

# LADYGUNN

THE #3  
CRUSH  
ISSUE

## SPANKROCK

THEOPHILUS LONDON, ADAM GREEN, JAMES BLAKE,  
JUNIOR BOYS, WE LOVE BRENDAN SEXTON III

# LYKKKE LI

The Ettes, Das Racist, Timo Weiland, Samantha Pleet

KREAYSHAWN ++ MISCHA BARTON

++ MODELS, QUIZZES,  
FALL FASHION + MORE!

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WHAT'S

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UP



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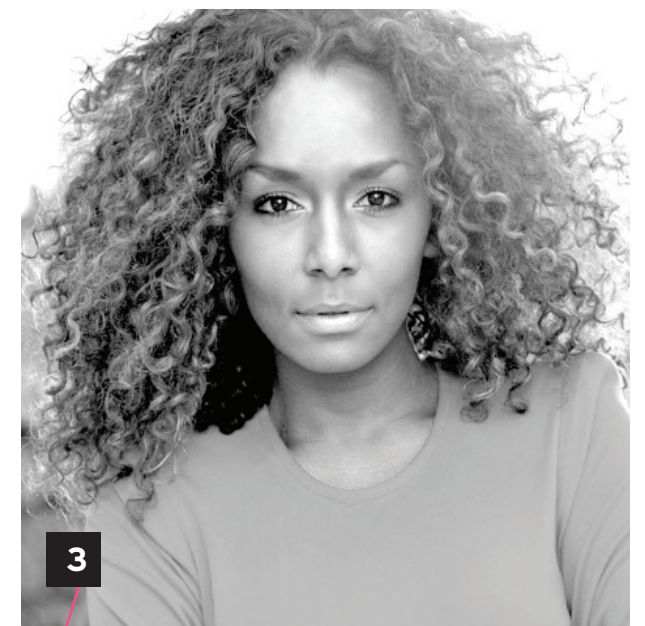
I love crushes. I believe they are one of the driving forces of human nature and enable people to be so passionate about a feeling, even if it's just in their head. Sometimes the chase is better than the actual object you are chasing. I can't count the number of failures I've had baring my heart to someone I'm crushing on. I also can't count the number of successes, so maybe I'm doing something right.

Letting my crushes guide me, I flirted my way through this issue. I even sent telepathic messages to a few of the people we featured hoping one of them would ask me out (Naeem? Das Racist boys? Joe B? THEOPHILUS!). Having thought recently about my romantically inspired actions, I have come to realize what a crush is: a heightened sense of the heart's musings!

Welcome to the Crush Issue. I have been a fan of Lykke Li for years. Having Li grace our cover is like having a crush agree to be your prom date, and then having a really good time at the dance. Kreyshaw, who is firing up a media storm with her distaste for basic bitches and Gucci bags, has all of us at the Ladygunn offices strung out like addicts to her songs and attitude. I know all the words to her song "Gucci Gucci" and think the phrase, "I got the swag & it's pumpin' out my ovaries," is one of the finer pieces of writing of the 21st century. Let's face it, everyone in this issue is crush-worthy.

Having honest conversations with our crushes about life was a great way for us to spend the last couple of months. In this third installment of Ladygunn we hope you enjoy reading about what some of our favorite people love and why we love them. Put yourself out there and set your love free to the world. That goes both for acting on your crush and living life in general.

xoxo,

1 / SHE IS FRANK

is a fashion photographer who loves mystery. Frank has traveled the world with a camera and especially enjoys photographing hot girls who eat phallic-shaped food.

3 / JANET MOCK

is a writer, blogger and podcaster who wrote this issue's feature on her first crush, a dreamy boy-next-door who unknowingly guided her toward finding her first love. The Honolulu native currently lives in NYC's East Village, where she co-hosts the relationships podcast, *The Missing Piece*, with her photographer boyfriend, Aaron Tredwell. An Associate Editor for PEOPLE.com and a die-hard vintage fanatic (she's currently in a late-1970s phase!), Janet is working on her literary debut, *Fish Food*, a memoir detailing her adolescent coming-of-age through genders.

4 / CAITLIN BURNS

is a design student from St. Pete, FL. She specializes in typography and editorial design, and designed the spreads seen in this issue. Check her portfolio website at CAITLIN-BURNS.COM.

2 / TESS PARE-MAYER

is the San Franciscan turned New Yorker, sequin collecting, vintage worshipping and over accessorized woman behind THELITTLEBLACKLIST.COM She is crushing on Lace caftans, Grandma Panties with matching bras in any and all colors (mostly neon DIY), graphic nails, and gypsy headpieces, AND OBSESSED with DIY projects.

5 / IMOGEN WILSON

started her styling career at the age of fifteen by assisting some of New Zealand's well known stylists and creative teams. With only so much to learn, Imogen quickly began producing and styling her own editorials. Today at the age of eighteen she is styling for numerous publications both locally and internationally which include *Fallen Magazine*, *U Magazine*, *Vice* and ofcourse *Ladygunn Magazine!*



# she is frank

photography / SHE IS FRANK stylist / Renessta Olds

stylist assistant / AMELIA SCHUSSLER hair + makeup / BP CARMUCHE





Boucle Top, **Elene Cassis**. Pants, **Mini for Minimarket**. Earrings, **Laruicci**. Ring, **Laruicci**. Shoes, **Pour La Victoire**. Bottom; Dress, **Henrik Vibskov**.



Blouse, **Wood Wood**. Leather Leggings, **L'Autre Chose**. Earring, **Crux**. Shoes, **Pour La Victoire**.  
For details, see *Stockist*.

**YOU**

**SHOULD**

**KNOW**





Jacket, **Sally LaPointe** For details, see *Stockists*.

# LYKKE LI

## QUEEN OF HEARTS

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story / HEATHER SEIDLER

photographs / SHANNA FISHER

stylist / ALLISON ST. GERMAIN

hair + makeup / SARA APPLEBY @Sarah Laird Agency

assistant hair+ makeup / NICOLE BRIDGEFORD

shot at dakota studio nyc



Meet 25 year-old Swedish singer Lykke Li, born Li Lykke Timotej Zachrisson. Yes, the chick's name is epic, I urge you to make flash cards, feel free to name your pet turtle after her, commit it to memory.

The intriguing Scandinavian's multivalent songs dissolve the borders of mathematically-manufactured Swedish pop that her predecessors Abba, Robyn and The Cardigans have popularized. If ever there was a time for a complicated indie-dream-rock songbird from Sweden to hit it big in the States, this would be it. One look at all the magazine covers she has recently graced and it's evident that the American press believes it too.

Lykke Li's recently-released second album, *Wounded Rhymes*, sets a more mature, gutsier tone than the soft tortured tunes that made up the bulk of her debut *Youth Novels* (2008). *Wounded* is a moodily elegant, baroquely-layered album, featuring sincere dark slabs of melodicism and eroticism. Her music has evolved into something decidedly more resolute and ambitious. Li has taken it up a

notch, as though she increased her shoe size without leaving any tracks behind.

*Youth Novels* was laced with heartbreak, as are aspects of *Wounded*, but this time around the heartbreak is punctuated with power and reinvention. The album captures both the bruised and thorny stages of heartbreak within well-composed, deliberate songs that encourage forlorn defiance. Li reveals that the heartbreak doesn't necessarily stem only from a breakup. "It is true that it is [an album] about heartbreak, not necessarily a relationship. Heartbreak comes in many forms," she says. "A very vivid one is when you break your own heart."

This time around, her provocative, heartbreak-saturated songs are less a plea for release and more a battle cry. *Wounded* is a more primal album, emotionally raw, re-fashioned and fluctuating between torchy moments of vengeance to tumultuous desolation. Circling both the vengeful and vulnerable synchronously. The rhythms and rhymes, whether all wounded or not, symbiotically lean on each other, interweaving between pain and power, as Li

fights her way out of the heartbreak.

A self-taught singer, Li instinctually incorporates strong folksy electro-pop with lyrics so penetrating at times they manifest themselves as a physical presence. It's as though her heart is a complicated bomb that would result in a polarizing explosion, rocking the world without wrecking it. The album as a whole feels like the deep inhale before the big exhale.

Lykke Li understands that love, like an item you have temporarily misplaced, can sometimes be found only when you stop looking for it. She describes it as an album about getting lost and then found, and then lost again.

When writing and recording the 10 tracks for the sophomore album, Li spent six months living in Los Angeles, visiting the surrounding deserts and spending a great deal of time alone. Maybe that is why the album's mood seems to capture LA: a weirdly compelling place drenched in an eerie sun-smog that makes people both want to run and

want to settle down at the same time.

"I always feel like I'm fantasizing of being anyone and anywhere far away from myself," she says. "So everything I do is probably a reaction to what I just did before. The journey has just begun and I don't know where it is going to end."

Like her diverse music, Li's background is unconventional. The middle of three children, Li was shuttled between Stockholm, Portugal and small villages in Nepal and India. She also spent time in Lisbon, Morocco and New York. There was a time when she worked at a nursing home in Stockholm, taking care of senior citizens with Down Syndrome, dealing with death and bedpans for a living.

In 2005, Li packed up and moved from Stockholm to kaleidoscopic New York, with wages saved from waitressing and only a handful of contacts. In New York, Li lived in a windowless, unheated Bushwick apartment, and often went to bed wearing her coat to stay warm. She remained

**"I guard my inspiration and will to create with my life, without it I am nothing."**

there, playing open mic nights until her Visa finally expired. After her return to Sweden, she swiftly joined up with Bjorn Yttling from the beloved indie band Peter Bjorn and John, who produced her first EP *Little Bit* and subsequent albums. In 2008, when Li debuted *Youth Novels* on her own label, it rapidly captured significant attention in her native Sweden and helped gain her traction with global industry acolytes.

Aside from making her the poster-child for internet-endorsed cool, her debut helped Li achieve a rare stardom among both chic Euro-critic highbrows and twee-pop Twilight lovers who discovered her from the song "Possibility," which she penned for the *Twilight Saga: New Moon* soundtrack, launching her dark'n'slinky balladry into prime time. While any scenester stamp-of-approval or Top Ten List may ultimately be an exercise in futility, such commendations are valid in this case, rare in our hyper-judgmental North American culture. This translated to opportunities not previously imagined, including collaborations with Kanye West and Kings of Leon, remixes by Beck, TV on the Radio, Beastie Boys' Mike D and becoming the official ambassador of Levi's Curve ID line.

In the wake of all the popularity and critical high-fiving that her music has inspired, Li tacitly understands the pressures and expectations that go along with success. With success there comes a scrutiny inconceivable to most. "It all goes back to not believing in any hype but only listening to my inner voice and what I want to say and do as an artist. The only pressure I take in, is from myself, which is more than enough," she explains. "I don't like the word success because I'm not exactly sure what it means. Success, just like everything else in life, is fleeting. The only thing I hope is that I still have some inner flame left when all is said and done."

It's difficult to strive in an industry where you're flooded with other people's opinions about what you should be doing. "I don't believe in letting other people into your

creation process," she says. "For me it's such an intimate thing and I guard my inspiration and will to create with my life, without it I am nothing."

Lucky for us, she is not without it. The first time I saw Lykke Li on stage was in 2009 at Bardot, a small, 300-capacity bar in Los Angeles. She looked like a beautiful and awkward superhero. Her performance was transfixing and moments of it sent tiny earthquakes along the walls, snapping the audience in half with her voice. Her sultry, accented style switched gears effortlessly, without need of powerhouse belting over the top of every chorus. A mere two years later, Li has graduated to larger arenas, but has grown no less absorbing. In L.A. at her Greek Theatre performance (Capacity: 6,000), she took to the stage dressed in sweeping black drapes mysteriously arrayed around her like a hand of poker. Arms outstretched, grabbing at nothing except strong emotion. Though it's certainly a far less intimate venue than Bardot, no amount of magnetic intensity or excellence was lost. "You lose some [intimacy] but you win another type of feeling," she says. "It is really challenging to play big shows because you really have to work hard, but it is very developing for an artist. You can't always play it safe in your corner."

The corner is far from where she remains. Though depicted in the press as a brooding, guarded presence, she expresses a much less formidable attitude to me. Aside from making music, her favorite activities include breakfast in bed while watching a good film, talking about life during long walks, cooking Moroccan stews for her friends, flea markets, daydreams and biking aimlessly. What's on the Lykke To-Do List? Films, babies, homes, and casseroles. The hallowed works of authors like Coehlo, Rilke and Murakami are her touchstones for inspiration, and her muses aren't among the living. "There are a lot of little ghosts in my head that I like to keep private, they are my muses and are not meant to be abused," she says.

Michael Vidal once said, "People listen to music for two



Jacket, **The Sway**. Silk shorts, **Vintage**.  
Silk Shirt, **Lina Osterman**. Lykke's own rings.  
For details, see *Stockists*.



Pantsuit, **Mandy Coon**. Lykke's own blazer, Lykke's own rings. For details, see Shopping Guide.



reasons: To dance and/or to think about the idea of dancing, or heighten some emotional feeling. Sometimes the best is both at once.” Lykke Li’s music can inarguably do both with ease. Her music videos, including the hangdog “*Sadness is a Blessing*” directed by the inventive Tarik Saleh and starring Stellan Skarsgård, largely incorporate movement and dance. I ask her if she uses a choreographer or if she has a dancing background. “Oh god no!” she exclaims. “I don’t work well at all with choreography. I think what I’m striving for with my body is to achieve some kind of freedom sense, to follow my body’s impulse and forget about the shame and malice. With that said, I do feel a little ashamed of how I dance, I’d love to be better at it.”

In working on the video with Tarik Saleh, she admits, “It was a battle, but so wonderfully worth it. It was all about finding a new emotional aspect to something I’ve penned and lived. I would love to do it over and over again.”

Li acknowledges the limitation and risk of being gifted with great toppling stacks of introspection and expectations, “There is always something at stake, I feel like I’m failing every day, but at the same time winning. Rainer Maria Rilke said that the point of life is to fail at greater and greater things.”

And greater things are coming her way. After her triumphant return to the States, with a successful second album under her belt and the sun setting over Los Angeles, it seems appropriate to ask Ms. Li the obligatory, “Now what—what’s next?” She concisely answers: “I’ll be touring until my heart stops.”

“The whole world is only three drinks away,” she concludes. Amen. ▲



Pantsuit, **Mandy Coon**. Lykke’s own blazer, Lykke’s own rings. For details, see *Shopping Guide*.

story / KOKO NTUEN

stylist / KOKO NTUEN + STEFANIA CONSARINO

photography / SHARON GOLDBERG

# SPANK ROCK

The swoon-worthy, John Lennon and Basquiat rap outfit that is Nacem Juwan, aka Spank Rock, is finally releasing his sophomore album *Everything is Boring and Everyone is a Fucking Liar* this Fall. Although the title may seem jaded, the album, with its sleek Boys Noize produced tracks and Juwan's well crafted lyrics, definitely is not. Still riding off the critical acclaim of *YoYoYoYoYo*, Spank Rock has made guest appearances across the spectrum, from popping up to perform with the wildly popular Robyn and lending his visage, with fellow music artist SantiGold, for a T by Alexander Wang campaign. The new album, in true Spank Rock form, is an amalgamation of influences, including high doses of pop, collaborations with SantiGold, and the production of Boys Noize, Pharrell, Diplo and XXXChange (aka Alex Epton). The album officially drops on September 27th. Till then you can shake your "B-O-O-T-A-Y" at a live show because Spank Rock is currently on tour and blowin' out the speakers at a venue near you with Ke\$ha and LMFAO. We have the inside scoop as Ladygumn snags Spank Rock fresh off the tour bus.

How did you and your producer Alex Epton meet?

We met back in Baltimore. I was throwin' house parties in West Philly and Alex and his band would come down and play with the DJs, we would have open mics [then] we just started making music and playing around. He starting sending me the hip hop beats and I like to rap, so it just started like that.

Is Spank Rock a term for you and whatever producer you're working with?

Spank Rock is a rap name that I've had before I met anyone that I've worked with. I always look at it as me, but with every collaboration, I don't think you can always take credit or fully represent the project without showing the people around you that helped you create it.

What is the major difference in production and recording from your debut album *Yo Yo Yo Yo Yo* and your newest release *Everything is Boring and Everyone is a Fucking Liar*?

Well one there are about five different producers on the current album and *Yo Yo Yo Yo Yo* was only done by Alex [Epton] and a friend of mine named Steve McReady. That's the first huge difference. Boys Noize is the executive producer on the new record. He did all of the mixing. It definitely made a difference, the sound is stronger. I think it's more of a professional sounding album. When me and Alex first started it was the first time we ever tried to sit down and complete a hip hop album, so I guess the new album sounds more mature.

How did you come up with the name of your current album and why is it called that?

I was frustrated at one point in time, and I thought you know what, 'Everything is boring and everyone is a fucking liar.' That's pretty much it.

What has been your source of inspiration recently?

My recent inspiration, this may seem crazy, but I've been in Berlin alot with Boys Noize and just seeing him DJ a lot has been like a huge inspiration to me. Also, going out on tour with Mark Ronson and his band, with all these musicians, like MDNR, Andrew Wyatt, Mike Snow, Boy

Light Blue Shirt, Bespoken. Flatbottom tie, Bespoken, Fairisle Patterned crew sweater, Burkman Bros. Pants, Spank Rocks. Shoes, Duckie Brown.

# "Everything is boring and everyone is a fucking liar."

George, I found myself in a mix of people who could really fucking sing and write really good songs, and it made me look at music in a different way. It opened my eyes as a rapper. I feel like people overseas have more of a spiritual attachment to music.

**Earlier on were you afraid of being pigeonholed as a hipster rapper?** You know what fucking sucks? Music writers. Everything they see you as is just based off of some stamp or some genre. It ruins everything. It ruins everyone's individuality and expression. I was really pissed when I started getting pigeonholed as being one specific type of rapper everyone overlooked the other half of my album that was really important, political and hyper creative. It was unlike anything else that was happening at the time. I want to show people that my interest in music and the skills I have as a song writer are broader than they might expect. I also think that Michael Jackson is beginning to influence my music for some reason. I started asking myself, what would Michael do, a lot more than I used to. *Laughs.* So maybe that's the reason for the pop stuff on the new album.

**Did you cry when Michael Jackson died?**

Yeah.

**Everyone was so sad. I've never seen anything like that.**

It was nuts. Everyone was crying.

**It was like really intense.**

I was so dumb for crying, because it was someone I don't really know. It just shows how powerful he was as a performer and song writer. He really did write music that influenced everyone. That is one of the biggest things that's missing from music right now. Stuff that people are writing about now is all based on materialism and their egos.

**What's your favorite part about the music business?**

My favorite part of the music business? Nothing. *Laughs.*

**Nothing?**

Well I think my favorite part about the business is that because it's a business I can find ways to live off of good music, and all you have to do is make music. But other than that, I hate it.

