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LIFE in the
FAST
LANE

With the music-savvy heist flick *Baby Driver*, actor-singer **ANSEL ELGORT** could become the summer's breakout star: 'I'm hopefully going to pull it all off'

DANCE POWER PLAYERS 2017
Exec of the Year:
Adam Alpert

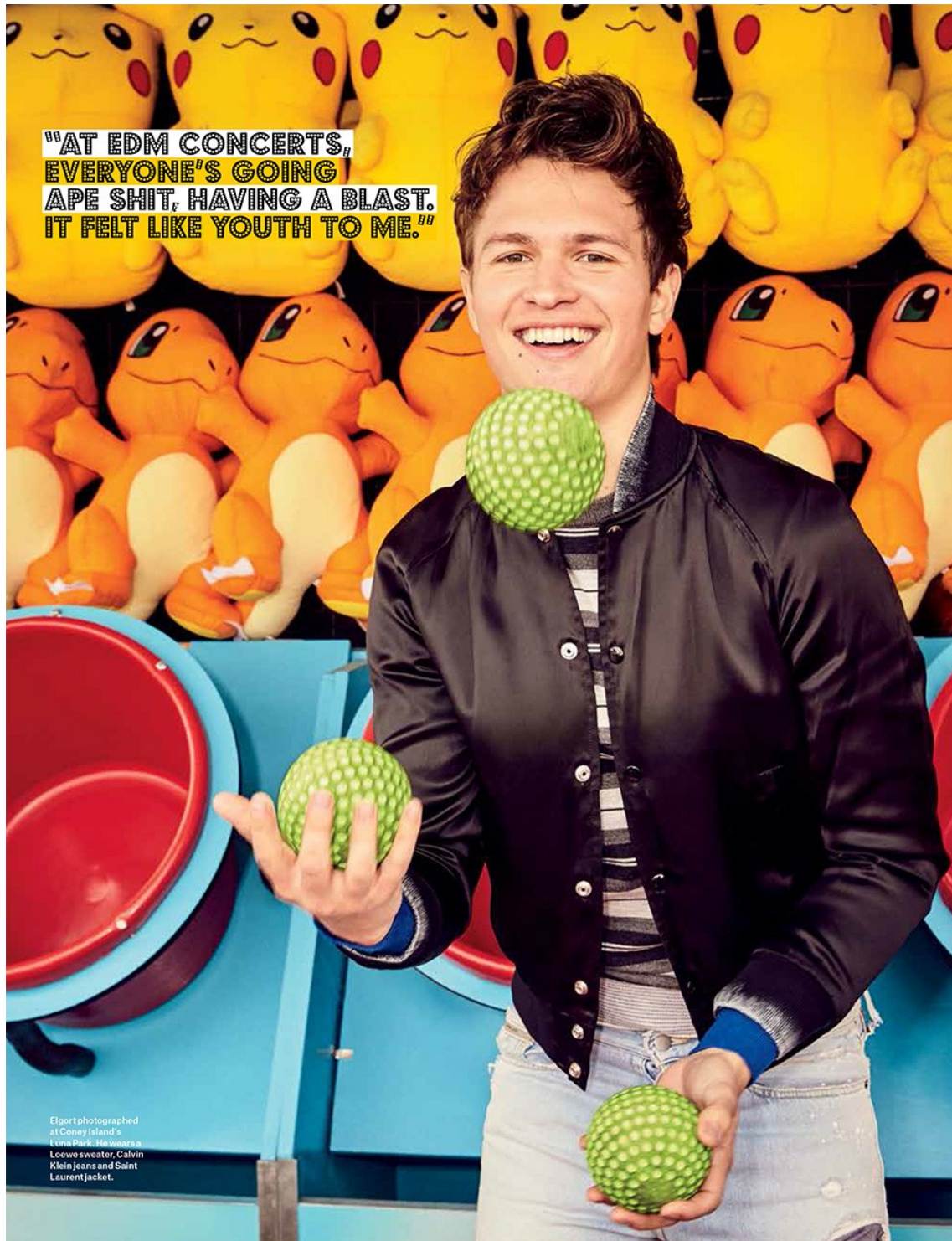
PLUS 70 of the genre's game-changers

★
CAN THE LABELS KEEP UP WITH ALEXA?

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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

Ansel Elgort has just scarfed down a foot-long sausage, and now he's fidgeting mercilessly. He strums 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 sausages, 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 enjoying 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 Anselo), paints (typically miniature toys), rock climbs (at an indoor climbing gym in Brooklyn) and has a newfound 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, Greche 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.

