

# PENTHOUSE

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MEN

MARCH 2017

**EXCLUSIVE:**  
INSIDE THE LIFE  
OF A ROMANIAN  
CAMGIRL

**INTERVIEW:**  
ONE-MAN EMPIRE  
MARK WAHLBERG

**DR ALEX WODAK**  
FIGHTS FOR YOUR  
RIGHT TO PARTY

**DOING SPEED**  
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## FROM THE EDITOR

WHO can explain our common love for partying? There is no denying it; people everywhere love a good party.

I like to remind myself of the fact at least once a weekend. Partying keeps me young, challenges my salubrious nature and ages my critical faculties all in one shot. Talk about two birds, one stone.

Whether you like to sink a few tinnies with your mates, wine and dine, or spend the night dancing surrounded by sweaty, round-eyed punters, chasing that elusive one-night stand, partying is a commonality we share as humans; we all like to let loose every once in a while.

At *Penthouse*, the party is well and truly alive. Not only has the mag been completely overhauled, but we've also got our video channel and website underway – we're currently fine tuning it to bring you the best and most exciting content possible in 2017.

This issue is full of people bringing the party in their own unique way. We sat down with Australian drug expert Dr Alex Wodak, the man who pioneered the nation's first legal injecting centre and who is now demanding the government allow pill testing at Sydney's forthcoming music festivals.

We spoke to Australia's biggest sports star, Daniel Ricciardo about his plans for racetrack domination in 2017. Then our journey took us inside the life of a Romanian camgirl, where women are paid to provide intimate, one-on-one services to clients via webcam.

No party issue would be complete without a trip to Cuba. We follow Christopher Baker through the bars, nightclubs and cabarets in one of the most alluring Caribbean destinations on Earth.

Did you know Hitler liked to party? Well, he had an amphetamine addiction, big time. Charles Waterstreet provides entertaining insight into the dark and demented final days of the Führer.

Oh, and did you check out the cover shoot? Babe alert. Enjoy.

NH

## NATHAN HARMOND

Editor



## PARTY PACK GIVEAWAY

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PENTHOUSE

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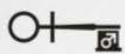
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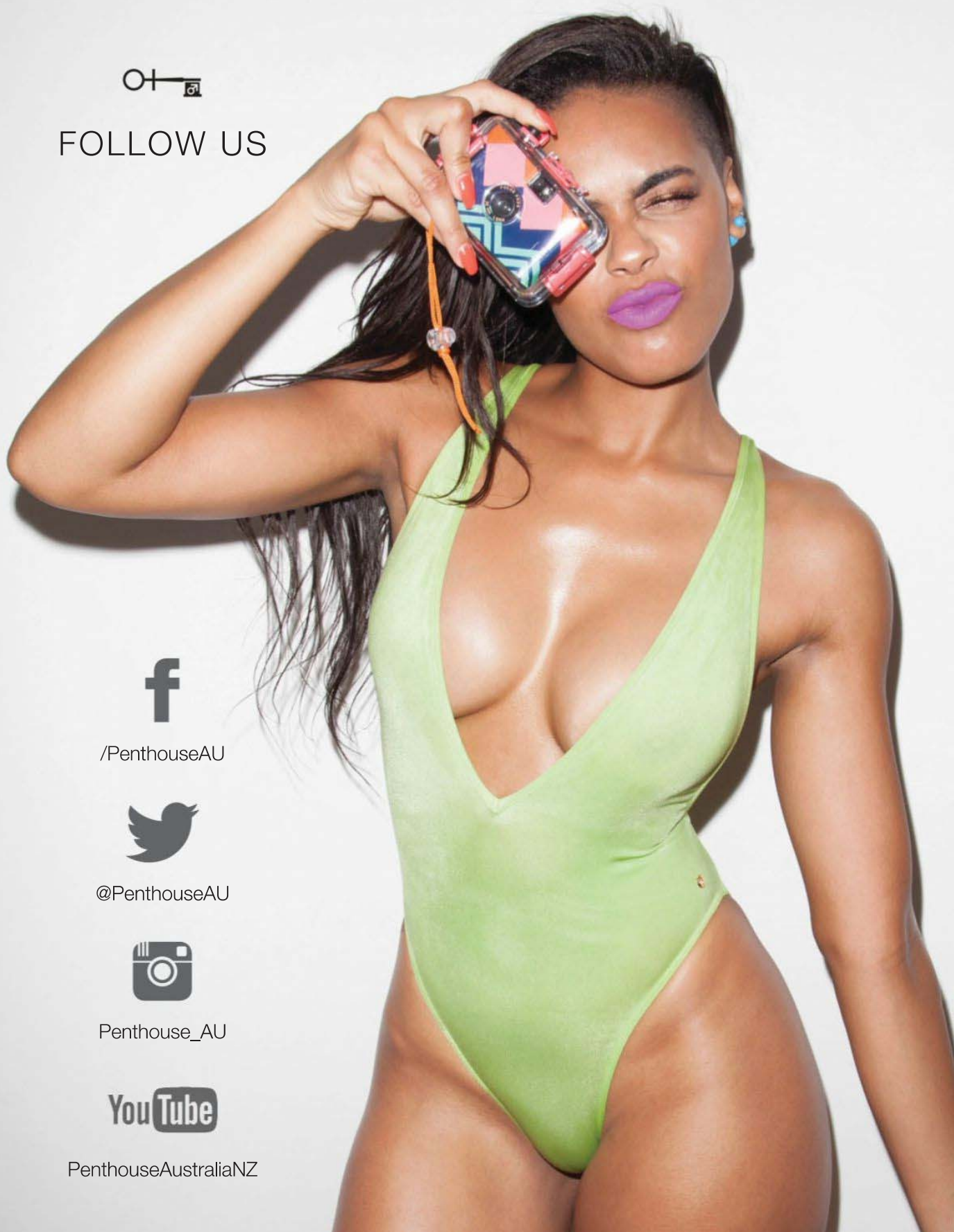
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# EVENT PLANNER

## THE SUNNYBOYS JAN 6-JAN 16

**The Croxton, Victoria**  
"There are other Australian albums as great as Sunnyboys 1981 debut, Sunnyboys. There aren't any that are better." - Noel Mengel. In celebration of the album milestone and the premiere period from when it sprang, Sunnyboys will take to the stage in February 2017 for a series of shows playing a set entirely derived from 1981; a set that will also include Sunnyboys, the album, performed in its entirety.

## CASTAWAY FESTIVAL FEB 12

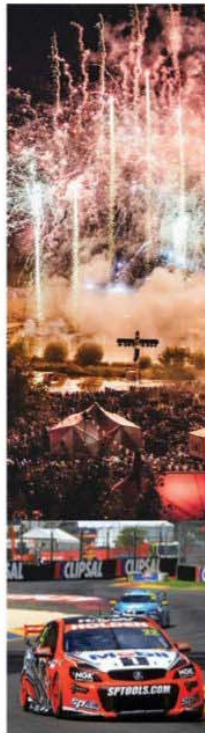
**Hotel Rottneest, Western Australia**  
Island festival Castaway returns for a second summer rendezvous. Rüfús, Rüfús Du Sol, the Kite String Tangle, Yuma X and Pilerats DJs. Two Castaways, one summer



- can you handle it? Yes. Yes you can.

## CLIPSAL 500 MARCH 2-5 Adelaide

The Clipsal 500 Adelaide, a round of the V8 Supercar Championship Series, is Australia's largest domestic motor sport event. The significance of the Clipsal 500 Adelaide as an event of true national and international renown was highlighted in 2005 when the legendary motor sport authority Murray Walker, while visiting the event for the first time, described it as the 'best touring car event in the world'. Murray Walker enjoyed his first event experience so much he returns each year.



## FRINGE FESTIVAL 17 FEB - 19 MARCH Adelaide Oval

The Adelaide Fringe is the world's second-largest annual arts festival, and the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, held in the South Australian capital of Adelaide. For 24 days and nights during February and March, it features more than 4,000 artists from around Australia and the world, featuring world premieres, hit shows and new artists. Over 900 events are staged in



pop-up venues in parks, warehouses, lane-ways and disused buildings as well as established venues such as theatres, hotels, art galleries and cafes.

## WOMADELAIDE MARCH 10-13

**Botanic Park, Adelaide**  
Over the March long weekend WOMADelaide celebrates its 20th festival in the city's lush Botanic Park. With performances by artists from more than 30 countries across seven stages, it's sure to be a hell of a time.

## SECRET GARDEN PARTY 17 FEB - 19 MARCH England

Metronomy, Toots & The Maytals, Honne, Jagwar Ma, Jeremy Loops, Rejjie Snow, Tom Misch, Akala, Deap Vally, Ray Blk, Zak Abel, Etta Bond, Let's Eat Grandma, Anteros and more. **1**





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**B**

THE DEBRIEF

# KATY PERRY'S SHOCKING SECRET

MAN HIGH ON LSD COMES TO THE RESCUE, ANCIENT ALIEN METALS  
AND KATY'S DARK SECRET





WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

# JONBENET... PERRY?

**F**LAT-EARTH believer Dave Johnson issued a YouTube video in 2014 claiming that murdered child beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey and Katy Perry are one and the same. The crackpot theory picked up online buzz late last year when JonBenet's brother Burke broke a twenty-year silence in a three-part interview with TV personality Dr. Phil, renewed interest in the case.

JonBenet was found dead in the basement of her Boulder, Colorado home in 1996. Her parents John and Patsy were long the primary suspects in the unsolved murder, but their son Burke, now 29, came under suspicion as well.

Dave Johnson's view? Not only is JonBenet still alive but she released to chart-topping music single "Kissed A Girl" in 2008

under the name Katy Perry.

In his video, which has recently racked up thousands of views, Johnson claims "liars" have spread the "myth" about JonBenet's tragic death and that "nobody died, nobody got hurt." Rejecting the notion that Patsy Ramsey died in 2006, Johnson insists that a slimmed-down Patsy is Perry's mother and a shaved-head John Ramsey is Perry's bald pastor father.

JonBenet's "sacrifice was in name only," Johnson contends. Elaborating, the conspiracy-monger says her "sacrifice was to get something, and that something was to become a star. JonBenet became Katy Perry, and that's a fact."

Katy Perry declined comment...because we never bothered to contact her...because this story is insane.



## WORK WORK WORK

WE all have to work to earn a living, but in the case of one Chinese doctor, he nearly worked himself into the morgue.

30-year-old Shanghai cardiologist Zhang Wei ended a not-unusual 32-hour shift by coughing up blood, eventually losing four pints before colleagues stepped in and saved him. Closed-circuit TV captured the incident, with footage showing Wei lying on a gurney before sitting upright and spewing blood onto the floor.

"This patient coughed three to five times in ten minutes. He coughed up quite a lot of blood, almost 500ml per time," said a colleague who treated Wei. Rushed to intensive care, Zhang Wei received blood and fluid transfusions before undergoing a six-hour operation to stabilise his condition.

After the video became public, Chinese citizens decried the regular work marathons of China's doctors. For its part, state media reported that the committed doctor had developed a digestive disorder caused by workload stress and his PhD exams.

PHOTO: ISTOCK / DEM10



# MAN HIGH ON LSD SAVES DOG FROM IMAGINARY FIRE

IN a heroic act, 43-year-old Michael Orchard from Halfmoon in upstate New York broke into his neighbour's house to save a dog from a raging fire. At least Orchard thought he had saved a dog. In fact, he had hallucinated the conflagration after ingesting a cocktail of LSD-laced cough syrup.

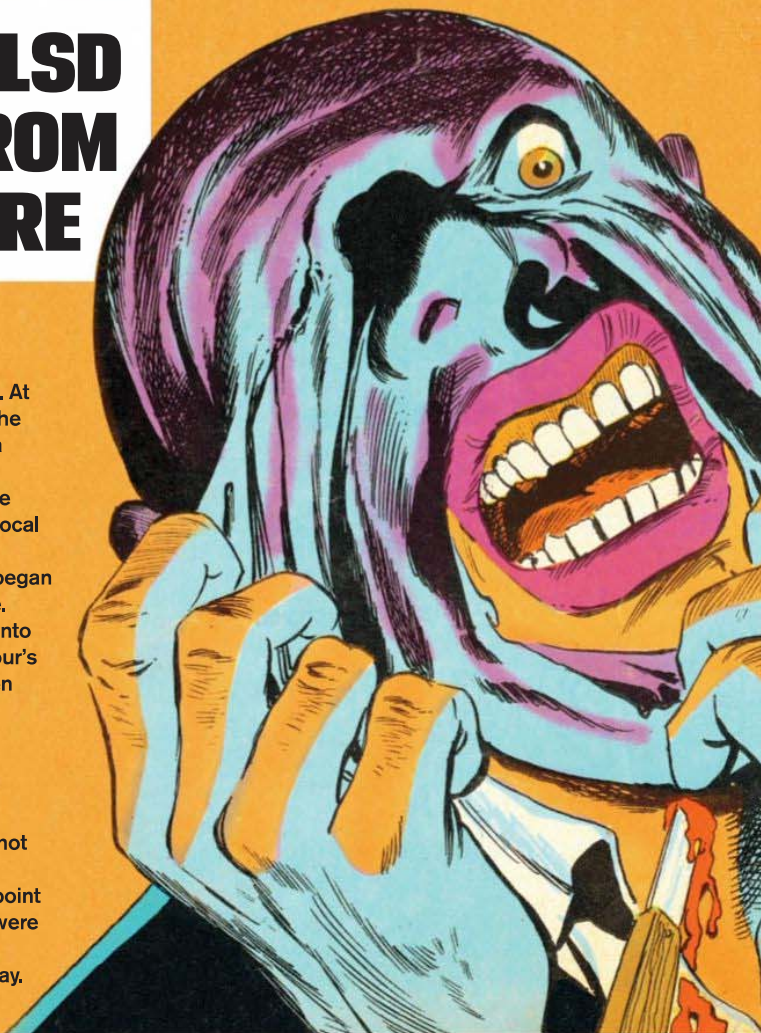
"He believed that the residence was on fire and he was rescuing the dog," Trooper Mark Cepiel told a local news station.

Once he started tripping, the Halfmoon resident began pounding on doors, shouting about a house on fire. Getting no response from neighbours, he jumped into his black BMW sedan, drove it through his neighbour's fence, and broke through the glass back door. When police arrived, Orchard was standing in the street proudly holding the neighbour's large white dog.

Despite his bravery, Orchard was charged with second-degree burglary and third-degree criminal mischief, and was remanded to the county jail on \$15,000 bail. Although he was clearly high, he will not face any drug charges.

"He drove over yards and through a fence. At no point was he on the roadway and no illegal substances were found in his possession," Cepiel stated.

The dog was unharmed and a new door is on the way.



## PLAYING WITH FIRE

IN an unusual maneuver intended to dry rain-soaked tennis courts, officials at the ATP Challenger Tour event in Casablanca, Morocco turned to fire.

After torrential rain halted a semifinal match between Belgian Arthur De Greef and Frenchman Maxime Janvier, the two returned to the court to find the deluge had rendered parts of the waterlogged surface unplayable. Officials gathered, and a decision was made. Out came court workers to set the clay on fire.

ATP Challenger Tour supervisor Carl Baldwin remarked, "We had a long rain break and the side of the court was still holding lots of water on the surface. To solve this, you pour gas on it and set it alight. This isn't commonly done but I have seen it before."

Spectators, players, and tournament officials watched the gasoline ignite. Closet pyromaniacs rejoiced. Once the flames had burned themselves out, court staffers scattered bags of clay across the scorched areas and leveled the surface. The gambit worked. Play resumed, and Janvier went on to win 6-4, 6-3, advancing to his first ATP Challenger final.







## WOMB RAIDER

THE announcement of a Lara Croft sex doll from California company RealDoll has given us nerds a reason to put the video game controller down.

The company, which specialises in realistic sex dolls, recently began branching out into the sex robot industry. Their proposed Croft doll would fulfill the fantasies of Tomb Raider fans, both the game and Angelina Jolie-starring movie.

"A lot of prepubescent boys grew up playing Tomb Raider and were probably thinking, 'Wow, I'd really like to meet the real Lara Croft and get to know her,'" CEO Matt McMullen told *Daily Star Online*. Get to know. Indeed.

McMullen goes on to suggest that the chance of interacting with a life-like

Croft would be an "out of this world" experience, and hypothesised that such a doll would be an even more popular choice than, say, rubbery replicas of shapely celebrities Kim Kardashian and Scarlett Johansson.

The company's dolls are often based on real people, with porn stars Stormy Daniels and Samantha Saint both turned into sexy stand-ins.

RealDoll continues to develop new technologies, promising a future of dolls warm to touch, with certain parts very warm. Before Tomb Raider fans get too excited, it should be noted that RealDoll has yet to get permission to use Croft's likeness. So for now, Lara Croft fans might have to keep playing solo.

## MUTANT AND PROUD

HUMAN magnet Erman Delic has been likened to Marvel comic book villain Magneto after footage emerged of the five-year-old sticking metal objects to his skin.

In a viral video clip, three spoons, a fork, and thirteen coins are placed on the boy's chest and remain fixed in place, as do other metal utensils stuck on his back. His worried parents, residents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, took their son to doctors, and the examiners reportedly had no idea why metal objects, once placed on Erman, don't fall to the floor.

The curious footage comes just months after a Turkish boy, Mehmet Sumbul, was filmed attaching spoons and forks to both sides of his torso. The nine-year-old told reporters his body could also attract screws, metal ashtrays, and cellphones.

"I am a strange person," Sumbul said. "When I'm angry, my magnetic field becomes stronger."

Mehmet's father Huseyin added, "He can attract any type of metal kitchenware. I haven't taken him to the hospital because he has no health issues. He is doing well at school and is good at sports too."

These boys are not the first to exhibit what some call "human magnetism." Scientists, however, believe that what appears to be a remarkable ability is actually due to sticky skin, not magnetic powers.



PHOTO: GAMESPRESS.COM





## POLLY IS A SNITCH

A Kuwaiti man's cheating ways were discovered by his wife after the couple's pet bird began repeating X-rated phrases and words. Already suspicious of her husband and the housemaid, the wife had her worries confirmed when their parrot began talking dirty. After taking the bird with her to the police station as a witness, she filed an adultery complaint, insisting that she herself had never spoken such words in the sack. Since adultery is illegal in Kuwait, the husband was in line for harsh punishment if found guilty.

Lucky for him, authorities ruled the parrot's evidence inadmissible. Their argument? It was impossible to say where the bird picked up the sexytime talk. They suggested it could have been dialogue the parrot heard on TV or radio.

This isn't the first time a vocal bird has snitched. In 2006, an English couple's parrot "Ziggy," named for David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust, squawked, "I love you, Gary." Only problem? The boyfriend was named Chris. He rightly deduced that his girlfriend was having an affair with her work colleague Gary.

If there's a lesson to be learned, it is this: Don't get it on with a parrot in the room.

## UGLIEST OF THEM ALL

WITH shades of the way Joseph Merrick, Victorian England's "Elephant Man," achieved fame for a misshapen head and body, 47-year-old Ugandan ex-cobbler Godfrey Baguma, known affectionately as Sebabi – which means "ugliest of them all" – has found celebrity after being featured on a Ugandan reality show seeking to discover the "most unusual person."

Embraced by the public, Baguma, his facial features distorted by a severely misshapen head, has risen to unexpected heights as an African pop music star.

Baguma first noticed a strange mound on his cheek when he was ten years old, and as he grew, the degree of his head abnormality increased. "When I was born my mother looked at me and said that I was not a normal child and she left me," Baguma said in an interview. "Thankfully my grandmother took care of me."

After describing years of taunts, Baguma added, "I was scared to go out and mix with people. People would say I wasn't a human being, that I looked like a strange creature. But now I have to accept how I look."

Thanks to that initial TV appearance, Baguma now makes a living from public appearances and music videos, with his YouTube clips receiving more than three million clicks to date.

The fame also gave Baguma the chance to have his mysterious condition diagnosed by doctors. Fearing he may have passed his abnormalities on to one of his eight children, the singer was relieved to find out his condition is not hereditary. He suffers from a rare condition known as fibrous dysplasia, a disease that affects the growth and placement of cells and tissues. With proper medication, Baguma's health will improve as he continues building on the success of his music career.





## THE PENIS, THE COCK RING AND THE BOLT CUTTERS

A BANGKOK, native has entered the ever-growing annals of sexual misadventures requiring prompt medical attention. He got a metal cock ring stuck around his penis.

The unnamed experimenter is said to have been testing out his new toy at home when it got stuck. Unable to remove it himself, the man, believed to be in his 30s, called for emergency help and was rushed to a hospital in an ambulance.

It took three hours to remove the metal ring, with doctors trying to loosen the device with lube, soapy water and a pair of pliers, before trying a hacksaw. Bolt cutters were finally brought in and the man's organ was liberated.

"I'm not sure if it was one he'd bought from a shop or something he found in the garage," volunteer rescue worker Jakchai Banyensakul said. "But he hadn't measured himself properly and when his penis expanded he could not remove it."

Doctors and nurses who gathered to witness the procedure were reportedly giggling at the man's predicament. "He was very sore afterwards and a bit embarrassed but thankful to still be able to use his penis properly," said Banyensakul.



## ANCIENT SPACE METAL

HERE'S a Transylvanian tale that has nothing to do with Dracula.

A curious piece of metal displayed in the National Museum of Transylvanian History in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, is causing controversy.

The shiny chunk was discovered by builders working on the shores of the Mures River in 1973. Recent testing of the lightweight metal indicates a composite of twelve metals, with 90% of it aluminum. Why is that news? Well, a Romanian lab tested the metal and claims it was manufactured 250,000 years ago, a result reportedly confirmed by a lab in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Since aluminium wasn't produced by humans until 200 years ago, the result has led UFO believers to proclaim that the artifact is part of an alien aircraft, confirming the existence of extraterrestrial life.

Deputy Director of the Romanian Ufologists Association, Gheorghe Cohal said, "Lab tests concluded it is an old UFO fragment given that the substances it comprises cannot be combined with the technology available on earth."

While additional tests by others have offered manufacture dates ranging from four centuries back in time to 80,000 years ago, one local historian has a less sensational take. He says the piece of metal came from the landing gear of a WWII German Messerschmitt airplane.

## CONTAMINATED ROCK FORCES SCHOOL EVACUATION

A SCIENCE lab in an Austrian school unknowingly exposed staff and students to radioactive material as part of a classroom display.

The uranium chunk, which went unnoticed for days at The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart School in Salzburg, was only discovered when anti-nuclear campaigner Thomas Neff visited the science lab to give a talk.

Neff brought a watch made in the 1960s containing a small amount of radium that would light up in the dark, along with a Geiger counter, used to measure levels of radiation that he demonstrated by testing the watch.