**Have you seen "Bump" playing in the Wishbone salad dressing commercial? How do you feel when you like see your music in other things and places? Is it exciting?**

I've seen "Bump" playing in the salad dressing commercials. I've also seen "Bump" play in *Eastbound & Down*, which is my favorite show. Sometimes it's exciting, and sometimes it sucks a bit, like the salad commercial. It's like, 'Cool, thanks for the 3,000 dollars to use my song, great!' When I have a song used in an awesome film like the scene in *Mister Lonely* it's like 'Wow, one of my favorite directors just used my song.'

It's amazing that way. It's kind of sad, sometimes the only way artists can really make money is off of those types of placements. We don't even have a real option to be turn down these things because the money that comes from the advertisements and product placement and things like that gets put back into making the art form of samples and records.

**What does your family think of your career?**

My family, they're getting used to it. I didn't even tell them I had a record deal when I first got one, for about half a year, well actually probably a whole year until my first album came out. But they're paying attention, they're getting excited. I had a lot of requests to make songs that maybe they could play for their children. *Laughs.*

**Are you excited about touring with Ke\$ha and LMFAO?**

I'm super excited about touring with Ke\$ha and LMFAO. You wanna know why?

Yes, I do.

I'm excited, because I've actually started becoming friends with Ke\$ha. I met her through Benny Blanco who produces all of the big time pop jams. When I was on tour with Mark Ronson in Australia, Ke\$ha was

also a part of that tour so we hung out a lot then. She's really fun. I'm also releasing this album myself this year and I think it's quite an amazing thing to be offered the position to open up for one of the biggest pop stars in the world without any big industry behind it. I feel really, really lucky about that. It's kind of exciting because I'll be able to show kids something that they have no clue existed and I hope that it's inspiring to them.

**Do you think you and Ke\$ha are gonna hook up?**

Me and Ke\$ha? No. *Laughs.*

**Would you bang her?**

I would like to say no, but I've been know to bang a lot of different people...

**So what do you have a crush on right now? Do you have any crushes on things, girls or places?**

I have a total crush on Mr. Hare shoes. His shoes are amazing. My girl crush is Rye Rye. You know Rye Rye?

I love her too.

Exactly. That's my girl crush. My place crush right now is Copenhagen. It's usually Paris, but right now it's Copenhagen. Copenhagen in the summer.

**What kind of a boyfriend are you?**

Not a very good one. *Laughs.*

**Have you ever dated a girl and had her come to your show and freak out on you?**

Yeah, but I can't even get into that now because it's way too—I can't even deal with that. I'm just really excited about moving around and meeting people and touring my music, so at this time it's really hard to be a good boyfriend.

**Do you have any mottos or things you tell yourself in the morning when you're waking up to get you through the day?**

I often say 'I do what I want,' but maybe I shouldn't encourage people to say that. ▴



Marine washed woven shirt, Shipley & Halmos Flatbottom Tie, Bespoken Shoes, Mr Hare Pants, Spank Rocks.



Pullover shirt, Bespoken. Ribbed knit scarf, Billy Reid. Pants, Spank Rocks.

# MISCHA BARTON

A household name by age seventeen, Mischa Barton first shot to fame with her role as Marissa Cooper on the hit teen soap opera *The O.C.* but there's much more to her legacy: she's starred in several acclaimed indie films, conquered theatre, modeled for the biggest names in fashion, and most recently has become a designer herself. Style icon, party girl, fashionista, It-Girl, call Mischa Barton what you will, but don't dismiss her as just one of the beautiful people. Although "beautiful" certainly describes the 25-year-old actor, few other young famous actors have profited and suffered quite as much as Mischa from the explosion of internet exposure. No matter how the scurrilous tabloids have depicted her in the past, in real life she rapidly dissolves those preconceived notions. It was evident when I first meet her that there is much more to Mischa Barton than meets the eye. Part West London, part New York, part L.A., Barton happens to be incredibly likeable, openly candid, and irrepressibly enthusiastic about music. Best of all, she has a maturity that belies her youth.

In a world where people are finding love through the internet and reality shows, a world where tabloids judge people's shortcomings for recompense, it's refreshing to meet someone who recognizes life for what it is: complicated, a lot of work and ultimately wonderful.

#### Name one thing necessary to your happiness?

I would have to say music, actually. Music and books. My vinyl collection is imperative to my happiness. I love to just come home at night and put on an album. And first thing in the morning I put on an album, have a cup of coffee and just sit—that's my downtime.

#### What are some musicians you can't live without?

Def Leppard, America, Modest Mouse, White Stripes. I listen to a lot of old stuff too: Muddy Waters, Grateful Dead, The Doors; and new stuff: Radiohead, LCD

Sound System. A big mixture. I love music, I am very particular about it, though. What I listen to depends on my mood. On a laid-back day it would be Muddy Waters or Otis Redding, but an upbeat day would be the White Stripes, the Black Lips or the Flaming Lips.

#### What was the last movie that made you cry?

*Bad Blood*, a French film. But I didn't really cry. The last film I cried in was *Harry Potter* when Dumbledore died. That's the kind of thing where I get attached to these characters. I don't watch that much stuff. I'm not that up-to-date on movies.

#### Since this is our Crush issue, who was your first crush?

Joey Torgeano from Catholic school. He was an Italian/Irish boy and we went through First Communion together and had to walk down the aisle together in the church. I had such a crush on him. That was when I stopped listening to my parents for advice. That's what turned me off of him. My mother would say, "Oh he's so cute! He's a little Irish boy—you should go after a boy like that." And that was when I was like, "Ah I don't like Joey anymore." *Laughs.* Then I went for Max, this little crazy-haired Jewish boy.

#### What books are you crushing on now?

Well right now I'm reading Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Anything*. It's a great book that I can dip in and out of. It's nice and thick, full of substance that I want to really absorb. I'm really into philosophy and reading books about ancient philosophy. *Illuminations* by Rimbaud, he's one of my favorite writers. There is so much comfort in buying your favorite books and surrounding yourself with them. I could spend so much money on books. All types of books—coffee table books, photography books, biographies. I really loved Patti Smith's *Just Kids* and have a ton of books on her and Robert Mapplethorpe's photography.

#### Speaking of books, what is your position on the Kindle?

At first I was really against it. There's something nostalgic



Button Down Shirt, **Ksubi**.

story / HEATHER SEIDLER  
photography / JOSHUA SPENCER  
stylist / NATALIE TOREN  
makeup / DINA GREGG  
hair / RAMSELL MARTINEZ  
© THEREXAGENCY.COM

about actually holding the book you're reading in your hands. But I think the accessibility behind them is a marketing genius. Especially in a place like Los Angeles. We're always running around from place to place, it's easy to just have a Kindle in your bag. But for me personally, I could never do it. I mean, I'm TERRIBLE with technology. I barely use my computer. Which hasn't always been a good thing. I mean, the way the media choose to portray me as a young actor was left un-combated in the cyber world. That's something I'm working on now, is getting my proper voice out to my fans on the Internet.

**Are there any designers that you are crushing on right now?**

I'm always into Miu Miu and Givenchy, I love the last season. Proenza always. I've been into some of the Prada stuff too. Mostly the last season's accessories. I'm a huge accessory person.

**Where can we get your namesake handbag line?**

You can get them at [mischabartonhandbags.com](http://mischabartonhandbags.com).

**What are your inspirations when you're designing your handbags?**

It's kind of all over the map, really. I get [inspiration] from vintage bags. For example, I have a doctor's bag design that's taken directly from a vintage doctor's bag I used to have. From the design, to the clasps and closures. I mean, it's endless really. You can pretty much get anything done well these days, you just have to have a strong vision. I make lots of box bags, like old makeup cases, etc. Then I also have some classic designs that are catered towards the average working London woman going to work. Slouchy and small.

Mostly all of my bags are PVC [thermoplastic polymer], because it keeps the price down, which keeps it affordable and accessible. You can easily fall into having a huge company for something and just attaching your name to it. But I really want the bags to be a proper representation of who Mischa Barton is and what my style is like. Prada and everything is great, but the average person can't afford that. I mean, don't get me wrong, I do make some high-end bags, a couple are leather. But like I said, most are PVC, which is vegan friendly, so not only are you getting a great bag, but you don't have to worry about killing any animals. The whole company is not that way, but for the most part it is, which I like. And the bags still look and feel really good.

**Do you look for a certain something in the movies that you do, or the characters that you portray when you choose a role?**

Yes, absolutely! I look for a mix of things, some common identifying factor that I can relate to, and something that is going to push me to be something I would never get to be. That's why I love acting. I was painfully shy when I was young and acting brought me out of my shell. When I got on stage I was able to really flourish because I felt that people were not judging me, that I was putting it into the char-

acter and I was getting this respect from adults, which I was not ever getting from my peers. I mean the popular kids weren't mean to me, but they definitely didn't want me hanging around. I was a loner, and acting has been something I could hide behind. I gravitate towards relatively dark work, or heavily flawed characters.

**What kind of people are you drawn to in your personal life?**

Characters. People who are strong and independent. A little off-beat. Most of my friends are quirky and older than me. I have a lot of parent figures as friends. My family and background is quite reserved—me being English and born in London. When we moved to America, I wanted friends and people around me who were different from what I had always known. My friends are always there for me and I can really confide in them without out too much judgment.

They're very passionate and emotional.

**Bustier Bikini Top, Volcom.**



I'm the only one in my family who gravitated toward acting. Everyone else does law politics and economics. But don't get me wrong, I do have some friends who do fall into the same character as my family. All of my friends are very intelligent, and we have some amazing conversations. All of my friends are kind and thoughtful. My best idea of a night is a good dinner party with lots of good friends. I quite like it when they get a little heated in conversation. I really think people form a sort of bond over situations like that.

**How do you feel about how you've been portrayed by the media?**

[Two years ago] I lived in Paris for a year, and living in France I got really used to good food and conversation. It was amazing. I don't think anyone knew what I was doing or where I had gone. It was when things were getting bad with the press and I needed a safe place to be. The press kept on going on about me over here. It boiled down to me not having enough of a public voice. While the entire time I was over in Paris living a healthy, completely different life than was being given credit for. My life has never been as it was been perceived. There is a huge disconnect in the real Mischa and what people think is me.

Most people think I'm very Californian. I couldn't be further from that. I moved to California for that show [*The OC*] at 17. I graduated early to do the show. I had NEVER been to Orange County. And I said that going into the character. The director said, "I know, that's what I like about you. You have this European mindset with a New York sophistication. But you're only 17 and we want to portray that in

these young kids, to show that they are growing up too fast."

**When you settle down to have a family, do you want it to be in Europe, or America?**

I like the European sensibility. I think the way the world is right now, America isn't thriving. Artistically, I think London's music and film scene is great. So it makes the decision easier. I'm English and I'm not sure I want to break that blood line yet. I would do what my parents did: being raised in London, and then moving to America young. If my dad didn't come here for the World Trade Center, I would have

very much grown up in this glass ceil-

ing. America brought us all these opportunities, especially for me. We moved to America when I was six and by eight, I had found acting in summer camp and I ran with that. I was so lucky to have a career at such a young age, and I knew I was lucky. Being from a family with three girls, it was always an issue of identity. Acting gave that to me. I didn't have to go through school questioning myself. I didn't have to grow up wondering if I would be good enough to live up to the law and economics background that my father had.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

I already feel more settled than most. I feel like a completely different person, in a very good way, compared to how I felt about myself and life even two years ago. I think those leaps are daily. Every day I am growing and becoming a different person. I've settled down so much. For so long I was just going, going, going—I was being pushed to work so hard by so many people, I had a difficult time ever slowing down in anything. Don't get me wrong, between my movies and my bag line, I do work and travel a lot, but in my older age it's more on my own time, which is nice. I'm a hard worker, so when you stop, you make up all these catch-ups. I just moved out of my parents' house this year, which is very old for most people. I had so much dedication and work ethic within my world, the simple things you do as you grow up, were never pushed. I'm used to being alone, and in all this downtime, I'm really finding myself.

**Baby Doll Dress, Volcom. Necklace, Vintage. Rings, Mischa's own.**



In five years time, I think I will be quite done with living in the city all the time. I hope to be living in the English countryside, starting a family. I will always keep a home in New York or Los Angeles to come back to. But for the most part I want to be tucked away in a charming home, focusing on the important things in life.

**What other projects are you currently working on?**

It's strange. Everyone keeps asking me about what I'm working on right now. But it's quite the opposite. It's about what projects I'm turning down, which identifies me as the actor I want to be. I'm in

this funny phase in my career, where it's super important to not do a project unless I'm super passionate about it. Because what you choose to take is how people are going to view you. It is hard, though. The way you want to go isn't necessarily the way you get to go as an actor. This industry is run by fear. When you go too long without working, you have people hassling you. The jobs I do choose to do will form who I am.

I do have *BHOPAL: A PRAYER FOR RAIN* coming out soon, the movie I did with Martin Sheen [release date TBA 2012]. It's a drama based on the gas problem in India. It's about Bhopal and the disaster out there.

**For the right role, would you ever return to TV?**

Yes, for the right role. Although I'm more interested in guest star roles. Being on a television show that does well is very time consuming. You're working twelve-hour days, for hopefully quite a few seasons. You really get sucked into this image and ideal of

who you are and who you want to be. During *The OC*, I was so young, it's really a shame how these adults in my life and the media were able to portray me. So yes, now that I am adult and know who I am, I would return to television for the right role. But I definitely would keep more control on the environment. Television has been good to me, but it's so overly publicized.

The only reason I said I wouldn't go back to TV is simply because I don't have enough time to dedicate just to one thing. Television is a machine, and it's pretty exhausting. You have to love it. ▀

Leopard Cardigan, Brian Lichtenberg.  
White Button Down Shirt, Uniqlo +J  
Spike necklace, JUJUGOLD.



# KREAYSHAWN

story / **KOKO NTUEN**

photography / **JOSHUA SPENCER**

stylist / **NATALIE TOREN** hair / **TAYLOR BOND STEVENSON**

makeup / **VICTORIA ARONSON** stylist assistant / **CHUCK WILLIS**

After releasing the video to her single “Gucci Gucci”, Kreyashawn’s music has been showing up all over the internet, press and on people’s ring tones. The Oakland singer/songwriter/DJ/director/swag-assassin, has been dealing with the fame modestly, but continues to extend her talents as she just signed with Columbia Records, directed Red Hot Chili Pepper’s latest video and was nominated for the MTV Video Music Award’s “Best New Artist”. She’s now on tour and is preparing to drop her first album by the end of this year.

**What are you crushing on right now?**

I have a crush on Waka Flocka, but before he got fat.

**A lot of people have actually been mentioning him as crush-worthy in this issue.**

He is. Oh god, when he first came out in his little press photos with his shirt unbuttoned and he had his abs going, I was like, “Oh my god, I need to take this guy back to Oakland with me.”

**How’s your life these days? What have you been up to and how do you feel about all the media sensation around you? You’re getting a lot of attention.**

It’s crazy because you do all the interviews and everything all day and then you go online a week later and they’re all posted up and you’re thinking, “Oh my god, I really am all over the internet.” But it doesn’t feel like that because for me, it’s just like talking to a whole bunch of people and telling them about what I’ve been doing. Like one-on-one conversations. Then next thing you know it’s everywhere in magazines. It’s definitely been cool to see myself everywhere.

**Did you see MediaTakeOut’s claim that you’re dating Da Brat?**

Oh my god. Yeah! Speaking of crushes.

**Is there any truth in that?**

No. Everyone had their promo twitter team and hit me up and they were like, “Hey yo. Da Brat wants to get in contact with you.” Then when it went on Media Take Out and my manager was like, “Are you ready for this? You’re gonna die laughing.” I was like, “What?” and then he was like, “Look what’s on Media Take Out.” It was so funny. I think it’s good publicity.

**They love you. Because when they hate, they hate hard.**

Yeah, thank god. Me and Da Brat we haven’t even talked, so we’re not in love and we haven’t been Skyping. Although, I wish it was true.

**You have a pretty wide internet presence already, so do you think you may be regretting anything you’ve posted in the past? Have you been getting a lot of people talking to you about all your past posts on your blog and videos? And more specifically, about Kat Stacks, has she reached out to you?**

Oh man. I wish she would. When she was out of jail, she heard the old song “Bumpin Bumpin” and she tweeted “Kat

Stacks grimy, but I feel so elegant.” That made my day right there.

**So what’s your next single?**

I’m not sure yet. I just want to put the album out.

**When will the album come out?**

By the end of this year. Hopefully in the Fall.

**How does it feel to be so famous? Do you notice a difference between now and six months ago?**

Yeah. I noticed a difference between getting stuff in the mail for free and doing a lot of interviews and stuff like that, but as far as my headspace, it’s exactly the same. Yeah, I’m not one of those crazy chicks.

**You’re not like, “I WANT IT NOW MOTHERFUCKER!” or were like that and still like that.**

Sometimes I get like that. I really like drinking milk and sometimes I’ll get all pissed off if I don’t have my milk.

**That’s really cute and disgusting at the same time.**

Yeah, I call myself Baby Krey when I get angsty. I’m like, “I’m just tired okay. I’m a baby!”

**Were you surprised by the popularity of “Gucci Gucci”? Has anyone been offended by the song?**

As far as I know, everyone’s been super into it. The craziest thing is definitely when you walk down the street and people recognize you and they all love it. No one’s ever come at me and slapped me in the face with their Gucci purse or anything. Can you imagine a girl coming up to me with her Gucci purse and being like, “I am not a basic bitch!” then slaps me with it? *Laughs.* That’s MediaTakeOut right there.

**Within the last two or three months I’ve heard it on so many cell phone ringers. Just yesterday I heard it four times. Have you heard that yet, people answering their phone to your song?**

Nuh-uh. That’d be crazy! I need to hear that. None of my friends have that. They all hate me.

**What are you looking forward to in the Fall?**

I’m definitely looking forward to the [MTV] VMA’s. Also just doing more crazy shoots, getting my hands into some other business and working on the album for sure. And having [free] time because ever since the day “Gucci Gucci” dropped we’ve

*“No one’s ever come at me and slapped me in the face with their Gucci purse or anything.”*

Hair wreath, Cult Gaia.



*“I think me and Tyler the Creator would make a cute couple..... Can't you just see our little babies? Maybe one day. Maybe he'll read this.”*

been non-stop in motion. I'm looking forward to that vacation time already.

**What did it feel like when you signed your record deal?**

I don't know. It's crazy because I never made music with the intention of getting a record deal. It wasn't like, “Oh my god. Yeah, we're gonna make this video “Gucci Gucci” and this song and we're gonna get a record deal.” We even have meetings with people who've told us, “This song will never get on the radio. You're crazy. It'll never work.” Now it's kinda like, is this really happening? You get the check and you're thinking, “Oh my god. This is real money? No it's not!” So everything has still been sort of unreal. Just doing a whole bunch of press has been keeping my mind from going crazy and stuff like that.

**Have you bought anything extravagant since you've got all the money?**

Well, I got a car. It's a 1990 Buick Riatta, which is like my dream car. It's cool to get my dream car that I could never afford, even though it was only \$4,000 dollars.