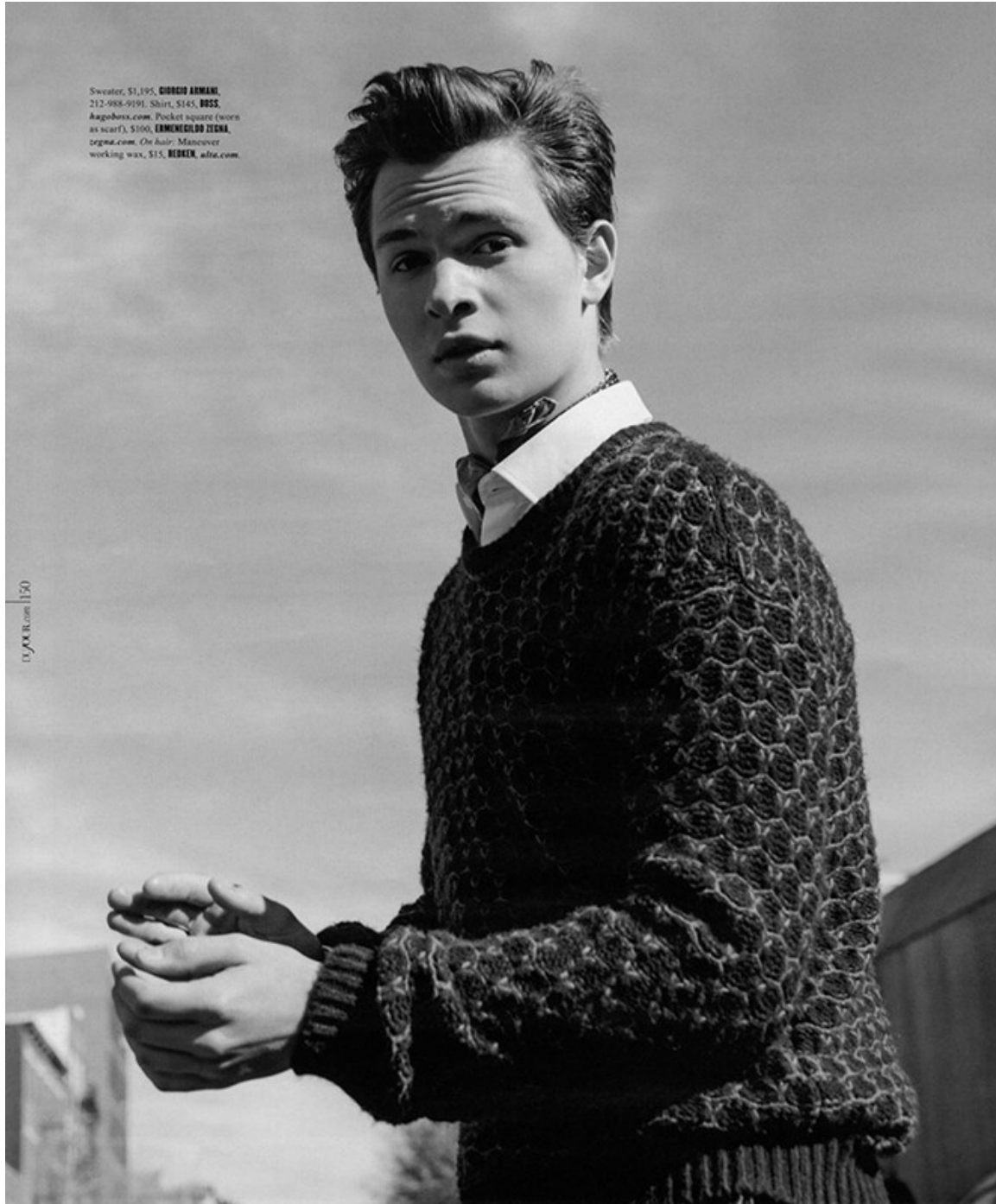
Despite his perpetually restless nature, Elgort finds that the most appealing part of acting is "the idea of stillness." He continues, "You can be in front of all these people and there is so much power in stillness. When you're doing a scene and it's quiet, just talking can be powerful and chilling.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