But Neff became concerned when the counter showed 1,200 counts per minute – 20 times the normal value – even

though the watch was still carefully sealed.

As Neff walked around the classroom testing radiation levels, the instrument started clicking wildly when he neared a collection of rocks, spiking to 102,000 counts per minute – approximately 100 times as much as the watch gave off.

Neff terminated his lecture to notify school authorities. Pupils and staff were quickly evacuated so experts could assess the danger. Other area schools were alerted as well, and nearly forty more lumps of uranium were discovered in eleven other school geology collections.

Thankfully the radiation emitted by the rocks wasn't high enough to cause any health risks and the samples are now all now safely in storage.





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# DID PAMELA ANDERSON TRY TO ASSASSINATE JULIAN ASSANGE WITH A VEGAN SANDWICH?

## SPOILER ALERT: NO.

ONE of the nuttiest stories floated during the recent presidential election gave us Pamela Anderson trying to knock off WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange with a meat-free sandwich.

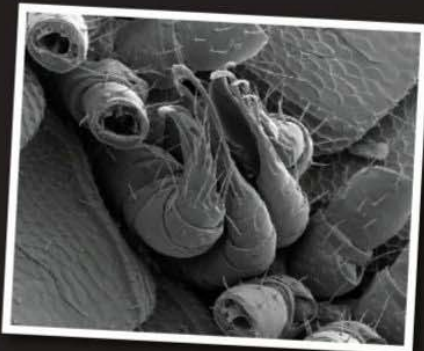
The tale surfaced when the former Baywatch star visited Assange at the Ecuadorian embassy in London, his residence for the last four years as he tries to avoid a Swedish rape investigation. Anderson was seen entering the embassy carrying food from sandwich chain Pret a Manger and said she was bringing Assange "a nice vegan lunch." An animal rights activist, environmental advocate, and anti-pornography campaigner (yes, the same Pamela Anderson who once appeared in actual pornography), Anderson told the UK Press Association, "I really believe in him and think he's a good person, and I'm concerned about his health, his family, and I just hope that by some miracle he's set free."

If this doesn't sound like a would-be Assange assassin, that didn't stop the Internet from latching onto the theory one autumn weekend. Shortly after Anderson's visit, the WikiLeaks Twitter account announced Assange's Internet link had been "intentionally severed by a state party." The tweet added that they had "activated the appropriate contingency plans." Some people took this as code pointing to possible foul play and Assange's death.

Fears of an assassination are not ungrounded since Assange and his team of hackers have leaked thousands of sensitive documents revealing the inner workings and secrets of governments from across the globe. Here, though, it turned out to be a false alarm. It emerged that Ecuador disrupted Assange's digital capability after WikiLeaks published thousands of emails from the account of Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta.







## WHAT HAS 4 PENISES...?

THE previously unknown bug, named an *Illacme tobini*, is a creepy-looking creature, possessing four penises (dayum!), 414 legs, a couple hundred poisonous glands, and silk-secreting hairs.

Member of the millipede family, the insect was discovered in the caves of the Sequoia National Forest in California's Sierra Nevada mountains.

The male specimen — the only one of its kind found so far — is believed to have evolved from a line of ancient cave-dwelling millipedes. Its vast number of legs make the insect sound impressive, but the record for gams is held by a close relative, *Illacme plenipes*, which has an astounding 750 miniature stilts.

Virginia Tech entomology professor Paul Marek had this to say about the find: "I never would have expected that a second species of the leggiest animal on the planet would be discovered in a cave 150 miles away."

Four of the insect's legs are modified penises, used by the millipede to transfer sperm to the female, although no females have been discovered as of yet.

Scientists are also fascinated by a pair of nozzle-like appendages that squirt an unknown poison. In addition, the millipede's entire body is covered by fine hairs that secrete silk, although the reason for this is still unknown.

While a new species of millipede might not seem like a big deal, diplopodologists — millipede researchers — are high-fiving. They believe the discovery will lead to further advances in millipede science and claim these California caves could be the home of several other yet-to-be-found species.



## LOOK AT THIS RUSSIAN

RUSSIA'S quest for nuclear superiority continues with the announcement of another weapon of mass destruction, Satan 2.

The Russian RS-28 Sarmat missile has been in development since 2009, and according to Russian state news outlet *Sputnik*, is "capable of wiping out parts of the earth the size of Texas or France." Pretty scary stuff.

Nicknamed Satan 2, the weapon is an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a trajectory that can reach the coast of the United States and is equipped to carry either a thermonuclear payload or a variety of other conventional warheads.

The missile, with a range exceeding 11,000 kilometres and weighing a hundred tons, is billed as the successor to the current ICBM missile the RS-36M, a 1970s-era weapon referred to as the Satan missile.

Satan 2 is rumoured to have a top speed of 7 km per second and is fitted with a Russian hypersonic glider warhead enabling the missile to accelerate to speeds between Mach 7 and 12, seven to twelve times faster than the speed of sound.

If that's not enough to have you worried, the missile has also been designed to incorporate stealth technology so that it can be launched at a target without enemy forces detecting it on their radars.

The Russian government appears very pleased with the results so far, with Deputy Defense Minister Yuri Borisov telling the press that the missile was capable of destroying targets flying across both poles of the Earth.





#### GET THE PICTURE

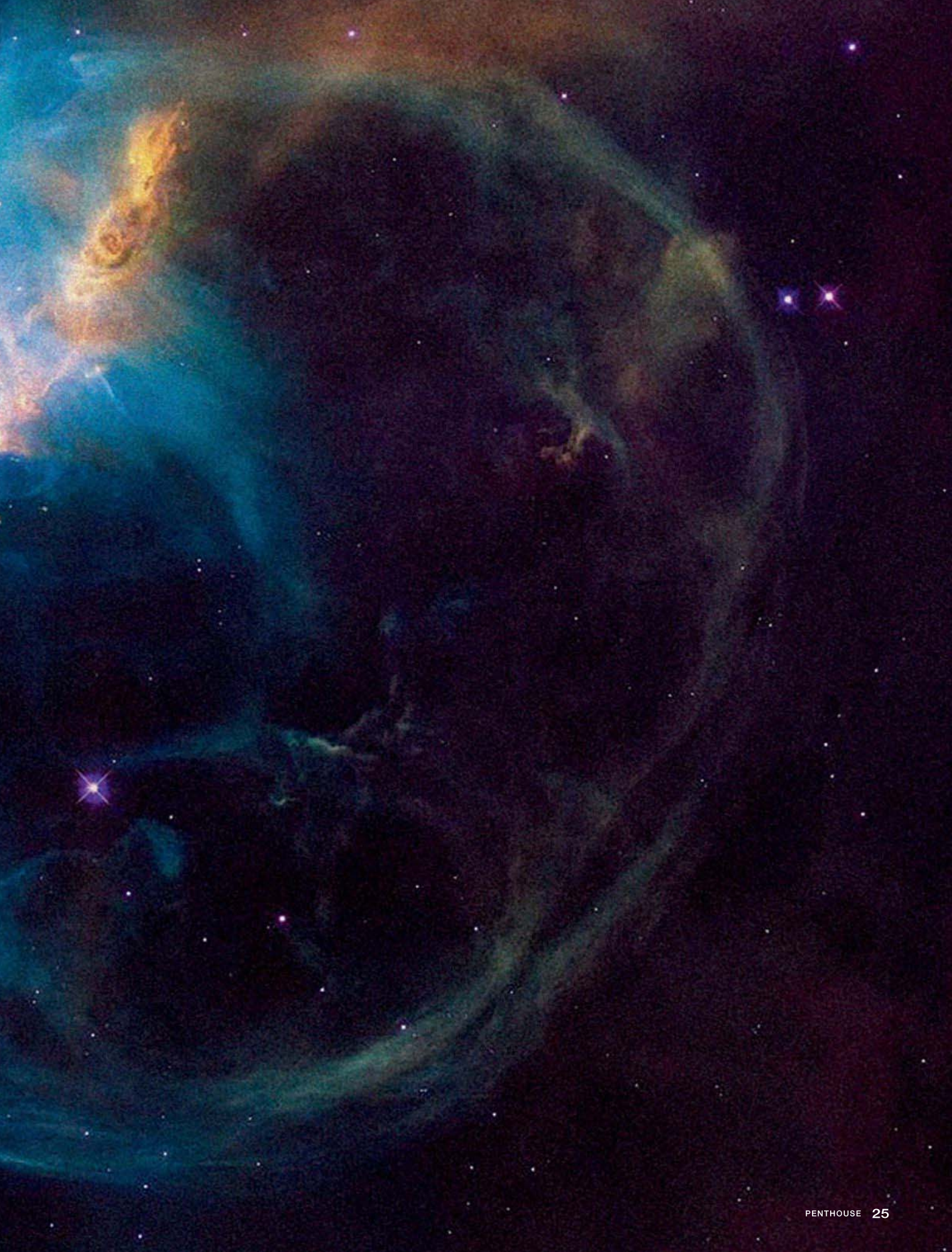
**T**HE Hubble image of the Bubble Nebula, or NGC 7635, was chosen to mark the twenty-sixth anniversary of the launch of Hubble into Earth orbit by the STS-31 space shuttle crew on April 24, 1990.

"As Hubble makes its 26th revolution around our home star, the sun, we celebrate the event with a spectacular image of a dynamic and exciting interaction of a young star with its environment. The view of the Bubble Nebula, crafted from Wide Field Camera 3 images, reminds us that Hubble gives us a front-row seat to the awe-inspiring universe we live in," said John Grunsfeld, astronaut and associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters, in Washington, D.C.

The Bubble Nebula is seven light-years across — about one-and-a-half times the distance from our sun to its nearest stellar neighbor, Alpha Centauri — and resides 7,100 light-years from Earth in the constellation Cassiopeia. ❶

Credit: NASA







CRUSH

# KAYA SCODELARIO

RISING British starlet Kaya Scodelario has landed her biggest role to date after nabbing the female lead in the forthcoming *Pirates of The Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*. Joining returning cast members Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Geoffrey Rush for the fifth installment of the franchise, Scodelario tackles the coveted role of astronomer Carina Smyth. With a plot focusing on the search for the legendary Trident of Poseidon, Scodelario's character possesses a diary with clues to the powerful artefact, making her a key player in what's shaping up to be one of the best films in the series.

Born in the UK to a Brazilian mother and English father, Scodelario spent her youth growing up in Brazil after her parents divorced. A known Arnold Schwarzenegger fan (she named her dog Arnie) and fluent in Portuguese despite suffering from dyslexia, Scodelario's first brush with acting came at the tender age of fourteen on British teen drama *Skins*. Despite minimal speaking parts in the first season, she became a central cast member during the third and fourth seasons before scoring her first feature film role in the critically acclaimed sci-fi flick *Moon*. Smaller roles followed in *Shank* and *Clash of The Titans* before Hollywood took notice when she got the lead in the award-winning *Wuthering Heights*. Her first American role in drama *Emanuel* and the *Truth About Fishes* quickly followed before she broke through into the mainstream as Teresa Agnes in the adaptation of children's dystopian series *The Maze Runner*.

Along with the latest *Pirates of The Caribbean*, Scodelario is preparing to shoot the third and final *Maze Runner* film and will soon feature in the much hyped action-adventure film *The King's Daughter*. Young, talented and extremely gorgeous, the 24-year-old Scodelario has the world at her feet and is one of the best British exports that we've seen in a long time. **1**





DOWNLOAD

# SO YOU WANT TO LIVE FOREVER?

Here's a look at the many ways scientists are attempting to extend the human life span

REFERENCE: FUTURISM.COM

## PUT IT IN THE CLOUD

Probably the most extreme solution to the problem of immortality is to simply download our minds into robotic vessels. The "Avatar Project," part of the 2045 Initiative, is already planning to transfer human consciousness into a non-biological substrate by mid-century.

## EXCHANGE IT FOR A NEWER MODEL

Cloning and stem cell technology may enable us to grow replacement organs and exchange them for old and damaged body parts — scientists at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, for instance, have already created the first lab-grown organs to be implanted in human patients.

## GO SMALL

The Center for Nanotechnology in Society has targeted the ability to repair aging organ systems and tissues as among the most important applications for this revolutionary technology. If feasible, tiny machines will cruise our bloodstreams, clearing out metabolic waste, removing plaques, and combating the ill effects of senescence.

## TAKE A PILL

Certain pharmaceuticals, such as the diabetes drug metformin, could extend human lifespans by up to 50%. Drug companies like Gero are developing new anti-aging pills which will use so-called "geroprotectors" — compounds like carnosine, rapamycin, and metformin — to extend the youthfulness of tissues well into advanced age.

## BECOME ONE WITH MACHINES

One solution could be the creation of human-machine hybrids or "cyborgs". Companies like SynCardia have developed artificial hearts that can keep recipients alive for up to four years — who knows, in the future we may swap failed organs piecemeal to become semi-immortal cybernetic organisms.

## BUILD A BETTER HUMAN

Forget the patch-up jobs — the best solution may be to redesign the human organism at a genetic level. Companies like Human Longevity, Inc. and Calico are sequencing the human genome and scouring its landscape for clues to the genetic causes of aging, so we can edit them out.



READ

## I. THE WATCHMEN ALAN MOORE

The 'graphic novel' that made reading comic books OK (as if it ever wasn't...), *The Watchmen* is of course much more than that — one of the most gripping fictional narratives of the past 40 years.

## II. AMERICAN GODS NEIL GAIMAN

Much like any Neil Gaiman story, the devil is in the details and you just have to resolve yourself to coming along for the ride or you'll miss it. It's not one story, or two, it's many, and it's all complete...and you have to just read it, and enjoy it and accept it.

## III. BURNING THE DAYS JAMES SALTER

Salter was a career officer and Air Force pilot. In this brilliant book of recollection, Salter recreates people, places and events spanning some fifty years, bringing to life an entire era through one man's sensibility.



PODCAST

## I WAS THERE TOO

Matt Gourley finds the people standing next to the stars during Hollywood's greatest scenes and classic movies and gets the inside tales you've never heard; dealings with generous actors, genius directors, nude scene etiquette and how to make Tarantino laugh.

## ART OF CHARM

You'll learn top strategies to improve your career, confidence, lifestyle, and love-life from experts like life and business-hackers Tim Ferriss, Ramit Sethi, and Noah Kagan to Seth Godin, Simon Sinek, Olivia Fox, and more.



A full-page photograph of Keanu Reeves in a dark, moody setting. He is wearing a black turtleneck and a dark suit jacket, holding a handgun in his right hand. He has a serious expression and a small wound on his forehead. The background is dark and industrial, with some light reflecting off the wet ground.


MAN OF THE MOMENT

# KEANU REEVES

It is perhaps peculiar that a leading man with such teasingly diverse talents has continued to polarise critics and audiences over the span of his career – perhaps that is part of the exquisite charm of the enigmatic, Keanu Reeves.

Lebanon-born Keanu – a Hawaiian name which translates into “cool breeze over the mountain” – doesn’t seem afraid to take chances. From his breakout role in the unexpectedly popular late 80s teen flick, *Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure*; to Gus Van Sant’s 1991 indie flick, *My Own Private Idaho*; to the Academy Award winning action film *The Matrix* – in which he learnt over 200 individual martial arts moves; Reeves’ versatility continues to impress. In his latest action thriller, Reeves reprises his role as hard-ass assassin, John Wick, in *John Wick: Chapter 2* – and we couldn’t be more excited. But as his star metre increases, as do his paychecks, why is it that we continue to hear stories of Reeves’ lack of interest in the big bucks?

We’ve all fantasised about the luxurious potential of a multi-million dollar film star existence – the private jets, the expensive cars, the decadence, the possibilities. However, Reeves, who has an estimated net worth of \$350 million, never surrendered himself to the Hollywood system. Instead, he maintains a relatively private existence, rooted in philanthropy and generosity.

Reeves’ monetary contributions to various charities and personal causes have been uniquely lavish. His donations to cancer research are set up without his name attached, and in the case of *The Matrix* films, Reeves reportedly relinquished \$80 Million of his \$114 Million dollar paycheck to better fund the special effects and makeup teams. In the 2000 sports comedy, *The Replacements*, he reportedly took a 90% pay cut so the production could afford to bring on Gene Hackman. He has famously commented, “Money is the last thing I think about. I could live on what I have already made for the next few centuries.” So how come this famous actor rejects his wealth? Perhaps, to quote John Wick, “It’s Personal”. 





#### HOT SHOT

MASSAGE therapy exists in a myriad of forms around the world. Thai, Swedish, Ayurvedic, Shiatsu – practically every culture on Earth has its own approach to alleviating stress through working on the body. Ariana Gold is a professional masseuse, featured in this shot with her massage table. She specialises in erotic massage – which is exactly what it sounds like. Very relaxing. 📍 Credit: mister Vee





MUSIC

## AND THE WINNER IS...

**T**HIS month the world music unites for the prestigious 59th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony, where the likes of David Bowie, Adele, Coldplay and Kanye West vie for a prized golden gramophone.

While the Grammy's are usually a pretty tame affair, there have been occasions over the years where things have gotten out of hand. Here's our look at the most controversial moments in Grammy's history.

### > MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS WIN BEST RAP ARTIST

Rapper Macklemore and producer Ryan Lewis became the biggest thing in hip-hop with Thrift Shop. The catchy single helped their debut record, *The Heist*, become a worldwide chart-topper, netting the duo four Grammy Awards in 2014, although not without controversy. Kendrick Lamar's good kid, m.A.A.d city, was widely recognised as the best album rap album that year, possibly of all time, but lost out to *The Heist*. The hip-hop community went into meltdown, with critics citing Macklemore as a pop act more than rap, believing the known conservative Grammy voters were more attracted to voting for someone who was white. Macklemore agreed, apologising to Lamar via text message, although he kept the Grammy.

### > MILLI VANILLI FORCED TO RETURN GRAMMYS

German pop-duo Milli Vanilli became overnight stars in the late 80s with hit singles *Blame It On The Rain* and *Girl I'm Gonna Miss You*. They even scored Grammys for Best New Artist in 1990 but were forced to hand them back when it was revealed neither Fab Morvan or Rob Pilatus actually sang any of the songs on their albums and lip-synched when performing live. The duo never recovered, and although they recorded a comeback album set for release in 1998, Pilatus died before completion, putting a sad end to Milli Vanilli.

### > JENNIFER LOPEZ ALMOST BARES ALL

It's not always about the nominations, as was the case when Jennifer Lopez attended the 2000 Grammy's with then boyfriend Puff Daddy. Wearing a barely-there green Versace gown with a plunging neckline that exposed almost everything, Lopez was the talk of the awards. Even presenter David Duchovny was in awe, claiming it was the first time in six years nobody would be looking at him.

### > OL' DIRTY BASTARD CRASHES AWARD STAGE

50 Cent's silent walk-on protest during Evanescence's win for Best New Artist in 2004 isn't the first time a rapper's taken the stage unannounced. At the 1998 awards, Wu-Tang lost to Puff Daddy for Best Rap Album, so Ol' Dirty Bastard took to the stage to vent his anger during an acceptance speech for a category the group wasn't even nominated in. ODB ranted and raved before coining the famous phrase, "Wu-Tang is for the children." **1**





FILM

## THE MCCONAUGHEY RENAISSANCE

**A**FTER the decidedly “meh” reviews of Mathew McConaughey’s role as Arthur Brennan, a self-involved, detached college professor who goes to Asia to “find himself” in *Sea of Trees*, many critics feared the acclaimed Hollywood actor had finally hit his peak. While the wailing from the sidelines continues, with some declaring the “end” of the McConaughaisance – we’re not willing to make that call yet. And not to make excuses for his unremarkable performance; *Sea of Trees* is pretty average (why do white men always “find themselves” in Asia?). McConaughey’s characters are often smart, laconic and witty with some degree of southern charm, but he couldn’t channel this through the introspective, arrogant intellectual, Arthur Brennan.

A casting error more than a reflection of McConaughey as an actor. That’s why we don’t believe we’ve seen the summit of this guy’s talent just yet.

His latest role in *The Dark Tower*, the long-awaited adaptation of Stephen King’s science fantasy horror series, poses an interesting challenge for the Oscar award-winning actor. In it, he plays Walter Paddick, an ageless sorcerer and primary antagonist in a plot that sees him come up against Idris Elba, the heroic “gunslinger”. We’ve never seen McConaughey in a fantasy role before, but if he pulls it off, he’s cemented as one of Hollywood’s most talented leading men.

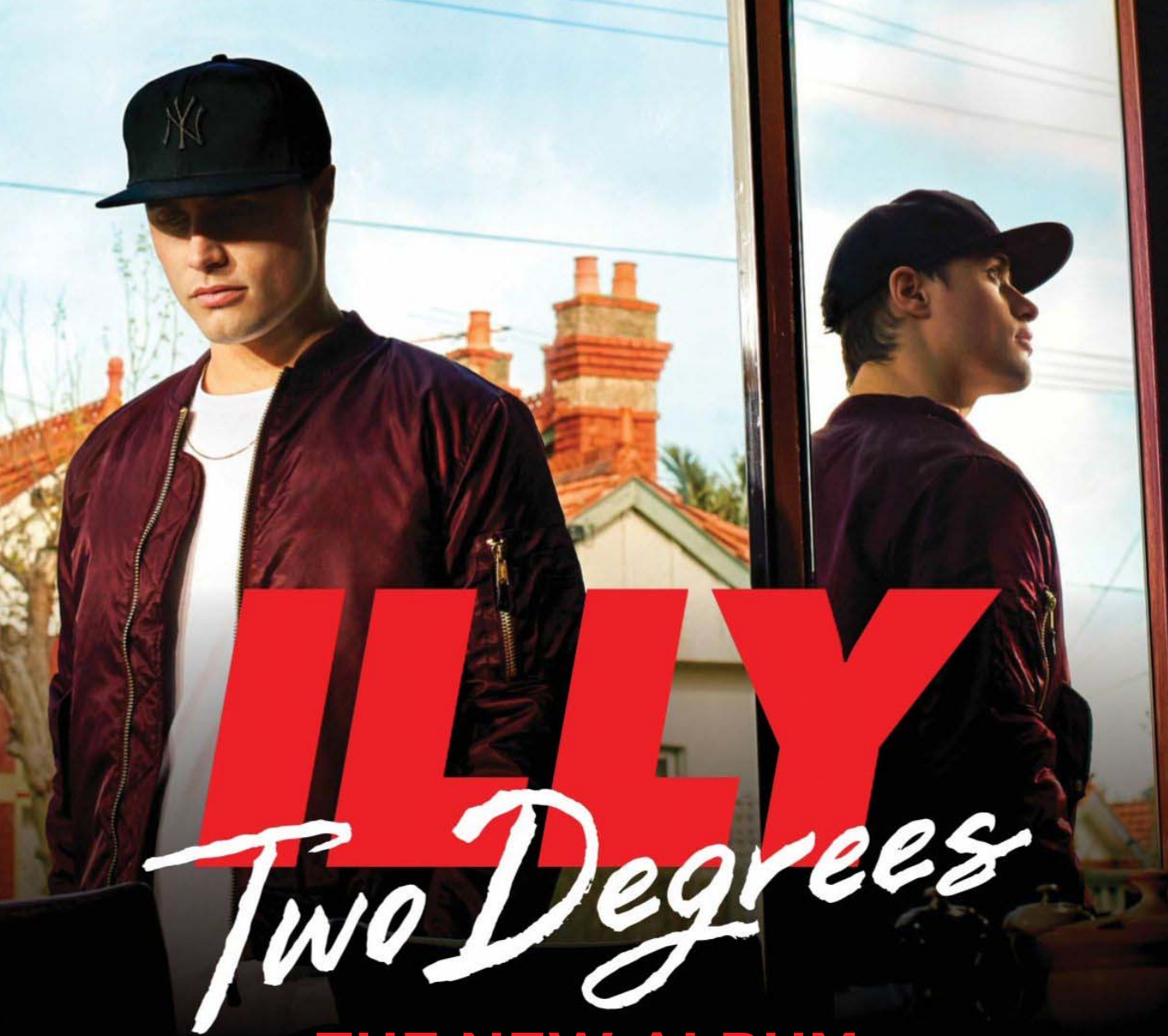
We’ve carefully followed McConaughey’s journey from

mediocre Hollywood heartthrob to badass character actor – and it hasn’t necessarily been smooth. After moderate success at the box office during the 90s, his star began to fade, and in 1999 McConaughey had an infamous run-in with the law when he was arrested for possession of marijuana. Police were called to his house because of noise complaints and found a naked McConaughey high on weed playing the bongos. It’s an incident he laughs at now, but at the time impacted on his career, with many in the industry seeing him as nothing more than a free-spirited playboy.