**Do you feel like you've won the lottery? Do you have all kinds of relatives coming out of the woodworks like “Hey, I gotta get my teeth fixed” or “Take me shopping girl”?**

Yeah, it's kinda like that. I think people believe I have more money than I actually do because they read, “1.4 million dollar deal”, so they think I have a million dollars. But it's nowhere even close to that. But you know, I've been helping out my mom and my grandpa and stuff like that. I help all my friends.

**Is your mom super excited about your career?**

Yeah, she's super happy. She's always reading about me non-stop and texting me like a bitch from the internet world. I'm like, “Mom! Stop!”

**Wasn't your mom in a band too when you were growing up?**

Yeah, she was in an all-girl surf cult band called the Trash Women.

**Are you guys going to make any music together? Have you already made music with her?**

I told her that if I ever do *MTV Unplugged* that she would be my livestand.

**Who's your typical dream person? Who do you wanna be with?**

My typical dream person would have to be funny. And he'd probably have to smoke weed 'cause if he doesn't then he'll probably think I'm a loser. They gotta be cute. I'm not a person who judges by race or gender or religion or anything. It's all about making me happy and I'll make you happy-if you make me happy. I'm a giving person, you know. I'm also a person who likes to fight and argue, so you have to learn how to fight and argue with me, but not break up with me. Because arguments are good especially if you don't know how the other person is feeling. If you're gonna push their buttons then you know how much they care about you. I'm a button pusher.

**Who do you wanna date? Do you have anyone in particular that you have your eye on or that you have a crush on, other than Wacka Flocka?**

I think me and Tyler the Creator would make a cute couple. I don't even think he likes me that much, but I like him. Can't you just see our little babies? Maybe one day. Maybe he'll read this.

**How did you link up with the Red Hot Chili Peppers? How did you end up directing their video?**

It was crazy because they were looking for someone to direct their new video and they were reaching out to a whole bunch of different directors and they ended up picking my treatment out of a whole bunch of other peoples' treatments. Me and Anthony talked like a week or two before and everyone told me that those guys were super chill. They're super nice. It was all good.

**You make really beautiful videos, are you going to continue to do that? Are you going to do a feature film or anything?**

I've been thinking about writing a script in my spare time because I don't have time to direct anything new as of right now. So if I am secretly working on the master plan script then that's like killing two birds with one stone.

**Anything you want to talk about? Any questions that you wish someone would ask you during all your press junkets?**

I don't know. I can't really think right now. Can you think of anything random? I can tell you about my first crush. Okay, this is gonna be so hilarious. My first crush was on this El Salvadorian boy named Boris. This was in the first grade and my real name is Natasha, so it was like Natasha and Boris from *Bullwinkle*. I super crushed on him so hard. My mom would always make fun of me. It was like puppy love. I was writing his name on everything with hearts around it. It was so funny! ▶



# THEOPHILUS LONDON

story / KOKO NTUEN photography / JONATHAN MANNION

Theophilus London, the honey-voiced artist, with an affinity for Hasidic top hats and stylish getups, has masterfully crafted the full-length album *Timez Are Weird These Days*. This joyful record is destined to be “hearted” by many.

London has already conjured quite a buzz. The masses picked up on his underground popularity with the releases of *This Charming Mixtape* (2009), an album inspired by every hipster’s favorite band—The Smiths—and his EP, *Lover’s Holiday*.

MTV featured London as their PUSH Artist and gave him stage time in NYC. He also grabbed the admiration of hip hop’s love-him-or-hate-him prince of hip-hop, Kanye West. West has been noted as one of London’s inspirations, and much like West, who included the vocals of indie artist Bon Iver on the smash recording “Monster,” London is no stranger to enlisting the vocal stylings of indie artists. On his latest album London rhymes with label mate Sara Quinn of Tegan and Sara on the soothing track, “Why Even Try.”

Quite simply, Theophilus London is a presence as unheard of as his name. He comfortably dons his persona with the same effortlessness that his rhymes vacillate between rugged and sumptuous sensuality.

London is not only well known for his music, but is also celebrated for his signature style, which has brought him collaborative opportunities with brands the Cole Haan and Gucci. He has expressed his interest in creating limited edition lines for the luxury brands, Lanvin and Chanel.

Expect to be ultimately wooed by London’s debut LP. If the music doesn’t sway you, his remarkable swagger definitely will. Ladygunn spent a lovely afternoon chatting on the phone with Theophilus while periodically putting down the phone and muffling screams through a pillow. (Yes, he is really freaking hot, even over the phone). He charmed us with his love of music, family sensibility and candid honesty.

**What does your name mean and how long has it been in your family?**

My name means Love of God or also God of Love. It could be the God of all Love in general, or it could just be Love of God. The name came from my great-grandfather.

**Your name is so cool.**

I love my name and I want to live up to this name and make it an amazing name and a brand. I want people to learn how to pronounce my name very strongly. I want it to be like Michael Jordan’s name, as much as a name as his is. I’m working on that right now.

**When people ask you to describe your sound, how do you describe it?**

I say go get a mix tape or go get my EP.

**What are you listening to right now?**

I’ve been listening to Waka Flocka. I just got Janet Jackson’s first record from the 80’s, that’s pretty good shit.

**How do you approach a project when you collaborate?**

Well, you know, you got to work with different personalities, sometimes it’s hard. I learn about myself a lot when I collaborate with other people because it’s not like I’m sheltered or just in my own thoughts. It’s my thoughts with your thoughts mixed with other people’s thoughts. When you collaborate there are always different elements. I learn about myself and about other people that I’m working with. I’m not really into formal collaborating that often, but when I do, it’s very special to me and I do it for a purpose. I never collaborate to get somebody’s audience or shit like that. I always do it ‘cause it’s got to be worth it to the music. Any other collaborations I’ve done so far have been genuine to that, so I’m sticking by that.

**Who would you collaborate with in the future if you could?**

**Living or dead?**

Definitely Pharrell, I’m looking forward to working with him, also Albert Einstein. He’s seemed like a smart motherfucker.

**What was the premise for the song and the video, “Why Even Try?”**

The song really came from an argument I had with one chick once and I was like ‘Man, why am I even trying to fucking argue?’ It’s also about living up to my name and the people who want to see my music [live]. I can’t be in a bad mood when I’m performing for them. It’s not their fault that I just had this argument with someone, you know, I always gotta be happy and just performing the songs the way they want to hear it. So that’s



# JUNIORBOYS

story: KELLY ROBBINS / photography: SHANNA FISHER

Jeremy Greenspan of the Junior Boys speaks about the release of their new album, *It's All True*, his creative process and his recently mended broken heart.

The Junior Boys unleashed a magical energy on a rainy June evening at Webster Hall in NYC. "This is a special day for us. We're releasing our record. What better way to do it than with a show," shouted the Canadian singer, Jeremy Greenspan. The crowd responded with a gleeful roar and Greenspan smiled at his other half, Matt Didemus, as if their crowd-pleasing mojo had taken effect. Excited bodies rumbled and sprung to the sharp and layered synth beats of "The Way You'll Improve Me," and the free wheeling sonic textures of, "A Truly Happy Ending." During the more somber rhythms of, "Teach Me How To Fight," the room transformed to a mellow sea of heads swaying to Greenspan's unfeigned lyrics. Then, as the raspy downbeat of "Work" seeped into the dreamy atmosphere the crowd exploded once again with shouts of approval. The duo saved one of their new songs for the encore, "Banana Pipple"-- nine sweeping minutes of joyful heartache.

A far cry from the catastrophic technical melt down that forced the duo to cancel 15 minutes into their set of their last show at Webster Hall (2009), the Junior Boys delivered the most lively pop-synth show I've ever attended. Seemingly, they were determined to deliver, and probably a bit nervous about it, (I imagine their 2009 performance must have felt like one of those nightmares in where you're standing naked on the 42nd Street platform while everyone is bemusedly staring at you), which explains why they seemed unusually tense during their sound check that afternoon. Despite his looming anticipation Jeremy Greenspan was kind enough to chat with me for a bit on a couch in the greenroom behind the stage.

How did you cross paths with Matt?

Matt? *Laughs.* We met when we were like 13, but I can't remember how exactly. You know when you're 13 and you find another guy who's 13 who's into the same music you're into? We just started hanging out. But we didn't go to high school together. That's why I can't remember how we met exactly.

The new album is titled "It's All True?" Are the Junior Boys highlighting a particular truiness?

I don't know, I mean, yeah It's trying to be honest and all that kind of stuff. I really got into Orson Wells while making this album.

Orson Wells? How so?

There are a couple of things I really liked about him. His honesty about age and growing older was really interesting to me. He has these movies that he never actually completed from the 1940's when he was sent by the government during the war to Brazil and it was supposed to be a serial set of films, which he titled "It's All True."

There are many references to heartbreak and the process of recovery in the lyrics. Did one of you recently go through a break-up?

I did... But, you know, the good thing about doing music is that you can get it all out. You can use music both to get away when you're feeling down about things, and to focus all of the things that you're feeling... But it's all better now. *Laughs.*

Is there a new love in your life?

Yeah, I have a girlfriend, but I'm sure she wouldn't want me to publish her name.

What's your favorite phase of making an album?

Right at the beginning is great. Right when you're just starting stuff and experimenting. That's really, really great. Mixing is really hard and stressful, but the whole writing period. That's what I really live for. I really love that. ▲



what I was thinking about when I was writing "Why Even Try?"—in a relationship between someone, sometimes shit happens. The video is [because] I wanted to show people kind of a fake view of my life, but my life is probably not like that, but I always wanted to kind of live that type of life. It was fun to have the paparazzi chase me, I think it's hilarious. *Laughs.*

Well how does it feel to be getting more famous? Can you tell the difference?

Yeah, it's definitely one of the upsides of why I make music. Sometimes it weirds me out. When I started getting stopped at airports, I thought shit was serious. People used to stop me on trains, and that was great. I have huge billboards in New York City and billboards all over the train stations, so people are recognizing my image and they really like the music. Every time I go to festivals far away from my home, people are singing the lyrics, and that kinda weirds me out, to see people singing my lyrics back to me—singing and dancing and going crazy. I have a bigger responsibility now and I can accept that people might like it or not like it. I'm passed that part.

Have you heard any feedback from Kat Stacks about "Girls Girls \$"?

No, I wish?

Would you want her to be in any of your music videos?

No. Not really.

What was the hardest song for you to do on *Lovers Holiday*?

There were two, but the easiest song was "Girls Girls \$". The hardest songs were "Strange Love" and "Why Even Try?" My friend Tess was living next door to the studio where I was recording and she could just hear me singing "Strange Love" like 90 times.

Is it harder putting out something more independently or with more backing? Like *This Charming Mix Tape* vs. *Lovers Holiday*?

That's a good question. That's actually the best question I have ever been asked so far. It was definitely an early time when the pot was boiling over, so it was exciting to put that together, to have to do your own art, to finish the songs in a week, to set deadlines for myself with no real professional

help. It was like a hot piece of pot that everyone wants to smoke. *Lovers Holiday* was a more polished thing, [I was] finally entering music the right way and not putting out over-saturated music on the Internet. I wanna fucking win Grammys and make regatones and shit.

How supportive is your family? Are they really excited about your career?

They are very excited and very supportive. They are the most supportive people in my life right now. I never want to be far away from my family. That's how my dad is. That's how I'm going to be with my kids.

Do you have any crushes right now on people or places?

I had a crush on Lindsey Lohan.

Did anything ever happen with that?

Of course.

What about places?

France. I just played on a boat with thousands of people and no one would speak to me in English, but, they would sing all my songs in English.

Do you have any plans for acting in the future?

I direct all my videos. I can act in those videos, and I am definitely thinking directing will come in the future. Acting scouts come to my shows, but I'm not trying to hear that shit. I'm concentrating on my music right now.

What are you most excited about this upcoming fall?

I'm most excited about touring for this record. I'm looking forward to the shoe I'm putting out with Cole Haan. I'm definitely looking forward to meeting my fans all across the seas, and thanking them personally for supporting my music.

Do you consider yourself to be a heartthrob since you started blowing up and your image started being like placed everywhere and people started talking more and more about you? Do you get a lot of fans that are just like 'I love you!' and doing freaky stuff like trying to meet you? It's crazy, they can talk to me—I'm really accessible online, so they tell me how much they love me and things they want to do in their dirty minds. How they show my shit to their moms and dads, how their families are digging it, like mad personal shit. ▲

# we love BRENDAN SEXTON III

interview / JOSHUA SPENCER  
photography / JOSHUA SPENCER  
stylist / NATALIE TOREN

If you were fortunate enough to see Brendan Sexton III in his film debut, *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, you probably never forgot him in his role as a bullying seventh grader. The scene where he threatens Weinerdog with, “Yo, Weiner, you better get ready, ‘cause at three o’clock today, I’m gonna rape you!” is arguably the line that gave Sexton his rise to stardom. The actor went on to play many memorable roles in films including *Boys Don’t Cry* and *Black Hawk Down*. Recently, Sexton has been playing the loyal Belko Royce in the AMC television crime series, *The Killing*. In his conversation with Ladygunn, Sexton explains the relationship between crushing and playing Sudoku, his aversion to fame, and what he’s been working on as of late.

*What are your crushes right now?*

I have one crush right now, but there are people I’m fond of and appreciate to varying degrees. A crush is a crush because its unreciprocated. It crushes you.

*Some people view crushes romantically. For others it translates into having a passion for something. I like the idea of a crush not being reciprocated. I find that inspiring. If I have a crush on a girl or an idea, and it’s not being reciprocated, I can take that energy and use it.*

Yeah it forces you into action.

*How does that manifest for you?*

Maybe in writing. Heartbreaks equal push-ups. Crushes equal writing. You break my heart, I’m gonna do some push-ups. But if we’re still just in crush mode then I’m gonna write some poetry. *Laughs.* In other words, I’ve been doing lots of push-ups.

*We’ve known each other for a couple years and*

*we have a similar disposition when it comes to women. Sometimes I think I like the crush aspect, the unreciprocated aspect, more than I like the actual attainment.*

Well the chase is satisfying to the ego. The chase is just another problem. It’s a Sudoku puzzle. It’s a chess match. It’s a crossword.

*It seems like you’ve made a conscious effort not to be in the public eye.*

Correct.

*But you are part of a widely successful show. How do you handle that recognition now? How did you handle it when you were younger?*

I didn’t handle it well back then. *Laughs.*

It was difficult for me to handle it as a teenager, very difficult. I was so unnecessarily repulsed by it. I think having some aversion to it is probably healthy. I had a healthy instinct on overdrive which just turned into utter repulsion, which probably didn’t serve me well. There’s probably some balance there that I was missing out on. I was going to public school when my first two films came out. I was taking public transportation and going to high school and smoking weed in the stairwell. I think I wanted to keep a “low profile.” Now I just walk around with a big burly beard. That’s camouflage enough. No one knows who the fuck I am.

*You’re in the process of developing your own short story into a film. I read the script and it seems like it’s based on the darker side of a crush. It’s about heartbreak.*

*It’s not a ‘heartbreak-fucking-kill-yourself-emo’ tone though, there is a bit of lighter side as well.*

*How autobiographical is this story?*

Every word of it is true, yet every moment is fabricated. Every piece of it is utterly true. It’s real and autobiographical yet dramatized at the same time. Pretty much every word that has been uttered in there has been uttered at some point by me or someone else in my life.

*How do you approach each role?*

I think part of it is the crush. It’s solving the puzzle. Chasing it. And failing. Unfortunately, I fail over and over again. Because my most common medium of expression is film and television, I fail in the public eye.

*How so?*

Failing to execute. So I stay in it for the crush, for the chase. I’ve quit acting before. The times I’ve contemplated quitting had been because my relationship with acting was a co-dependent relationship where I needed it more than I loved

it. I either needed the money or the status that came with it. Or my family and friends needed to feel comfortable because I’m not anything unless I’m an actor. Can they be comfortable with me just being the guy that digs ditches? But when you’re on stage or on camera and nailing it, it’s utter love because you want nothing in return except to give of yourself. Like true love. *I find in my creative endeavors, if I can just get to that moment of love then everything that I have to go through in order to get there is completely worth it.*

Because love is love. It’s like meeting all those stinkers, meeting all those emotionally immature children and then finding a woman. Or meeting all those emotionally immature boys and then finding a man.

*What’s next for you?*

I just did a Nick Cassavetes film called *Yellow*. Heather Wahlquist, is the star, Hank Azaria, Sienna Miller, Lucy Punch, Riley Keough, Daveigh Chase, Max Thieriot, Melanie Griffith, Gena Rowlands, and David Morse. Jesus. There is a long list of people in it. I just did that and I’m working on my film. Then I go back and start shooting the second season of *The Killing* very soon.

*Do you have any man crushes?*

I got enough man crushes. They’re more like muses. I don’t know. I think I use the term “muse” differently.

*How is that? For me, a muse is a human that inspires me. Our mutual friend Natalie [Toren] has become one of my*

*biggest muses. She approaches things with an openness and an encouragement and love for what she does. It’s infectious. I can’t help but try to match it. For some reason, I always want to keep my muse in that dark that they are that to me.*

Right!

*As soon they recognize that they are that then the magic is gone.*

Then it becomes a performance.

*So what are your muses?*

I use it as people I channel. I feel like I watch a lot of actors on screen and it’s almost way too evident who they’re channeling, but it works and it’s effective. I think mine are more quiet. I could probably stand to channel more people. It would probably be more helpful. This week is dedicated to Baryshnikov. *Laughs.* Honestly, some weeks are dedicated to R.Kelly. In fact, a lot of weeks are dedicated to R.Kelly or Al B. Sure! Sometimes even my Tai Chi instructor.

*Do you feel like sometimes you lose yourself in that?*

Yeah. Sometimes it’s wonderful. When it’s not you don’t realize it until you’ve hurt someone or you hurt yourself. I think that’s the charm of it. And I think what’s awesome about love as opposed to crushing is it’s not about escaping what’s yours it’s about owning what’s yours. Love is realizing and owning and accepting our fallible nature and a crush is like, “Oh my god. I have all this shit I don’t want to think about, let me text you at 11:05 pm, there is nothing good going on at that hour. ▴



Shirt, Ben Sherman. Chinos, ECI by Ben Sherman. Shoes, Ben Sherman. Sunglasses, Persol.



# ADAM GREEN

story / ALY VANDER HAYDEN photography / JACK CLARIZIO

Not only can Adam Green pull off a pair of wax-coated pants, the man can write songs about Jessica Simpson and having sex with a girl with no legs and still be taken seriously. I sat down with the musician and now filmmaker to discuss his latest projects, crushes, and crazy fans.

Aside from his work in *Juno*-famous *The Moldy Peaches*, Adam Green has produced six solo albums since 2002, as well as composed *Musik for a Play*, the soundtrack for a German theatrical adaptation of Paul Auster's novel, *Timbuktu*. Last year Green also launched his first art exhibition, "Teen Tech," at the East Village Morrison Hotel Gallery, in which he presented eighteen 30" by 40" paintings of watercolor or acrylic, 12 sculptures of plaster or papier-mâché and 20 collages. Last April, Green experimented with yet another medium of art when he wrote, directed, edited, and produced his 70-minute film shot entirely on the iPhone 4, *The Wrong Ferrari: A Screwball Tragedy*.