ART BY ANSEL

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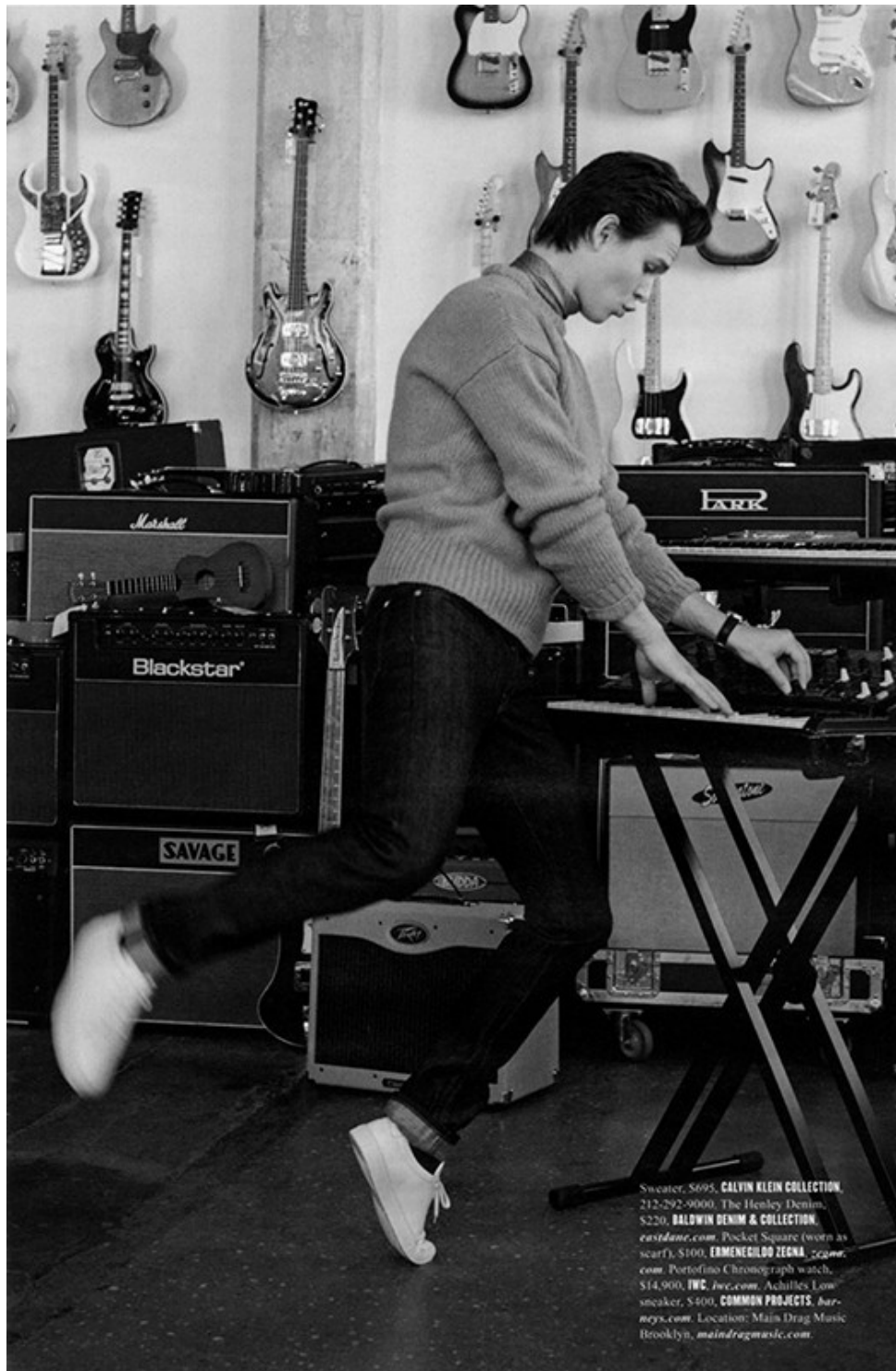
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Sweater, \$695, **CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION**, 212-292-9000. The Henley Denim, \$220, **BALDWIN DENIM & COLLECTION**, eastlane.com. Pocket Square (worn as scarf), \$100, **ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA**, zegna.com. Portofino Chronograph watch, \$14,900, **TWC**, twc.com. Achilles Low sneaker, \$400, **COMMON PROJECTS**, hurneys.com. Location: Main Drag Music Brooklyn, maindragmusic.com.

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On level: Suit, **CHRISTOPHER KANE**, Opening Ceremony, \$1,200; Polo-neck top, **50%**; Chelsea boots, **CHRISTOPHER KANE**, Jeffrey New York, 212-206-1272; On her: Cape, **90.895**; **TOD'S**, 800-457-8637; Accessory shirt, **5450**; **THOMAS PINK**, thomas-pink.com; Skirt, **5595**; **BY ALEXANDER WANG**, alexanderwang.com; Chain necklace, **8350**; **FALLON JEWELRY**, barneys.com; Black pump, **5785**; **SERGIO ROSSI**, barneys.com; 2-826-8900; *On drum set:* Satchel bag, **5448**; **BRUCE & GORDIAN**, 212-249-4100; *On her lips:* Pure Color, **EMSY**; sculpting cream, **white**; **ESTÉE LAUDER**, estelauder.com