McConaughey’s evolution as a dramatic actor culminated with his Oscar win for Best Male Actor in 2014 for drama *The Dallas Buyers Club*. Losing 38 pounds to play AIDS-afflicted Ron Woodroof, the film told the true story of Woodroof’s early diagnosis and how he helped smuggle unapproved pharmaceuticals into America for other HIV/AIDS sufferers. Since the Oscar win, McConaughey hasn’t looked back, with critically acclaimed roles in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *Interstellar*, *Gold* and cult television series *True Detective*.

Having coined the motto, just keep livin’ (also the name of his foundation dedicated to helping teenage kids live active lives), McConaughey has managed to channel his laconic attitude and charming personality into his acting, and we’re expecting to see some big things in the ongoing evolution of one of Hollywood’s most interesting leading men. **1**





# ILLY

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GAMING

# DEATH WARMED OVER: RESIDENT EVIL 7: BIOHAZARD

Capcom (Xbox One, PS4, PC)

**Y**OU can't run but you can hide in Resident Evil 7: Biohazard, the interactive equivalent of one of those found-footage horror films crammed with cheap jump scares. Here—and particularly in the VR-compatible PS4 version—the horror gets all up in your face. Mutants lunge from the shadows. Deranged hillbillies stalk you through dank corridors. Creepy baby dolls tumble from opened cupboards just to make you duke in your drawers. This installment abandons the third-person perspective and increasingly outlandish gun battles of the Japanese series in favor of a first-person perspective more familiar to American

audiences. And yet Biohazard hasn't lost its creepy/cool made-in-Japan vibe—obtuse puzzles, eccentric characters, limited ammo and healing herbs—that defined the genre known as “survival horror.” (Fortunately you won't hear any of the laughable voice acting that also defined the genre—see below.) It's no accident this game's title combines the series' Western name (Resident Evil) with its Japanese one (Biohazard); the gameplay is both foreign and domestic, a mix of Doom and gloomy weirdness.

Much of your time is spent hiding and sneaking from horrors shambling through a mansion in the Louisiana bayou. Wielding nothing but a flashlight, you stumble through

musty halls, past unmade beds, along kitchen counters heaped with rotting food. Players with OCD will suffer a double dose of horror. By collecting scattered VHS tapes from a fictional ghost-hunting show, you can relive the ill-fated adventures of the shows' hosts while getting clues about your current predicament. Weapons are scarce; you'll need to duck into closets and hunker behind doorframes to avoid fatal confrontations. Eventually you'll lock and load more serious firepower, but ammo and healing herbs don't grow on trees here. When enemies leap at your jugular from the shadows, your best option is flight over fight, stumbling away at a brisk walk. **1**

## CHEAP TALK: THE BEST WORST VOICE ACTING HAPPY TIME GO!

### RESIDENT EVIL (PS1, 1996)

This instigator of the survival horror genre certainly didn't introduce the idea of badly translated scripts combined with actors hired because they could pronounce English words, but the game's runaway success brought rottenly acted dialog to the mainstream.

Search online for “Resident Evil + the master of unlocking”

### HEAVY RAIN (PS3, PS4, 2010)

This near-masterpiece of interactive drama had one major flaw: its French developer hired European voice actors to portray Americans with thick Boston and New York accents. The results are both funny and off-putting. Remember when Kevin Costner dropped his English accent 15 minutes into Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves? This is like that.

Search online for “Heavy Rain + bad accents”

### THE HOUSE OF THE DEAD 2 (Arcade, 1998)

Further proof that Japanese zombie games and bad voice acting go together like sashimi and soy sauce, this light-gun shooter stars monotone voice actors who couldn't be bothered to muster an evil laugh let alone pronounce the name of the bad guy. (The evil businessman Goldman is pronounced “gold man.”) Search online for “House of the Dead 2 + Goldman”

### LAST ALERT

(TurboGrafx-CD, 1989)

Combining all of the best worst things about late-eighties games—such as the bad “Engrish” of meme-spawning shooter Zero Wing and the bottomless storage capacity of CD-ROMS—Last

Alert delivered hours of corny dialog (“You can't hire my feelings,” says the hero) delivered gamely by actors taking the “more is more” approach. Search online for “Last Alert + voice acting”





## POLITICS

# FIVE DECADES OF FIDEL

**T**HERE are many ways to interpret the life of the revolutionary world figure; he was a divisive and contentious communist dictator, a beloved leader, an extraordinary political and historical figure who withstood the trials of history, not to mention the reported 638 attempted assassinations on his life by the CIA. Yet, one thing can be said about Castro for certain: He maintained a fierce loyalty to his beliefs, out of which helped birth the Cuban Revolution, and dictator or otherwise, Castro radically transformed Cuba into an internationally dominant and influential government, harnessing particularly great respect from leaders of fellow developing nations. To put it simply, Castro helped put Cuba on the map.

In 1926, as the world became acquainted with liquid-fuelled rockets and Winnie-the-Pooh, so was it introduced to Fidel Castro. Castro was born the illegitimate son of Angel Castro, a wealthy sugarcane harvester, in Cuba's eastern province of Birán. Cuba had been an independent republic for only 20 years then, yet was at the mercy of a constitutional clause which stipulated that the U.S. could claim the right to intervene as they saw fit – which was regularly.

As a young man, Castro received a quality education, advancing to the University of Havana to pursue his studies in law. The University of Havana had a long history of struggling against dictators, and this history bled right into Castro's education, harnessing an ardent thirst for social justice. Where Castro's grades were average, his impassioned nationalism was fervent, and by twenty-one, Castro's political motivations were solidified.

Throughout his early twenties, Castro became known to authorities as impulsive and forceful, and a key organiser of radical political protests, some of which turned into violent riots. From 1953 until 1958, Castro's defiance of Cuba's then-dictator, General Fulgencio Batista, influenced a handful of organised assaults and guerrilla warfare campaigns with varying successes. By the dawn of 1959, Batista's Government was dissolved and overthrown by Castro's radical rebel group, who seized control of Cuba.

Under Castro's rule, Cuba's policy reform endeavoured to dissuade U.S. economic influence, nationalising factories, plantations and production. Instead, Castro and his government established a diplomatic relationship with the U.S.S.R., and with that came the long-standing disputation between Cuba and the U.S.A, who came to see him as a communist and a dictator.

Despite the countless efforts of the U.S. to undermine Castro's social revolution, he maintained a remarkable ability to withstand overwhelming global pressure, an ability strengthened by Cuba's strong diplomatic relationship with the U.S.S.R.

There were many shades of Fidel Castro; while heavily criticised by Western humanitarian organisations, Castro's Cuba had flourishing educational, housing and health care systems. He was touted by many as a violent dictator who inspired mass exodus and heavily invoked executions where he saw fit, yet Castro stood against imperialism, colonialism and was a friend and ally to his fellow third world countries. In his demise, Castro passed his leadership down to his like-minded brother Raúl Castro, who has continued to maintain power in Cuba. Fidel Castro died on November 26th, 2016, at the ripe old age of ninety. **●**





# THE VOYEUR'S MOTEL

**W**HILE most conniving crims get caught through stupidity or greed, the occasional specimen will come unstuck care of an altogether darker flaw; their own aggrandised egos and a desperate need to be accorded respect. One such character, moteller Gerald Foos, is the unsettling subject of renowned journalist Gay Talese's latest non-fiction work, *The Voyeur's Motel*, a remarkable story of possibly the most extensive and systematic "Peeping Tom" case in history.

In the mid-1960s, Gerald Foos purchased a 21-bedroom motel outside Denver, Colorado, with the express intent of spying on his guests. After recruiting his wife to help custom-fit the motel's vaulted attic with angled ventilation grilles for covert viewing, Foos did just that, indulging his voyeuristic compulsions almost daily for the next thirty years. Yet, despite admitting to frequent masturbation and at times bedding his wife while gazing down on his unsuspecting victims, Gerald Foos fancied himself as something rather much more than "just a deranged voyeur".

Convinced of his calling as a pioneering sexual researcher in the Kinsey mould, Foos would painstakingly document everything he was to witness over the decades from what he believed to be the "finest laboratory in the world". The result was a four-inch thick dossier dubbed "The Voyeur's Journal", a proud archive of "the best first hand, unrehearsed, non-laboratory sex between couples, and most other conceivable sex deviations."

On completing his specially-designed "observation platform", Foos wrote: "I had a feeling of tremendous power and exhilaration at my accomplishment. I had accomplished what other men had only dreamed of, and the thought of superiority and intelligence occupied my brain."

But it was an "achievement" Foos would soon realise he could

never receive credit for without compromising his dirty secret. His hopes for gratification slowly gave way and a sad social study built up in opposition to the revealing sexual one he'd envisioned.

The image of a roadside motel can evoke two seemingly conflicting notions; the suggestion of sleaziness, but also a sense of the mundane. And for every instance of intriguing sexual engagement he might encounter, Foos would be exposed to countless more of dispiriting monotony. Everyday miserable couples complaining of work, family, and finances to a steady, numbing backdrop of television and booze, punctuated only the every so often by a cursory display of routine copulation.

Worse still, Foos would be forced to bear silent witness to an endless parade of base human nature, including appalling acts of criminal and predatory sexual exploitation. Trapped by his impotent omniscience, Foos's journal entries shift to the unnerving third-person, and "The Voyeur" would soon veer dangerously toward intervention – a development resulting in the apparent strangulation of a young woman accused of stealing the drug-stash Foos had himself secretly flushed down the toilet.

Frustrated by his unsated desire for recognition and an ever-deepening isolation, a despairing Foos eventually contacted the journalist Gay Talese and confessed the whole sordid affair. An account which becomes only more unseemly when Talese keeps the events to himself, including the alleged murder and his own unsavoury trip to the attic. The reason for his silence was a vow not to reveal the details of the story until released from the condition of anonymity, which would only finally occur after thirty years.

And now Foos has thrust himself into the spotlight; a deviant subject to be overtly studied while his own questionable findings will remain largely forgotten. ❶



03/17

# STUDIO SERIES THOMAS AGATZ

**D**ANISH fashion model Sidse Kinnerup sought out photographer Thomas Agatz to realise a nude concept shoot that she had conceived of two years earlier. When they met, they talked ideas, mood, expressions and agreed on a project. The result is here. It's shot in Thomas Agatz' studio over three hours. The setup is simple: Dark grey background, one single light source for mood and a beautiful nude girl. **1**



















INTERVIEW

# RIGHT ON THE MARK

**MARK WAHLBERG, VERSATILE ACTOR AND SELF-PROFESSED  
“ORDINARY GUY” DISCUSSES HIS LATEST ROLE IN  
*DEEPWATER HORIZON*, THE TRUE STORY BEHIND THE 11  
LIVES LOST IN THE 2010 BP OIL SPILL**

IT'S early in the morning when I speak with Mark Wahlberg. Well, early by a layman's standards, he's already been up for hours, conquering the world.

"I'm usually up by 4 am, hit the gym, go about my day. Waking up late, sleeping in, doesn't happen." Maybe that's why Mark Wahlberg, Oscar-nominated big screen powerhouse, successful producer, franchise giant, is a one-man empire that's growing and increasing every day.

Traversing from popcorn blockbusters to critical masterpieces with ease, his movies hit the mark at the box office over and over again, proving his lucrative mettle that shows no sign of slowing down.

Even if the bulky actor, who started out life as a rapper and Calvin Klein underwear model, predicts a change in trajectory from his frequent action roles.

Though with production on his second outing in *Transformers* currently underway, that ain't going to happen anytime soon.

In his latest role, he plays Mike Williams, a rig supervisor on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform off the coast of Louisiana which exploded and sank in 2010, killing 11 souls and releasing nearly five million tonnes of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

And while years of column inches were dedicated to the ecological disaster and record-breaking payout from negligent operators BP, the 45-year-old actor wanted to shine the spotlight on those who perished, those whom he says were virtually ignored by the covering media. Alongside a cast including Kate Hudson and John Malkovich, he speaks about his feelings on oil exploration and why the stunts involved were his riskiest yet.



The actor lives in LA with former model wife, Rhea Durham, and their four children, Ella 13, Michael, 9, Brendan, 7 and five-year-old Grace

**You've been really busy since we last spoke.**

WAHLBERG: Nothing new there

**Gone from *Deepwater* to *Patriots Day* to *Transformers*, while juggling everything else you're working on, don't you ever reach a point where you say, enough!**

It's coming [laughs]. I'm sure it's coming. I like to work hard. I don't know any other way to be. I wish I did, but it's not in me to sit around, scratching my ass. I'm lucky enough to tell stories that matter to me personally, and I'm going to take every opportunity to do that.

***Deepwater* is the latest in a string of movies based on real events, is that becoming a pre-requisite?**

Yes, it's in my contract for every movie. Just look at *Transformers* [laughs]. You know, I like working on real-life true stories, it's probably my preference. I like that it's not about the individual, it's about the experience, and I think that pulls a cast and crew together – the story is so much bigger than any of us. And what's more engaging and engrossing than real life? Life is and will always be stranger than fiction.

**Why *Deepwater*?**

I think everyone can say where they were when they heard about the *Deepwater* explosion and the catastrophic environmental disaster that followed. Everybody knows the damage that was caused to the Gulf of Mexico, the devastating oil spill. But very

knew the rig like he did, nobody went through what he did, save for those who were killed.

Without him, we would have made so many mistakes, technically, physically. He was my teacher. He took me through rig school, and it was an honour to have the chance to play whom I think is a hero.

Mike was the last man off of the rig. He saved a lot of lives but he hates being called a hero, he really hates it. He just sees it as doing exactly what anyone else would have done; his brothers would have done it for him. He was just doing his job, and he wanted to get home to his family, whom he loves more than anything on this Earth, which as an ordinary guy, I can relate to that.

**Oil exploration has a very tempestuous relationship with the public, especially with all the environmental impact and damage it causes. But we need it, no two ways about it. What's your feeling after working on this movie?**

I don't think any of us have any idea of how difficult and dangerous oil exploration is, and what's involved, it's such a dangerous occupation. But it is so necessary for the world to keep turning, we all need it. We wouldn't be able to live the lives we currently enjoy without it.

**Do you think this movie will encourage oil companies to employ safer practices?**

I think, I would hope they would already be long negotiating and changing the ways they operate, long before this movie. They shouldn't need a movie to tell them that they need more money, more investment, more expertise and more time in securing the

## I LEARNED THAT THIS WASN'T JUST A STORY OF AN ECOLOGICAL DISASTER, THE OIL SPILL – IT WAS A STORY ABOUT HUMAN LOSS

few people, myself included – and maybe that was from a lack of reading or research on my part – remember eleven people lost their lives. That was completely overshadowed.

But then I read the script, well actually, first Lorenzo DiBonaventura called me and said, did you read the *Deepwater Horizon* article in the *New York Times*, and I learned that this wasn't just a story of an ecological disaster, the oil spill – it was a story about human loss.

Which was completely ignored by the media, eclipsed by millions being affected, the fishing industry being obliterated down there, thousands losing their jobs. But when you compare it to loss of life, you can always find another job.

These people who died, they need and deserve recognition for their bravery. They never came home to their families, and this movie is for them. The movie is a tribute, and an homage to them and their families, which means a lot to me and I know – personally – I know it means a lot to them.

**Were they happy to be involved initially?**

Not at the start, they were worried how their loved ones were going to be depicted, or even if they were going to be omitted from the script like the media had done. So it took some convincing but we stressed, we gave our word that this story was about them, they were the main focus. This was way, way overdue, criminally overdue.

**What was it like portraying Mike Williams with him on set?**

I'm so happy that he agreed to be a part of this, I don't know if it would have been possible without him, probably not. Nobody

extraction of oil in a safe and secure way where this futile loss of human life will never happen again.

**You shot on an oil rig built on set, which must have really helped embody the character**

It's one of the biggest sets I've ever been on, and I'm working on *Transformers* right now, that'll give you an idea of how big a movie this was. It was built on the old Six Flags parking lot in New Orleans, and to recreate the catastrophe, the explosions, the devastations, it was a complicated shoot. But this is what we had to do, we couldn't half-ass it, it needed to be fully realised to give us even a fraction of what these people went through.

**You were on fire in one scene**

It's weird because I'm not too used to this, being my first time on fire, something I try to avoid. They're slathering the protective gel on you – it's pretty safe, but shit can go wrong. Then all the flammable gel is put on, and there's that minute where you think, "wait, wait, should we really do this?" Before I can even second guess, the guy lights me on fire, lights Dylan [O'Brien] on fire. And the best part, they don't even start shooting. "Pete, what the fuck, what are you trying to do to me? You're going to fucking kill me!"

**You've always done your own stunts, but when it's something like this, are you starting to pull back?**

I'm 45 now, it's not my main priority, you know? I think before – ten years ago – I did everything that the studio and insurance company would allow me. And then some [laughs]. Now, it's a case of only what's required. I'm not looking for the extras. But





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Playing Mike Williams in *Deepwater Horizon*; Wahlberg with Kate Hudson and Stella Allen; On set of *Deepwater Horizon* with Dylan O'Brien; Wahlberg as Sgt. Tommy Saunders in *Patriots Day*; With Kevin Bacon and John Goodman in *Patriots Day*.







Wahlberg in *Deepwater Horizon*

this, it's a true story. There are guys on set who were actually there, came this close to dying, I'm not going turn around and haul in the stunt guy at every possible opportunity.

***Patriot's Day*, now correct me if I'm wrong, and *Deepwater* to a certain extent, it's not so much about the physicality, even though they are physical roles, compared to *Transformers*. Is this the direction you're going in?**

Now that I'm getting old and grey, is that what you're asking?

Well...yeah?

I like to think I can keep up the physical stuff but my body doesn't play ball like it used to, and it's coming to a time when I can't push myself that far anymore. It's getting harder to become a certain size or shave off some definition. I'm looking forward to playing the older guy, when there isn't as much focus on that.

**Are we ever going to see you get massively out of shape or super, super skinny, à la Matthew McConaughey?**

Getting real fat sounds like a lot of fun, so I'm game [laughs]. More fun than super skinny. If the scripts good enough, then yeah, I would never say no. I got to have some fun bulking up on this, eating every delicious carb and drop of alcohol I could find.

**What was *Patriots Day* like to work on, given it's such a personal project for you?**

Like *Deepwater*, there's a huge pressure to honour those affected and involved in these tragedies and it's same for the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings. But you're right – it is a very personal story. Boston is a small town, and everybody knows someone affected or hurt in the blasts, I know many people, so it's of huge importance to me to get this right.

I grew up there, couple miles from Boylston Street, I know those streets and the people on them intimately, there was no

## THEN ALL THE FLAMMABLE GEL IS PUT ON, AND THERE'S THAT MINUTE WHERE YOU THINK, "WAIT, WAIT, SHOULD WE REALLY DO THIS."

way – and Pete and I discussed this a lot and I have so much faith and trust in him – that we were not going to treat the experiences of those caught up in the bombing with the utmost sensitivity. Pete is super sensitive to this.

**This is your third movie working together, why does this partnership work for you?**


I trust him. I've learned a lot from him. We both have the same work ethic and drive and hunger to deliver the story. When we first worked together on *Lone Survivor*, there was a sense of feeling each other out, sizing the other up. But a great friendship based on trust and creative vision was established. He calls me and tells me about an idea he's working on, and I'm in. Just like that, because I know Pete's standard and level of quality. And there's nobody else I would do that with.

**When you say learning from him, is directing the next step for you?**

Yeah, I don't know. I think about it a lot. But working with Pete, working with Michael Bay, David O'Russell, Scorsese, I'm just not sure if I'm ready to cross into that, if I can take on that arena of creativity and command and final say.

But I'm thinking about it a lot, and it will happen. It will happen. **●**





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# MERCHANTS OF ILLUSION

AN INTIMATE LOOK INSIDE THE LIFE OF A CAMGIRL IN  
ONE OF ROMANIA'S PREMIER "CAMMING" HOUSES  
BY MATTEO FAGOTTO. PHOTOS BY MATILDE GATTONI

**T**IMISOARA (Romania) – In an upscale, residential area on the outskirts of this Romanian city at the border with Hungary and Serbia, sits a beautiful, three-storey mansion surrounded by swimming pool and garden. At first sight, nothing distinguishes it from the other dwellings, apart from the constantly-shut windows and curtains and the silence that permeates it in the morning. Then, at 12 o'clock, the house suddenly comes to life when a mysterious BMW pulls up to the front gate, offloading a group of beautiful, young girls, marking the beginning of yet another day in one of the most lucrative and secretive industries of our time.