Green describes the film as "kind of like a parallel narrative to my real life and what was happening at the time" with a "total documentary aspect." Through a perverse story line, the film captures Green and his friends, Macaulay Culkin, Alia

Shawkat and Devendra Banhart during his tour.

"It was good knowing there wasn't really like an actor for being an actor's sake," says Green. "Macaulay Culkin got to come on tour with me and that's why he started becoming a really big part of the movie, because he was in my tour bus. Everyone around, all the musicians and stuff, were just people. Like for instance with Devendra, we played a show together and then that night we shot our scene."

Beginning as a joke while in Bologna, Italy, the script continued to get longer as the tour went on. "We had more days off and it got to the point where I started writing all these lines for scenes," says Green.

Taking inspiration from his tour diary entries, Green began to write *The Wrong Ferrari* on index cards that he would give to the actors the day of filming. "I had my whole floor covered with index cards in my apartment and I was trying to piece out the themes of them. So I'd have like these different clusters of index cards and then I'd put them in an order," explains Green. "It wasn't really until half way through the movie that I started writing an actual script."

Both Green's unusual style of writing and bizarre, twisted plot line could be accredited to Green's ketamine use. "It's actually not really inaccurate to say that a lot of [*The Wrong Ferrari*] was written on ketamine," admits Green. "You know, that was a huge inspiration for the movie, and it kind of took over in a lot of it. It's like a lot about ketamine and what it does to you." After the movie, Green decided to no longer pursue the drug since he believes it was giving him "brain damage."

"So I'm more like into smoking weed... When I started doing ketamine it was such a joke because it was hard to find at first, and it's still like hard to find. It was really weird, I didn't think of it as something you could get strung out on or really emotionally addicted to until like I kind of started [to], and now I'm going away from it," says Green.

Dubbed an "indie heartthrob" since he came onto the music scene in the late 90s, Green finds the label off-putting, despite his inherent good looks. "It isn't something one really says about themselves, I feel that I would be [a heart throb] in a really weird way."

When it comes to chatting up a few lucky ladies, Green takes the non-tactical approach to flirting. "If you just feel that way, it kind of happens. You know, like people are really flirtatious but it's not like they're trying to be... I mean I don't know I feel like my whole life has been like a giant quest to get girls' attention," laughs



"[Ketamine] was doing something really weird and very spiritual, and I think it like puts you directly into some meditative state."

Green. "I guess [the craziest thing I've done is] made *The Wrong Ferrari*."

On the road to making *The Wrong Ferrari*, his pursuit for snagging women's attention has been divided between two types, the on-screen beauties he desires, and the waify deities he dates. Though currently involved with Internet-famous muse and model, Cory Kennedy, Green has his own celebrity béguin, Mélanie Laurent from *Inglorious Basterds*. "But my first crush was Nicole Eggert in *Charles in Charge*," admits Green. "She was so hot."

On the wrong side of infatuation, Green has had his share of "schizophrenic, suicidal, maniac" fans, including one woman who tried to break into his bus while on tour and still actively writes fanatical letters to his parents. "It seems more like fun, but there's actually nothing funny about it," says Green. "Like there's a certain front row [at shows] that's all girls—no guys there. But you know, when you perform you welcome that kind of attention."

For the future, Green plans to create two more movies, one about his brother, Joel Green, and his "own version of the tale of Aladdin." He is also in the process of finishing up a collaborative album of duets with Little Joy's Binki Shapiro to be out this coming January. As parting advice, Green says, "If you wanna have good dreams, you put on cologne at night." ▀



# JAMESBLAKE

story / HEATHER SEIDLER (photo courtesy of Universal Republic)

## REVEREND OF A NEW DRUM & BASS DOCTRINE

Listening to James Blake for the first time is like finding a great smoky mountain amid a flat suburban cul-de-sac somewhere deep in the Valley. You may be 100 miles outside the Sierra Madres, but in the rich pitch-blackness, you swear you've discovered high cliffs and jagged peaks.

To listen to Blake is not just to hear something new, in the sense that Blake knows how to command pacing and negative space, but also to *feel* something new, in the sense that even the lack of music ineluctably affects you with the spaces in between, revealing a subliminal peak at what hides at the heart of his music and its strategic silences.

To curious fans and critics alike, the British electronic wunderkind's debut full-length album, *James Blake*, is considered one of the best of 2011. Perhaps one of the greatest of the decade. Blake's fast-moving career has been distinguished not only by hefty amounts of hype, but also by the 23-year-old's astonishing ability to exceed all expectations. It's clear from the first track that it's not all hot air. The album is special. However confronted with far more media than we can process, do we know how to experience innovation as anything other than a product to be disseminated and mass consumed? Despite all the media frenzy surrounding Blake, there is still a way of relating to his music that allows for surprises and vulnerability.

"Do I feel vulnerable when I'm performing? Um, yeah I do. But then, I feel vulnerable when I'm playing anything really. In my life, I am vulnerable," Blake reveals.

One gets the feeling that Blake puts a really deep thing inside on display, but it's totally secret, while still completely showcasing and celebrating it as it is. In all its open spaces and sonic bigness, it's also the casual pride of his music that has brought him so much attention. "I'm really intent on being proud of everything I've done and when I finish something, I must feel like it has longevity," he says. "And when I look back on it, I want to

think that it's one of the best things I've done, really, in a long line of things that I could have made at that time."

The eponymous album isn't generic nor is it mainstream, it's a tightly configured, subtle work that gains traction through repetitious, circular builds and the stark power of fragmented language. It's also an album loosely steeped in nuanced gospel, clearly a departure from his previous three EPs, by virtue of rendering a whole different sonic playground for himself. His hypnotic, pitch-shifted vocals fold and unfold, beneath minimalistic beats and sparse but propulsive melodies. The ever-present sub-bass creeps up on you and straddles the divide of broad, sweeping crescendos.

"I think that the crescendo thing is something that probably comes from my love of gospel if anything," admits Blake. "The tension and release that I got from early Rev. James Cleveland. Without a room full of excitable people and an amazing guy leading and giving a sermon with a massive gospel choir, you can't really emulate that in dance music, or in any other kind of music for that matter. But, I think whatever that feeling is, is the same kind of feeling I got when I first did '*Never Learned to Share*.' That isn't to say that it's achieved anywhere near what those kind of people achieved, but at least I can have a feeling of this kind of sudden gut wrenching elation that you can't really get or I can't really find any other way."

In observing his amalgamated music, you get the impression that it's Blake's intention to let each lyric live by whatever interpretation it receives. "I wouldn't really think of them as lyrics straight away," Blake explains. "They'd be poems and then a month later I'd record and mess around with them—very often I wouldn't keep them in their original form, just by editing & manipulating a different part. So something like '*To Care (Like You)*' was kind of a weird structure. When it started it was much more of a flowing poem and I just deconstructed it and made it sound better phonetically. Even though the song makes much less sense, those

lyrics actually kind of follow on from each other in a strange phonetically rhyming way. By that process you come out with quite a strange sort of structure."

*To Care (Like You)* and *I Mind* are the two most traditionally crafted 'dance' songs, as they work with the downbeat, subtly composed template of his stuff from *Klavierwerke*. Though the whole album has been mostly typecast as dubstep, or hailed as hybrid post-dubstep, dubpop, electronic soul, Electro-R&B—and a plethora of other bundled sub-genre labels, it is not a dubstep album. It is clear Blake isn't an actual dubstep musician, but rather someone who was largely fascinated and shaped by dubstep. "I was deeply involved in it for two or three years. It's a genre that has kind of informed the way I produce and write."

His triffecta of jazzy finger work, deconstructed vocals and handcrafted rhythms has made fans insecure of the limited and ill-defined noun called dubstep. With ease Blake skirts around musical genres, kicking down the walls surrounding contemporary bass music. But who really cares which pot his music falls into. Blake's unorthodox sonic structures exist entirely beyond the purview of dance music.

Perhaps due in part to Blake's multi-faceted musical diet of folk, electro, soul, classical composers, jazz pianists and gospel singers. Blake has created a rich, eerie alternative spectral pop, which may not be pop-y or commodified-cool enough to be the 'Next Big Thing' on the Billboards, but which has the potential to be the greatest new British export of the past few years. As undeniably talented as he is, it's hard to imagine any one of the songs off Blake becoming a platinum hit single played on mainstream radio, yet it seems that's precisely the kind of the future he is being groomed for. Despite the concise, Pavlovian engineering of hit singles, popular music is a wholly unpredictable enterprise.

Before the album was made, Blake's natural territory was behind the decks, towering over the DJ booth. Blake had become a cornerstone of the dubstep DJ scene. "I find with DJing I can definitely show different parts of me than with the stuff I can do on a stage. Because I'm really setting up my source of what I can do as an artist, like singing and playing the piano... where all that stuff comes from. When I'm DJing, I feel like you can kind of [pace] up the party a little bit more. It's fun in a different way."

Blake hasn't played many shows stateside. In fact, at the



time of my interview with him, it was his first round performing in Los Angeles. We sat on the rooftop of the Masonic Lodge at the historical Hollywood Forever Cemetery. It was a ready-made beautiful summer day, masking all the secretly-working rot in the graves around us. In person, he is a polite and reluctant alterna-rockstar. I ask how he feels about his debut in L.A. "Well it's a lot nicer here. There's palm trees and there's people to look at," he says with a chuckle. "But I mean, it's not this place that made me write my music. At the same time, I'm having a great time."

Raised in Enfield, London as an only child, Blake has been playing piano since he was six. The album, recorded in his bedroom, was released as-is, despite the plea of his label reps to have it produced in a studio. His smoothly chopped R&B backlines and new take on old R&B archetypes is just part of his genius. It's his goal to make dance music that actually connects with people in the way a soul record does. It's evident in his live performances that he has achieved that connection. In fact, I hadn't felt the full grip of the album until experiencing its dark electric gospel live. The shadowy aura of specific baselines ratcheted up to a trance-like wallop, at certain points, it was borderline overpowering. Until you realized that it was perfect—

# LISA LOBINGER

## BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE'S LISA LOBSINGER

Lisa Lobsinger is adored by many for a number of reasons. This Canadian lead female singer of Canada's most beloved supergroup Broken Social Scene since 2005, has mastered bawdry, ethereal vocals and trademark hair-do's. She smoothly sings soulfully barbed story-songs like her colossal BSS predecessors, Emily Haines of Metric, Leslie Feist and Amy Milan of Stars. Her voice is the sonic equivalent of a bright red lipstick kiss on a wet bar napkin.

She's been officially deemed by the press as the new indie-hipster siren, yet she doesn't own a single pair of jeans. She makes her own clothes and prefers gardening over television.

"I'm kind of in a stage of growing," she says, "I'm trying not to put my finger on 'this is what I'm trying to do' and just do what feels right and allow things to come out naturally."

Lobsinger was hired, without auditioning, to join Broken Social Scene after she handed them a demo of her songs. Not a bad break. After seeing her perform live, I can clearly see why she was enlisted. Though she had tall shoes to fill, as countless fans and critics alike have touted BSS as being one of the best live acts out there today, and yes, they are that good. With up to ten multi-instrumentalists onstage at any given time, they pull off what few bands can, cutting through any potential musical slop to a core of solid gold.

Beautiful and ostentatious, on stage she exudes a captivating charm and detached passion that Sylvia Plath herself would jam to, were she still alive. Though in her own bubble, Lisa invites the audience to step inside it along with her. She explains, "I find that recording is cathartic for me whereas performing live I find that there is the potential for it to be cathartic for somebody else."

Earlier this year, BSS released the highly acclaimed *Forgiveness Rock Record*, blending tear-in-your-beer ballads with rousing baroque Canadian rock. Few bands can so effectively make both your ass shake and your heart break. Lisa extensively toured with the band all year, only recently taking a break from the road finally.

"I think right now I'm in a state of excitement about so many things. I had a really fun exciting year of touring and now I'm really excited to create and write."

Lobsinger's approach to creating music and taking risks pushes her likability even further—"If you are coming from your heart, singing or playing, writing from your heart, your heart is at stake in a way, but you have to be brave and put it out there, not protect yourself too much," she says. "If you care about what happens to it, what other people think, it gets to you. I'm learning not to think too much about that kind of thing. I wouldn't consider myself a person who cares a lot about that sort of stuff—it is art." ▀





# THE COOL KIDS

story / STEFANIA CONSARINO photography / CLAYTON HAUCK

Sir Michael Rocks and Chuck English are **The Cool Kids**, an American hip-hop group based in Chicago and Detroit. The duo recently released their latest album, *When Fish Ride Bicycles*, in July of this year. Their newest hits feature some other really cool artists such as Travis Barker, Ghostface Killah, Bun B, and Asher Roth. They were cool enough to set aside some time and talk to us about their love of the beach, relationships and of course, their crushes.

*Lets start from the beginning. Who are The Cool Kids and how did you meet?*

**English:** We met back in 2006, late 2005, both making beats in Chicago. Chicago is like a network of producers. Everybody kind of knows each other. We had a mutual friend that introduced us and we started making music after that. It was pretty simple.

*You guys work very well as a team. What are your astrological signs?*

**Rocks:** Capricorn.

**English:** Libra.

*How would describe your music?*

**English:** That's a hard question. I guess like good times, like what rap used to be. Good times and the background music for some memory. You know, of a good party or something. Times you want to remember. Like a life soundtrack with a lot of bass.

*Are you going on tour to support the album you put out this summer?*

**English:** No, we are going to put this record out and see what happens.

*You guys worked with some really acclaimed artists on this album, from Pharell to Travis Barker, to Asher Roth. How was that?*

**English:** It was awesome. Everybody was really supportive of our music. A lot of our collaborations come from being around people while we make our records. We had the opportunity to work with the Neptunes, and that was great. They are legends.

*Which artists and styles have most influenced you?*

**English:** I just take style from my surroundings. Musical influences come from all the bands that made me want to make music when I was younger. A lot of funk music, a lot of rap, a lot of stuff that was trippy, and just wanting to apply that to my favorite genre, which is rap. I get more inspiration from watching something or being around certain people, rather than

from someone else's music. Vacation is always going to make me make the best music. You know what I mean? Whenever I am somewhere I like being, it will inspire me more than just listening to somebody else's music. I get to have a whole feeling attached to it and a whole visual attached to it. I get to put that feeling into music, or put that picture into music, or turn it into a rap somehow.

*When did you realize you wanted to make music for a living? How did that happen?*

**English:** I can't say that I didn't always want to make music for a living, but I didn't envision it turning out like it did. I was always musically inclined. When I met Mikey, I knew that I could put something together. In the beginning I knew that we could make the people around our way love it, cause we are good. It was helpful that the Internet was around at that time.

*What are your current crushes?*

**English:** I have a crush on boats. I'm kind of hoping this album sells a lot so I can buy a boat.

**Rocks:** Mine is old cars like 80s and 90s old. I want the crazy stuff that nobody has, that you would have to be creative to even think of, that nobody could ever top because they didn't think of it.

*Do you have any movie star crushes?*

**English:** I would have to give that to the most gracefully aging woman I have seen in my life, Nia Long.

**Rocks:** Well, it's not on a movie star, but the old host Free from *106 & Park*. She's looking too good, man. I want to see what's going on with her.

*What kind of boyfriend are you guys?*

**Rocks:** I would say a good one, because I keep it real. I won't be telling you one thing and have it be another. I like to be with somebody that I like to be around and kick it with. I know how to treat a girl when it's that time.

**English:** I'm pretty good. I know women like to keep hitting the refresh button and stay updated because if you're doing something man, they will let you know about it pretty soon.

*If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be?*

**Rocks:** Probably Hawaii. I'd be there for a minute to see what life is like. I kind of want to move around. I definitely have to do the beach life for a couple years because I grew up in Chicago.

**English:** I would probably like sitting on a beach in Central America, recording sounds all day, having BBQs. ▀



ALEXI

WASSER

PURVEYOR OF THE HEART

story / HEATHER SEIDLER  
photography / SHANNA FISHER

Alexi Wasser is the unabashed actress/writer behind the well-known blog [IMBOYCRAZY](#), a blog that centers around her love of blokes and, shamelessly explores dating misadventures and the charming pitfalls and stinkydoings of sex and relationships. In addition to her writing, the blog includes her off-the-cuff ‘Dude of the day’ videos, wherein Wasser picks a random dudelove of the day and taps into his brain via her recorder. It’s ultimately a blog about a girl looking for love, truth and the meaning of her life, one boy at a time.

The blog has expanded into to a crop of related projects: a book, podcasts, merchandise, a radio show, a Showtime TV show (in development) and an unscripted series for MTV. She’s been called a real-life Carrie Bradshaw, only funnier, indier and nastier. Like the fictional *Sex and the City* columnist, the stylish thirty-year-old L.A. native examines, without glamorizing, some quintessential real female concerns seldom talked — or blogged about. The results are explicit, entertaining and enlightening, a sneaky peek into the girl’s locker room that both sexes can relate to. Ladygunn had the chance to pick her captivating brain.

**What do you consider your dating philosophy to be?**

Don’t get pregnant and/or herpes; date people who are interesting to you, who treat you well and make you laugh. Ask questions. Be kind. Communicate. But don’t communicate TOO much. Don’t talk about Exes or other people you’re dating. Treat people the way you want to be treated.

I have several life philosophies too. I am constantly reminding myself to be in the moment. I am constantly doing things that scare me; at least one thing daily that requires me to be brave. Whenever I’m in a situation that requires me to make a decision and I’m a little too flustered/scared/nervous or shy to do it, I ask myself “What would the 50-year-old me tell me to do?” Chances are, the 50-year-old me would say, “Just do it!



Don’t have any regrets! Seize the day!” I mean, this is within reason. Basically, to keep things in perspective and have as many adventures as possible and no regrets. I am constantly reminding myself that we are all gonna die. It’s just a question of how and when.

**Since this is our Crush Issue, who is your current crush? Who was your first crush?**

Who DON’T I have a crush on is the question! That’s not actually true. I don’t have crushes on LOTS of people. My first crush was either John Travolta in *Grease*, David Bowie in *Labyrinth*, Prince in *Purple Rain*, Michael J. Fox in *Family Ties/Back to the Future*, Tony Curtis in *Some Like It Hot*, Conan O’Brien, or Adam Sandler in general.

I was also in love with all the boys in preschool. I have evidence from early journals to back that up. I was born boy crazy. And my first French kiss was under the stairs of a synagogue at some kid’s bar mitzvah when I was 13!

**What’s a good dating tip you can share with us?**

Look cute, wear mascara, ask questions, and be interested. Boys should always pay for dinner (I’m a mix of old school and new school). Smell good. Wear nice shoes. Meet people during the day at Whole Foods and Target.

**What items do you never leave the house without?**

Mascara, undies, and Listerine breath-spray.