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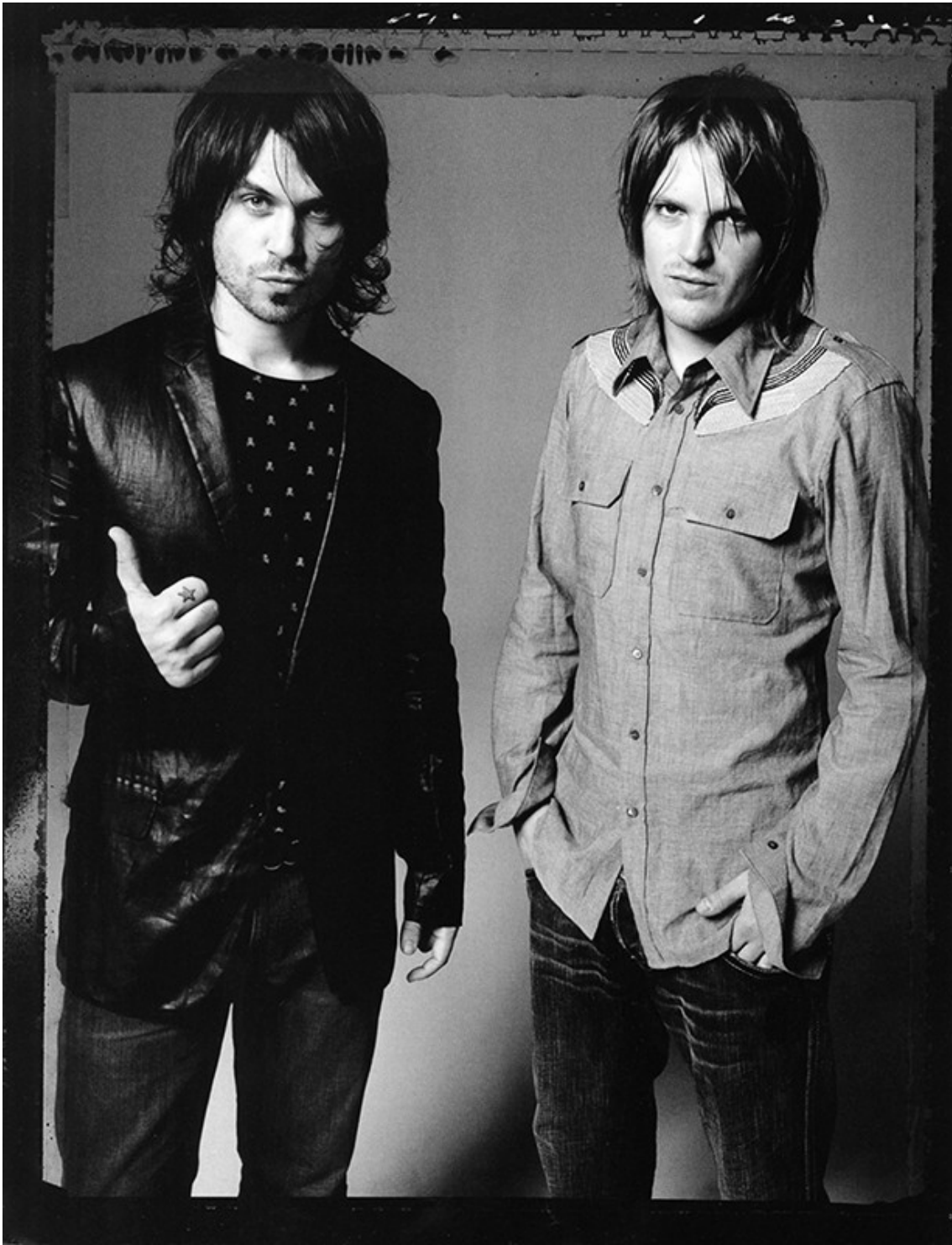
WOOL TUXEDO AND LEATHER LACE-UP SHOES, ALL **VERSACE**. NYLON/SILK/LINEN ZIP-FRONT JACKET, **COSTUME NATIONAL**. (OPPOSITE, LEFT TO RIGHT) WOOL/SILK/POLYESTER TUXEDO VEST AND PANTS, BOTH **VIKTOR & ROLF**. SILK CUMMERBUND, **J.PRESS**. SLEEVELESS COTTON T-SHIRT WITH TUXEDO TIE PRINT, COTTON POLYESTER TRACK JACKET WITH RUFFLES AND SNEAKERS WITH BOWTIE, ALL **JEREMY SCOTT FOR ADIDAS**. RAYON PANTS, **Z ZEGNA**

PHOTOGRAPHER: **JOSHUA JORDAN** AT JED ROOT; STYLIST: **JENNIFER HITZGES** AT JED ROOT; ART DIRECTION: **RILEY JOHNDONNELL**; GROOMING: **FRED VANDEBUNT** AT ART DEPARTMENT; MODELS: **DANNY** AT VNY, **STAS** AT DNA AND **VLADIMIR** AT WILHELMINA; SET DESIGNER: **KEVIN HERTZOG**; DIGITAL TECH: **BRIAN CLEAVER**; PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANTS: **NATHAN MARTIN** AND **JASON HARDWICK**; STYLING ASSISTANT: **ZOE HENNESSEY**; LOCATION: **BROOKLYN NAVY YARD**. SPECIAL THANKS TO **ABC CARPET AND HOME**