Once inside the house, a 25-year-old girl with an inviting smile and toned body, nicknamed Krina, quickly climbs to the upper floor and inside her room, equipped with a purple sofa, a white bed and an internet-connected computer workstation. After a long make-up session, she puts on a cream-coloured skirt suit and a black lingerie top, switches her PC on, adjusts her webcam and logs into an adult website.

It takes Krina just a few minutes to fill her free videochat room with adoring users from all over the world, imploring her to get naked. The girl doesn't budge, replying with funny jokes or teasing customers by dancing in front of the camera. Suddenly, another window pops up on her monitor, a sign that a user just initiated a paying, one-on-one session. After few minutes of small chat, the user asks Krina if she can undress for him. The girl complies, stripteasing slowly, always whispering sensual words to her client. Once naked, Krina takes out a dildo from a drawer and starts touching and caressing it, before pleasing herself with her fingers to the delight of the man. Both of them climax after several minutes of moans and wheezes, the client congratulates her and quickly abandons the chat. Still naked, the girl lights a cigarette, then checks her profile to see how much she just made: the client spent around \$110 US dollars for a 25-minute-show. "I don't know much about him, but he is a good customer" explains Krina, puffing away the smoke. "He is from the US and comes around five times a month."

A former university student and bar waitress, for the past three years Krina has been a professional camgirl at Live Cams Mansion,

the agency hosted in the white house. Krina works eight hours a day, performing online erotic shows for paying customers from all over the world. Live cam shows first launched in the early 2000s, and the phenomenon has grown exponentially thanks to improved internet speed and cheaper technology, revolutionising porn and becoming the fastest growing sector within the adult entertainment industry, making in billions of dollars annually. Today, major adult cam sites such as LiveJasmin, Chaturbate, Flirt4Free or Streamate feature hundreds of camgirls who are online throughout the day. While users can see and chat with the models free of cost, they have to buy credits to see them performing in shows, private one-to-one sessions which typically cost between \$2 to \$9 USD per minute. The bill is collected by the cam site through the client's credit card and then split with the girl.

Camming has become hugely popular thanks to its interactivity and real-time feedback between customers and models, rendering classic porn movies obsolete. Depending on the user's and camgirl's tastes and preferences, private shows can be anything between a kinky fetish session to a simple conversation. With camgirls, customers have the unique feeling of being let into the real, intimate lives of ordinary women, spurred by the "girl-next-door" look of many models and the fact that they generally work from bedrooms.

While, according to all the camgirls interviewed for this project, the typical customers are males between their 40s and 60s looking for heartbroken shows, camming attracts all types of clients, some of them very rich and famous. Among Live Cams Mansion's various clients were a very famous American rapper, a Nobel Prize winner and a Spanish national football team player, proudly boasts Adrian Ionescu, the agency manager. There are men unable to relate with women in real life, those who feel that cheating on their wives online is less serious, others who are simply curious or lack time to cultivate personal relationships.

The activity is so profitable and accessible (all you need is an PC with an internet connection and webcam) it has attracted tens of thousands of models from every corner of the world, from students to single mothers and middle-aged housewives. Camboys have



entered the scene as well, catering to a gay audience as well as a growing female one. But while most of the camgirls in the West operate from their own houses, in Eastern Europe, the activity has turned into a sizable industry, with professional studios providing girls with equipped rooms, promotional tools and web traffic in exchange for a share of their profits. Due to a combination of good-looking girls, very high-speed internet connectivity (Romania ranks 11th in the world, according to the 2015 Akamai State of the Internet Report) and a low cost of living, Romania has become the uncontested capital of this new trend. Local media and dedicated online forums estimate the country hosts around 700 studios from where 40,000 local, English-speaking models cater for more than 150 million users all over the world, from the Americas to India, Europe, Australia, Japan and even Saudi Arabia.

Although still taboo for parts of local society, videochat has become a common job for Romanian girls in their 20s. While some of them do it to pay their studies or support their families, the vast majority are attracted by the potentially lucrative earnings of a job which, apparently, doesn't require any particular skill. Depending on her talent and the number of hours spent online, an average camgirl can make anything between \$1,000 and \$3,500 USD per month, in a country where the average monthly salary is around 400 EUR. "It's an easy way to make money, and at the same time you don't really force yourself with responsibilities" explains Krina.

The story of this flamboyant girl with an undisguised passion for gym and TV hosting is similar to those of many other camgirls. Born in a small village in South-East Romania from a poor family of farmers, Krina had her first contact with camming at 19, when she joined a studio in the city of Constanta for a few months. "I still remember my first private show, I was very frightened and nervous" she remembers laughing. "A client asked me to strip off and please myself. While I was doing it, the only thing I could think about were the vegetables I had to buy to prepare soup for dinner." Krina decided to become a full-time camgirl only three years later, when a family loss prompted her to abandon university and her 250 euro-a-month waitress work and move to Timisoara to do "videochat", as the activity is known in Romania. "I arrived here not having friends, not having anything, but I needed to change something in my life" she continues.

Three years later, Krina is the uncontested "queen" of Live Cams Mansion, which hosts a total of nine camgirls, all in their 20s, and managed by the portly 36-year-old Adrian Ionescu. The house has a distinct, homey atmosphere, cut off from the outside world, where time passes in an endless circle of shows, cigarette breaks and idle chitchat by the pool. The girls spend much of their spare time here and clearly enjoy each other's company. As most of them come from outside Timisoara, the mansion helped them settle into their new lives and has been instrumental in forging strong friendships. The girls' personal stories form a fascinating mosaic of lives halfway between real and virtual world.

There is Lynette Smith, the youngest of the group, who is trying to manage to cam with her studies and hopes her family and friends will never find out what she does for a living. Bonie Blue, a girl of Slovak origins, dubbed "Super Girl", after a client asked her to put on

a feminine Superman-like costume, save him from a burning building and then seduce him. Domina Monserrat, the mistress catering for fetish clients, who is thinking about moving to Italy and finding a real slave to live with. Kendra Blu, a former gymnastics athlete and the hope of Romania for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, whose sporting career was cut short by a back injury.

Most of them started this job attracted by the money, as Ionescu candidly admits. "I have been in this business for more than ten years, and I still have to find a girl who does this because she likes it" he explains. But being a camgirl is much harder than expected. As only around 10 percent of the users who visit their chatrooms are willing to pay (the rest are commonly identified as "beggars"), competition to attract customers is fierce, and girls must sometimes wait hours for a show. "At times it is very boring, but you can't just sit on the bed and read a book," explains 20-year-old Lynette. "You have to be ready and make customers feel you are there." On the other hand, when their chatrooms fill with dozens, sometimes hundreds of users, models can have a hard time in coping with different requests, questions, comments and sometimes insults, all of them coming at the same time. According to Amalia, the HR manager in charge of job interviews at the mansion, only two girls of out ten make it past the first month. "This job is nerve-wracking" she explains. "Girls need nerves of steel to do it."

Managing the periods when clients are few and the pressure to earn mounts can also be difficult, as well as hiding personal emotions from the public. "Even if you had a bad day, or you are desperate because you haven't earned anything for a while, you cannot show it" explains Natali Rose, a 25-year-old girl from Timisoara who started working at Live Cams Mansion last October. "You need a lot of self-control because every emotion that you have is visible on camera".

One of the most difficult parts of the job is having to cope with the social stigma associated with camming. While on one side camgirls are among the most successful professionals in

the country, the shame connected with the activity prevents them from feeling proud of their achievements. A brief tour of the University of Timisoara provides a glimpse of how locals perceive camming. A young female student bluntly defines camgirls as "whores" and adds she recently cut ties with a friend who started doing it. A group of older girls doesn't know much about it but fear it might be the first step towards more dangerous activities such as prostitution. Camgirls point out there is no physical contact with the clients, no human trafficking connected with camming and that they are free to refuse to perform anything they don't feel comfortable in doing. "I am not ashamed of what I do" replies Natali calmly. "Many girls are doing this: generations are changing, and young people don't have such a bad conception about it anymore."

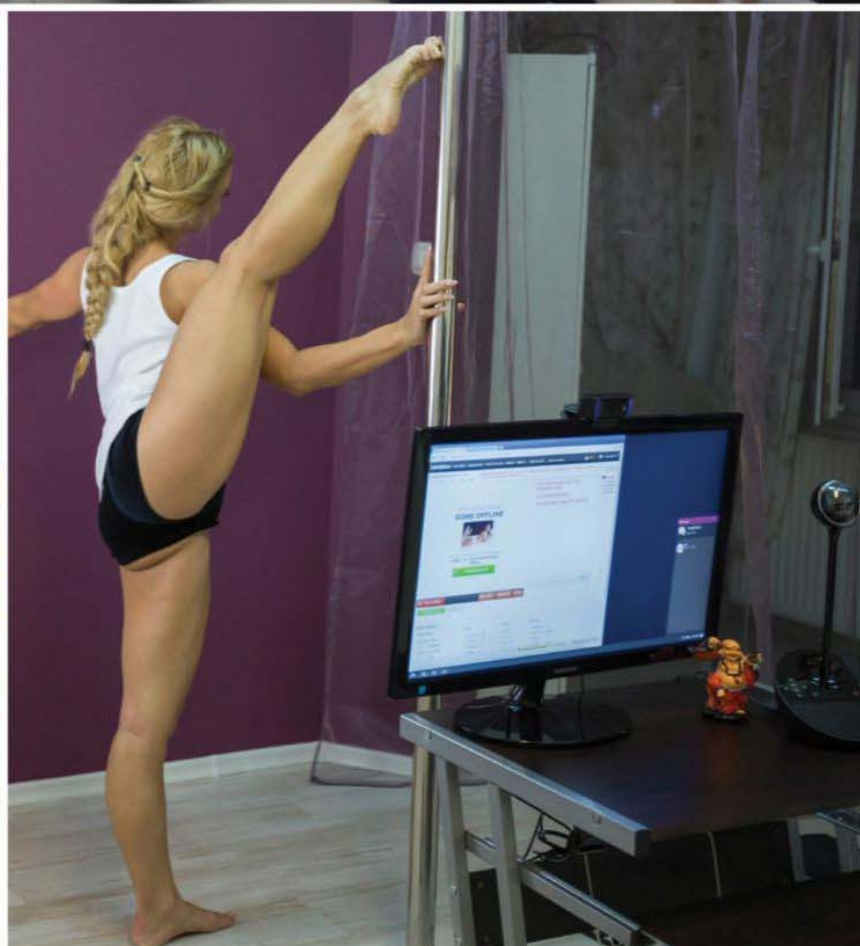
The daughter of estranged parents, Natali lives in her mother's house, who is now working in Italy as a restaurant cook. Although she has been aware of the industry for a long time, Natali summoned the courage for a job interview at Live Cams Mansion only after talking with a female friend who was a camgirl herself. So far, Natali is extremely happy with her choice. "I used to be shy, now I feel more self-confident about myself and my body" she explains. "I socialise much more easily, both online and in real life." Natali hasn't yet told her

**IT JUST TAKES KRINA  
A FEW MINUTES TO FILL  
HER FREE VIDEOCHAT  
ROOM WITH ADORING  
USERS FROM ALL  
OVER THE WORLD,  
IMPLORING HER TO  
GET NAKED**











family what she does for a living, but she plans to do it in December when she has the chance to talk to her mother face-to-face. "I expect her to get angry at first," she says, her fingers playing with her red braids, "but I am sure she will understand after seeing how many things I can afford now."

Models typically have a modest background, often coming from villages where work opportunities are few. Those who decide to open up to their families are scorned at first, but the fact that they often earn much more than their parents or elder siblings is a powerful convincing force. Just like Natali, many camgirls also come from families whose parents either passed away, are divorced or work abroad, a condition that might facilitate camming because of reduced familial control. The girls generally don't have a high level of education, nor a clear plan for their future, apart from very general goals like finding a partner and building a family. Almost all of them would like to set up a business, but by their own admission, lack the skills to manage their finances properly.

Ionescu, who acts as a fatherly figure for many of them, constantly tries to advise them, showing a sincere concern for their fate. "I am worried because most of them don't have goals in life and just think about today," he complains in frustration. "They come to work only when they need money and when they gain some, they spend it all." Managing those earnings is vital, as camming doesn't last forever. The industry has a very high turnover and girls burn out quickly. Spending so much time in a closed room isolated from the outside world takes a huge mental toll on the models, with many of them forced to drop their studies, friendships and relationships to concentrate on work. Those who don't disclose what they do have a particularly hard time in justifying their activities to family and boyfriends, especially during night shifts.

"It is very tiring, these long hours online prevent me from doing anything else. I don't have friends outside of here because I can't manage my time" confirms 27-year-old Baby Vanessa, the eldest camgirl here and the only one who seems to like the job for what it is. Originally from a city in Transylvania, Vanessa has always dreamt of appearing on Coca-Cola ad banners and *Playboy* covers. Raised in a middle-class family by parents employed as teachers, she earned both a college and masters degree in business management and describes herself as a very smart girl. "I had the chance of being anything I wanted, but I got stuck into this business. It's like an addiction" she explains with a hint of regret in her voice. "I love to see users simply worshipping me. I have clients logging in from work just to say hello." Still heartbroken from a relationship which ended three years ago, Vanessa badly wants a family but cannot picture herself leaving a job that satisfies the exhibitionist part of her personality. "I like to show myself, to dance, to be sexy and crazy, but at the same time I feel I disappointed my family," she says. "They had huge expectations for me and I could be much more than what I am now."

As camming is not a particularly gratifying job, Ionescu often motivates the girls with success stories like that of InnocentKat, a beautiful, classy 25-year-old Romanian who cammed for six years earning up to \$25,000 USD per month. "I started to have more clients when I paid more attention to the setting of my room, my clothes, the quality of my webcam," she explains, describing her

success as a mix of attention to small details and psychology. "I was constantly mixing things up. One day I was fully covered in an abaya, the other day I could be wearing only lingerie." With time, InnocentKat started to understand the different mindsets of the clients and to take control of the conversations. "You have to show them you have a strong personality. I wouldn't undress or do anything in private if the clients were not asking me politely," she continues. "Moreover, I never lied. If I had a boyfriend, I would tell them. Some clients were going crazy, speaking about committing suicide because they were in love with me."

To attract customers and gain their loyalty modern camgirls need to have attitude, be engaging, communicative, good listeners and attentive to their clients' needs – something easier said than done. The more marked these qualities are, the more a camgirl will be able to run her own show just like an actress, without focusing much on the sexual part. "Nowadays there are a lot of private shows that are about conversations and online friendships, rather than sex" confirms Jamie Rodriguez, brand manager at Flirt4Free. "Being a pretty, smiling girl in front of a camera was probably enough 15 years ago when the industry was so new, but it is not sufficient now."

It is common for camgirls to lie to customers who fall in love, as they are often the best clients and build relationships with camgirls that go beyond erotic shows. "You can be more open with them, especially

if you don't feel like performing a show" explains Natali. "One of my clients lost his wife a few years ago and never recovered from the shock. He would buy a private show just to cook for the two of us, as if I were her" she explains. Vanessa had a Portuguese client who offered to wire her 10,000 euros and another one from Texas who recently hinted at marrying her. Many of them fantasise about meeting the girls in real life one day, a very unlikely scenario as camgirls never reveal their personal details for obvious security reasons. "There are all kinds of weird people out there, and you don't want to find a stalker or a psycho in front of your house" explains Krina.

Arianna Smith, another 26-year-old camgirl working at the agency, once received a tip of \$6,000 USD from a Spanish customer. "I remember staring at the monitor in disbelief. He was on the other side of the screen, and I couldn't stop crying for the joy" she explains. Thanks to that money, Arianna was able to pay for a breast implant which will help her earn even more. Although she is already making around \$3,000 USD per month, she is convinced she can reach up to \$10,000. "I don't consider myself particularly smart, but I am a very strong woman. You need to fight every day for what you want" she explains, her black eyes showing her determination. "I want to buy my own house and car. Camming will help me achieve my goals."

As for her Spanish admirer, Arianna feels sympathy and affection towards him, but nothing that will ever match the man's feelings towards her. This somehow cruel disparity is part of the job and models are very aware of it, playing their clients' psychologists, friends and love consultants. The fact that camgirls will always remain a virtual dream is something customers probably know deep in their heart, but fantasising about this forbidden, impossible love is maybe what they need to cope with their real lives. "This is part of the job, we are selling illusions" explains Ionescu. "If they want to buy them, it's not our fault." ●

## ‘ AMONG LIVE CAMS MANSION'S VARIOUS CLIENTS WERE A FAMOUS AMERICAN RAPPER, A NOBEL PRIZE WINNER AND A SPANISH NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM PLAYER ’







# DAN THE MAN

AUSTRALIA'S **DANIEL RICCIARDO** HAS MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS A STEEL-STRENGTH F1 RACER. **STEWART BELL** LOOKS AHEAD TO SEASON 2017

**A**USTRALIAN Formula 1 driver Daniel Ricciardo is exactly as you'd expect him to be – friendly, big smile, likes a laugh and generally gives straight answers. He's your typical Aussie dude.

But get him behind the wheel of an F1 car, with upwards of 950bhp available at his right foot, and he becomes razor-sharp, ready to go wheel-to-wheel with the best in the world at upwards of 320km/h.

And that contrast between man and racer is reflected well beyond the cockpit.

"I can't multitask to save my life, like if I'm on my phone messaging someone you could be talking to me saying 'the house next door is on fire', and I wouldn't even know what you're saying," the Red Bull Racing driver says.

"But when it comes to the F1 car, maybe it's because I love doing it, but I can do things on the steering wheel, think about the balance [of the car], talk [over the radio] to my engineer – I am like multi-multi-tasking at high speed."

Regardless, the 27-year-old from Duncraig, in the suburbs of Perth, has made a big name for himself at the pinnacle of international motorsport.

And for good reason, he's an all-rounder – able to pull out an aggressive, all-or-nothing lap in qualifying, and then push to the limit in the race with no quarter asked, none given. It's exactly why McLaren's Fernando Alonso, a double world champion, recently ranked him the sport's best current driver...

That reputation has not been built overnight. It's been earned time and again with standout drives – like Japan 2012, when Ricciardo held back seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher for the final point, despite then racing a Toro Rosso (Red Bull's junior team).

His first win in Canada 2014, when he



## F1 2017

What are the new cars going to be like? If you listen to the teams' engineers and test drivers, they'll be proper F1 cars again – and tough to handle, especially for the drivers' necks with all that extra downforce.

"We do a lot of neck training now, but, honestly I think we're going to have to double that for next year," Ricciardo says.

"We're all going to look like rugby front rowers or something!"

The new cars will be wider at 2-metres, 20 centimetres up on this year's breed – matching pre-1998 cars. They'll also feature a wider front wing than 2016 cars, wider and lower rear wing, and longer and taller diffuser. The big change is tyre width, with a 25 per cent increase on 2016 – the fronts moving from 245 millimetres to 305. On the rears, it's more dramatic – with a shift in width from 325mm to 405. The diameter will increase by 10mm up to 670, but the wheel size will remain at 13 inches.

passed Force India's Sergio Pérez, and Mercedes' Nico Rosberg (2016's world champion, who retired from racing just five days after winning) in quick succession – for his first of three wins, after joining top team Red Bull Racing that year.

That said, last year was a roller coaster for Ricciardo. He came into the season with low expectations, following a winless 2015.

"I didn't expect to finish top five," he says.

"You do the best you can, and if the car is good enough [then] obviously you can do better – just because you say I don't think I can get fifth doesn't mean you're not going to get fifth if you can."

But, as Renault brought extra grunt to its power unit (F1's fancy word for state-of-the-art turbo-hybrid engines) and Red Bull Racing brought updates to the car – the Australian, and new teammate Max Verstappen, were able to go toe-to-toe with benchmark squad Mercedes on occasion.

But it didn't always go in Ricciardo's favour – with Spain, where Hamilton and Rosberg clashed on the first lap retiring on the spot, won by Verstappen.

The next race in Monaco was a disaster. Ricciardo was leading the race, but had the pit stop from hell – a last-minute decision to switch from the ultrasoft tyres to supersofts resulting in the Australian left up on the jacks for 13.6 seconds as his team struggled to find and fit the right rubber. It cost him the win.

Ricciardo, though, is still able to look on the bright side.

"It wasn't my personal worst moment, I think it was the worst moment probably for us as a team," he says.

"It was tough. It was the first time I've ever not attended a post race debrief. I'm normally very good with that but I just felt it was best to, and because my house was





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**THERE'S PRESSURE ON  
BOTH OF US I GUESS,  
BUT TO MAKE SURE I  
KEEP DELIVERING AND  
NOT GET OUT QUALIFIED  
BY HALF A SECOND**  
’

only like 500 metres away. I was like 'I'm just going to go home and not talk to anyone for a little while'.

Singapore, F1's stunning night race, was meant to be the team's next big chance for victory – but Rosberg dominated from lights to flag, while Ricciardo finished a sweaty second after 61-laps of the spectacular Marina Bay Street Circuit.

"A street circuit already requires a high level of concentration and doing that with the humidity of Singapore is fun but challenging," he says.

That win came at the next round in Malaysia, when Hamilton's power unit blew up while he was in the lead – a gremlin that would ultimately cost him the world title. Ricciardo, though, had his teammate breathing down his neck all the way to the chequered flag.

For Ricciardo, victory number four felt like a delicious slice of payback.

"Part of me thought about Monaco – and I thought, ok, this is a bit of redemption, and I wasn't going to let the win get away from me when I saw [Hamilton retire like] that.

"Max was close and I don't think he ever got within the DRS zone but he was like 1.1 seconds or something. So, he was just outside of it...

"He had really good pace all weekend, so I knew he would be strong and he'd be there until the end."

Both Ricciardo and Verstappen had to lift their games last year, the Dutchman delivering as the 'once-in-a-generation' talent – and only 19-years-old. But it's not something that worries Ricciardo.

"There's pressure on both of us I guess, but to make sure I keep delivering and not get out qualified by half a second," he says, laughing.

Importantly, season 2017 could see Ricciardo in the hot seat – with the sport's technical regulations shaken-up, and the cars set to be between 3-6-seconds a lap faster with aggressive styling and wider tyres; the season starting with the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix on March 26.

The regulation revamp is expected to favour Red Bull, its chief technical officer Adrian Newey the most successful designer in F1 history.

"I think it's cool that [people are] thinking about this because they believe that we will be fighting for a title. I would love to be in that position."

If Red Bull Racing delivers a rocket this year, Ricciardo won't have any issues – he's a capable racer, ready for his moment of glory. Expect him to shift up into top gear, and fly at the front. **●**





# TENX

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03/17

IN FOCUS  
WITH  
**FLORIAN  
WEILER**









## **T**ELL us about your equipment?

I love variety. Whether it is the motive, style or equipment. Therefore I utilise and play around with different gear.