**Do you ever get nervous posting intimate personal stories on your blog knowing there are so many worldwide followers?**

Of course I do! But that’s how I know it’s a good post, I get scared to press “Publish.” The more vulnerable and personal I am, the more universal it will be.

**Walk us through a day in the life of Alexi Wasser?**

1. Wake up after having stayed up till 5 am writing.
2. Drink tons of coffee.
3. Write a blog post like ‘The Blind Leading the Blind’ which is a weekly Top Ten list I write of observations I’ve made and ridiculous over-the-top generalizations and blanket statements that people take seriously, which blows my mind.
4. Then I drink MORE coffee or Pellegrino and ride my bike around town. Or I go on a long walk while I randomly stop to write down notes, thoughts, ideas in my Blackberry.
5. Then I go on a commercial casting and leave feeling humiliated with a little less of my soul than I walked in with. WINKY FACE EMOTICON!
6. Then I video interview some neat-o cute boy for a section of my blog called ‘Dude of the Day,’ where I ask boys questions about relationships/love/sex/dating/likes/dislikes/and reasons why.
7. Then I people watch at Whole Foods or my favorite cafe, or I just aimlessly drive around town and call Dallas to vent about some boy or make-out I had recently, until he hangs up on

me because I've used up all my self-indulgent minutes on a guy who is not my boyfriend.

8. Then I play music at my mom's house because she lives in LA and I love her a ton.

9. Then I go home and prepare for my weekly podcast 'Boycrazy radio' - which is an advice-driven show similar to [KROQ's] Loveline, where I serve as a big sister/best friend type who is there to listen and offer advice based on my own personal experience. Sometimes I have guest-bands like Fleet Foxes, Here We Go Magic & Ok Go.

10. At some point I'm sure I eat too. If I didn't, I wouldn't be complaining about the size of my thighs so much.

11. At some other point I'm sure I masturbate, or go on a date with a dude, or both. Who knows. Boring!

**Since starting the blog, do you think differently about relationships?**

I do. Not sure how exactly, but I do. And sometimes the guys I date think of me differently now that I have a blog too. Some worry I'll write about them, some want me to write about them...it's weird. The thing is, I really don't write about every little detail of my life. When I do write a story, it's about how I feel about

what I experienced, why I did what I did, what I learned. My thought process and reactions to what I experienced. I never write names and I change details so no one has any idea who I might be talking about. I even disguise the time frame - I could be writing about something that happened the day before or years ago, but you'll never know. I change that information. I'm not out to expose anyone but myself and I'm not out to ruin anyone's life. So there's no need for a guy to worry. If he does, he's not the right guy for me and in a way, my having a blog weeds out me dating guys who aren't right for me.

Also, writing my blog and constantly thinking/writing about love, sex, and relationships really makes me wonder about the longevity of relationships, monogamy, marriage, etc.

**Who do you get your advice from?**

Dallas [Clayton], my therapist, my mom, and the little voice inside me called Intuition. Not enough people listen to themselves.

**What can you share about the upcoming series that's in development based on your blog? Have you started filming it?**

I pitched an idea to Showtime based

on my life as a boycrazy blogger and commercial actress and they bought it. I wrote a pilot script I'm really proud of. And now we're making it. It's a cross between *Sex and the City* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. It's called "Boycrazy." I'm really excited about it.

**How did it feel when you first saw your face on the cover of LA Weekly?**

So happy! I was born and raised in Hollywood, so the *LA Weekly* has always been a big part of my life. I used to sit in the back of class in high school, circling what shows I wanted to go to.

**What are your core dating rules for yourself, for other people?**

Don't be mean if someone doesn't like you or love you back. Everybody can't love (or even like) everybody. Don't take it personally. All the person is guilty of is not loving you. And if YOU don't love the person, be kind. Treat their heart gently and be nice. Try your hardest to treat people the way you'd want to be treated.

**Any last words?**

Yes, I am a romantic. I believe in love. I'm fascinated by it. I'm fascinated with feelings and love and people and human behavior. And that's what I write about. That's why I write. I love you. ▴

## YES, YES, YES PLEASE

wants / KOKO NTUEN

illustrations / AMY PASCHALL



1. Knitting in the city, 2. Acne Rita Leather Jacket, 3. Grey Ant Status Sunglasses, 4. Pierre Hardy Mini Suede Clutch, 5. The African Beat, 6. Fat Cat Big Band.

YOU SHOULD KNOW



WWW.INGODWETRUSTNYC.COM

# *she howls*

*photographer* / ZACH HERTZMAN

*stylist* / ALEXANDRA LOEB

*Hair+ Make Up* / JESSICA JEAN MYERS

*Models* / JULIA C AND JULIA K

*from Elmer Olsen agency*

Black crop jacket, **ETRO**. Hugo Nicholson  
Gold and black leggings, **ALEXANDER  
MCQUEEN**. Fur muff, **HEADMISTRESS**. Leather  
ankle boots **CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN**. Wooden  
earrings, **STYLISTS OWN**. Mesh hairpiece,  
**STYLISTS OWN**. Grey wool dress, **JIL SANDER**.  
Green wool cape, **STYLISTS OWN**. Brown leather  
wedge boots **GUCCI**, Browns Shoes, Sequin Beret,  
**STYLISTS OWN**. Moonstone pendant necklace &  
pearl with sterling woven cuff **LOVE HEALS**. Pearl  
earrings, **ACCESSITY**.





Blush colored chiffon & tulle gown with silk appliqué flowers, **STYLISTS CREATION**. Turquoise drop earrings, **SIMAN TU**.



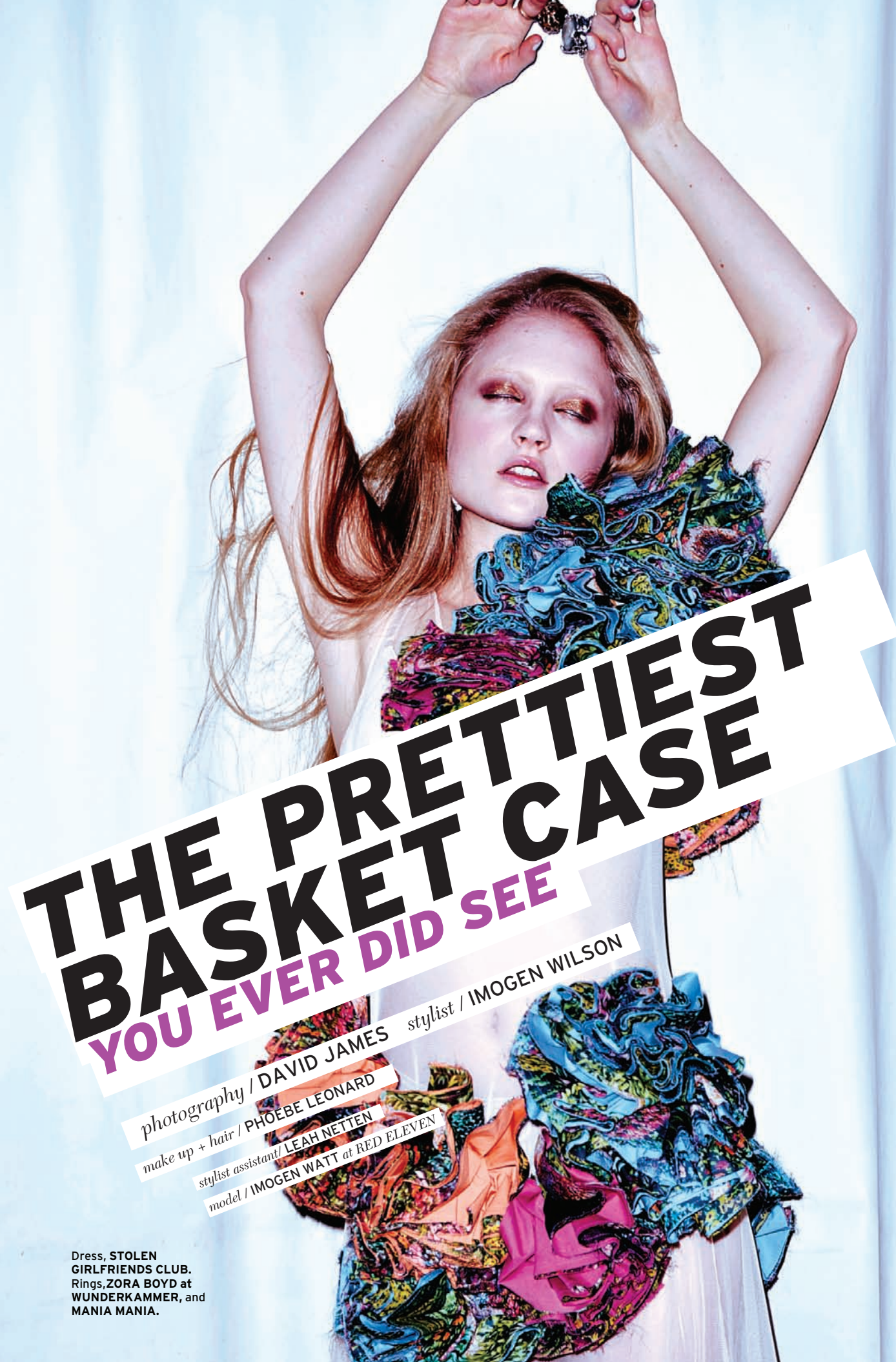
Black leather & feather dress, **ROBERT RODRIGUEZ**. Black leather jacket with chain detail, **MARC CAI**. White silk skull scarf, **Alexander McQueen**, **STYLISTS OWN**. Headpiece, **HEADMISTRESS**. Mesh leggings, **STYLISTS OWN**. Black leather studded boots, **CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN**. Feather boa, **STYLISTS OWN**.



Black ruffled cape, **MARIE SAINT PIERRE**. Gold and black leggings, **ALEXANDER MCQUEEN**. Black fur headpiece and ribbon headpiece, **HEADMISTRESS**. Woodpecker iron pendant **SWALLOW**.



Black ruffled cape, **MARIE SAINT PIERRE**. Gold and black leggings, **ALEXANDER MCQUEEN**. Black fur headpiece and ribbon headpiece, **HEADMISTRESS**. Woodpecker iron pendant **SWALLOW**.



# THE PRETTIEST BASKET YOU EVER DID SEE

photography / DAVID JAMES    stylist / IMOGEN WILSON  
make up + hair / PHOEBE LEONARD  
stylist assistant / LEAH NETTEN  
model / IMOGEN WATT at RED ELEVEN

Dress, **STOLEN GIRLFRIENDS CLUB**. Rings, **ZORA BOYD** at **WUNDERKAMMER**, and **MANIA MANIA**.



TOP: Hand Customised Jacket, **KSUBI** at **BLACK BOX BOUTIQUE**. Shirt, **RUBY**. Bra Top, **STYLISTS OWN**. Ring, **ZORA BOYD** at **WUNDERKAMMER**. BOTTOM: Jacket and jeans, **STOLEN GIRLFRIENDS CLUB**. Shirt, **RUBY**. Necklace, **KAREN WALKER**. Rings, **MANIA MANIA** and **DLUXE**. Earrings, **STOLEN GIRLFRIENDS CLUB**. Socks, **MARJAN PEJOSKI**. Sneakers, **ADIDAS ORIGINAL**.



Hand Customised Jacket, **KSUBI**  
at **BLACK BOX BOUTIQUE**. Dress,  
**LONELY HEARTS**. Boots, **VINTAGE**.  
Earrings, **STOLEN GIRLFRIENDS**  
**CLUB**.



Dress, **KAREN WALKER**.  
Ring, **MANIA MANIA**  
Ring (right), **KAREN**  
**WALKER**. Socks, **MARJAN**  
**PEJOSKI**.



DRESS from JET SET BOHEMIAN.  
Cap, ZAMBESI.



From Left: Jacket, **STOLEN GIRLFRIENDS CLUB**. Bra, **LONELY BY LONELY HEARTS**. Necklaces, **KAREN WALKER**. Briefs, **AMERICAN APPAREL**. Tights, **STYLISTS OWN**. Dress, **KAREN WALKER**. Necklaces, **KAREN WALKER**. Rings, **ZORA BOYD** at **WUNDERKAMMER**, **STOLEN GIRLFRIENDS CLUB** and **DLUXE**. Socks, **MARJAN PEJOSKI**. Shoes, **ADIDAS ORIGINALS**. Dress and Cuff, **STOLEN GIRLFRIENDS CLUB**. Ring, **MANIA MANIA**.

# BONDUKE

story / KOKO NTUEN  
photography / BON DUKE

**Bon Duke's photography has been featured in various publications such as *New York Times Magazine*, *Nylon*, *V Magazine*, and *StyleCaster* capturing some of the most important faces and trends in fashion. Not only does he showcase his art in still life, but in videos too by directing and translating fashion concepts through movement.**

*First of all since this is the Crush Issue what are you crushing on right now?*

I am crushing on all the great food in NYC and all the hidden spots to eat. I'm Discovering and trying all types of food.

*What was the last song you listened to and the last film you watched?*

The last film I watched was *La Haine* by Mathieu Kassovitz, a classic film that inspired a lot of my work. Too bad it was Kassovitz' only good movie. The last song I listened to was *Will Come Back* by Holy Ghost!

*When is the last time you cried?*

I have no idea.

*Your name sounds so regal. What are the origins?*

My parents chose this name because it had Vietnamese and French influence which they were raised on. My mom was in the textile business tailoring, her first sewing machine was sold by this guy named Bon. Her pride and joy was this sewing machine so she decided to name me Bon. Duke is my middle name actually and I decided to use that instead of my generic last name.

*You are the coveted photographer in the fashion world and have shot campaigns for such brands as, Zac Posen, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Van Cleef & Arpels, PUMA, Philip Lim 3.1 and more. What do you think you offer that is new?*

I wouldn't say I am coveted, but I feel that I want to approach the industry with humor in my work. I think about how the whole industry is the same shit over and over. Its hard to tell what is what anymore. I have a few projects coming up that I hope will set new approaches on how we see "fashion" photography. I don't even know what "fashion photography" means anymore but who gives a shit, haha.

*Was it easy to transition from painting to photography to film?*

Yes, it was an easy transition. Painting really help me see form/shape and color which I tend to enjoy more in my photos. From photography to video was quite easy because of the framing I would see but still have so much to learn especially from my cinematographers and producers. Producing a video and photo shoot are 2 extremely different things. It is

SOMETHING ABOUT

something that many people have to start realizing. I hope.

*Any plans for a feature film? What would the plot be?*

Not anytime soon but I have been collecting inspiration and writing a bit for a possible feature length. That is down the line. I am not ready for anything like that yet.

*Do you still paint?*

Nope. I'm impatient.

*What is your morning ritual?*

My morning ritual is checking my emails and grabbing my Americano in the morning. Coffee is a must or I get fucking grumpy and aggravated. I know its bad but I need that coffee.

*What is the central theme of Pulp magazine based on, and how did you come up with this idea?*

*Pulp Magazine* is dead. I am reforming it and creating a new site soon, which should be relaunched in October This *Pulp Magazine* should not be confused with that other shitty *Pulp Magazine* that is out there. I should really change the name actually... now that I think about it.

*How are fashion and food related to you?*

They're not at all. It was just something that I wanted to put together and see how it worked. The only similarity would be how chefs are the photographers and the kitchens/restaurants are magazines.

I love food and I actually wanted to be a chef before a photographer. Food is something that is close to me and is extremely important for everyone. Fashion is just something I fell into and enjoy because it really lets me express what I want to do creatively.

*What was your most star struck moment?*

Saying hello to Waris and seeing Jay-Z film, *It's a Hard Knock Life* at my junior high when I was 11 or somewhere around that age. That is some old school shit. I remember going to school next to the Marcy Projects... Yes I went to a junior high near Marcy.

*Who are you dating and what kind of girls are you into?*

Not dating anyone. I usually love girls that are European (French or Swiss for some reason), girls that are independent and able to handle themselves without me. Also a girl that can eat and enjoys food and sharing with others.

*If you could capture anyone, past or present who would it be?*

Anthony Bourdain, Gordon Ramsey, Chilly Gonzales

*What is one question you wish someone would ask you?*

Do you teach Kung fu? (Which really happened from a bum. So Racist. But so funny at the same time. Then he asked me to give him a dollar so he could save up and take Kung fu classes. ▽

# THEETTES

story / Koko Ntuen photography / BON DUKE  
stylist / Koko Ntuen + Rick Kim hair + makeup / Stephanie Flor@ Timothy Priano

*For seven years Coco, Poni, and Jem have been together constantly touring and recording their beat-punk rock all over the place. Although The Ettes have been working hard under the radar, they proudly admit the success of their newest album, Wicked Will. And not only is it awesome, but the album was recorded under their very own record label. As if music isn't enough to fulfill their creative enterprises, drummer, Poni Silver, launched her own fashion line this year, BLACK BY MARIA SILVER. The Ettes discuss the inspirations and crushes that influenced their style in music and fashion.*

*So can you tell us about your crushes? It can be anything. It can be crushes for the fall. Or just crushes you have in general as in recently. What are you crushing on right now?*

**COCO:** I'm crushing on my moccasins. I'm crushin'on. Minnetonka moccasins cause they're just so comfortable and they come in so many colors. It's really fun. And I'm also always crushing on Bob Dylan. It's kinda creepy. That's what I'm into. That's what's hot for me in the fall.

**PONI:** I'm going along with the comfort level. I'm also into wearing pajamas out of the house with heels on. Accessorize your pajamas! I'm also crushing on coconut water. I'm obsessed. It's so hydrating!

**JEM:** I'm seriously crushing on Joe Meek and his wacky and wild sounds. Also, my leather jacket, constantly. All the time. Even in the heat.

**COCO:** I'm also crushing on buffalo plaid check.

**PONI:** And Antonio Banderas.

**COCO:** No. I'm over Antonio Banderas! He's my ex! I'm crushing on Ladygunn. Checking up on what's going on!

*Poni how did your fashion line come about? What was the inspiration behind it?*

**PONI:** Well, it's been something I've been wanting to do for a while. I went to school at FIT and I was doing costume design here in New York for a costume design house for Broadway shows it's always been an interest. I've been playing drums for a long time but it's always been kinda stirring in the back of my brain. I finally decided since we had, like, 2 months off, to work on it. It was our first break in, like, 7 years so I decided to work during that break. And that's what I did. This line in particular actually came from some weird Xanax induced dream where I was an owl and I had these really heavy feathers and I couldn't fly. And people kept walking around me and they were admiring my feathers. They thought that my feathers were just absolutely gorgeous but I was in agony cause I couldn't actually move or fly or anything. So that's where those pieces come with the scaled leather. And as the collection goes on it gets set free. Which is also why I used the tweeds that kinda emulate a cage of some sort. That was a bit organic. Sometimes it doesn't always work out that way but take Xanax and see what happens.