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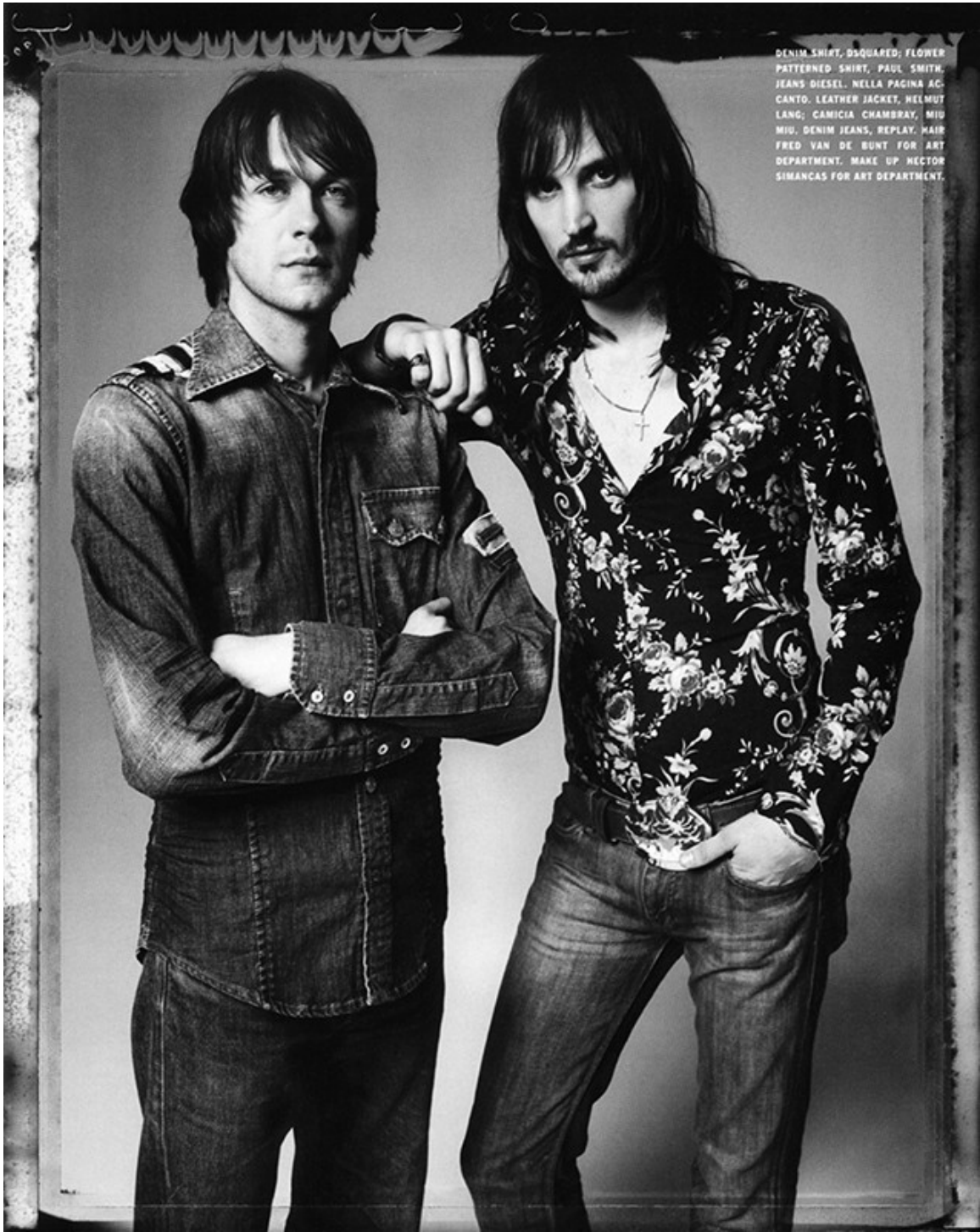
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VMAN NEWS

SISLEY BOY

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

"You never can tell on a day like this," says Vance, the existential nihilist motorcycle gang leader in cult classic biker film *The Loveless*. "Things could be goin' jake one minute then—presto—before you know it, you're history." The quote, referring to the fleeting life of the murderous, high-octane bikers, might also describe the fate of many young artists: hot one second, gone the next. Dan Colen, however, might be different. A grungy, guttural voice in the art world for nearly a decade, Colen recently sold out his solo show, "Poetry," 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 Sisley, for whom he customized a motorcycle jacket to be included in its Andy Warhol Museum exhibition.

"Art has no 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 sardonicism, 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 finally beginning 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 2010

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

PHOTO STYLING ANDY WARHOL (THE WALL GROUP), PHOTO ASSISTANTS NICK BETH AND NINA WARA, STYLING ASSISTANT FRANK DOCK, STUDIO MANAGERS SETH GOODMAN, DIGITAL TECHNICIAN GLEN HAHN, RETOUCHING SIMON ZIEGLER, HAIR FRIZO SANDROBERT FOR RICCHI (ART DEPARTMENT), GROOMING SALLY B. (ART DEPARTMENT)



VMAN 53

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VMEN

TAKERU KOBAYASHI

THE WORLD-FAMOUS COMPETITIVE EATER EMBRACES THE ART OF WAR

It might have been Americans who turned gluttony into a public spectacle, but it was Japanese speed-eater Takeru Kobayashi who made competitive eating a soulful sport, more about man's mental resolve and overcoming the limits of his physiology than about shoveling a bunch of shit into your face. The 32-year-old hyper-fit Kobayashi first won the Nathan's Coney Island hot dog-eating contest, in his rookie appearance in 2001, by scarfing fifty hot dogs in twelve minutes, doubling the previous record. Since then, Kobayashi, who weighs a mere 125 lbs, has become an international face for the sport, setting bizarre world records left and right (e.g. 17.7 pounds of cow brains in fifteen minutes).

36 VMAN

Kobayashi is an unlikely champion, a modern-day Steve Prefontaine, the famed long-distance runner and popularizer of that sport, who once credited his incredible records not to his being faster than his opponents, 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 think my high 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 a sport. This is a competition. I train. I train with water. Only during the competition do I actually eat the food to excess."

"I'm not thinking much," he says when asked what goes through his mind while he's forcing food into

his belly. "I'm in battle with the food in front of me. I don't think beyond the rush of the moment." But it's not really a battle against the food. It's more a war against limitation, against what our eyes tell us can't be done. Kobayashi isn't a paragon of public sin, but an international ambassador of the impossible.

VICTOR AXWELL

TAKERU KOBAYASHI IN NEW YORK CITY, SEPTEMBER 2010

PHOTOGRAPHY TERRY RICHARDSON

STYLING YUKI JAMES

VEST AND BELT BESS

T-SHIRT CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION S/S 2011

JEANS TAKERU'S OWN

BRACELETS AND RINGS (HIS RIGHT) CHROME HEARTS

RING (HIS LEFT) DAVID YURMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY: TERRY RICHARDSON; STYLING: YUKI JAMES; VEST AND BELT: BESS; T-SHIRT: CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION S/S 2011; JEANS: TAKERU'S OWN; BRACELETS AND RINGS (HIS RIGHT): CHROME HEARTS; RING (HIS LEFT): DAVID YURMAN

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IS IT TIME TO START LYING ABOUT YOUR AGE?