From large, through medium to 35mm format, either analogue or digital, borrowed or mine. I don't restrict myself to specific equipment, but I always prefer lenses with a large aperture. I like to guide the observer through my pictures, and a shallow depth of field is one of my most important tools.

## **How did you start photography?**

The first camera I was holding in my hands was the Canon A1 from my dad. This was the time I did my first shots and became fascinated by photography. But it took me some time until I was not longer content by just capturing what I see and when I started to use photography in a more creative way.

## **What makes a great photo?**

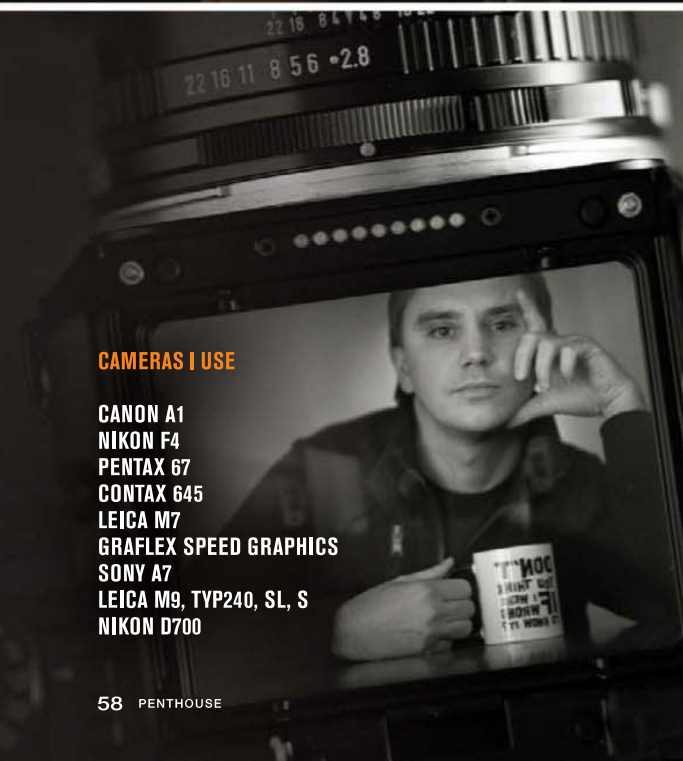
A great photo makes me pause for a moment, back-pedal, gets me fascinated and touches me on a very emotional or personal level. The reasons are as manifold as the motives, lighting conditions, perspectives, unique – or expressiveness. And sometimes it's nothing more than a very personal relation to the captured moment.

## **You make your own lenses – tell us about lens design.**

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INFORMER

# THE RISE OF DUTERTE

HAVE THE PHILIPPINES ELECTED THE MADDEST  
POLITICIAN ALIVE?







# THE MADMAN OF ASIA

IF YOU THOUGHT TRUMP WAS BAD, THIS GUY IS LITERALLY GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER. **BY MAX CHALMERS**

**J**UST as 2016 was settling into its rhythm of mayhem, one of the most delicate standoffs in the world turned on its head.

In May, a staggering election delivered a new regime in the Philippines. The country had traditionally been a staunch American ally and a thorn in the side of Chinese ambition. But the consistency of the past and predictability of the future were about to give way. A candidate who spoke like a pimp and acted like a gangster won the election. He called the U.S. President a “son of a whore”. He vowed to reverse his country’s alliances. He started a popular war on his own people.

With bodies piling up in the streets of Manila, and the U.S.-China balance tipped, onlookers have since then been asking the same beguiling question, one which has consequences far beyond the thousands of islands that make up the Philippines.

Can anybody stop Rodrigo Duterte?

Before his rise to the presidential office, Rodrigo Duterte was a prosecutor turned mayor with a reputation for violence.

He came into the world in a year of transition. Almost exactly one month before the death of Adolf Hitler, Duterte was born in the coastal hub of Maasin, where the occupying Japanese had recently been driven out by U.S. forces.

Even in his youth, Duterte showed a propensity for violence — or, at least, inhabited a world where its existence was unremarkable. In 1972, the future President was studying law in Manila when he shot a fellow student after an altercation. We know this because Duterte

boasted about the incident while running for President.

“I was a graduating student at San Beda when I shot a man,” he reportedly told a crowd, in Filipino. “I waited for him; I told myself I’ll teach him a lesson.”

“I said ‘You son of a bitch, if I get hit I will shoot you’. I was hit in the nose. Aaah! Bang.”

Duterte claimed the shooting was in response to bullying. The victim survived. The student didn’t lay charges. A would-be president bragging about shooting a fellow student may strike as incredulous, but the incident and Duterte’s proud recounting of it sits comfortably alongside his campaign’s narrative and his deeper political history.

In 1988, Duterte became the mayor of Davao, a position he would hold on and off for almost thirty years. Here, his instinct for violence as a solution found new resources.

Davao is a felonious city, topping domestic lists of murders and rapes. In response to its law and order problems, Duterte initiated a crackdown on crime that allegedly included a wave of extrajudicial killings. Human rights groups say that up to 1,400 people were murdered by death squads while Duterte reigned. According to a recent Reuters report, the victims were mostly low-level offenders: drug users, petty criminals, “street children”. There is evidence of police collusion. No one was ever prosecuted for the hundreds upon hundreds of killings. Duterte condoned the killings while denying any connection to the roaming assassins.

It wasn’t just criminals or the homeless feeling the heat under Duterte’s mayorship. In 2003, journalist Juan Pala was murdered while returning home from work. Men on a



motorcycle fired on Pala, hitting him four times in the chest. Known for his anti-corruption work, Pala's killing was linked directly to then-Mayor Duterte in a 2016 Senate inquiry. Duterte denied it. But during his campaign, he'd hardly seemed bothered by the idea of shooting up members of the press, referring to the incident directly at one point. "Just because you're a journalist you are not exempted from assassination if you're a son of a bitch," he said.

Yet Duterte's extraordinary history of action is not what eventually brought him to global attention. It's his mouth that's done that.

One of the first major waves of international outcry to his presidential bid came after a video emerged of Duterte joking about the rape of Australian woman Jacqueline Hamill, who was taken captive by rioting jail inmates in the 1980s. Hamill was raped by the inmates and then killed when authorities stormed the building to restore order. Duterte recalled the incident in the following remarks:

"I looked at her face, son of a bitch, she looks like a beautiful American actress. Son of a bitch, what a waste. What came to mind was, they raped her, they lined up. I was angry because she was raped, that's one thing. But she was so beautiful, the mayor should have been first. What a waste."

As is often the case, Duterte later backed away from the comments, though took a shot at Australian critics while doing so.

Elsewhere, he has labelled the President of the United States a "son of a whore", called the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines a "gay son of a whore", said of European lawyers that "their brain is like a pea", called US Secretary of State John Kerry "crazy", derided Ban Ki-moon as a "fool", and said the Pope was a "son of a whore".

Much of what Duterte says is false. But when he stated in a nationally televised address that "my mouth has no due process" he was telling the truth.

While international leaders rolled their eyes, Duterte's electoral momentum never ceased. The world saw a crude psychopath: the Philippines saw hope. In May, Duterte clinched victory with around 40 percent of the popular vote, promising to wipe out crime in the Philippines within six months (he implored followers to kill him if he failed to rid the country of crime and corruption within six months of taking office, later asking for a six-month extension when the self-imposed deadline passed).

After taking office, Duterte set about blowing up the tense network of alliances that keep China and the U.S. on the verge of war. But first, he looked inward. The campaign of killings wrought on Davao soon looked like child's play.

In the age of 24-hour news, papers formerly bound to daily schedules have developed a new tool to keep up with the fuss – the liveblog. The theme is usually something pressing but passing. A major sporting event. A violent storm. An election, perhaps.

In the Philippines, the popular Daily Inquirer is currently running one such project that has been churning along for months now. It's counting the people murdered by the President's police and their vigilantes.

Since Duterte took power in June, the numbers have ticked upwards. If you read international coverage, you'll see this growing figure appended to stories about the President's latest outrageous

comments. Duterte has said THIS about OBAMA! Good God! Oh, and he's also responsible for the street assassinations of 500 people in his own country. Make that 1,500. Make that 4,000.

Now the tally sits at around 5,000. Of that total, 2,000 have been killed by police. The majority – the remaining 3,000 – have died in extrajudicial killings. Duterte has egged on the slaughter from the sidelines, inciting officers and guarantying their protection.

From the dark mass of bodies rise stories of innocence.

Marcelina Mallari told NPR that her son Robert was a recovered drug addict. Police shot him at a time he was allegedly buying methamphetamine. His sister witnessed the killing and said her brother was in fact sleeping when the violence started.

In the Philippines, the police now barely need an excuse to kill you. Why complain, victims ask. Who would you tell anyway. The cops?

Then there are the non-police killings. Bodies are turning up all over Manila, wrapped and dumped with small explanatory notes. "I'm a drug pusher. Don't be like me," some say.

In such circumstances, no one is safe. This was made clear by the murder of Rolando Espinosa Sr.

Espinosa was not just any voiceless citizen: he was a mayor. Already in police custody, Espinosa was shot in his cell. Police claimed a search had revealed guns hidden in the pen and a shootout resulted. They provided few details to explain how such an extraordinary circumstance could have arisen.

According to the New York Times, Duterte had read the name of officials suspected of drug crimes or corruption, including Espinosa, on live television. He provided no evidence for their guilt and later admitted some were added to the list by mistake. Espinosa was the second mayor killed in murky circumstances in quick succession. A week after his death, Duterte sang Bette Midler's "Wind Beneath My Wings" at a karaoke bar. The President's bloody war isn't getting him down.

If a mayor can be murdered in police custody, there's little hope for those who make homes in the slums of Manila.

And yet none of the madness has harmed Duterte's standing with the people. Since the election, polls indicate his popularity has increased. Human rights groups have done what they can, lighting candles for the dead and lobbying for an end to the assassinations. Duterte – who will hold office for six years and has said he will close Congress if it tries to impeach him – has responded by threatening activists and saying he does not "give a shit" about human rights. He described children accidentally killed in the war on drug users as "collateral".

"This is how the cookie crumbles," he said in an extended interview with Al Jazeera. "I will kill you because I am the mayor, I am the President"

When the U.S. and international organisation criticise his violence, the President hits back harder. (It was such criticism that provoked him to dub Obama the "son of a whore".) When they denounce his abandonment of even the pretence of justice and his open rejection of human rights, he turns the charge on them. My drug war kills civilians – your terror wars do too – so what?

It's partially that spirit that has led Duterte to put Western critics in a bind. They don't like watching a crazed populist orchestrate

**HE CALLED THE U.S. PRESIDENT A "SON OF A WHORE". HE VOWED TO REVERSE HIS COUNTRY'S ALLIANCES. HE STARTED A POPULAR WAR ON HIS OWN PEOPLE**







murders in the streets of Manila. But they really don't like Asian Pacific leaders who get too close to China.

Between the devil and the deep blue sea is 3.5 million square kilometres of ocean that could determine if this century is remembered for war or peace.

Hemmed in on all sides, the South China Sea has become a focal point for tensions between the greatest military force in history and the most populous nation-state on the planet. It's the place the United States and China nervously stare each other down.

In recent years, China has gone out of its way to assert control over the Sea, a passage that facilitates one-third of the world's shipping boasts a rich store of hydrocarbons, and – crucially – allows naval access to key Chinese cities. The emergent superpower feels threatened: a ring of U.S. allies encircles the vital seaway.

When China feels threatened, China doesn't fuck around. Geography bows to its will. Islands in the Sea have been dredged and renovated. Sandy mounds transformed into landing pads. Incredible satellite pictures show the metamorphoses: tiny atolls in the "before" shots, the unmistakable parallel lines of an airstrip in the "after". Mischief Reef, once a rocky lagoon submerged at high tide, now supports a 2.6km runway and a baseball stadium.

It's not just China raising islands from the sea; rivals are doing the same, building their stock to further claims of sovereignty. It might be called the South China Sea, but everybody wants a piece.

As the sandy outposts and geopolitical tensions build, the U.S. has been sending naval vessels through to ensure free passage remains. An attack on these missions or on any of America's key allies could trigger an escalating

## ‘ **IN 1972, THE FUTURE PRESIDENT WAS STUDYING LAW IN MANILLA WHEN HE SHOT A FELLOW STUDENT AFTER AN ALTERCATION** ,

conflict. A misheard direction from a superior, an erroneous first strike, a brazen decision from a President, and two superpowers would be at war.

At the epicentre of this crisis-in-waiting is Duterte. The Philippines is just a few hundred kilometres from Mischief Reef, the lagoon turned Chinese base. It was the Philippines that most boldly challenged China's expansion in the region, taking the county to The Hague and winning a dramatic international legal victory.

All of a sudden, Duterte changed course. As always it started with words. The President said he was not a fan of the U.S. This time, however, actions followed. Joint war games with the U.S. were cancelled.

Duterte then signalled closer ties with China in a defection that is almost of cold war proportions. If the Philippines backs off its claims in the South China Sea, China could reign the straits unchecked.

That's not something the U.S. wants, meaning Duterte's pivot both relieves and increases regional tension.

With a new U.S. President taking the reigns, the brewing conflict looks more uncertain than ever. Donald Trump has embraced Duterte, reportedly inviting him to visit the White House.

What we may now see is both China and the U.S. going quiet over Duterte's domestic malfesance while testing various methods to woo the erratic President over to their camp.

As a new chapter in the global rivalry between the US and China is written, the two superpowers find themselves in an inglorious tug-of-war over a foul-mouthed, violently inclined madman. ①













# DUTERTE HARRY

HE TALKS LIKE A PIMP AND ACTS LIKE A GANGSTER, BUT THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES IS MORE POPULAR THAN EVER.

BY BRENDAN O'NEILL

**N**EVER mind Trump. Forget Marine Le Pen, France's grand dame of dotty political views. Don't even worry about Nigel Farage, posh purveyor of an angry, pint-spluttering middle-class politics unique to Britain.

For in 2016, there has been another politician that has made those folks seem sane in comparison. Meet Rodrigo Duterte, President of the Philippines, the maddest politician alive.

Always wearing a scowl, sometimes shades, Duterte has been simultaneously the most amusing and terrifying political leader of the year. If there were an award for the political figure with the fewest fucks to give, he'd win hands down.

This is a man who calls President Obama a "son of a whore". This is a man who jokes in front of the world's media about killing off Filipino drug dealers: "My God, I hate drugs. And I have to kill people because I hate drugs."

This is a man who, when challenged about his drugs policy by a British journalist, gave the journalist the dirtiest look known to man and spat at him "putang ina mo" – "son of a bitch".

Not for nothing is he known as "Duterte Harry", the best nickname a politician has ever had. And he revels in it. The more outrage his speeches and threats generate, the more of a kick he gets. And the more popular he becomes. This is the most striking thing about Duterte – not his madness, but that he remains popular even while being mad.

He has the backing of a hell of a lot of Filipinos. Some observers try to paint this as a weird Filipino thing: maybe these people just like being kept safe by shades-wearing strong blokes with a fancy for bumping off criminals?

I think there's more to it. Duterte's success tells a bigger story about politics across the board in 2016, about the rise of a new breed of eccentric, free-speaking, tough-guy politicians who are filling a gap where normal politics used to be.

In a recent poll of Filipinos, Duterte scored a "very good" rating, except for his swearing. Filipinos don't like his "public cursing", and so Duterte apologised for it. (Threatening to kill drug dealers – cool. Calling Obama a son-of-a-bitch – not cool.)

His war on drug dealers seems to have endeared him to

his populace. Duterte has been killing drug dealers for ages. During his 20-year stint as Mayor of Davao City, he set up anti-drug death squadrons, which killed at least 300 people. Since become president earlier this year, he has authorised the extra-judicial killing of an estimated, and eye-watering, 4,700 Filipinos.

Why does he remain popular? I think there are two reasons. First, there's his pretty ballsy China pivot, where he has basically said "screw you" to America and cosied up to Beijing instead. This has left America "stunned", according to those in the know, as it has robbed it of one of its key allies in the

region, and one of its main bulwarks against rising Chinese influence.

Here, Duterte is doing what we might call the 2016 shuffle, the thing that has defined politics this year: he's rattling the status quo, taking the political order down a peg or two. Brexit, Trump and Duterte's China pivot are of course vastly different things, but they express something similar (ish): a new style of politics not afraid to say "Hell, no" to the established way of doing things.

And then, of course, there's that alluring thing he offers in our otherwise uncertain era: a sense

of security. Some find his crazy firmness with drug dealers attractive, a kind of guarantee of protection, a rampart against unpredictable, criminal or seemingly scary forces; against evil, in a sense.

A similar kind of protective politics is emerging in Europe too, with Le Pen's promise to protect France from the "foreign menace" of Islamist extremism, and in the US, with Trump promising to wall-up America against what he views as zany migration flows.

In what seems to many people to be an overly globalised world, where borders are too fluid, life is too unstable, and all sorts of people and forces and things seem to be moving around, the promise of brute protection can seem like a good thing.

So it's possible that, for all his batty pronouncements, Duterte is not as alien as we think. He could be just an unfiltered, even less polite version of a status-quo-rocking politics that's taking hold pretty much everywhere. **1**

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# THE GOOD DOCTOR

**DR ALEX WODAK IS ON A MISSION TO MAKE MUSIC FESTIVALS SAFER. BUT THE STATE GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT. BY SEAN BRUCE. PHOTO BY NATHAN HARMOND**

**D**R WODAK recounted his first experience of Sydney's Kings Cross in the 1980s, ground zero for the heroin and HIV epidemic that would ravage the inner city for almost two decades. "I'd been living in London and I figured out how to get to St Vincent's hospital and a young woman came up to me wearing a dirty singlet with track marks up her arm." After she accosted him and asked if he wanted a "good time", Wodak, rather than running, decided that Sydney's inner

governments are not willing to do.

**What are you trying to achieve with drug law reform?**

The threshold question is whether drugs are primarily considered a law enforcement issue or a health and social issue, and once you make that threshold switch everything else follows, and most important is that money follows that switch. Once it becomes a health and social issue, sufficient funds will flow into the health system to provide quality drug treatment for everybody who

**NOT ONLY DOES PROHIBITION NOT REDUCE THEIR AVAILABILITY, IT ACTUALLY INCREASES AND EXPANDS THE DRUG TRADE AND MAKES IT MORE DANGEROUS**

city was exactly where he wanted to be.

During his time in the Cross, he pushed for a needle syringe exchange program as well as the controversial safe injecting rooms. He's passionate about drug law reform and advocates for a sensible, evidence based policy approach that aims to reduce harm to drug users as well as lessen or eliminate criminal penalties for personal use.

Lately he's been in the news as he fights for pill testing stations to be introduced to music festivals, something that, so far, state

needs it. It's absolutely critical to law reform, that we stop putting pressure on the legal system to solve this problem which it can never solve. Offences and the threshold for offences will be brought down and the penalties will start coming down. Then we are going to get the individual strategies that will start being implemented – so the drug consumption rooms, the pill testing, the heroin-assisted treatment trials – all those things are going to happen, but they're going to happen very slowly.



**Pill testing, safe injecting rooms, drug consumption rooms, this is all part of harm minimisation. Can you explain harm minimisation?**

Harm minimisation is a policy that all eight Australian governments adopted on 2 January 1985, in a meeting with the then prime minister Bob Hawke in Canberra. All eight governments agreed that it would become Australia's national drug policy, but it wasn't really defined at the time what harm minimisation meant. In the 90s, when John Howard was prime minister, harm minimisation was defined as supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction. Both for legal and illegal drugs and even though the Howard government adopted a tough on drugs policy, it was surprisingly supportive of harm minimisation behind the scenes. So no press releases, no ministerial statements or comments, but for the first

disease, crime, corruption, violence and even threats to national security, all of these have gotten much worse over the last half century.

**What are some of the hurdles in setting up pill testing stations at music festivals?**

We already have pill testing in Australia, and we shouldn't forget this. What's allowed at the moment without any controversy is poor quality pill testing without professional education. So you can buy reagent kits without any difficulty which give very inaccurate results. They don't really tell you what you've bought, they don't tell you the quantity of the doses, they don't tell you if there are dangerous contaminants and there are no professionally trained and supervised personnel to explain all this to you. You just buy them and test them, and the government doesn't try and change that.

prefer their sons and daughters not take anything, they would want them only to take pills that have been tested. I think that once this starts operating in Australia, support will be massive. We'll see – like with the needle syringe program – one state will agree, and within two years it will be done in every state and territory.

**I'd like to talk a little bit about decriminalisation and legalisation of drugs. How far do you think we should go?**

We have to start and proceed incrementally. Almost always change is evolutionary, not revolutionary. Change in drug policy has been evolutionary up until now, and it will continue to evolve, and I'm quite happy with incremental changes which are rigorously evaluated, and their benefits and costs are identified, and if necessary, we move on. I think regarding the legal environment, it makes sense to start off with reducing, and then if possible, eliminating criminal sanctions against the use and possession of drugs consistent with personal use.

**Can you see MDMA being sold on the shelf at some point?**

Yes, it would be exactly like cannabis. It would be taxed; it would be regulated and tested. And instead of having young people taking something with no idea what's in it, and then half a dozen healthy young people dying every summer in Australia, as predictable as sunburn, we would have regulated and tested ecstasy.

**Would you advocate for harder drugs to be available?**

There will be exclusions. We are never going to see, never have, and will not see 1kg bricks of 100 percent pure heroin, amphetamines or cocaine available at the supermarket check-out counter. No one wants to see that – I don't want to see that. What we have to look for is compromise. Choices that people who like drugs can accept, and the rest of the community can accept. Yes, you can have edible opium, but you can't have a one kilogram brick of 100 percent pure cocaine, heroin, amphetamine. On the other hand, if you somehow get into serious problems with heroin and you need help, we're happy to have a doctor prescribe heroin for you and have it dispensed to you in a clinic every day. And we have trials from at least half a dozen countries where those kinds of heroin prescription programs have been very effective. Not for everybody, but for people that are severely dependent and treatment refractory –

**WE ARE NEVER GOING TO SEE, NEVER HAVE, AND WILL NOT SEE 1KG BRICKS OF 100 PERCENT PURE HEROIN, AMPHETAMINES OR COCAINE AVAILABLE AT THE SUPERMARKET CHECK-OUT COUNTER**

time ever, Commonwealth money went into state and territory needle switch programs, for the first time serious Commonwealth money went to divert drug users from the criminal justice system to the drug treatment system. And for the first time ever hundreds of millions of dollars went into stopping HIV being spread among and from people who inject drugs in Asia.