*And how do you describe your look?*

**PONI:** It definitely has a nod to the 70s in it. I'm not reinventing the wheel in any way shape or form but I have no interest in creating basics. So it has this statement piece of the late 70s. Kinda of Bianca Jagger, Halston-esque vibe to it. I would say like a nod to it. But it's completely intended for the pieces to be taken apart and worn as pleased. Even for this shoot I wouldn't want to put an entire

CONTINUED ON PAGE 96



On Jem: Jacket, Timo Weiland, On Poni and Coco: BLACK BY MARIA SILVER

CAROLYN PENNYPACKER RIGGS



JENNY SLATE



# GOT A *girl* CRUSH

photos / Meg Wachter & Andrea Cheng story / Meg Wachter

Graph a timeline of girl crushes and you'll find that the throbbing starts at a young age. Do you remember your first girl crush? Mine occurred on the first day of 5th grade. She wore a horse print dress. After informing her that I, too, liked horses she revealed that she owned three of them. It was crush at first sight!

During the innocence of a crush in its purest form, you want to hang out all the time! You swap sticker collections, cruise the mall for your shared favorite band's new album, concoct elaborate secret handshakes and clubs, get matching jewelry and start your own tiny tribe. The lines on the crush timeline wane during the harsher teenage years and seemingly waver between envy and jealousy. But admiration for fellow girls still exists. You just have to dig through the angst to find it.

Crushes peak yet again during the formative collegiate years when suddenly the arbiters of cool surround you. The French girl in your poetry class, the bartender with an encyclopedic knowledge of obscure 70s glam bands, or that one girl you always see on campus and want to befriend because she's just so stylish, send you into a girl crush head-spin. From there,

the prognosis gets worse...

Oh, the Internet! A virtual rabbit-hole you tumble down day after day. That's where I met Andrea Cheng. Myself in Brooklyn and Miss Cheng in San Fran--I call her my west-coast taste twin--we'd been following each other on Tumblr and found ourselves constantly re-blogging each other.

We started a blog together called, Got A Girl Crush ([www.gotagirlcrush.com](http://www.gotagirlcrush.com)) as a portal for channeling our admiration toward awesome gals.

Fast-forward two years later, we decide to publish a zine sprung from the loins of our blog. The inaugural issue profiles ten bonafide babes of all talents and skills: Jenny Slate (comedienne), Lisa Congdon (artist), Lola Comacho Micu (food-truck mistress), Serena Mitnik-Miller (artist), Anne Marsen (free-style dancer), Carolyn Pennypacker Riggs (mask-maker and musician), Jeana Sohn (artist and fashion-guru), Kristen Wentreck (designer extraordinaire), Frankie Rose (musician), and Michelle Tarantelli (tattoo artist).

We're stoked to bring everyone together collective girl crushing! Check it out! ▶



# DESIGNER CRUSHES

story / PARICE GRANT  
photography / SHANNA FISHER

## TIMOWEILAND

The ultra hip design duo, Timo Weiland and Alan Eckstein are uniquely coiffed and classically styled. The quirky pair solidified a decadent collection with a bubbly mixture of inspirations. The delightful masterminds of the line, stamped with Timo's namesake, had a serendipitous meeting when both lads appeared at the same event wearing the little utilized, but timelessly fashionable ascot. The enduring neckpiece propelled the novice designers to launch an adventurous neckwear line. It caught the eye of industry insiders, most notably the stylists of the hit CW series, Gossip Girl. Aspiring to more than accentuating the décolletage, they created much ado by plunging into the feat of producing a men's and women's wear line, simultaneously. Timo, also known as "Teems," has a radically different background from the FIT and Parsons denizens of the fashion world. He initially majored in Economics, Spanish literature, and Business Management with a minor in vocal performance. Astonishingly, Alan Eckstein also dabbled in vocal training before he found his calling in design.

The 2011 Fall/Winter collection does not disappoint, for it was inspired by the duo's imaginative fusion of Colonial India and 60's British rocker bravado. The shades of this vision are apparent in the smartly tailored jackets, bright, lively color palettes, and adventurous plaids. The collection has already caused quite a media stir for its wonderfully bold creative direction and, of course, its scene-stealing appeal. ▶



## SAMANTHA PLEET

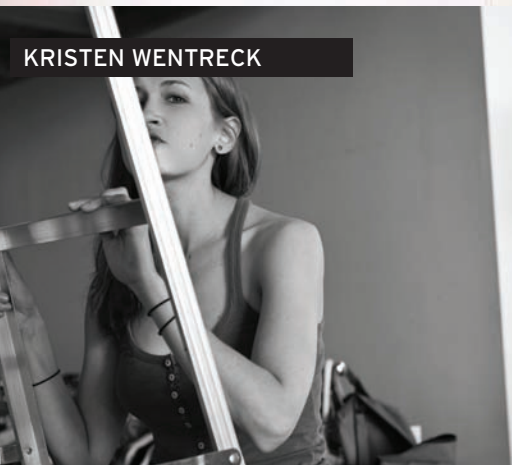
Unlike anything Lady Gaga's lyrics could describe, the theme of bad romance was the underlining motivation for Brooklyn designer, Samantha Pleet's Spring/Summer collection. Pleet's conception of a stunted summer romance was visible in the flesh baring hemlines, fluttery silhouettes, and depth-filled, earthy tones of her eco-friendly designs. The young designer's creativity knows no bounds. Her taste for literature, music, film, and history continuously lend fresh inspirations for her collections. Pleet's Fall collection is inspired by Nordic armor and mythology (after a trip to Scandinavia), and colorfully by "Moby Dick" adventurism and French New Wave films."

In 2006, Pleet started her collection and made a big splash with her flirty rompers and mini dresses. Subsequently, she opened a pop-up store at Space 15 Twenty. A beautifully orchestrated display of the modern but classically explorative soul, the pop-up store had jewelry by Pamela Love, belts by Samantha Pleet Dirty Librarian Chains, and assorted accessories, all displays of Pleet's favorite books and films. The store's opening party slyly combined tea and macarons with the DJ talents of Max Wowch.

With each season, Pleet confidently infuses spectacularly opulent elements in her spunky frocks. She has produced Rapsallion for Urban Outfitters and footwear through her collaboration with Osborn shoes (available at Frances May). The greatest part about Pleet's collections is her dedication to using organic materials. Samantha's Autumn/Winter ready-to-wear collection definitely has the passionate, but conscious Brooklyn girl in mind. The cloths are lightly kissed with prints of the cosmos and the outerwear is dark, yet sensual. As always, feminine details such as tassels and bows delicately float across a landscape of fluid silhouettes and necklines. Pleet's fashion-forward pieces are not for the tame or faint of heart. Any hip fashionista donning these garments will be turning heads and most likely deflecting the cold glare of style envy. The former Harper's Bazaar intern and Pratt student has voyaged far from her humble beginnings and has become a staple at NYC's fashion week.

It is safe to say that Pleet's Fall Lookbook is flawless. All of the looks are completely wearable and showcase a robust choice of fabrics ranging from organic cotton to English tweed. This designer has sealed her spot as the go-to Brooklyn designer of the season and her followers can't wait to see what she rolls out next. ▶

KRISTEN WENTRECK



MICHELLE TARANTELLI



SERENA MITNIK-MILLER



LISA CONGDON



ANNE MARSEN

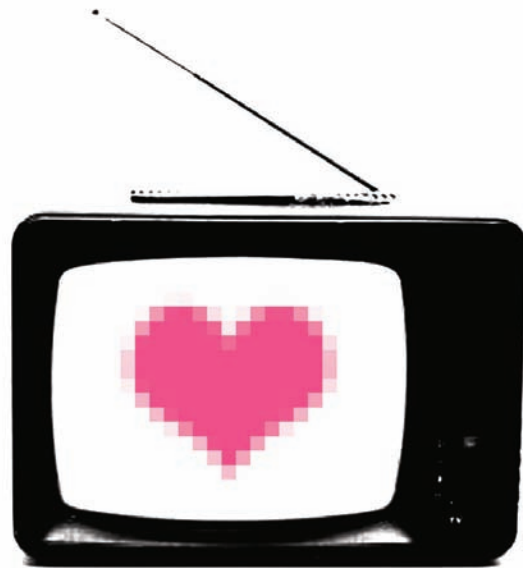


FRANKIE ROSE



# people you SHOULD NOT crush on

story: ANNE WALLS / illustrations: CAITLIN BURNS



## Genus: The Retail/Fitness Crush

**SPECIES:** Hot Starbucks Barista, Surprisingly-Not-Gay Urban Outfitters Employee, Sweaty But Fine Spin Instructor, Yoga Instructor With Wandering Hands

**HOW TO SPOT:** Upside-down (if you're in downward dog), from the back of the line (if you're at your favorite coffee place).

**HOW TO SCORE:** The best part? You HAVE to interact with them or you won't get your latte/workout/new shoes. The worst? That means everyone else is interacting with them too. Still, make yourself a regular, chat them up...and get some free scones/flexibility out of it, too.

**CRUSHABILITY:** High...and so is your yoga instructor, probably.

## Genus: The Celebrity Crush

**SPECIES:** Robert Pattinson, Rachel McAdams, Ryan Gosling, Ryan Reynolds, Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Gerard Butler, and the like.

**HOW TO SPOT:** On your TV. On your Tivo. In your favorite movie theater. On every billboard/magazine/celebrity gossip site ever.

**HOW TO SCORE:** Look, celebrities are real people who eat and fart and buy lattes, just like the rest of us. So yes, there is a small (calm down, Twihards, I said SMALL) chance you may one day run into these elusive, gold-underwear-owning

creatures. What to do? Ignore. You are only setting yourself up for Insane Fan Syndrome, meaning they all assume we are mentally-deranged fanatics who will eagerly clutch their discarded napkins before immediately selling it on eBay. Okay, I may be blowing this out of proportion a bit...no one buys that shit on eBay.

**CRUSHABILITY:** Low...except for Rachel McAdams. I mean come ON. She's adorable.

## Genus: The Roommate Crush

**SPECIES:** Creature snoring in the bedroom next to you.

**HOW TO SPOT:** See above

**HOW TO SCORE:** Very, very carefully. There is no tried and true outcome for this Crush Type, the whole "We're roommates/lovers/haters" scenario. I know people who have made the leap and it has worked. And then there's everybody else. Tread carefully.

**CRUSHABILITY:** It's complicated.

## Genus: The Relative Crush

**SPECIES:** Your Cousin, Your Second Cousin, Any Cousins By Marriage, Your Stepbrother, Your Sister's Brother-in-Law, etc

**HOW TO SPOT:** At Christmas, Thanksgiving, your cousin Jackie's Bat Mitzvah, etc

**HOW TO SCORE:** Please don't. Not only is this frowned upon by modern society, it can make for some VERY awkward weddings, funerals, and baby showers.

**CRUSHABILITY:** Low/Illegal

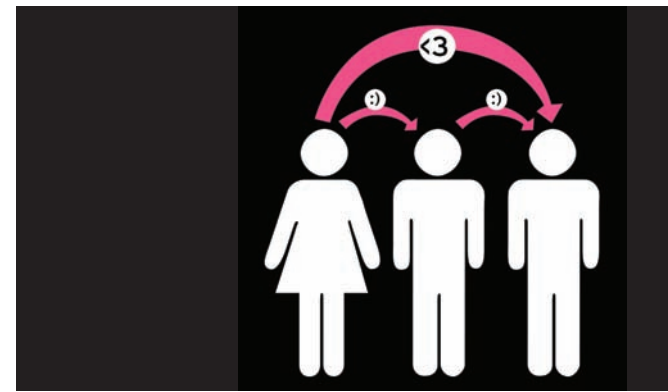
## Genus: The Work/School Crush

**SPECIES:** Your Super Supportive Boss, That Hot Philosophy TA, Your Chatty Client, Gavin From Accounting, Gavin From The Dorms

**HOW TO SPOT:** A Desk/Cubicle/Podium/Company Cocktail Party Near You.

**HOW TO SCORE:** You're at work/school every day. Which means every day (sans Saturday/Sunday) is a glorious opportunity to display your sparkly self. Cute person in your Econ class? Hello, Study Group. New Guy at the office is definitely flirting with you? Hello, Movie Date. The world is your oyster...unless your oyster could fire/flunk you. Then watch out.

**CRUSHABILITY:** Low to High. Low being dude, it's your



boss. Crush + Angry Wife of Boss = Fired. High being Gavin From Accounting who is charming, witty, and doesn't spend more time on his hair than you. Bonus: your company does NOT have a "No Dating Your Coworkers" maxim. Unless they do. Then Gavin goes to straight to a Low. Sorry, stapler monkey.

## Genus: The Nightlife Crush

**SPECIES:** Smoldering (and Heavy-Handed) Bartender, Chatty/Cute Bouncer, Fedora-Wearing DJ

**HOW TO SPOT:** At your favorite dive bar/dance club/wine bar/Mexican restaurant's Karaoke Night

**HOW TO SCORE:** Order a drink. It's that simple. Okay, I jest...sorta. But these Potential Crushes are made for flirtation. Their biggest problem is not being able to turn if OFF. Which is cool when you're the flirtee...but try dating one and wondering why he keeps "losing his phone" on Friday nights.

**CRUSHABILITY:** Almost TOO high. Make sure he double bags it.

## Genus: The Friend of a Friend Crush

**SPECIES:** That Guy from College/Dodgeball/Poker, Your Roommate's Friend, Your Friend's Roommate, etc.

**HOW TO SPOT:** At a BBQ, pool party, birthday soiree, etc.



Anywhere people you know are gathering with other people they know. Aka LIFE.

**HOW TO SCORE:** Say YES. Friends having a pickup soccer game in the park? YES. Jenny wants you to come see this new band with her and a group of friends? YES. Liz and a group of her college friends are heading to Vegas? BIG BUCKS, NO WHAMMIES. Translation: YES. You know why? If they're friends with YOUR friends, they're probably pretty cool (and have MUCH less of a chance of being an ax murderer).

**CRUSHABILITY:** VERY, VERY HIGH. Huzzah! ▴

# company you SHOULD crush on: CAPPELLINI

The Cappellini furniture brand strives to create contemporary pieces using a wide range of different colors, shapes and materials.

The brand was started in 1947, in Italy, by Giulio Capellini's father. Giulio took over in 1977 and is now the global brand co-director for Gianluca Armento.

NYC's Poltrona Fray Group's Marketing Manger, Levi Lewis, describes the brand as "always being cutting edge and constantly looking for what's next."

"Capellini has always been at the forefront of what's happening in design and Giulio has gone through great lengths to champion young designers from all over the world" Levi said.

The brand is constantly searching for ways to cater to current life styles, making the furniture not only interesting to the eye but also to serve its purpose as a piece of furniture.

The brand has worked with a wide range of top industrial designers like Tom Dixon or Marcel Wanders.

"A lot of pieces are featured in pop culture, such as the Peacock chair in Rihanna's "S and M" music video" Levi mused. Levi also mention's Kanye West as being a big fan of Cappellini's and has many of the pieces in his home.

The brand has also collaborated on some of their chairs with Disney such as the "Tron" inspired chair.

Cappellini furniture is sold in exclusive locations in the U.S including: Los Angeles, New York and Miami. (Stefania Consarino) ▴

# PEOPLE WE LIKE

## MODEL INTERVIEW JAUNEL MCKENZIE

interview / RICK KIM  
photography / SEIICHI NIITSU  
stylist / RICK KIM



**What's your name? How old are you and where are you from?**

My name is Jaunel Mckenzie and I am 24 years old . I'm from Kingston , Jamaica

**What agency are you from?**

I'm from IMG models

**So you're from the Caribbean What's the biggest difference from Jamaica and NY?**

Jamaica is more laid back and relaxed while New York is more cosmopolitan and industrious made up of many diverse communities.

**Do you miss home? If so what do you miss?**

Yes I really miss home. I miss being with my family and the home cooked meals. I also miss the beach culture and the laziness it brings.

**How were you discovered?**

I was discovered by my agent Kingsley Cooper. He sent photos of me to Paris agencies and I was scouted by Eric Duiobs.

**What was it like working and walking for the late Alexander McQueen?**

Working and walking for such an incredible individual was and still is a great honor . To see his creative juices flow from start to finish was truly fascinating . He was a genius.

**Do you feel different about him now that he has gone?**

Yes I have stronger feelings towards him now that he is gone. In fact after seeing *Savage Beauty* at the MET, I have even greater respect for him. He evolved into an artist and designer who always took his

audience with him on his journey, never giving the expected , always the unexpected .I enjoyed all his work. No, I wasn't completely aware of his potential in 04. In 2004 I was too young to understand. Looking back now I'm grateful to have worked with him and his enormous talent.

**What are you crushing on right now?**

I'm crushing on my boyfriend David Annakie Sr. ( shhh don't tell him I said that )

**Do you have any favorite designers upcoming or classic ones you keep an eye on?**

My favorite designers include : Derek Lam , 3.1 Phillip Lim , Michael Kors,Oscar de la Renta, Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana,Antonio Berardi, Proenza Schouler, Chole,Givenchy,Stella Mccartney, YSL, Lavin... I can't list all of them.

**What do you want to do life after modeling?**

Life after modeling will include owning my own business and running a very busy household with kids and my husband .

**What's your favorite food?**

My favorite food is oxtail, rice and peas. Jamaican food of course.

**What do you do when your down?**

I'm fortunate to have a great mom and truly close friends. When I'm down I can call on them or I call on God . ( not necessarily in that order ).

**What are you reading right now?**

I'm reading 2 books at the moment the first is *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. The second one is *One Day* by David Nicholls.▲

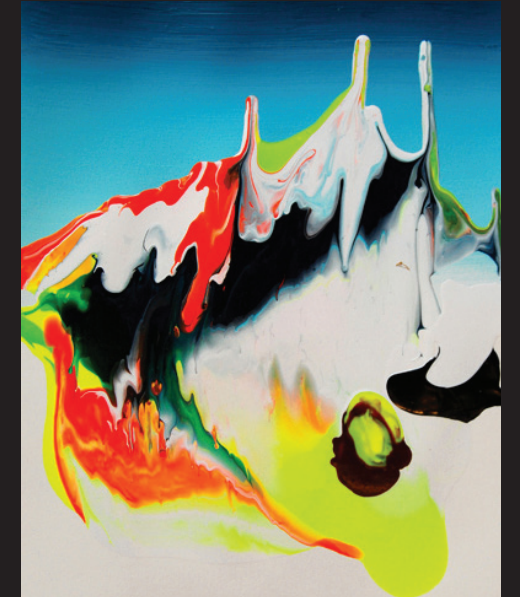
Black Leather Jacket, BLK DNM.  
White Tank, BLK DNM. Jeans BLK DNM, ,  
Ring Trio Necklace, In God We Trust.

## WHAT WE LIKE STAFF CRUSHES



**Koko Ntuen's Crush:  
Joe Boruchow**

Joe Boruchow is not only tall, tattooed, and hot he is an AMAZING artist. His paper cut outs are beautiful. After spending a day being his look out while he did some wheat pasting, visiting his studio and getting a peek at his original Will Eisner print, I have a crush. [www.JoeBoruchow.com](http://www.JoeBoruchow.com)



**Caitlin Burns's Crush:  
Yago Hortal**

When I first saw Yago Hortal's luscious paintings I felt like I just had ten red bulls and tiny art fairies were dancing in my eyeballs.