DETAILS

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Don't Smoke
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The New
Killer Buzz

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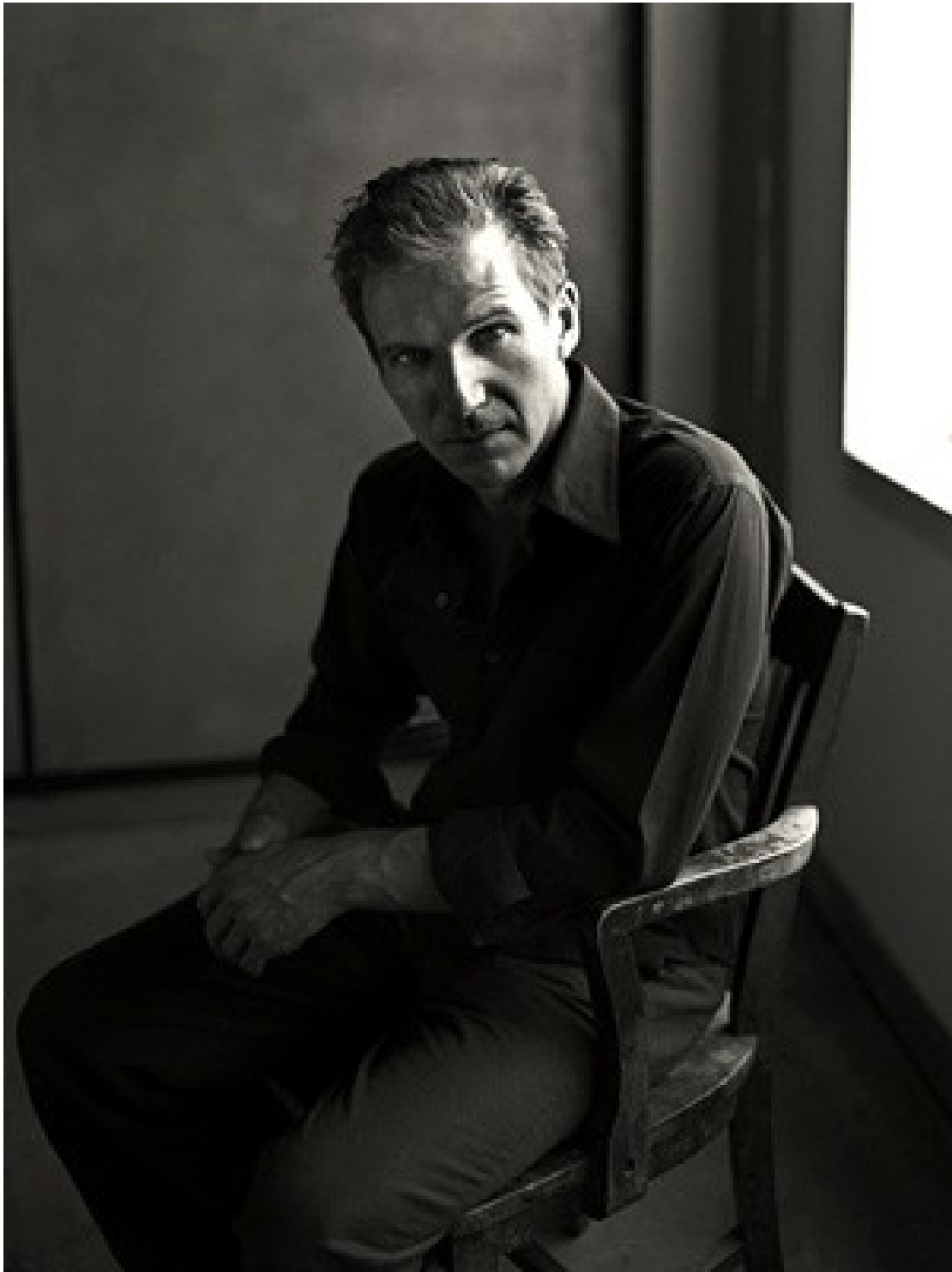
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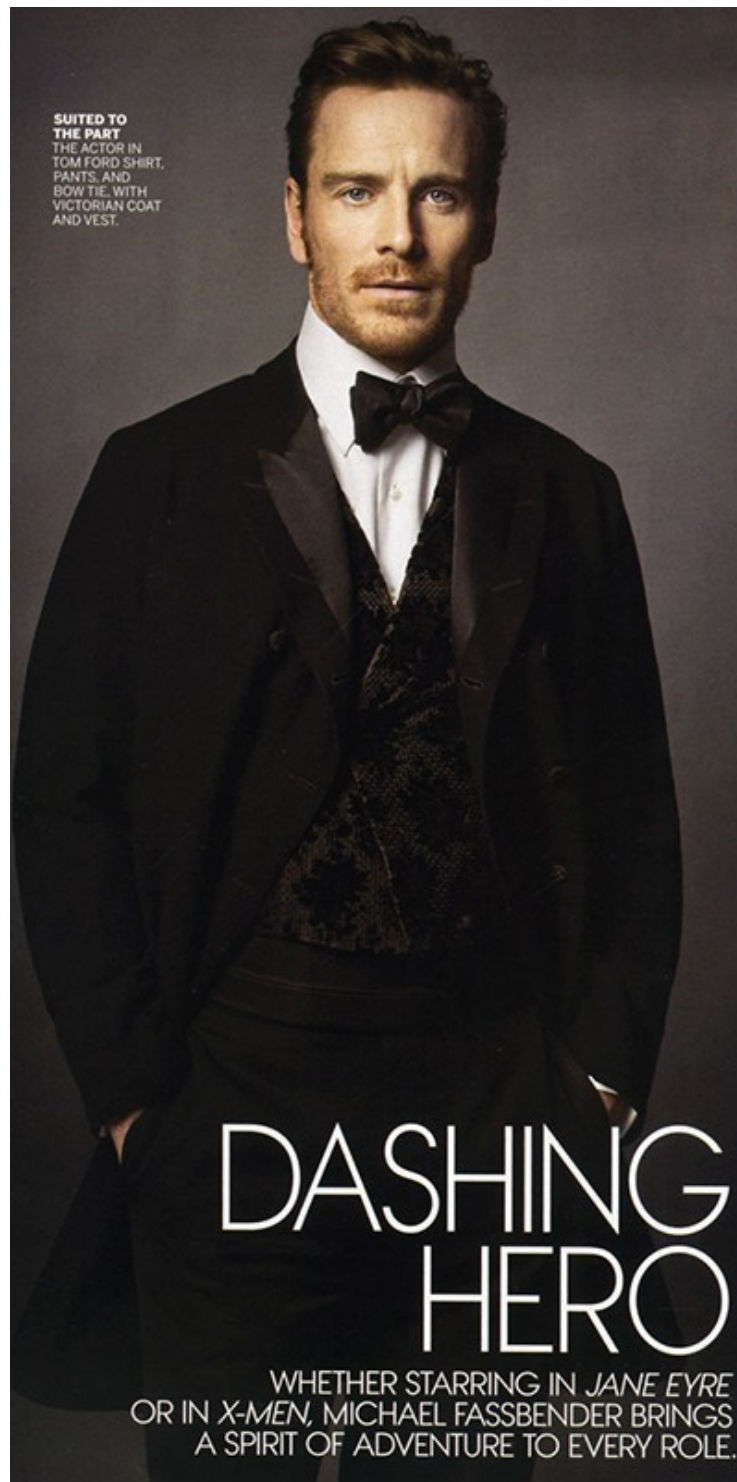
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