirsten Dunst, "yet also really dark and weird and manipulative. Everything you'd want in an actor."

But is a leading man? Dark and weird have not, historically, been Hollywood's go-to qualities for its top stars. Yet thanks to a new crop of brainy, complicated, and highly autonomous actors—James Franco (*Weekend Update*), Jesse Eisenberg (*The Social Network*), and Joseph Gordon-Levitt (*500 Days of Summer*, *Inception*) in America; Tom Hardy (*Warrior*, *Inception*) and Michael Fassbender (*Gladiator*, *Fish Men*) in Europe—a new prototype is seeping into the mainstream. "Some of us are tired of all the sissies

Photographs by Art Streiber



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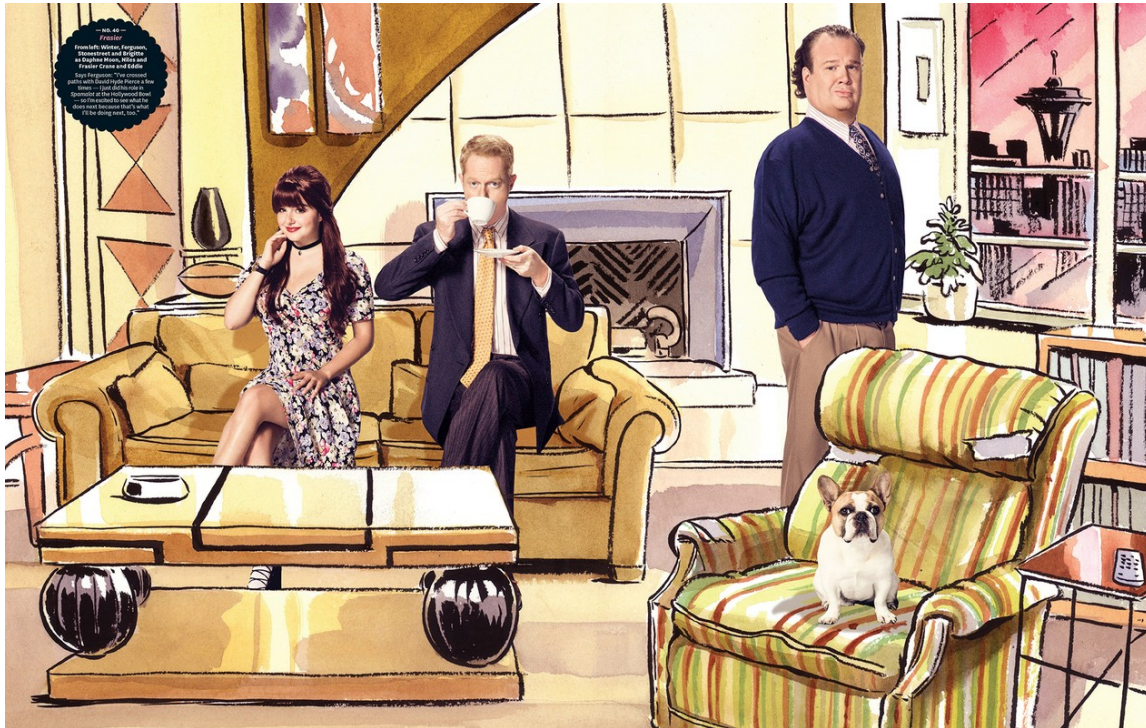
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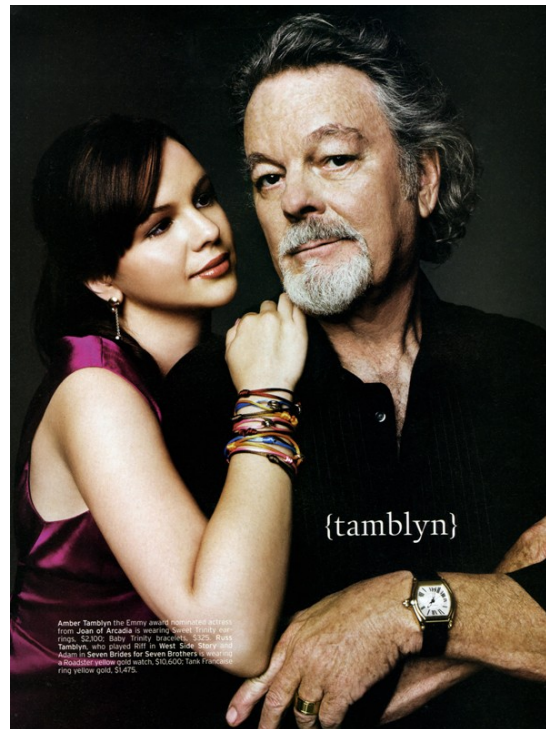
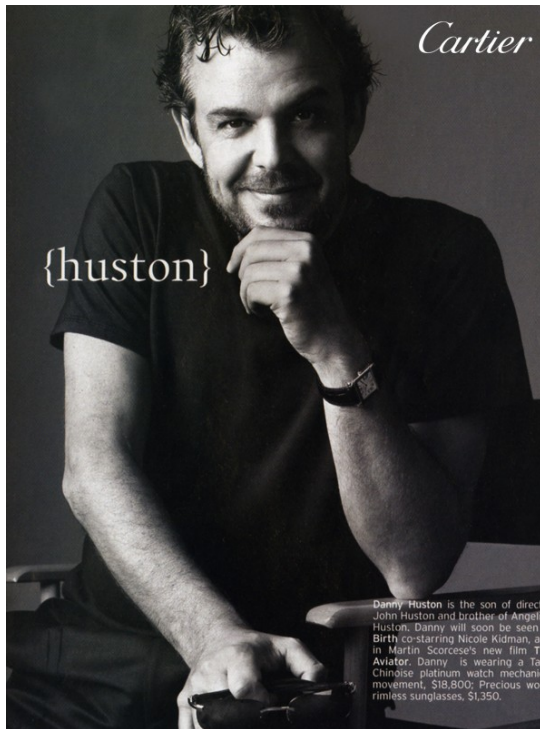
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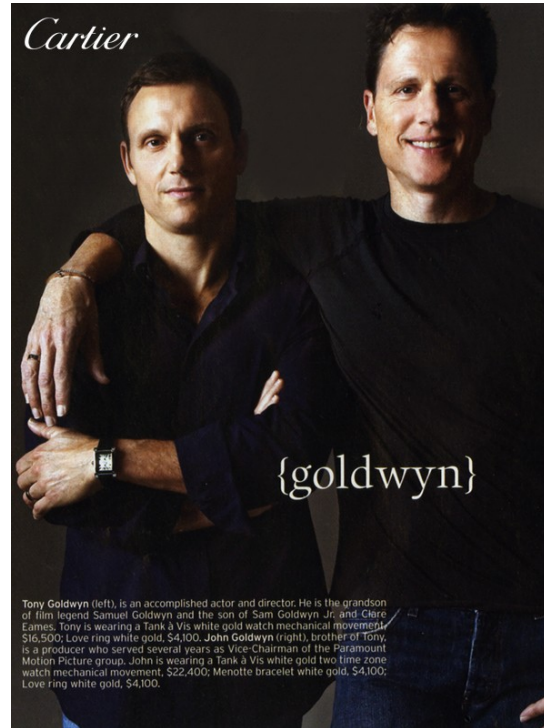
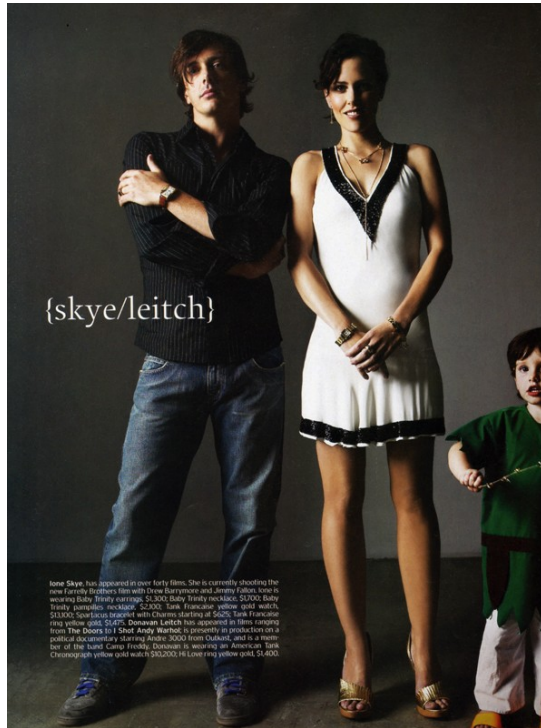
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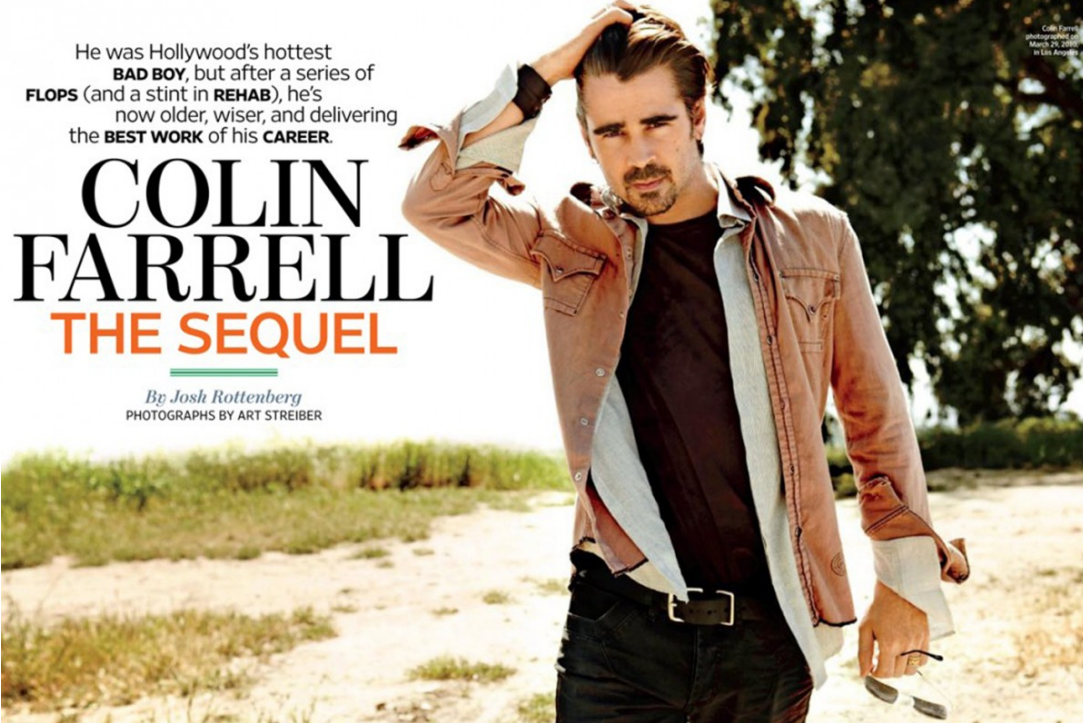
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He was Hollywood's hottest **BAD BOY**, but after a series of **FLOPS** (and a stint in **REHAB**), he's now older, wiser, and delivering the **BEST WORK** of his **CAREER**.