**Aly Vander Hayden's  
Crush:  
Dip-Dyed Hair**

I've definitely been crushing on dip-dyeing hair lately. It's just like ombreing one's hair, but instead of using a natural color like blonde or brunette, once can dye part of the hair a funky shade such as blue, pink, green, or purple, which are the most popular colors. I just dyed mine teal, and I really want to try a rainbow scheme once it fades!



**Michael Correy's Crush: Vito  
Sandwich from Jimmy's Johns**

Best. Sandwich. Ever.



**Shanna Fisher's Crush: El Camion Cantina**

Love brunch at El Camion Cantina. Amazing breakfast burrito, strong frozen margaritas, super nice servers and a block from my house in the East Village. Need I say more?!

# ADAM ALEKSANDER

photographer / **PAYAM**  
story / **KELLY ROBBINS**



Have you ever wanted to spend an evening in Marie Antoinette's palace? Experimental event designer, Adam Aleksander, can take you there, though it will be on the day after the young Dauphine has been on a three day bender, so you'll have to put up with her servants' profuse apologies. Perhaps you'd rather sneak down an alleyway to an unmarked door for a night at the Cotton Club. You'll be required to foil the "bulls," that's prohibition slang for police, but it will be well worth the effort, if bootlegger cocktails, hand made cigars, gambling, and Harlem's hottest jazz gets you off. Maybe you're the nature type and yearning to escape this concrete jungle. Just follow Aleksander to the enchanted forest, where friendly spirits roam, the trees' sap taste like Hendrick's Gin, and wishing well contemplates your deepest desires. No request is too far fetched for this magician. He'll transport you

to such places where everything is possible and anything can happen.

I first met Adam Aleksander one summer morning in the heart of Chinatown. He waved from across the street, standing next to his little Terrier, Piglet. Maybe it was his young Gene Wilder hair or his unassuming nature, but immediately his presence superseded my expectations. He bowed his head and extended his hand cordially like a gentlemen of a distant era. "Have you eaten?" he whispered, taking Piglet into his arms. He took us to Lam Zhou Handmade Noodle shop where the cook prepared fresh noodles right before our eyes. Then, he took us to his favorite bench in Seward Park for a lively conversation.

If you want to know what makes this consummate creator tick, be sure to check out a full profile of Aleksander this fall at [www.ladygunn.com](http://www.ladygunn.com) ▶

# DELILAH

photographer / **PAYAM**  
story / **KELLY ROBBINS**

New York based, Delilah, have become masters of their sound. The powerhouse trio displays such chemistry on stage that it's hard to believe they formed less than a year ago. Together they've created a hybrid of punk rock, synth and lyrical grunge, resulting in luscious-loud, volatile rock.

Since each member brings a different musical background to the group, their biggest challenge has been finding ways to fine-tune their powerfully divergent personalities. Lead vocalist, Jamie Burke, recognized by many as a former Calvin Klein model, sings with the guttural angst of Kurt Cobain, the unrestrained

lyricism of Morrissey, and the unhinged calls of a lion attacking its prey. Add Bass guitarist, Mickki James, to the mix, who invokes Geezer Buttler (of Black Sabbath) with his distortion pedal dreamscapes and elongated synth tones. Drew Thomas completes the band's dynamic with his virtuosic drumming. He's capable of both unleashing the riveting rhythms of math rock and maintaining the mellow pulse of a lyrical love song.

In early June Delilah opened for The Netherlands in the basement of Lit Lounge in New York City. The space neared its capacity limit with eager fans, mouthing the lyrics to every song. Post-set, I asked the guys if they feed off the crowd's energy: "If the crowd gives you energy like that, you're more inclined to give it back," said Burke. Then James replied, "I'm the first to admit, I'm a full on crowd snob. I need a crowd."

When it comes to writing those lyrics that their fans know so well James said, "We have a funny little method when it comes to lyrics."

My ears perked up, "Oh yeah? Do you care to tell me?"

"No," James laughed, "We'll get arrested." ▶



# MONOGAMY

photographer / **SHANNA FISHER**  
story / **VANESSA CAMERON**



Monogamy can be a three way relationship. NYC friends Herschel Gaer, Elliot Glass, and Darren Beckett are taking time apart from their devoted artistic partners and experimenting with each other to create a wholly new musical relationship. Formed during a brief break from their successful day jobs they've dubbed their new union, Monogamy. With a sound blending the minimalism of krautrock with the grandiosity of arena rock it's a fairly far cry from their committed endeavors. Elliot (guitar, bass) is renown for his work directing audiobooks that range from Harlequin romance to New York Times bestsellers also oversees the C&E micro brewery he founded. Herschel (vocals, bass, guitar) and Darren (drums) have spent the last few years recording and touring the world

with The Killers frontman Brandon Flowers solo endeavor but have been playing together for over a decade having first met while in power mod band The Interpreters. "The plan was to treat this band as a mistress, something for just us to enjoy when we can get away from our creative spouses," explains Gaer. That might prove to be harder than they expected since Monogamy is already generating buzz from a leaked iPhone recording after playing a short set for a friends divorce party. Undecided if they even want to release a proper recording, the band desires to play only low key shows. Here's to hoping Monogamy can keep their affair discreet because it seems like everyone is already whispering about them. ▶



Holiday Shores, hailing from Tallahassee, FL, aren't quite what they used to be. Their promising debut record, *Columbus'd The Whim*, was released in 2009 and lazily slapped with the of-the-moment "beach band" tag by some. On their sophomore effort, *New Masses for Squaw Peak* (out 9/13 on Brooklyn's Twosyllable Records), they will undoubtedly shed any half-assed, ocean-related comparisons.

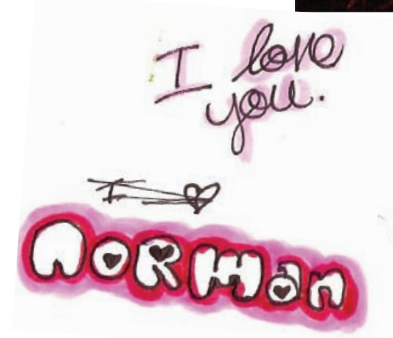
# HOLIDAY SHORES

photographer / **JAY VAN DAM**  
story / **TERRENCE A. HOWARD**

while "Mystic Pharaohs" finds them delving into darker, brooding territory that serves as a perfect balance to some of the brighter moments on the record. The biggest proof of their evolution comes in the two and a half minutes of "Cord-Du-Roi", a beautiful exercise in restraint and patience that recalls the most reflective and emotional moments on *Pet Sounds*. It's mature stuff for a band just on their second record.

From the opening warbly, Eno-esque synths of "Airglow", it's apparent they have honed in on the personality that made *Columbus'd* stand out from the masses, while blazing trails previously uncharted by the band. "Spells" is a wonderfully noodley, disco-tinted jammer that is propelled forward by a thumping bass line and interweaving keys,

Sure *New Masses* is ideal for summer; risky and exciting with a warm pop underbelly, but music this well thought out and unique doesn't need to be delegated to a specific season or geographic location. It just needs to be enjoyed. ▶

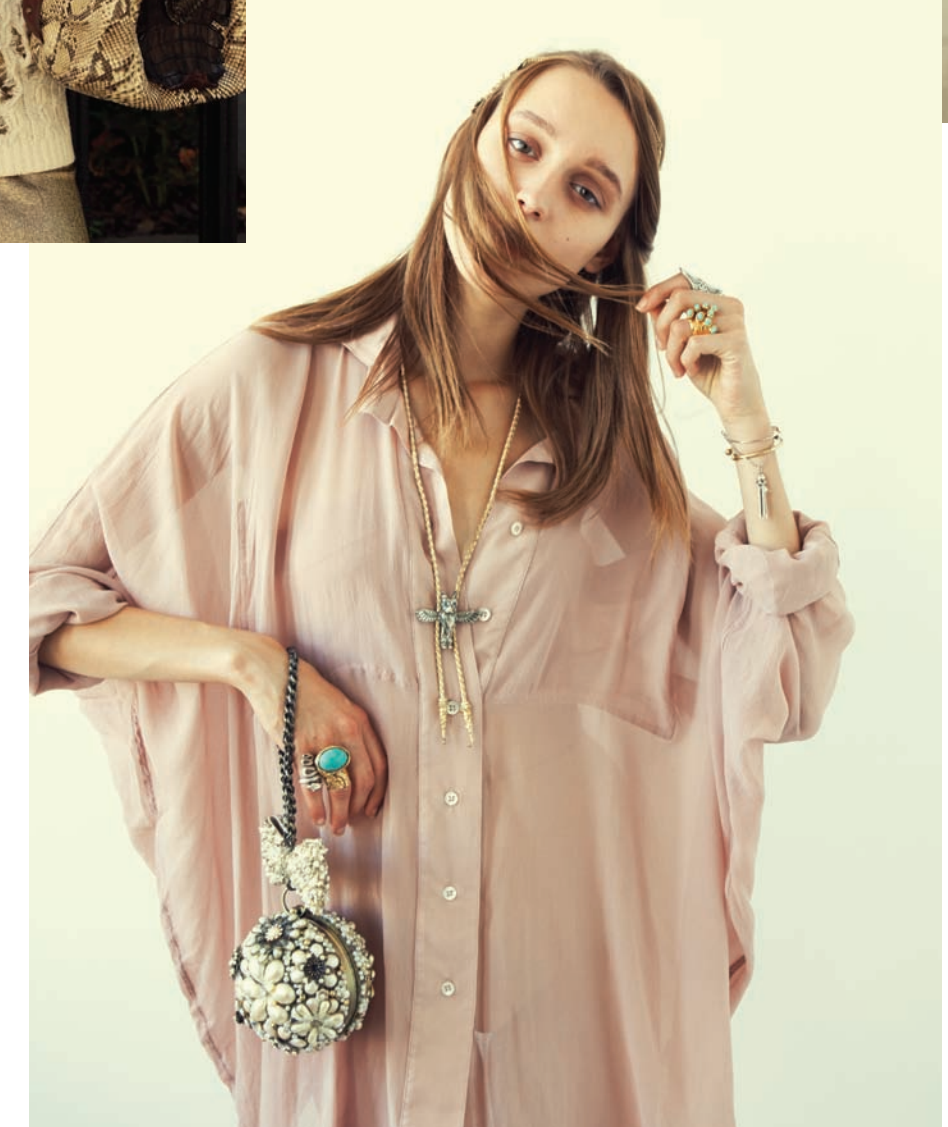
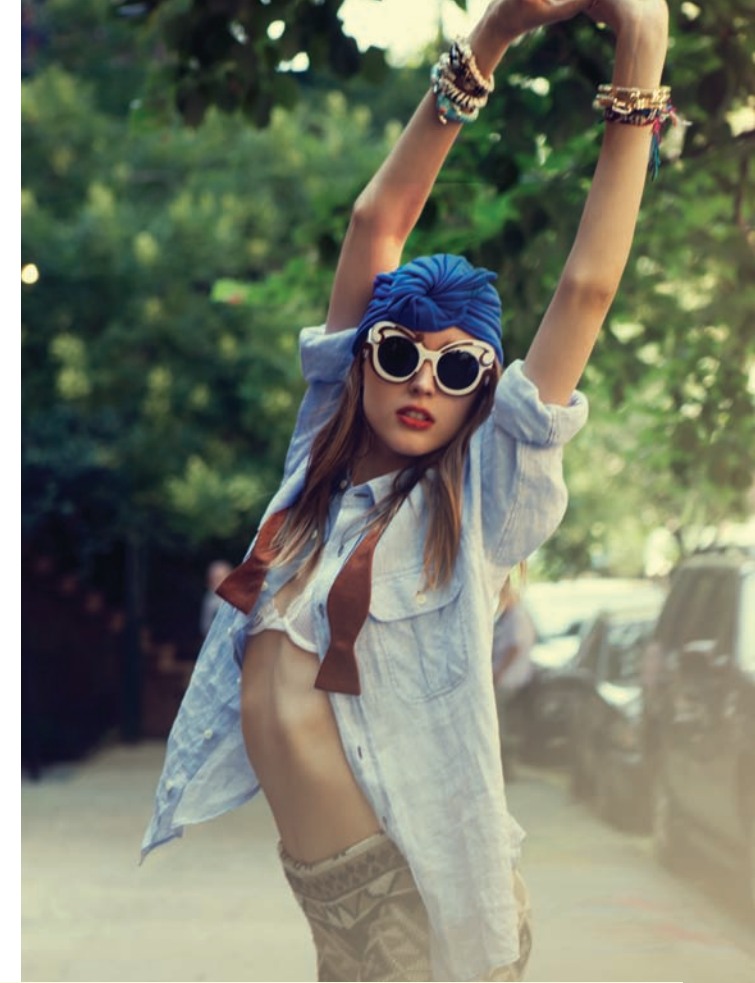


# STOP STALKING ME

*photographs:* RICK KIM / *stylist:* TESS PARE-MAYER



Skull t-shirt, **Obey**. Lace Grandma Panties, **Forever 21**.  
Sunglasses, **Vintage**. Black Floral Headpiece, **Vintage**.  
Collar, **Eleven Objects**. Shoes, **Converse**.



Sweater, Vintage- shredded and re-worked by **TESS PAYRE MAYE**. Gold pants, **Vintage**. Bra, **American Apparel**. Bag, **Sarah Hearey**. Turban, **Wig shop find**. Button down, **Billy Reid**. Bow Tie, **Billy Reid**. Bra, **H&M**. Geometric sweater shorts, **LBL** (available at The Little Black List.com). Sunglasses, **Prada**. Button down Dress, **Billy Reid**. Pearls Of Wisdom Bag, **Mary Frances**. Floral Gypsy Headpiece, **LBL** (available at The Little Black List.com). Lariat, **LBL** re-worked (available at The Little Black List.com). Turquoise and Gold ring, **Yves Saint Laurent**. Silver rings, **Forever 21**. Gold "Carol" bracelet, **Vintage**. Gold mini nameplate cuff, **Seth and Dashiel** (available at The Little Black List.com). Opposite Page: Leopard Collar, **Eleven Objects**.



photography / FLETCHER LAWRENCE  
stylist / HELEN ANTIS  
hair + makeup / NICOLE BRIDGEFORD

NICOLE BRIDGEFORD



BARTOSZ JANKOWSKI



ALLISON LINKER



ALYSON GREENFIELD



NATHANIEL HOHO



ALEXANDER ESGUERRA



JILIAN ROSE

## WHAT DO YOU CRUSH?

ALYSON GREENFIELD, *Singer/Songwriter* / [alysongreenfield.com](http://alysongreenfield.com) / **WHAT DO YOU CRUSH?** Popsicles and drum machines. JILLIAN ROSE, *Painter* / [jillianrose.com](http://jillianrose.com) / **WHAT DO YOU CRUSH?** Phthalo blue- It makes me tingle. ALEXANDER ESGUERRA, *Conceptual Artist* / [loveandpaint.org](http://loveandpaint.org) / **WHAT DO YOU CRUSH?** My moleskin drum machines. NATHANIEL HOHO, *Front man of The Click Clack Boom* / [clickclackboom.com](http://clickclackboom.com) / **WHAT DO YOU CRUSH?** Isolation, saltwater, and Mi-

chael Jackson. ALISON LINKER, *Actor* / [allisonlinker.com](http://allisonlinker.com) / **WHAT DO YOU CRUSH?** Lauren Ambrose As Fanny Brice. NICOLE BRIDGEFORD, *Makeup Artist and Hairstylist* / **WHAT DO YOU CRUSH?** Koko nailpolish by Knockout Cosmetics. Its the perfect fall color. BARTOSZ JANKOWSKI, *Studio manager*, **WHAT DO YOU CRUSH?** Beyonce. KOKO NTUEN, *Editor* / [ladygunn.com](http://ladygunn.com) / **WHAT DO YOU CRUSH?** Magazines. ▴



KOKO NTUEN

I like YOU. WHAT DO YOU like?

1/ Chloe' Hastings. 2/ The two girls in the band Deap Valley. There a new girl rock band, a two piece. Amazing. Thy are a mix between White Stripes and Led Zeppelin. 3/ Artist, Matt Doust. Hes from Perth Australia. Just moved to Los Angeles to paint. 4/ Floral Doc Martins.



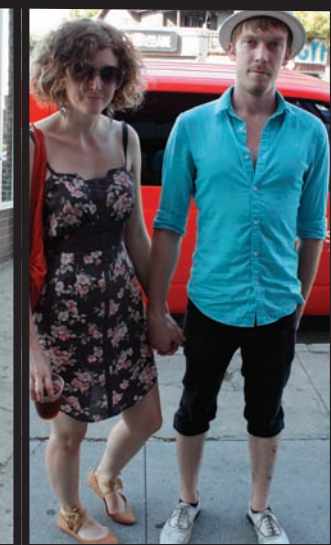
"The looks I tend to be inspired by are from sixties girl groups like The Ronettes and The Shangri-las, the Prince-protégé trio Vanity 6, and a dash of Clarissa Darling-- which when I think about it, all that combined describes the exceptionally eclectic style of Iona from Pretty in Pink."

www.bitethebeat.com

Ericka Clevenger

Janai Chanelle Majett

# ON the STREET



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# QUIZ

## RETURN OF THE QUIZ LADY!!

In the olden days, people were too busy hunting lions and inventing fire and figuring out how to sit down in hoop-skirts (loose history lesson here, free of charge) to worry too much about crushes. But nowadays we have basically nothing else to do except Twitter, so we drive ourselves insane wondering if so-and-so is thinking this or that and if you should do that other thing and what it could mean/lead to/ruin/aardvark. (Just seeing if you're paying attention. Moving on.) So the question is, is there a right way to handle a crush in these wild and crazy times? You know, when it's a LIKE-LIKE situation and not merely a like situation? Find out by taking this simple quiz!

**1) Someone you had a crush on in school – and were totally ignored by - randomly emails you. Apparently he just moved to your neighborhood and would just LOVE to catch up. Interesting. You:**

**A)** write back immediately and offer to give him a guided tour of the 'hood, starting with your bedroom.

**B)** wait a week before responding. Hey – you waited for this guy to notice you for YEARS! Let him suffer for a... oh, who are you kidding? Three days is plenty.

**C)** ignore it. You have a fantastic boyfriend and your acne finally cleared up and what do you need to stir up old bullshit for? Besides, he probably got fat. Although... If he DID get fat, you can be the one doing the rejecting for a change. Maybe you should email him back. Never hurts to be friendly, right?

**D)** forward the email to all your high school friends for advice. They helped you find a prom dress that you could wear a bra with, so they can certainly help with this.