**Isn't making drugs illegal the best form of harm minimisation?**

That's been the theory and it's an attractive theory, but we've had half a century to test it, and it's very clear that not only does prohibition not reduce their availability, it actually increases and expands the drug trade and makes it more dangerous. So when we look at drug production and consumption and the hazardousness of narcotics, when we look at the price, the purity and availability, all the parameters of the drug trade over the last half of the century have gotten worse. When we look at actual outcomes from this policy regarding things that mean a lot more to the rest of the community, like deaths,

What the government prevents us from doing is having state-of-the-art testing which tells you what you've bought, what the quantity of substance is per pill and what contaminants are present. What we would like to do is have onsite and offsite pill testing where you can get your pills or powder tested. The machines already exist in more than a dozen countries around the world and have for twenty years and now increasing numbers of countries have started testing, where you can get one or more of those three questions answered: What have I bought? What's the quantity per tablet? And are there any ingredients in that tablet that might kill me?

**Former Deputy Premier, Troy Grant, stated that pill testing organisers could be charged with manslaughter or face massive fines. Are you still willing to go ahead if this is the case?**

Well, these comments are nonsense. There's a lot of community support for pill testing, and amongst people who take pills, there is overwhelming support. Of course, they want their pills tested. And you can bet that although families would





both of those conditions. Addicts with long-standing problems of an enormous magnitude – they've tried half a dozen different treatments, and nothings worked for them. That's a 5 percent minority of severely dependent heroin users, it's not every heroin dependent user, and we have experience from Switzerland, Netherlands, Spain, Germany, England and Canada, that those trials really benefit users, their families and their communities.

**Do you think decriminalisation or legalisation will encourage people to try drugs?**

It's an attractive theory that liberalising drug laws will increase drug consumption, but despite researchers in half a dozen continents looking for exactly that over thirty or forty years, there's no evidence that it happens – and there's a lot of evidence that it doesn't happen. Drug policy surprisingly makes very little or no difference to what drugs people take, if anything, punitive approaches make it much worse and they certainly increase the hazardousness of available drugs. And this is one of the threads in the

argument that always gets lost – there is a lot of evidence that punitive drug policies encourage more dangerous drugs to ease out less dangerous drugs.

**In your opinion, what are the dangers of pure and tested MDMA?**

One of the foremost experts on this is Professor David Nutt, who was chair of the ACMD, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, which in Britain is a very high-level policy advisory body that advises the UK government on drugs. Professor Nutt was sacked in 2009 by the then Labour Government because he had said at a social gathering where he was speaking, that the risks of taking MDMA were less than the risks of horse riding. This wasn't just picked out of the air. He had made some calculations based on how many horse riders had died in Britain, compared to how many people go horse riding, and he compared how many people die from MDMA, compared to how many people take MDMA, and worked out that the risks of MDMA were actually less than the those of horse riding. A recording of that was taken without his permission or

knowledge and circulated, and the Brown Labour government shamefully sacked him. As far as we know David Nutt never rescinded that statement, and nobody from a scientific background has ever challenged it.

**What are the main adulterants people should be looking out for?**

You can't look out for them because a contaminated pill looks the same as a regular pill. And this is why pill testing is so important. If you're at a youth music event where pill testing is available in Spain, the Netherlands or Switzerland, they'll have a series of television screens and pictures of a blue pill with a smiley face on it, an identification number and information on what adulterants the pill contains. If you have pills like that, throw it away and get rid of it. Pill testing helps a lot more people indirectly than it helps directly by changing the market. If you're at a youth music event where pill testing is available, the sellers will know that they will get caught handing out dodgy pills, and people demanding their money back, so they will ensure that the pills they're selling are not harmful. ●





COLUMN

# CAN I BE A FEMINIST IF I WATCH PORN?

A POST-ORGASM REFLECTION ON THE MERITS OF PORN

**T**HERE'S this thing that happens when I watch porn where as soon as I get off I am filled with self-loathing. I imagine it's how guys feel once they finish having sex with someone they pretended to care about just to get laid. Gone is the false mystique that what you're watching is hot, instead you're left with is a dead-eyed girl being rammed by some objectively unattractive beefcake, pretending to enjoy it with over-acted moans. It makes me feel sad, and then it makes me feel like I need to go and scrub myself aggressively with a loofah.

I wondered for a while if it was that whole "society making women feeling guilty for enjoying sex" thing, but it isn't. I never feel ashamed after having sex or after run-of-the-mill masturbation; but porn is an entirely different ball game. And I know why. I've seen *Hot Girls Wanted* (the Rashida Jones-produced Netflix documentary exposing the porn industry as having a "factory line"-esque approach that exploits young, impressionable girls). I know that studies have linked watching porn with a higher likelihood to commit domestic violence, or violence in general.

So whenever I suffer those post-porn come downs I'm essentially lamenting the fact that I am such a shitty feminist. Sure, I say all the right stuff, I know the stats and I can succinctly back up my claim that, despite her average music, Beyoncé is an important beacon for intersectional feminism...But I get off on the back of the exploitation of other women, so really I may as well be a 1950s househusband who smacks his wife about after having one too many scotches at the work Christmas party.

But for all that self-hatred, the truth is that I'm not ready to bail ship. And I'm not entirely ready to blame the whole thing on the owners of RedTube either.

The internet porn industry has been allowed to run rampant and unchecked for years thanks to the fact that we're still too fucking terrified as a society to have frank and honest discussions about sex. The fact that children are getting their sex education from fucking Brazzers isn't only Brazzers' fault, it's also the fault of a laughable national health syllabus and the fact that most parents tell their daughters "never have sex", their sons "have plenty of sex", and hope they'll figure out the rest.

What porn needs is a giant, unprecedented overhaul. It starts with dads sitting down with their sons and telling them that everything they see in porn is acted, and fake and not a realistic depiction of sexuality. And then it needs to go straight up to international law-making; laws around how fetish porn is labelled, laws banning the en-mass production of porn in which women are verbally and physically abused.

Closing off the porn industry to women by lacing everything you produce with misogyny is just bad business. Women masturbate! We've known this for a while now. And they also happen to make up more than half the population of the world. And while legends like Stoya and her ilk are leading the 'ethical porn' movement, you shouldn't have to be a well-read feminist to want to watch porn where a woman is actually enjoying herself.

Your move, porn. **1**



SMALL TALK

# LIFE'S TOO SHORT

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ME, MR BIG!



**I**N the wrestling ring, I'm Mr Big – the only spandex wearing dwarf wrestler in Australia.

I have a lot of fun working in the entertainment business. I run “Dwarf my Party”, which is exactly what it sounds like, and Dwarf Tossing, which again, leaves little to the imagination.

It's 2016, and people are more tolerant of difference. But it seems that there's still a lot of misconceptions about what it means to be a little person – particularly in the dating world. For example, most people are surprised when I tell them that my last girlfriend was 6ft tall. Short people don't necessarily date other short people. Just because we're both likely to get kicked off a rollercoaster, doesn't mean we're made for each other.

The other question that I get asked a lot is about the size of my dick. I get why: it's kind of like being asked if the curtains match the carpets. But while the rest of me is fun-sized, I'm just like anybody else downstairs. My condition is called achondroplasia, which means a lot of my cartilage never became bone, leaving me with shorter limbs and fingers. But boners, funnily enough, aren't bones. Only difference is because of my smaller frame, mine looks more impressive. Just ask your girlfriend...

Like most guys, I've had a mixed bag in the world of dating. But because of my height, there's been some awkward and weird moments.

For example, I went on a dating website once. I didn't mention that I was short. I thought, what's the diff? Some of the profiles on those things are full of crap. I organised a date with someone and rocked up.

They looked surprised.

“Oh you're Blake?”

I replied, “Yeah.”

She said, “You don't look anything like your picture.”

I only had my headshot in my online profile. I said, “No.”

“Why didn't you mention the height?”

“I didn't think it was factor. I didn't think people were that shallow.”

She told me it wasn't happening and left straight away.

Afterwards, I gave up online dating.

I guess she wasn't into the spandex. **1**





SCIENCE

# HACKING THE BRAIN-FRAME

**Y**OU'VE pulled an all-nighter cramming for today's biology exam. You've packed your notepad, a spare pencil and a thermos of coffee. But the exact instant the front door clicks shut, you realise you've forgotten your keys. And it gets worse. You're not wearing any pants. Though it hardly matters anyway, by now the finer points of primate evolution are but an inaccessible blur buried deep down in the waste-bin of your brain.

But help is on its way – and it doesn't perversely involve having to memorise complicated techniques to improve a constipated memory. In fact, you won't have to do a thing. Welcome to the fast-approaching world of consumer neuroprosthetics, implanted devices designed to aid memory formation and retention, enhance concentration and cognition, and, one day perhaps, receive uploaded data directly to our brains.

Once the realm of science-fiction, ongoing advances in Neuroscience, Artificial Intelligence, and microelectronics have converged to make these possibilities an everyday reality. And whereas the field of neuroprosthetics has to date focused on BMI





## IMPROVING GENIUS

WHEN IT COMES TO CONSUMER NEUROPROSTHETICS, EVEN A GENIUS OF EINSTEIN'S UNPARALLELED CEREBRAL CALIBRE COULD HAVE DONE WITH A MUCH-NEEDED PUSH

### HIPPOCAMPUS

A healthy hippocampus helps to convert short-term memories into more permanent ones, and of all the great man's foibles, Einstein's famed forgetfulness stands above, forever cementing the stereotype of the absent-minded professor. Einstein's first wife complained of the constant flow of lost umbrellas; a better functioning hippocampus might have kept his head dry and tempered some of that crazed frizziness.

### WERNICKE'S AREA

Lil' Albert wasn't a particularly chatty child, failing to speak fluently until nine years of age and ironically raising the question of mental retardation. The Wernicke's area of the brain is essential for coherent communication. We could one day rig up our newborns with neural headgear to streamline speech development – and finally learn what babies really think of mushy bananas, designer bonnets, and the astrophysics behind crib mobiles.

### PREFRONTAL CORTEX

Like many geniuses, Albert Einstein was socially inept. Once he did learn to speak, he specialised in unintentionally offending people and saying the wrong things. The prefrontal cortex is considered the crowning glory of the human brain, separating us as a social species by ensuring we don't always say what we think. A prod of the prefrontal may have spared Albert from a handful of humbling public apologies.

### MEDIAL ORBITOFRONTAL CORTEX

Despite his social awkwardness, Einstein was a notorious philanderer. But then how could any woman resist a pick-up line with the promise of exploding atoms between the sheets? Patients with malfunctioning neurones in the medial orbitofrontal cortex display an inability to control responses to sexual stimuli. A modulating neuroprosthesis might have somewhat tamed Albert's rampant adultery and saved him some pennies on alimony.

technology (Brain-Machine Interfaces) with instruments such as robotic arms and bionic eyes for the mentally and physically impaired, a new wave of research investment has its sights set firmly on the mass market of personal enhancement.

Leading the charge is entrepreneur Bryan Johnson, who has plunged US \$100M from his own pocket to kick-start Kernel, a company seeking to develop the world's first "neuroprosthesis to mimic, repair and improve cognition." Backed by Dr Theodore Berger, director of the Centre for Neural Engineering at the University of Southern California, their initial research has co-opted existing implants in epilepsy patients to record brain activity and map the electrochemical processes underlying memory formation.

The goal is to hack into this neural pathway with a prosthesis which could restore or strengthen any damaged or faltering circuitry. The team at Kernel, however, consider memory enhancement only the simple starting point on the near horizon. Johnson asks, "If we can mimic the natural function of

the brain, and we can truly work with neural code, then what can't we do? Could we learn a thousand times faster? Could we choose which memories to keep and which to get rid of? Could we have a connection with our computers?"

The benefits of universal memory enhancement alone would profoundly change the way humans live, but could we also one day upload memories and knowledge directly into our consciousness? There is reason to think so. Berger's trials have already uncovered such potential in a study on rats, having demonstrated that a given rat was able to learn a new task at a much faster rate if fitted with a programmed prosthesis of neural recordings taken from a previously trained rat undertaking that same task. It's like Mr Jingles meets the Matrix.

But what does this mean for you as you scurry off to your forgotten biology exam? Probably not much for the next seven to ten years – although if Johnson's bold plans come to fruition, it's unlikely you'll have to remember this date. **1**



# KIM'S PRIZED OBSESSION

IT'S A STORY WHICH COULD'VE BEEN PLUCKED STRAIGHT OUT OF A BOND FILM AND IS SEEMINGLY MUCH TOO BIZARRE TO BE TRUE.

**O**N the 22nd of January, 1978, off the coast of Hong Kong's Repulse Bay, a woman was grabbed by three long haired guards. She was flung into a boat. Terrified and fighting back, the woman was forcibly sedated with an injection, losing consciousness. When she came to, she was inside the Captain's cabin on a freighter, and the first thing she saw, smiling down at her, was a large portrait of a young General Kim Jung Il. This woman was Choi-Eun Hee, one of South Korea's most famous actresses – and she would be held captive in a surreal North Korea by Kim for eight more years.

Long before his inevitable rise to power, Kim, whose vast collection of films were housed in a three storey high guarded building, was a maniacal film enthusiast, and the director of the Motion Picture and Arts Division of North Korea. Where it was against the law for regular North Korean citizens to access foreign films, Kim required all overseas North Korean diplomats to acquire copies of Hollywood blockbusters for his collection. Within an NPR Interview, Choi-Eun Hee said, "He had a projection room in every house so he could watch movies anytime. Having seen many movies, he wanted North Korean movies to be just as great, but he thought his comrades were too simple." Kidnapping Choi was Kim's first step towards making great, award winning North Korean films. Next, came Shin Sang-Ok.

Six months after Choi's disappearance, her ex-husband, father of her children and award-winning South Korean film director, Shin Sang-Ok, began to search for the missing Choi. In much the same way, he was also kidnapped, later stating, "Someone suddenly pulled a sack over my head and I couldn't see anything or breathe properly."



## IT STARTED WITH A KISS

In 1984, Shin and Choi made a film called "Love Love My Love" which was the first film in North Korea since post-World War II, to depict two people experiencing romantic love. Up until then, the only depictions of love in North Korean films had been representations of love towards the leader or the political party. The film was a musical and featured a kiss.

Yet Shin's was a rather different experience to Choi's. While Choi was held in "Building Number 1," a highly secure yet luxurious villa surrounded by armed guards, and brought out on display like a prize at Kim's grand parties, Shin was dropped in the all-male prison camp "Prison Number 6." He was held there for four years, where his diet consisted of little more than grass, salt, and torture. He later wrote, "I experienced the limits of human beings."

On the night of March the 7th, 1983, five years in to her captivity, Choi was taken out to a party that would invariably alter the nature of her future imprisonment. It was that night, to a room filled with applause, that Kim reunited Shin and Choi. Ten days earlier, Shin had been taken from Prison Number 6 and placed back inside a guarded villa, where he was fed copiously to restore his health. Kim revealed to the pair a new Villa which he had remodelled for them, and where they were to live together as a couple once again.

In a secret recording made by Choi, Kim, famed for his lack of public speeches, said, "Why do all of our films have the same ideological plots, there is nothing new about them, why are there so many crying scenes, all of our films have crying scenes, this isn't a funeral is it?"

Kim needed Choi and Shin to rejuvenate North Korea's film landscape and had high film making hopes for Shin and Choi, who over the following three years in captivity, made seven films for Kim.

In March 1986, the couple took a trip to Vienna for a film festival. It was there, armed with their illicit recordings, that they were able to hightail it to the U.S. embassy where they sought refuge, and Shin and Choi finally accomplished freedom. **1**



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# FUELLING THE FÜHRER

WORST COME DOWN IN HISTORY: WAKING UP AFTER A BENDER AND REALISING YOU'VE LOST THE WAR. BY CHARLES WATERSTREET

**W**HEN I first took cocaine, in the 70s, although not quite certain if 1870s or 1970s, the effect was so exhilarating that I soon became convinced that I was born with a cocaine deficiency. Cocaine converted me from a shy guy into a guy's guy, garrulous, confident, insightful and a real player. Getting sunburnt going home after dawn from closing clubs, at last, I was the man I was supposed to be.

Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun must have experienced the same insights when, after he had drafted Mein Kampf in the 1920s, Hitler wrote of the purity and potential of the unique German spirit, drug-free, corn coloured hair and pure Aryan. But by 1941 until the end of the war, the couple were injecting pure cocaine and methyl-amphetamine (ice) by needle, everyday, just to get out of bed, and keep themselves on an even keel, while barely functioning to keep up their appearances, which were becoming less and less as they increasingly isolated themselves in the Wolf's Lair.

The Germans were not only the best dressed in the war, but also the best drugged in order to fight ferociously to the last drop of their pharmacologically enhanced blood. There was little doubt that German chemists had been producing the best drugs since the turn of the century, e.g., LSD, amphetamines and ecstasy.

the hook at Dunkirk. Hitler and Braun took to the drugs like ducks and drakes to water. Hitler's highest Generals and staff started taking it, and he gave Mussolini Il Duce, of Italy, a shot to put some spine in his back when he offered to pull out of the Axis.

As the war turned in Germany, Hitler got depressed and couldn't get out of bed. Dr Morell would jump into his bed with a shot of injectable cocaine and like a jumping jack, Hitler was immediately up, saluting wardrobe mirrors and forever in a good mood, brushing off defeats in Russia and on the front as irrelevancies. Eva Braun insisted on the same doses to keep in spirit with her Fuhrer. Dr Morell even made special aphrodisiac potions for them, from the thyroids, gonads and livers of dead soldiers. Contrary to wartime ally rumours, Hitler and Braun led a vigorous sex life, aided and abetted by ground up hormones and testosterone collected from dead bodies and prepared for injection. Morell often observed that Hitler emerged from Eva's bedroom covered in scratch marks and love bites after a particularly heavy session and doses of Dr Morell's special concoction.

As morning grew into afternoon, Dr Morell would start injecting his multiplying doses of methamphetamine into the night, so much so that Hitler's skin was so toughened that it bent and broke the needles. All information and dosages

## DR MORELL WOULD JUMP INTO HIS BED WITH A SHOT OF INJECTABLE COCAINE AND LIKE A JUMPING JACK, HITLER WAS IMMEDIATELY UP, SALUTING WARDROBE MIRRORS AND FOREVER IN A GOOD MOOD

In an astonishing new book, Norman Ohler, using Hitler's and Braun's personal medical records, meticulously kept by their personal physician, Dr Theodor Morell, in that anal German way of recording everything. JFK was a teetotaler compared to the Hitlers. German chemists were able to produce the most advanced drugs for most of the 20th Century – the Berlin Olympics was a great success for Benzedrine which gave Germany the most medals. There were no drug tests then. Look at Leni Riefenstahl's exponentially confident films of the Third Reich during the 1930s, culminating in "Triumph of the Will" in 1935/36 and celebrating a nation steeped in self-pride and self-administration of the most dynamic drugs of their time, methamphetamine (ice) and cocaine. Hitler in the last two years of the war made Scarface look like a limp weekend warrior.

German drug factories like Temmler manufactured scores of millions of packets of Pervitin, with crystal methamphetamine for the failing frightened troops that were the subject of disastrous decisions to invade Russia and to let the Brits off

were taken down in Dr Morell's tiny patient cards of, patient A (Hitler) and patient B (Eva Hitler nee Braun). Even visitors like Il Duce were on the patient card filing system.

Unfettered meth and cocaine use can lead to obsessional and rigid thinking. Hitler's bloodlust for killing Jews and continued warfare to the very end displayed all the hallmarks of drug-induced paranoia and schizophrenia we sadly see so often in our using population in Australia.

At one stage Germany had it all, rockets, drugs, great costumes and frenzied fighters. But, Hitler's alarming drug use and creeping Parkinson's disease created a rabbit hole that didn't finish in the bunker in Berlin. Perhaps all armed fighters in future wars, allies and ISIS alike, should be drug tested and disqualified from being allowed to join the fight if they fail. There might be no one to fill the empty battalions, no one to invade Iraq, no one to invade Syria. The very fabric of society would fall apart, leaving all our Emperors as naked as President Putin sunbaking by the Baltic sea. ❶



A photograph of a wooden floor covered in party debris. In the upper center, a white cup lies on its side. To its right, a string of green beads is tangled with red and blue streamers. Below the cup, a large pile of multi-colored streamers (red, blue, green, yellow) is scattered. In the lower right, a blue rectangular object, possibly a box or a large cup, is partially buried under a dense mass of streamers. The floor is also littered with small, colorful confetti and beads. The overall scene suggests a messy aftermath of a party.

# Someone Say Party?

Photography: Gavriel Maynard Model: Alex





































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EXPLORING CUBA

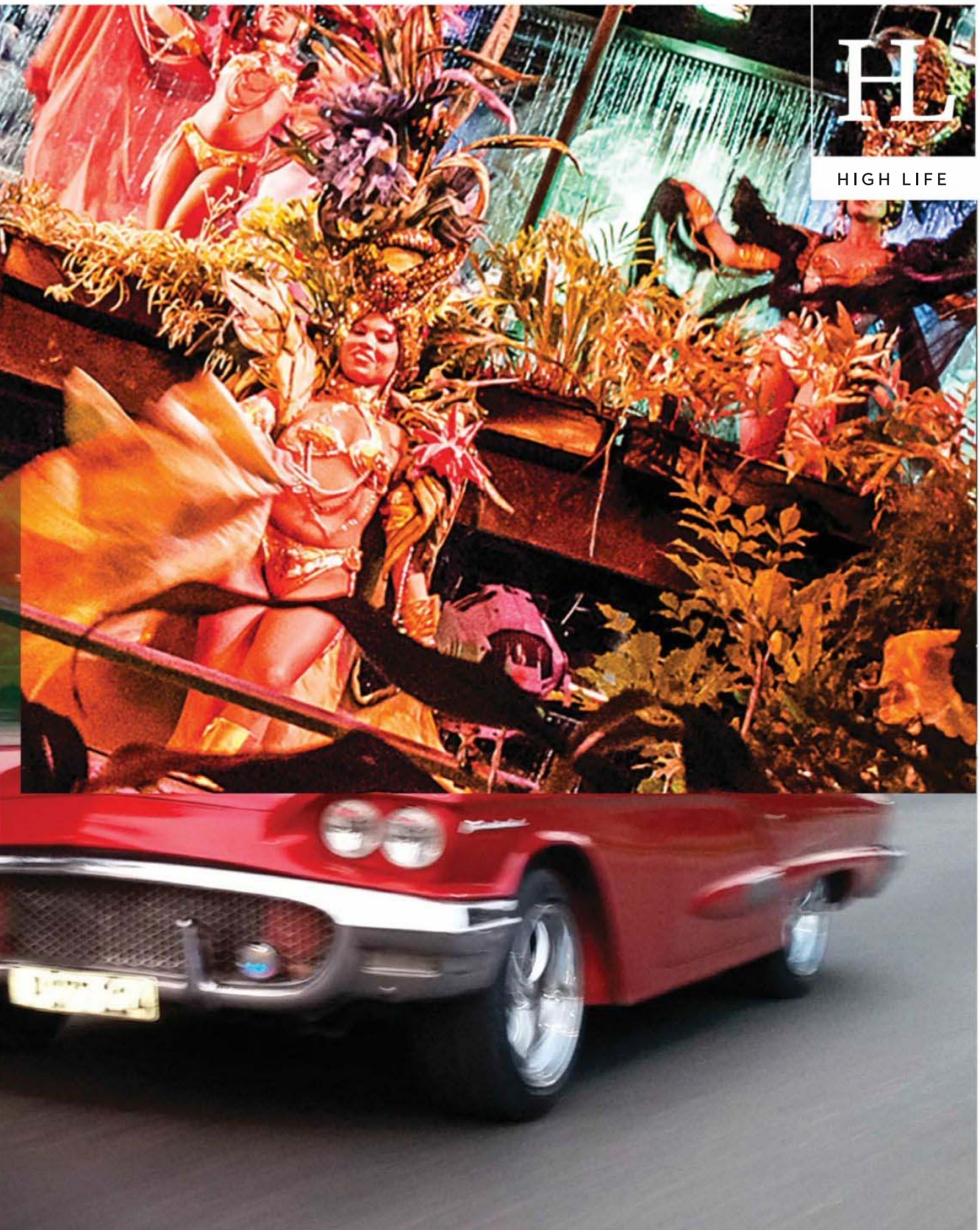
# HAVANA REDUX

BY CHRISTOPHER BAKER

**S**LIP on your best Guayabera, grab a bottle of añejo rum and brush up on those all-important Spanish pick-up lines, because we're going to Cuba. For decades the enigmatic island nation has attracted adventurous spirits, seduced by decaying Spanish architecture, Eisenhower-era Cadillacs and dark-eyed Cubanas. Among the socialist republic's devotees include Ernest Hemingway, Jack Nicholson and Hunter S. Thompson.