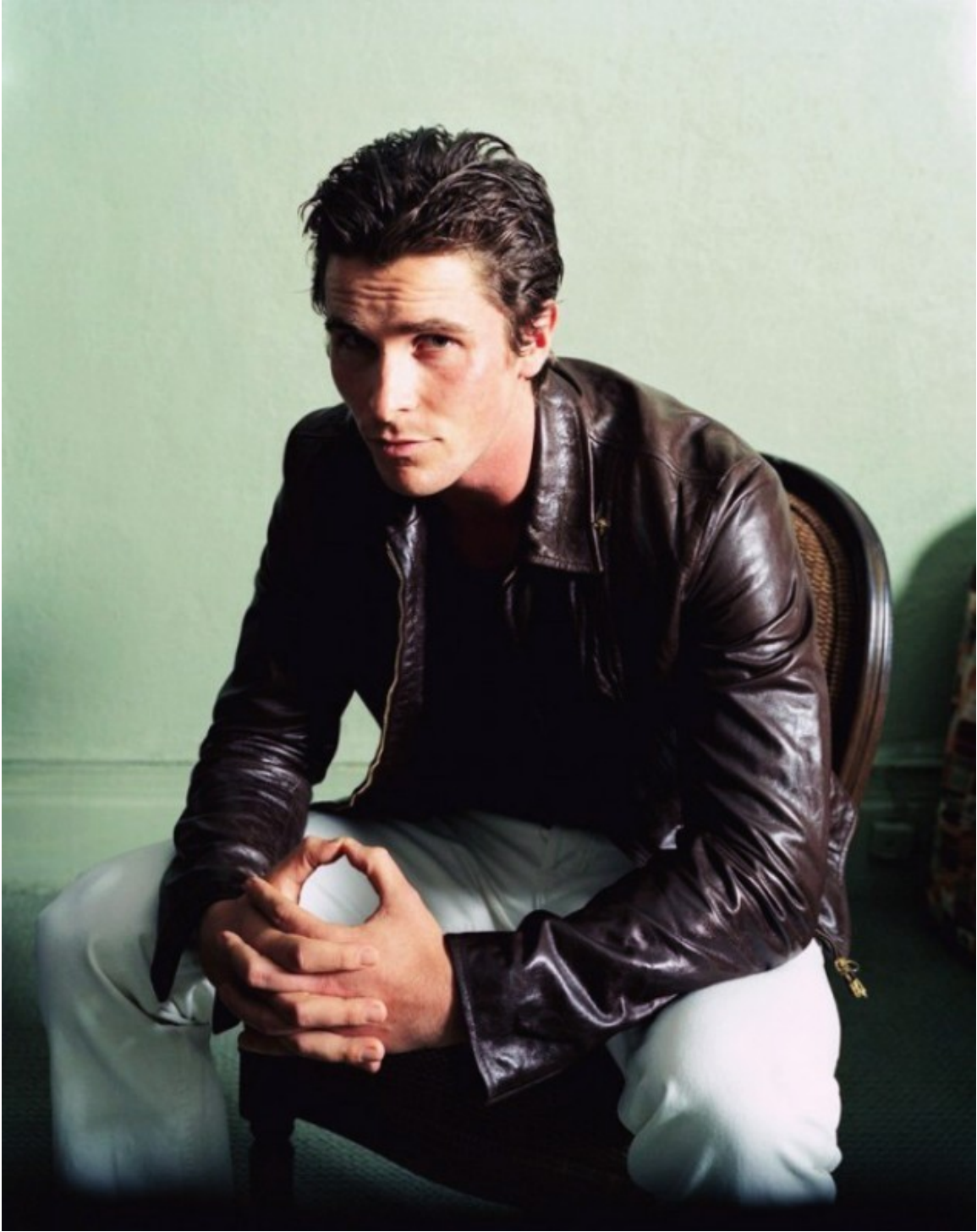
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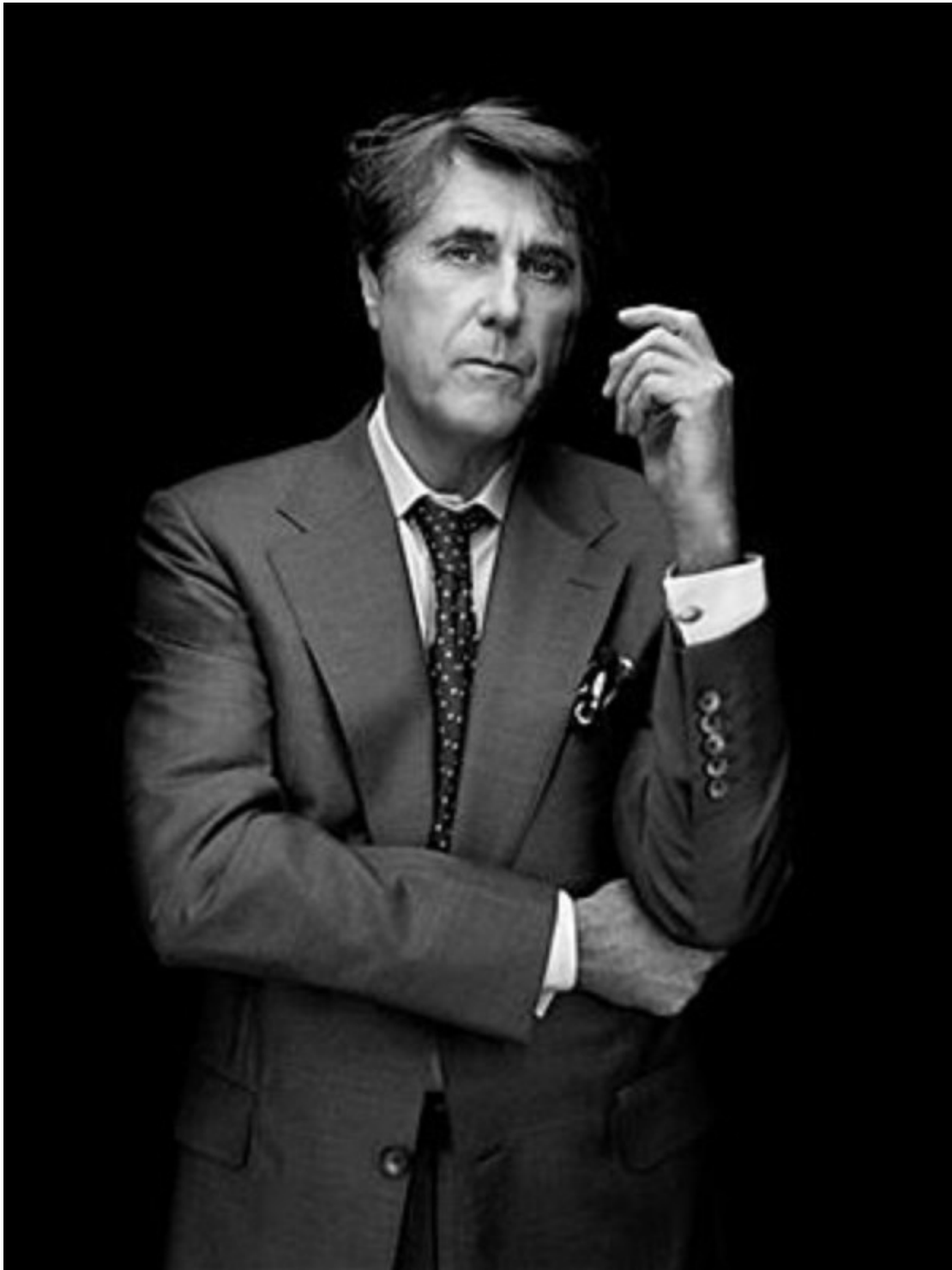
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