COLIN FARRELL

THE SEQUEL

By Josh Rottenberg
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ART STREIBER



Colin Farrell
photographed
March 21, 2012
in Los Angeles



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AND RECREATION
C in April 2009, it difference (do we ice-style mocku-atching (an entire it into a park?). ing the comedy and nts in season 2 ler: hello, Rob Lowe e—which follows nope and other the Indiana burg of ties and viewers er yet sweetly then NBC left the le. While fans were z may have proved When *Parks* nabbed the 30 p.m. slot s frustrat- i shows

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e. We'll eye-gouge,
kill us dead!" It's
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e 101 other things.



REASONS WE LOVE
**AMY POEHLER AS
Leslie Knope**

1 The parks department deputy director might be prime time's most idealistic and, yes, committed character. "What's so fun about playing Leslie is she gets to be really sharply focused on things," notes Poehler. "And like a terrier, she won't let them go."

2 Leslie's drab wardrobe feels just right for a small town

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To look forward to this: "I have a little bit of an empowered-slut story line," says Jones. "There are some times where I really just go for it."

46. Watching Ann, who was firmly in control of her previous relationships, get swept off her feet by Chris. "One of our goals this year was to really show off Rashida's comedy chops," says Schur. "Rashida is a very intelligent and attractive woman, and it's hard to knock someone like that off balance. And the way to knock that person off balance is to get Rob Lowe in a relationship with you."

47. How her endearing insecurities surface during her camera chats. "That's just Rashida awkwardness," admits Jones. "I end up second-

was one time I thought he farted, but it was me."



N E W H A R T
REUNION

Hollywood's Greatest UNTOLD STORIES

Was it all just a dream? Bob Newhart, the cast, and the writers of *Newhart* revisit the famous finale twist of the beloved comedy.

by LYNETTE BUE @LYNETTEBUE
Photograph by ART STEINER

© William Sanderson, Bob Newhart, and Julia Duffy

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