See the appeal for yourself as we follow Christopher Baker on his journey through the bars, nightclubs and cabarets of one of the most alluring Caribbean destinations.





HL

HIGH LIFE



EXPLORING CUBA

# VIVA CUBA

**W**ITH all the hoopla about politics, it's easy to overlook the sheer beauty of Cuba. The talcum beaches. The chartreuse cane-fields. The emerald mountains and valleys full of dramatic formations. The ancient cities evocative of the once-mighty power of Spain. The whiff of cigar smoke and sea mist wafting over Havana's seafront Malecón boulevard as the sun sets and the city succumbs to nights of sexy showgirls and sizzling salsa. Ah... the music! Everywhere music hot enough to cook the pork. Watching Cubans dance groin to groin, it's a surprise the birthrate isn't higher. Socialism and sensuality? You'll love it!

Before the revolution, Havana was a place of intrigue and tawdry romance. The whiff, the intimation, still lingers. Sure, the Revolution shuttered the strip clubs, but Communism hasn't made a dent in Cubans' renowned promiscuity. "Dark-eyed Stellas light their feller's panatelas," American songwriter Irving Berlin wrote. Possibility hangs in the air like intoxicating aromas of añejo rum.

Your first reaction is of having arrived at a Hollywood stage set. Habana Vieja – the city's remarkable colonial core – overflows with castles, convents and cobbled plazas that gleam afresh after restoration like confections in stone. Street after street of once tony, now slightly derelict, "modern" Havana are lined with astonishing Beaux Arts, Art Deco, and Modernist buildings. Many are corroded to the point of dilapidation, with grimy decades-old adverts for Hotpoint and Singer soldered by tropical heat onto weathered façades. Cars from the Eisenhower era are everywhere, too, their fins sharp enough to draw blood, conjuring up the decadent pre-revolutionary decades of martinis and mafiosi.







EXPLORING CUBA

## DRINK LIKE HEMMINGWAY

**T**HERE are mojitos and daiquiris to savour. And the world's finest cigars to smoke fresh from the factory as you rumble down the highway in a chrome-laden '55 Cadillac to the rhythm of the rumba on the radio. In fact, your first move should be to hire a convertible classic car (they're found outside every hotel) and head to Fábrica H. Uppmann for a cigar factory tour. Contrary to popular myth, cigars aren't rolled on the thighs of dusky maidens. But the wink of the pretty female torcederas (rollers) hints that many would happily indulge more than the fantasy.

Walking Havana's streets you sense you're living inside a romantic thriller. It's intoxicating. Still laced with the sharp edges and sinister shadows that made Ernest Hemingway want "to stay here forever." Cuba was a salacious environment to pursue writing; its women



lusty and libertine. It still is. They still are.

"Mi mojito en El Bodeguita, mi daiquiri en La Floridita" the novelist had scrawled on the sky-blue walls of El Bodeguita del Medio, Hemingway's watering hole half a block from Havana's antique cathedral. Errol Flynn thought it "A great place to get drunk." They are there in black and white on a wall, squinting at the camera through a haze of rum and cigar smoke. On a recent visit, I settled myself at the bar to sample the proletarian fusion of dialectics and rum. Seduction, however, crept in. I sipped a mojito, the rum mint julep that Hemingway brought out of obscurity. They were strong, and as a sultry cubana stared into my eyes I sensed a glimmer of the "other charms" to which Hemingway had succumbed.

Havana's appeal owes much to this inescapable louche demimonde. But things are changing.





EXPLORING CUBA

## END OF AN ERA

ONE day last June I was strolling along a cobbled street in Habana Vieja when my pal Ernesto Guevara, son of Che (yes, the revolutionary icon), bounded out of a bar and embraced me. Like his dad, Ernesto "Jr." is a motorcycle enthusiast. When I first met him about five years ago, he was riding a jade-colored 1948 Harley-Davidson Flathead around the tumbledown streets. Now, after dining together at a newly opened bar-restaurant – Chacón 162 – in Cinco Esquinas, Havana's trendy epicentre of sudden gentrification, Ernesto rode off on a 2015 Electra Glide Ultra Classic.

Suddenly I need a neck restraint to stop doing double-takes as young entrepreneurs burst out of their straight-jackets. Every third building in this overcrowded, once-sclerotic quarter is in the throes of a remake as a boutique B&B or hip restaurant exuding colonial-tinged Miami chic, or – what's this? – a gourmet heladería selling homemade gelato ice creams.

One of my favourite new hang-outs is Sia Kara, behind the Capitolio – the 1930s rip-off of Washington's neoclassical Capitol building. The brainchild of Cuban ballet dancer José Manuel Carreño and his partner, French-born artist Mateo Royar, Sia Kara is an off-beat artsy hang-out for Havana's cultural elite, who settle in on its well-stuffed sofas and canoodle in the loft-style lounge. The mojitos are superb, as is the caipiroska – a "caipirinha" made of vodka.





# EAT, DANCE, GIRLS

**T**HE one paladar (private restaurant) not to miss is La Guarida, on the third floor of a formerly glamorous, now dilapidated 19th-century townhouse. The crowded ciudadelita (tenement) belongs in a Fellini movie. The crumbling staircase, lent an operatic air by hanging laundry, delivers you into a world-class Parisian-style restaurant beloved by Cuban models, foreign diplomats and visiting VIPs (from Jack Nicholson to, more recently, Beyoncé, Rhianna and Madonna). After a dinner – maybe gazpacho, an out-of-this-world roast chicken in orange sauce and honey, plus lemon pie – head to the alfresco rooftop bar for postprandial cocktails.

If La Guarida is booked solid, go to El Cocinero. Its spiral staircase augers up through a red-brick chimney and spills you onto a chic rooftop tapas restaurant, conjured by visionary owners from a former cooking-oil factory. Havana's young farandula (bohemian in-crowd) hit on each other over cocktails before streaming downstairs to the adjoining Fábrica de Arte, an avant-garde cultural venue. The night's fare includes an acrobatic dance performance, an erotic art expo, and DJ Iván Lejardi's experimental electronic rave.

Havana's equivalent to Sydney's Marquee is salsa-hot Sangri-La. Mick Jagger chose it to get wild – it's known for kick-ass cocktails and jiniteras (hookers) – after playing a free concert in Havana in July 2016. For something classier, try high-octane Sarao's. With its slick modern design, this Miami-style, neon-lit nightclub (the brainchild of several techno DJs and hip-hop artists) is the hot spot for discerning party animals, not least Usher and Katy Perry. The gorgeous female millennials wait staff is as alluring as the stunning Cubana clientele exuding an eye-pleasing Latin penchant for minimal clothing.

Warm up for your dance-until-dawn Sarao experience at Tropicana, the saucy open-air extravaganza – Girls! Girls!

Girls! – now in its eighth decade of stiletto-heeled titillation: Cubans love saucy cabarets espectáculos (shows) with lots of gratuitous skin. Every town has one, though none can compete with Tropicana, which first opened on New Year's Eve 1939 and makes a fitting finale to any Havana vacation.

During one recent visit, I watched mesmerised as mocha-skinned mulatas paraded among floodlit palm trees, quivering their sequined G-strings and feathers like tropical birds. Voluptuous figurantes (showgirls) then streamed off stage, and an arm reached out, drawing me into the aisle to dance. My partner was beyond drop-dead gorgeous. "You're beautiful! I'll wait for you outside," I blurted as the troupe turned tail and rushed back to the stage for the frenzied finale.

To my astonishment, she appeared, dressed all in white, including a turban (she'd been shaved), calf-length skirt and thigh-high stockings. Copper amulets glinted upon her arms, and she wore many necklaces—collares—of colourful beads. She'd just been initiated into the Santería religion in a secret ceremony that included animal sacrifice. Mercedes believed herself now possessed by an orisha (a god of the African Yoruba pantheon) and she lived at this moment in a high state of grace.

We hailed an illegal taxi (a '53 Ford with blackened windows), tucked ourselves in the back seat, and rode hand in hand through the dim-lit streets of Havana. Suddenly, a policeman leapt into our path and frantically waved down the jalopy. A man lay at the roadside like a fetus steeped in his own pool of blood. The policeman wanted to bundle him into the car and commandeer it for a trip to the hospital.

"Ay, mi dios!" Mercedes exclaimed. She leant forward and spoke through the driver's window. The policeman, a young black man, looked aghast, then waved us on and ran off to look for another car.







EXPLORING CUBA

# CIGAR COUNTRY

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FINDING AND TRYING  
THE WORLD'S FINEST CIGARS. BY JACKIE WHITING

**C**UBA. An impossibly charming place with an equally passionate history – one that ignites the spirit inside even the most introverted among us. There are many qualities of this island nation that draw us deep within it. Take, for instance, the views that are waiting to be captured, from its unspoilt beaches or the spicy and inherently sexy Salsa lessons the locals are eager to share with you. Regardless of your interests, Cuba will meet your needs and leave you excessively satisfied. Of course, no journey to this Caribbean nation would be complete without enjoying a cigar between your lips and tasting the rich, earthy flavours of the tropics.

But choosing a cigar is like choosing a good woman – you can't rush it. First, you need to see how it feels in your mouth, ensure the taste suits not only your desires, but your needs. And not unlike a real Cuban woman, there's an art to its creation, and no two are created equal.

Any good story about Cuban cigars begins with the popular legend of their inception. The myth goes that cigars were once rolled between the thighs of virgin women to ensure an authentic Cuban flavour. Unfortunately, this myth is just that – a work of fiction. Though as with any tall tale, there remains a sliver of truth embedded within the story; nowadays the primary rollers of Cuban cigars are women. And you know what they say about a woman's touch.

## WHERE TO GO

Just outside of Havana lies the unassuming town of Viñales, where women work alongside farmers to create the kind of cigars our American friends can only dream of. The abundant farmland of the Pinar del Rio province, where Viñales is situated, is responsible for producing 70% of the country's tobacco. The tobacco

is planted late in the year and grown for three long months during the wet season. Next, it's harvested and stored in drying houses for several more months. Eventually, the Cuban government will take 70% of the crop for their own profit, leaving the farmers with a conservative 30% to sell for themselves.


## WELCOME TO FLAVOUR COUNTRY

You'll be able to taste the difference in the final product. When you smoke the government branded cigars, the tobacco is processed with chemicals, nicotine and other ingredients that would offend a refined pallet. When you place a farmer rolled cigar between your teeth, you'll enjoy a medley of water, pineapples, lemon, sugar cane, cinnamon and even rum, all distinctly authentic flavours that will surely appeal to your most carnal senses.

## MAKE YOUR MARK

The only thing that's left is to find your brand. After all, it's the duty of every gentleman to have a brand of cigar. Ease yourself in with a classic and mild Montecristo. You'll certainly enjoy the exceptionally soft, smooth and sweet taste of this classic style of cigar. Once you're ready for a more medium bodied taste, you'll want to try a Ramon Allones with its unique aroma of walnuts and pecans – best to be enjoyed after dinner. Finally, for the bravest among you, you must sample the Bolivar, an extra strong Cuban cigar with raw, rich and earthy notes that never fail to leave a hint of spice on the tip of your tongue.

So? Do you think you're capable of embracing the Cuban way of life?

Ensure a truly authentic Cuban experience by going on a group tour with TourRadar. Book easily with peace of mind, and a low price on [www.tourradar.com](http://www.tourradar.com) 









HOW TO

## ● RAISE THE STAKES ●

**A**LTHOUGH gambling in Cuba is currently outlawed, the country is definitely no stranger to games of luck. Havana, the capital of Cuba, is considered by many to be the precursor to Las Vegas. In the 1940-1950s Havana was pretty much the world's largest gambling hub. As a throwback to the good ol' days, here's your guide to poker.

### HOW TO PLAY FIVE CARD DRAW

Each player is dealt five cards face down and is able to exchange one or more of those cards for an equal number off the top of the deck. If the player is happy with their holding and do not want to draw any cards, they can "stand pat." The remaining player with the best hand wins that round.

Knowing what cards to discard during the drawing round is what guarantees you don't literally lose the shirt off your back. On a basic level, consider the following:



### PRO TIPS

Consider only drawing one or two cards if you have a pair in your hand, or even stand pat, tricking them into thinking you hold a stronger hand than you actually have.



If you think you have the strongest hand, raise big. You'll scare weaker players in to folding. Narrow the field and raise the stakes.

- > Holding one pair – draw three
- > Holding two pair – draw one
- > Holding three-of-a-kind – draw two

### HOW TO PLAY TEXAS HOLD'EM

Each player is dealt two face-down cards, known as the 'hole cards'. Then there is a round of betting where the player can Check, Bet or Fold. This stage of the game is known as pre-flop and what you should do is dependent on your hole cards.

When all the betting has finished, three shared cards are dealt face up in the middle of the table and this is called 'the flop'.

After this, there is another round of betting, then a fourth shared card called 'the turn' is dealt.

What follows is another round of betting, then a final shared card called 'the river' is dealt, and a final round of betting.

Your best bet is made by using the hole cards and the five cards in the middle to make the best possible five card poker hand. **1**

Big shout out to the team from [Pokerdeluxe.com](http://Pokerdeluxe.com) who held our Penthouse poker night. Check out the behind the scenes video on our Facebook page



ROYAL FLUSH



STRAIGHT FLUSH

FOUR OF A KIND



FULL HOUSE

FLUSH



STRAIGHT

THREE OF A KIND



TWO PAIRS

ONE PAIR



HIGH HAND



POKER HAND RANKINGS







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Owning the grinding process means we can make the freshest beef patty going around.

The less time spent as mince, the more tender, juicy and flavourful the patty. Season to order and cook medium rare. Winner!



# Beat the Hangover



**S**INATRA famously said he felt bad for people who didn't drink because they woke up feeling as good as they were going to feel all day.

While I agree with the Chairman of the Board that teetotaling sounds about as much fun as a game of charades with Stephen Hawking, I must admit to having spent a few mornings huddled beside the toilet, ruining the day I ever decided to embrace the sozzled lifestyle, and swearing to all that is holy that if I survived, I'd never, ever drink again.

Yah, um, not so much.

I cover the adult-beverage beat for esteemed periodicals such as the one you're holding in your hands, and I've been doing it long enough to know better, too. So I understand the urge to promise yourself, while in the throes of a hellacious hangover, that you'll never partake again. But for irredeemable inebriates like myself, "I'm done" is to drinking what "just one more episode" is to binge-watching *Breaking Bad* — a flat-out falsehood. Let's not kid ourselves here. We dig us some drinking far too much to quit anytime soon.

And while we're at it, let's dispense with any half-crooked notions of taking commonsense steps such as avoiding shots, downing a glass of water after every cocktail, eating to slow down the rate of alcohol absorption, and — yawn — moderation. When heavy drinking is involved, you're as likely to use hangover-prevention measures as you are to remember you're married at the strip club.

Fortunately for you (me, not so much), I'm all too familiar with waking up in worse shape than that bathroom in *Trainspotting*. And I have hard-earned, field-tested

solutions to the problem. Here's what you gotta do...

## H2O Go!

When suffering the acute effects of alcohol-induced head trauma, you'll find there's no better friend in all the great wide world than pure, simple, unadulterated water. Water will grab the bad stuff out of your bloodstream, allowing you to pee out the toxicity. So drink tons of it, and maybe pop a few analgesic tablets for good measure. Those'll give your central nervous system the reassuring pat on the back it needs, and let it know everything's gonna be okay, eventually. Then, straightaway, you should...

## Bang

For all the many ways alcohol can lift us up, it can be a real downer, too. Studies by smart people in lab coats have shown that consuming booze in mass quantities may lower male testosterone. This partially explains why you often wake up hungover and horny after a night of overindulgence — your hormone-depleted body wants its mojo back in a bad way. Having sex gets the blood pumping and increases the amount of pain-killing oxygen in the body, which goes a long toward shutting down those angry little fuckers playing grab-ass behind your eyeballs. In lieu of a willing partner, you can always take matters into your own hand. Now wash up and follow up that roll in the hay with...

## A Big Fat Greasy Cheeseburger

First off, cheeseburgers are one of the most delicious foods known to mankind. On top of that, they're full of protein which breaks down into amino acids.

The aminos are intrepid little warriors that lay siege to acetaldehyde, the odious alcohol-induced poison that's beating on your booze-soaked noggin like it owes it money. Amino acids convert acetaldehyde into water and carbon dioxide, which are then sent packing when you take a good long piss. To recap, in goes cheeseburger, out goes hangover. It's the circle of lush, friends. The circle of lush.

## Retox

There are many theories regarding the origin of the phrase "hair of the dog," but they all come down to the same thing: You're going to get loaded again so you can avoid feeling the aftereffects of getting loaded. A wonderful long-term strategy. See you in rehab. But the dirty secret of this method is that it's usually quite effective. Just bear in mind that the trick is to drink enough to alleviate the hangover, but not get hangover-worthy again. You DO NOT want to go messin' with the double hangover. That's like ramming your skull into an amp at a Metallica concert. You just don't want to go there. Got it? Good.

So let's get started on the road to recovery with these booze-fueled remedies...

## Trick & Treat

*Created by Eric "E.T." Tecosky of Jones Hollywood, Hollywood*

- 1 can of ice-cold Coca-Cola
- 1 ounce of chilled Dirty Sue Premium Olive Juice

Set an alarm for an hour or two before you actually need to wake up, and drink the Coke. Go back to bed. After you wake up again, do the shot of Dirty Sue.



Says E.T.: "I have been personally researching this for over 20 years and it helps. The sodium in Dirty Sue will trick your body into needing/wanting more water, and hydration is the main goal here. Oh, and if you really think you may be in trouble, add two Advil to the Coke."

### The Edge Off

*Created by Malina Bickford of Cliff's Edge, Los Angeles*

- 2 ounces Angostura bitters
- 2 activated charcoal caplets
- ginger beer

Dissolve charcoal caplets in a shot glass filled with Angostura bitters, then pound that shit. Chase immediately with a shot of ginger beer.

Says Malina: "I'm not going to lie, it goes down rough. But rough can be miraculously effective."

### The Bitter End

*Created by Jess Mellen-Graaf of the Cresheim Valley Grain Exchange, Philadelphia*

- 2 ounces Fernet-Branca
- Coca-Cola
- dash of Angostura bitters

Combine ingredients in an ice-filled rocks glass.

Says Jess: "Your body is banged up. This will help un-bang you."

### Constitution

*Created by Missy Koefod of 18th & Parchment, Atlanta*

- 4 droppers of 18.21 Prohibition Aromatic Bitters
- seltzer

Add bitters to the seltzer with ice.

Says Missy: "The bubbles help settle your stomach, along with the combination of herbs and roots which have been used for centuries for medicinal purposes. Plus, it tastes really fucking good."

### Get Bloody

Of course, no list of hangover cures would be complete without the grandmommy of them all. While the original name and recipe of the Bloody Mary has long been a topic of debate, most cocktail geeks agree that the most popular modern iteration – vodka, tomato juice, lemon, and an array of spices that usually includes Worcestershire sauce and ground pepper – is the handiwork of a barman named Fernand Petiot, who introduced his vodka-and-tomato concoction in the early 1920s at Harry's New York Bar in Paris. A decade later, Petiot



took up residence behind the stick at the King Cole Bar inside the St. Regis Hotel in New York, where his signature creation (which the St. Regis renamed the "Red Snapper") became a libational sensation.

As for the historical Mary for which the drink is named, there's been lots of conjecture about that as well. Queen Mary I of England and actress Mary Pickford are oft-cited namesakes. But according to Petiot, who died in 1975, the drink was named for a popular waitress at the Bucket of Blood bar in Chicago.

#### Here's Petiot's original recipe:

- 1 ounce vodka
- 2 ounces tomato juice
- 1 dash lemon juice
- 2 dashes salt
- 2 dashes black pepper
- 2 dashes cayenne pepper
- 3 dashes of Worcestershire sauce

Combine ingredients in a cocktail shaker. Shake vigorously. Strain over ice cubes. Garnish with a lemon wedge.

Now, the proportions here are dainty, so double 'em. And we prefer a celery stalk. But a Bloody Mary can be lots of different things to lots of different people. Basically,

if it's booze and you can keep it down, drink it. If that means 3 parts vodka, 1 part tomato juice, 1 part prayer, shaken over ice, we're not going to call the cocktail police on you.

### Wake and Bake

As legendary stoner Jeffrey "the Dude" Lebowski taught us, you can survive practically anything so long as you're good and baked. Thugs sent to piss on your rug by a ruthless pornographer loan shark? No problem. A loudmouthed Puerto Rican pederast/bowling rival? It's all good. Emotionally unstable best friends, kidnapping, grand theft, and nihilists who set your car on fire? The Dude abides. The Dude abides.

Smoking a fatty won't rehydrate you, of course, which is the single most essential step on the road to recovery. Ah, but what it will do is stimulate your appetite, and as we've already established, serious grubbin' in the wake of getting wasted will help set you straight. There's also some scientific evidence that components of pot can reduce alcohol-induced neurodegeneration by almost 50 percent. We're talking brain damage, people. Brain damage? Mary Jane don't play that!

Oh, and sweet Mother Weed is a miracle worker at treating nausea. Seriously, if cancer patients use the sticky icky to mitigate the ill effects of chemotherapy, what chance does a hangover have?

### Coffee

This one may seem counterintuitive. After all, a cup of Joe will wake you up, and when you're hung like a haggard porn star all you really want is to sleep it off. Here's the funny thing, though: The magical caffeine inside coffee will constrict the blood vessels in your brain, making it hurt less. It's a miracle how this works. Do you believe in miracles? Of course you do. You'll believe anything if it'll make the pain go away. And on the same principle, might we also recommend...

### A Cold Shower

Cold also constricts your blood vessels, but without drugs. Way to go, cold!

If you've had water, booty, burgers, booze, weed, coffee, and a cold shower and are still feeling like Satan took a giant dump on you, it's time to punch something really hard. Turns out that if you break a few knuckles, the pain in your hand will make coping with a headache as easy as falling off a log. Or, come to think of it, you could just fall off an actual log. You drunk bastard. ☹



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B

BESPOKE

# LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED.....

THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR – COMMONLY KNOWN AS PARTY SEASON – IS UPON US, AND WE'RE CELEBRATING THE BEST WAY WE KNOW HOW: BY GIVING YOU THE LOW-DOWN ON EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW, FROM WHAT TO WEAR TO A SUNDAY SESH TO LOOKING SHARP AS-FUCK IN A SUIT AND – MOST IMPORTANTLY – HOW TO IMPRESS THE LADIES THE MOMENT YOU WALK INTO A BAR.

**BY GRACE ONEILL**





# WHAT TO WEAR THIS WEEKEND



## SATURDAY

THE BRIEF: AN OBNOXIOUSLY  
BIG NIGHT OUT WITH THE  
WHOLE CREW

### WEAR:

COS BOMBER JACKET  
APPROX. \$302 [COSSTORES.COM](http://COSSTORES.COM)

KENZO JEANS  
\$185 [MATCHESFASHION.COM](http://MATCHESFASHION.COM)

JAMES PERSE TEE  
\$106 [JAMESPERSE.COM](http://JAMESPERSE.COM)

ADIDAS SHOES  
\$140 [ABOVETHECLOUDSSTORE.COM](http://ABOVETHECLOUDSSTORE.COM)







## SUNDAY

THE BRIEF: NURSING YOUR HANGOVER AT A SUNDAY SESH ON THE BEACH

WEAR:

ADIDAS SUPERSTARS  
\$130 [THEICONIC.COM.AU](http://THEICONIC.COM.AU)

RAYBAN SUNGLASSES  
\$210 [SUNGLASSHUT.COM](http://SUNGLASSHUT.COM)

TOPMAN SHORTS  
APPROX. \$37 [TOPMAN.COM](http://TOPMAN.COM)

LACOSTE SHOES  
\$169.96 [HYPEDC.COM](http://HYPEDC.COM)

UNIQLO SHIRT  
APPROX. \$40 [UNIQLO.COM](http://UNIQLO.COM)



## WEDNESDAY

THE BRIEF: DRINKS WITH THE GIRL WHO'S NUMBER YOU SCORED ON SATURDAY NIGHT

WEAR:

J CREW SHIRT  
\$69.87 [JCREW.COM](http://JCREW.COM)

RAG & BONE JEANS  
\$254 [FARFETCH.COM](http://FARFETCH.COM)

PALLADIUM BOOTS  
\$139.95 [PLATYPUSSHOOES.COM.AU](http://PLATYPUSSHOOES.COM.AU)





# A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR...

10 WOMEN GIVE THEIR HONEST OPINIONS ABOUT WHAT TURNS THEM ON (AND OFF) ABOUT A MAN UPON SEEING HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME

I

"The one thing I look straight at when a guy walks into the room is his face, so grooming is important. Facial hair is fine (if anything, it's encouraged!) but it should be properly maintained."

— Emily, 23, Sydney

II

"Whether or not the gentleman has seen the inside of a barber shop this year. The second is probably his shirt; does it have an obnoxious slogan on it (a massive no no)? Is it well ironed? Does it fit well?"

— Maddy, 25, Melbourne

III

"One of the little things I'll notice about a guy's appearance is his fingernails. A small detail that says a lot about a man's grooming habits."

— Kate, 25, Brisbane

IV

"I personally think you can tell a lot about a man from the way he styles (or doesn't style) his hair. For me, I'm instantly attracted to short, lightly styled hair as it shows he respects his appearance but also isn't swayed by fleeting trends (no top knot thanks!)."

— Gen, 26, Sydney

V

"I definitely notice their confidence. If they aren't holding themselves with pride then I know they won't be looking for an equally strong woman... I like a challenge!"

— Alice, 31, Melbourne

VI

"I notice someone who's laughing, who's having a good time, who feels comfortable in their own skin. There's nothing worse than someone who walks in and looks scared and intimidated."

— Ally, Brisbane, 24

VII

"I think a great pair of shoes says a lot about a guy. Battered-up sneakers or those super-shiny cheap dress shoes you've had since your high school prom screams immaturity to me. Men would be shocked by how many women clock their shoes the minute they walk into a room."

— Claire, 29, Perth

VIII

"The first thing I notice is their style, whether it's smart, unique, eccentric or casual... Or if they have no style at all."

— Megan, Adelaide, 31

IX

"The first thing I notice about a guy is how he holds himself. If his posture is upright and his head is tilted upright and forward, I think he looks more confident and I find that attractive. If his shoulders are hunched and he looks down a lot instead of straight ahead, I find that it shows a lack of confidence."

— Alex, 22, Melbourne

X

"What he's wearing. A man's sense of style says a lot about his personality."

— Lydia, 28, Sydney





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[topman.com](http://topman.com)

## LET'S GET PERSONAL

A GROWING LEGION OF SAVVY BRANDS ARE TAKING THE GUESSWORK OUT OF SHOPPING FOR MEN, OFFERING PERSONAL SHOPPING SERVICES THAT PICK OUT THE CLOTHES YOU'LL ACTUALLY WANT TO WEAR. HERE, FIVE DESTINATIONS TO TRY.

#### A GOOD MAN, MELBOURNE

A Good Man's premise is simple: they believe clothes can make you feel like the best possible version of yourself. With offices in Los Angeles, New York, Sydney and Melbourne, the team of shoppers and stylists will meet with you in person, have a look at your existing wardrobe, then take you shopping based on your budget and general style needs. Prices start at \$300 for a 'quick shop' (two hours), up to \$1,450 for a complete wardrobe overhaul (eight hours).

[agoodman.com.au](http://agoodman.com.au)

#### MR PORTER, WORLDWIDE

Mr Porter – the brother site of luxury e-tail giant Net-a-Porter – offers a worldwide

personal shopping service for men, by men. E-mail with details of the kind of styles and colours you like, or the event you're going to, and the personal shopper will respond with two or three head-to-toe outfits they think you'll be into, from there you can phone them with feedback – things you like, things you don't, until you settle on something you really want.

[personalshopping@mrporter.com](mailto:personalshopping@mrporter.com).

#### KENT & LIME, SYDNEY

Not into the idea of meeting a stylist in-person? Kent & Lime is your new best friend. With a 100 per cent online service, you fill out a 'style profile' online, answer a few questions with a stylist via e-mail, then they send you a box full of clothes

they think you'll be into. The kicker? You only pay for the stuff you actually want, then send the rest back. The price point is affordable too, with shirts starting at \$79 and tees from \$30.

[kentandlime.com.au](http://kentandlime.com.au)

#### THE STYLE AGENCY, BRISBANE

The Style Agency offers styling advice to men and women, but their offering for men is among the most extensive in the country. Want a full-on wardrobe make-over? Sorted. Don't want to deal with someone face-to-face? Head to their Personalised Style Guides – all online. Need a suit for a special event? Their two-hour shopping service is for you.

[thestyleagency.com.au](http://thestyleagency.com.au)



## FRESHEN UP

BY NOW YOU (HOPEFULLY) KNOW THAT PHEROMONES ARE THE ULTIMATE APHRODISIAC. UPDATE YOUR SCENT (AND CHANCES OF GETTING NOTICED) FOR THE PARTY SEASON WITH ONE OF THESE NEW COLOGNES



1

2



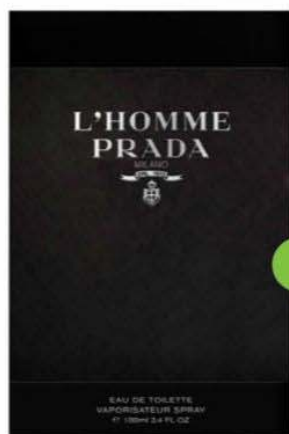
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3



5



6

### 1. Comme des Garçons Wonderwood, \$128

Comme des Garçons colognes tend to lie on the more unconventional side of the spectrum, but this scent – with its smoky, musky and, yes, woody tones – is something all men could benefit from trying at least once.

### 2. Tom Ford Tobacco Vanille, \$325

With notes of tobacco leaf, cocoa and ginger, it's no surprise this cologne was inspired by old-school Gentlemen's clubs in London. Added bonus? The common consensus is that women find it sexy-as-hell.

### 3. Prada 'L'Homme Prada', approx. \$127

Prada released Prada L'Homme – with notes of amber and iris - to compliment its Prada L'Femme fragrance, saying in a press statement that the two scents represent the "ultimate man" and "ultimate women".

### 4. Essenza Acqua di Parma, \$150

One of the most popular colognes for men in 2016, the only thing cooler than Essenza Acqua di Parma's slick packaging is the fresh, citrus-inspired scent.

### 5. Bleu de Chanel, \$174

The 'Bleu' in the name of this Chanel cologne refers to the deep blue sea, which explains why it's jam-packed with fresh, summer-appropriate notes like lemon, grapefruit and bergamot.

### 6. Dior Sauvage, \$224

Dior's recently launched cologne for men – fronted by Johnny Depp – literally translates to 'Wild', and is all about pure masculinity, no frills attached. 1



03/17

# BEDROOM EYES BY ANTHONY TRAN

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# PARTY





# TIME

357910

HOBOGESTAPO is a photography collective documenting nightlife, music, fashion and culture. We asked them for some photos and they supplied their favourite party images from over the years. They delivered.

**What makes a party unforgettable?**

Throw something savage into the mix, a wild hyena without a muzzle, a slenderman that appears at random intervals through the evening, a mutual agreement that at 8pm everyone has to get nude or they get booted. Do something strange and people will never forget.

**What makes an amazing image?**

When something ludicrous happens in real life and it's comprised of a series of actions that

look stunning to the eye, you're pretty much guaranteed it's going to look dope as a frozen frame. Also hot people look good in photos.

**Tell us about the photos you've curated for us.**

We've thrown together a bunch of images of wild moments we've found ourselves in, beautiful friends who look great in front of the camera or just some downright strange shit we've seen. Enjoy. 🍷





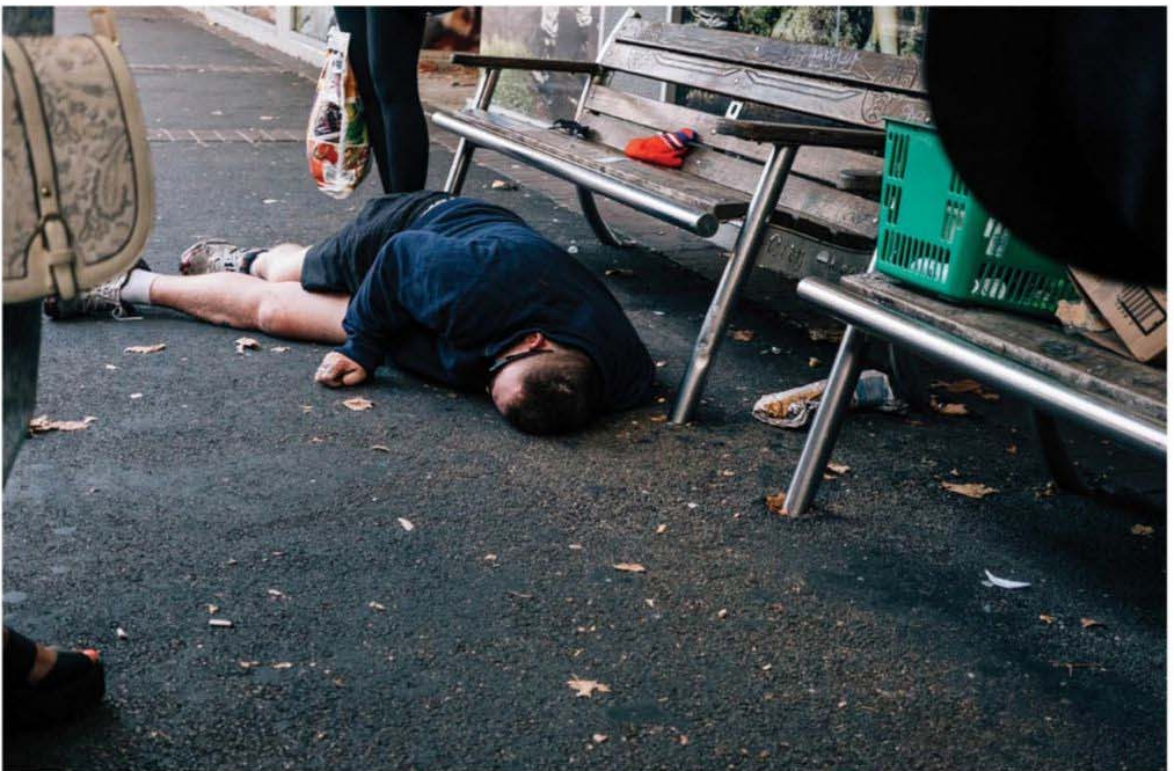




















CULTURE

## MR GREY

**M**R. GREY isn't your average 21-year-old. Hailing from New York City, Grey's profession tends to raise a few eyebrows: He buys bongs for a living. At his age, that might sound like standard practice, but these aren't your typical smoking devices. They're pieces of art and they carry a hefty price tag, some selling for upwards of \$10,000. We caught up with the young gallery owner for a quick chat and a look at his collection.

### Tell us about "Jungle Gun."

"Jungle Gun" is a part of a series by master glassblower Robert Mickelsen entitled "Weapons of Peace." Robert's idea was to create a body of work that focused on the aesthetic beauty of weapons instead of their association with violence. To extend that message, he makes each of his creations functional, [but] instead of shooting bullets they [can be used as] bongs. So instead of weapons of war, you have weapons of peace. [Jungle Gun] is a particularly special work because it's a collaboration with another glassblower, while most other work in the series is solo. [Collaborator] Calvin Mickle, aka Calm, is known for his hand-sculpted forest life, which he adorns on the outside of this gun, including small critters and a myriad of greenery. Calvin is known for his "burd" sculptures, he includes a small one among the leaves on the stock of the gun. Though "Jungle Gun" is small, he has made them as large as two feet high, and they are collected by a fervent fan base. It's a wonderful work to display, with so many points of interest. You can get lost staring at it for quite some time.

### How did you get into collecting bongs?

In 2012/2013, I found success in the stock market — part fluke, part hunch. I invested in every company I could find associated with cannabis before its legalisation in Colorado, and then sold off all my shares directly after the new laws came into effect. The stocks shot up, and for a short period I was able to sell them all for a large profit. I immediately looked toward the world of cannabis to reinvest the money and found a venture capital group called Arcview that was solely focused on the sector. I joined and immediately befriended a bong manufacturer from Austin, Texas. After stopping by for a visit at his factory, he directed me toward a neighbouring warehouse: "Check out what's going on next door, there are some artists making bongs like you've never seen before." So I walked over, stepped inside, and immediately I knew I had discovered something special. These weren't the clear glass smoking devices, they were beautiful sculptures, and I needed to show my friends! It was shortly after my discovery that I realised how few people knew about this hidden industry. A whole collective of immensely talented artists within the world of cannabis, and no one was paying any attention. That's when I decided to create Grey Space Art and make this more than a hobby.

### How did your work come to be featured at Fashion Week?

Fashion Week is a real scene. You have creative people from all over





## “THESE WEREN’T THE CLEAR GLASS SMOKING DEVICES, THEY WERE BEAUTIFUL SCULPTURES”

the world descending on a few square blocks of Manhattan for four or five days, going to runway shows in the morning and label parties at night, with no real time to relax in between. People are up all hours seeing show after show, and they get tired of the routine. I saw an opportunity to launch Grey Space Art and take advantage of the monotony. My hope was that once people found out I was showcasing pipes and bongos as fine art, they would be drawn away from another rehearsed label party to try something new. Additionally, I was able to call in some favours from a few friends: Rochambeau dressed me in a killer outfit, Jake Tschetter of the Up and Up was brewing absolutely world-class cocktails, ESP Gins gifted me a slew of their new alcohol, and DJ Breakbot flew in from Paris last minute to supply the music. The bongos are truly amazing on their own, but the initial draw had to come from the party, and after getting a pre-event article by *Forbes*, we began to pick up momentum. Within 24 hours the party had over 300 media confirmations: *GQ*, *Esquire*, *Business Insider*, *CR Fashion Book*. Everyone was beginning to turn their heads, and in spite of not being on the fashion week schedule, because I was doing something truly unique, I was able to find real success with my launch event.

### When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I never had a concrete idea of what I wanted to be, even now at 21 I'm not quite sure. I follow what I'm passionate about, and because of that, my role constantly changes.

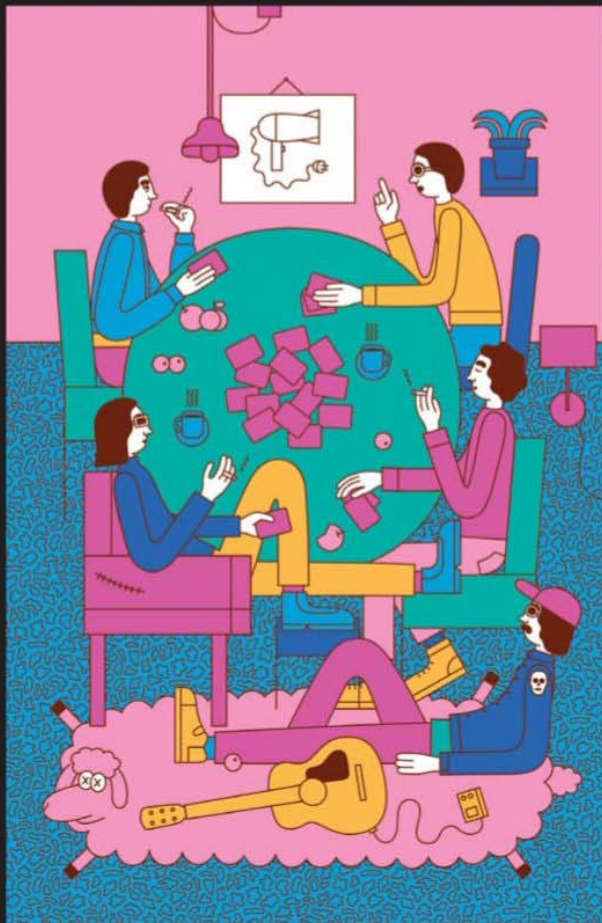
### What's your favourite bong in your collection?

Although picking a favourite would not be as grave as a parent picking out their favourite child, it would still pain me too much to single just one piece out. I can say that, among guests, “Henshin” by Phil Siegel usually garners the most attention. It's an incredible wall-hanging multimedia sculpture that uses wood, paint and glass to tell the story of an ancient creation myth, in which a koi fish adapts from its pond to climb onto land and begin the evolutionary process toward becoming human.

### Do you remember your first collector bong?

Yes! After discovering this medium and beginning to research its artists, I began to fall in love with the work of Kurt B, who is most famous for making a mould of the plastic supermarket honey bear and creating a series of 100 functional glass versions. Those pieces sold for \$150-\$300 when they were first coming out, and are now so coveted by collectors that to even begin searching for one, you need to be willing to spend over 4,000 percent of the original cost. Recently I was able to acquire the first one in the series, which is currently in my private collection, but at the time an equally important piece in his portfolio came up for sale, and I knew if I was serious about investing in this industry then I'd need to buy it. I called up my dad to tell him the news: “Dad, I'm about to spend over \$5,000 on a bong, and you're just going to have to trust me.” Of course, he didn't trust me and thought I was out of my mind, but if you asked him now, he'd be enthusiastic to talk about the series himself. The work just brings a smile to your face, and I'm glad four years later that I made that first major purchase. 🍷





## CULTURE

# MARTINA PAUKOVA

### How would you describe your work?

I work with dark outlines, coloured fills and organic characters set in flattened, graphicky and almost geometric domestic environments. I guess, I am trying to capture the ordinary and the everyday by combining a reduced reality with the aesthetic of 70s American motels, along with a modernist set up and the occasional Memphis pattern thrown in. I like to draw people and their awkward poses, set in contexts filled with daily objects and a somewhat familiar narrative taking place. The sort of narrative you feel at home with straightaway.

### When did you discover you were creative?

Strangely enough, it didn't really happen until I was 26! I've always been quick to think of a cheeky rhyme and I'm always up for any prank, but I never drew. My initial degree was in politics, and it was only after I graduated and moved to London to start a graphic design course at the London College of Communication that illustration and a dose of creativity entered my life.

### Where do your zany ideas come from, and how do they come to life?

Very often they start with the client brief, which then gets a "life of its own". Other times, the process can be something as simple as me scrubbing the bathroom and letting my mind roam, plotting. And sometimes, the idea for an image flickers totally uncalled for, then it's my turn to draw it out, poke it and see what story it holds.

### What's your "go to" party trick?

Haha, I wish I had one! What usually happens in the presence of social thrill combined with a glass of wine is resorting to a very particular streak of oddball humour – enjoyable but at times rather awkward!

### If you were stuck on a desert island and had the choice to take three items, what would they be?

Very non-romantically – a laptop with a huge amount of spare batteries and a satellite internet connection, a multipack of contact lenses (as I am badly shortsighted) and a nice oversized long sleeve cotton sweatshirt.

### What is the best piece of advice you ever received?

Stop overthinking. 🕒





FLASHBACK

**WEATHERGIRL**  
**AUSTRALIAN PENTHOUSE**

Vol 8 No 1 / January 1987

Model: Janna Adams

Photographer: Earl Miller



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