**E)** call your mother and ask if she remembers him. Oh, good - she does. And she also remembers HIS mother? She'd be happy to call her on your behalf to find out some background on the guy?! "Why would that be weird, dear? You two were kids together! Remember when you had the flu and threw up at his birthday party in 7th grade? Oh, you were SO upset..." Hang up, sit on the floor of your closet in a cold sweat praying it's time for Mother's golf lesson and she is NOT going to actually call his mother. Dammit, why do you insist on involving her in things when you know it's going to end poorly? Write a damage control reply email about your search for the

right nursing home for the mentally ill, just in case.

**2) You are a hetero girl who suddenly can't stop thinking about how cool this girl you met is. She is just so attractive and smart and just... COOL. You've never felt this way before – at least not about a girl! You:**

**A)** immediately decide you must be gay and start prepping your coming-out speech/parade. No wonder you've always liked the Indigo Girls!

**B)** PANIC. Should you dump your boyfriend? Does the chick KNOW?! Does this mean you're gay now?!! What if you change your mind about being gay in a month because you aren't actually gay and everyone calls you a Hasbian?! Decide to squash all feelings of admiration immeds.

**C)** think about all the things you like in this woman and wonder how you can be more like her yourself. Tell her how freaking rad you think she is! Own your girlcrush.

**D)** formulate a way to do Ecstasy with her in the woods or, barring that, get really really drunk together and see what happens. It's called playing with fire for a reason, folks. Although, it would definitely be bad if her vagina turned out to have anything in common with fire.

**E)** Start an anonymous and sort of creepy Facebook fan page filled with candid pictures and poems. When she asks you about it, agree that there are some really fucked up people out there.

**3) You find out someone in your friend group has a crush on you. You are NOT interested. You:**

**A)** never speak to him again. EVER. Even if he talks to you. Do not explain why.

**B)** ask to speak to him privately and explain that while he's a friend, you don't really want to take your relationship to the next level. Hold him while he sobs. Give him a puppy as a consolation prize and suggest he name it after you.

**C)** hook up with him - hey, you never know. And if it's weird, well... you can deal with it later, right?

**D)** beg a mutual friend to tell the guy that you'd rather eat your own face than see him naked. Seriously – gross.

**E)** pretend you are totally clueless and refuse to pick up on his hints. Start talking incessantly about all the dates you've been on lately. Make out with anyone you can get your hands on in front of him. But not in a hot and sexy way – that would be mean.

**4) You have a crush on the new guy at your office. You're well aware that dating at work**

**isn't encouraged, but come ON – after the string of losers you've hooked up with? You gotta take 'em where they appear, amirite? You:**

**A)** smile at him nonstop from the safety of your desk – "hey, I didn't go near him, boss!" - and hope he'll make a move. Also hope he doesn't just think you are weird and/or in a religious cult of some kind.

**B)** follow him into the office supply closet and accidentally grab his crotch instead of a bunch of post-its. If he's not into it, you can say you were drunk. Wait - you're at work. Say it was dark instead. Yeah, that's much better.

**C)** invite him to hang out with you and your friends outside of work. Pray he doesn't end up liking one of your friends. Accept that you may just have to kill them both if it goes down that way. Research household poisons just in case.

**D)** fire up the ol' Nerve.com account and force yourself to be a team player who follows the rules. Continue going on dates with total strangers who look nothing like their pictures. Complain about it to anyone who will listen. Decide that you have no choice but to quit your job – you are obviously meant to be with this coworker and now you can stalk him freely and without repercussion! (If this scenario ends with you being single AND unemployed, see the second part of option C.)

**E)** start an anonymous and sort of creepy Facebook fan page filled with candid pictures and poems. When he asks you about it, agree that your boss is probably behind it and bond over how totally inappropriate it is. Contemplate reporting the whole thing to HR before you remember that you are the one who actually made the page and you still haven't even gotten laid out of it. Quit, repeat at next job.

**5) A coworker has a crush on YOU. You aren't interested, but he or she seems simply delighted to fetch your coffee, say nice things to the boss about you, and hey – even do your paperwork. Talk about a moral dilemma! You:**

**A)** let your devoted coworker do all your work. I mean, he or she obviously WANTS TO. You're just being nice! Congratulate yourself for being such a kind and generous person.

**B)** suck it up and do your own work – using this person is a mean thing to do and will only get you a one-way ticket down Bad Karma Highway.

**C)** ask to be transferred to another department so you don't have to deal with it at all. Hate your new assignment, blame it on the person with the crush, and take it out on the nice houseplant your Aunt Mildred got you for your new cubicle. Break Aunt Mildred's heart when she comes to visit and finds you sitting bitterly

at a desk covered with dry, brown rhododendron leaves.

**D)** start carrying around the employee manual and reading aloud from the sections about not fraternizing in the workplace whenever the coworker is nearby. Hope you don't end up on some kind of committee for office spirit as a result. Though, who knows – maybe there are some cute guys from another floor on that committee...?

**E)** anonymously email the coworker chunks of work to do on your behalf, but always act surprised when you received the finished product. Whisper feverishly about possible whodunits over lunch (paid for by the coworker, obv). It'll be like an old-fashioned mystery and you'll be the star - what a lark!

**6) Your bestfriend has had a HUGE crush on someone you both know and has for as long as you can remember. One night at a party, you're doing your usual best friend duty – talking up your friend to the crush, obv – when he spills an equally huge secret: he's got a crush on YOU. Oh, snap. You:**

**A)** Scream wordlessly until the guy takes the hint and goes away. Hope no one else notices that you're, like, randomly screaming.

**B)** Give him a stern talking-to worthy of a "Very Special Episode" of your favorite 90s TV show. I mean, HELLO? This is your best friend! What does he think you're going to do, jump into his lap and forget all about your years of friendship!?

**C)** Jump into his lap and forget all about your

years of friendship. Look, there's a limited supply of cute guys professing their love to you out there. She'll get over it.

**D)** Pretend to be super drunk and have no idea what he's talking about. Pray he never brings this up again, and plan try to steer your friend in another direction ASAP.

**E)** Pre-order the new YA novel "Freshman Year and Other Unnatural Disasters" to see how it goes down in THAT story. Seriously – go do it right now.

**7) At a family reunion your parents forced you to go to, you meet this really cute guy who lives right near you and is employed and funny... and turns out to be your second cousin once removed. Awesome. But after a few days you're still thinking about him, and then he adds you to his Google+ circle and asks if you want to hang out sometime. You:**

**A)** Ask him if he wants to get together with you and a bunch of your friends at a lively local beer garden. If you can't have him, you can at least do the right thing and pass him on to one of your fabulous pals.

**B)** Ask him if he wants to come over for a glass of wine and a quiet chat on your roofdeck. Hey – why should you conform to society's norms? I mean, it's not like you're pulling a Game of Thrones here – he's your second COUSIN. Once REMOVED, for godssakes!

**C)** Ask him if he has any cute friends. If not, send him to the Island of Men You'll Never Get to Have Sex With and move on.

**D)** Do not accept his circle inclusion or offline

social overtures! Start sending anonymous hate mail to his parents for having the nerve to marry into your family and RUIN YOUR LIFE.

**E)** Suggest that the two of you move to another country where no one knows you. Buy wigs and start saving for plastic surgery for both of you. Call it "The Adventure of a Lifetime." If he isn't into it, kidnap him.

### SCORING:

**Let's face it - these are pretty much all terrible ideas. Ladies, whatever happened to being straightforward and proactive!?** Oh, right. No one is ever like that. Thanks a lot, Jane Austen. Ah, well. Moving on. If you chose any or all of these answers: 1. B, 2. C, 6. B, 7. C ...there may be hope for you yet! You occasionally will make a smart move that, at the very least, won't get you into trouble. Hooray for you!

**As for the rest of you? Well, don't feel too bad. The Quiz Lady herself is likely to find herself in your shoes – it's HARD being a fabulous gal surrounded by often not-so-fabulous people. Or fabulous people who don't recognize your fabulousity and therefore don't do the right thing and declare their undying love for you when you want them to. I mean, seriously – what is WRONG WITH PEOPLE!?**

**Anyway, good luck out there. If anyone has a private island with some spare room, please email the Quiz Lady with an invitation c/o Ladygunn Mag. Kisses!**

# AUTUMN CRUSH by / KEITH REAMS

## A STORY OF WINE, LOVE, AND LOSS

I often daydream about the summer of '08 in Napa Valley: biking up and down the Silverado Trail in a trance of vineyard rows, Quintessa Winery's crescent moon wall that sweeps across the landscape, and the narrow, tree-covered road that snakes up to Schramsberg Vineyards.

That July, I stood at a picnic table above Highway 29, resting a bottle of Blanc de Blancs on my forearm while my girlfriend, Anna, unpacked a basket of bread, cheese, and stuffed mushrooms. Wineries peppered the view below, and Mount Saint Helena stood tall in the distance.

Mocking a sommelier who'd recently served us, I reminisced about the vintage, complimented the winemaker's tennis game, and filled our glasses until bubbles flowed down the sides. We toasted to long life and to a bluegrass band she liked. I nodded knowingly as she smiled back through needle-sharp eyelashes. Through a tipsy haze, I offered my two cents, noting the wine's sharp nose, refreshingly acidic mouth-feel, and smooth finish. Anna remained angelic and open. Her laughing eyes told me to continue, so I topped off our glasses.

The Napa Valley produces ephemeral beauty on a daily basis. It's where wealthy seekers go to shit out poems, nature lovers choose their own adventure, and, as I once read on the back of a wine bottle, pleasure is the ultimate reward for all effort.

I needed to draw my own line. I brought my lazy summer to a screeching halt and signed up to work Schramsberg's crush—the grape harvesting season. Here it is, I thought: the process behind the pleasure. I mentally prepared myself for two months of rigor and sent

Anna back to San Francisco.

A handful of blue-blooded toddlers stomped grapes in a large tub for the ceremonial beginning of Crush. Hugh Davies, Schramsberg's owner, passed around champagne flutes with the previous years' wine. It was delicious, of course, but those of us who were due to operate heavy machinery sipped conservatively. We'd already lost the taste for the tedium.

I became the forklift man. As loaded semi-trucks rumbled up to the scales, and I snapped into a rhythmical flow, weighing grape bins and dumping fruit into the enormous press. The arousal of a ton of fruit balancing on my forks made me irrationally confident and lost in time.

I'd kill time between press loads eating chardonnay grapes. Propane gas lingered on my clothes, and the winery chemicals had turned my skin to mush. I often looked into my wrinkled hands and wonder what Anna was doing. She was a travel agent, and I imagined her booking a cruise for an elderly couple while thinking of me. Cosmically connected.

On the Friday of Labor Day weekend, a co-worker and I stood outside the winery overlooking the visitor's center. Convertibles, limousines, and tour buses emerged through the trees and spilled out drunken women wearing white linen. My co-worker, high on Tecate and meth, shouted "Yeah baby!" while rubbing his crotch. Later, after returning from a midday nap in the bed of his pickup truck, he'd recount the blow-by-blow of his romp in the vineyard with one of the women. It was disgusting, but I felt the same longing and entitlement.

After work, I went for a long run through the vineyard and into the hills until the Valley panorama lay below. It was the clearest view I'd had since the picnic with Anna.

That night, I phoned her to make arrangements for the holiday weekend. Though I'd be working, she had the three days off, and we'd planned to spend the evenings together. But she informed me that she had been seeing someone else. She said that I hadn't taken her seriously. I verbally disagreed with her, but internally acknowledged it. I hung up and grabbed a Beaulieu Vineyard Cabernet from the closet.

The next morning, I woke up hung-over with a mouth full of barnyard muck. Crush was winding down and it was cleaning day. I drove the forklift back and forth from the press to the vineyard, dumping grape skins onto a compost heap, then returned to the press to wash and stack the bins. Wallowing in self-pity, I lost control of the pressure washer and shot myself in the foot. Its extreme heat ripped through my rubber boots, socks, and the top few layers of tissue on my middle toe.

On the last day of Crush, the winemakers prepared a spread of prosciutto and melon, barbeque chicken wings, and baked goat cheese, and served a brut rose called Querencia, the Spanish word for the strength and safety one derives from home. Querencia's proceeds support agricultural preservation and educational efforts in Napa County. It was a purposeful celebration that temporarily dulled my various pains. That autumn crush no longer weighs me down, but I can't stop daydreaming about its beauty. ▴

## SECRET LONGINGS / by JANET MOCK

Some of my favorite movies center around unrequited love, one-sided crushes that don't end in romantic happily-ever-afters, from the Italian coming-of-age story *Malena*, and *My Best Friend's Wedding* to *(500) Days of Summer*. I get lost in stories about someone unabashedly putting their love so out there that it drives them into a reckless obsession that forces them to discover something about themselves that has absolutely nothing to do with the object of their adoration.

In *Malena*, prepubescent Renato experiences a sexual awakening; Julia Roberts learns she can love and let go in *My Best Friend's Wedding*; and the always-yummy Joseph Gordon-Levitt rediscovers his true love of architecture in *(500) Days*. These stories resonate in me because of Jordan, the boy next door who didn't give me the time of day when I was 12 years old.

Despite having matured 16 years since then, I was recently startled awake one muggy summer night from a dream about the object of my adolescent obsession.

As my boyfriend Aaron snored and the air conditioner in our East Village studio roared, I was dreamily fantasizing about the happy ending I would have gotten with Jordan if my ween self had her way: We lived in our hometown of Kalihi, a little town in my native Honolulu, Hawaii; we had a dozen teacup Maltipoos; and I could watch *My So-Called Life* on loop.

"I'm so happy I never let you get away," he told me in the dream, while going in for a kiss just as the sun was setting over the Kōōlāu Mountains and the Beach Boys's "God Only Knows" hummed in the background. Just like that I was back to reality, shaken up with an awakened sense of longing for Jordan, for my own coming of age, for a me that had yet known what she was going to do with her life.

...

I was only 12 when I first laid eyes on Jordan and his sandy beach hair that sparkled in the sun. He was 15 and came over to our house to welcome my brothers and I to the neighborhood. This was circa 1996, and Jordan was a sophomore. I thought he was IT, like I'd sell my little brother just to have a conversation with him kind of IT. I never liked a guy before Jordan and only found myself obsessed with my Tamagotchi pet (those handheld digital pets you feed, walk and play with virtually) and my growing Keroppi collection from the Hello Kitty store.

But I soon developed an obsession outside of my Tween toys with the boy next door. I'd sit on the curb fronting our house to watch him throw a football and wish I were made of pigskin. I thought seriously about collecting the sweat beads that rolled down his forehead in a mason jar. I even contemplated doing

some Fairuza Balk-Neve Campbell love spells as seen in *The Craft* to get him to notice me.

And like the rom-coms heroines before me, Jordan never noticed me. I blamed our age gap and the gaping fact that I didn't have boobs yet to be desirable to him. But the fact that he never looked at or spoke to me only made my love for the unavailable him even stronger.

I secretly declared my love for him in little notes and unmarked letters I mostly wrote to myself. A few I even had the balls to actually leave in his mailbox anonymously but the majority was kept in a binder I carried everywhere I went. I wrote about Jordan, about the way his shoulders perfectly framed his surfer boy body, about the changing colors of the rubber bands on his braces, about the flavor of Lip Smackers (probably grape) I'd put on before we hypothetically kissed.

Though my writing started as a shrine to the awesomeness of Jordan, this purple Trapper Keeper, full of scribbles and notes, soon became the center of my emotional life. This journal of sorts transcended my puppy love and became a log of all the funny (hearing my baby brother Jeff repeat lines from our gazillionth viewing of *Friday*: Puff puff give...), the heartbreaking (Jordan getting a girlfriend and outgrowing our neighborhood gang) and the hopeful (the elaborate fantasies about my would-be adult life).

I soon realized that by writing things down, they became real to me. Writing was my way of making sense of our world in which I navigated and discovered what mattered to me most. And Jordan was the catalyst, the muse, the beautiful inspiration that gave me an excuse to write, a reason to discover my true passion.

On the subject of crushes and loves and even soul mates, the life-changing kind can awaken something inside of you. Richard from Texas in *Eat, Pray, Love* said a soul mate is someone who serves as "a mirror, the person who shows you everything that's holding you back...they tear down your walls and smack you awake."

My teenage dream smacked me awake, making me see oh so clearly the links between my unrequited love and the love of my life, which I know to be writing, telling stories, sharing a piece of my humanity with the world.

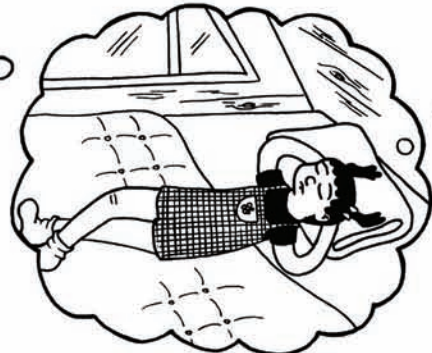
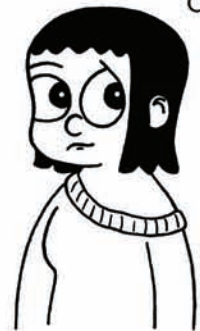
Though my crush dissolved, like a packet of Splenda in coffee, and I found love and partnership with Aaron years later, Jordan and the journal he unknowingly helped start, will always be this sweet, sweet reminder of my roots in love, writing and self-discovery. ▴

IS THIS IT?

BY JULIA WERTZ



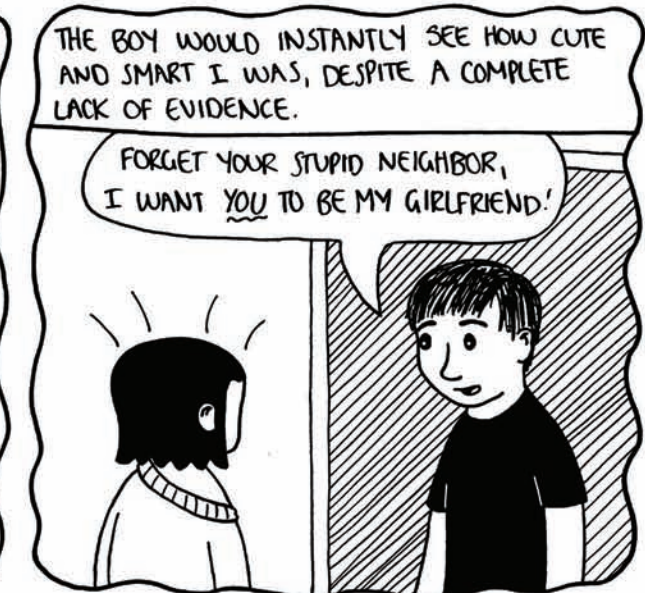
ONE NIGHT I WAS HANGING OUT AT HOME LIKE USUAL...  
 WHEN I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF MY OUTFIT IN THE WINDOW.  
 SUDDENLY, I RECALLED A LONG, FORGOTTEN FANTASY I ONCE HAD, AS A LITTLE GIRL WITH A HEAD FULL OF ROMANCE AND TIGER BEAT MAGAZINE. (THE OUTFIT IS IRRELEVANT, MERELY SERVING AS A FASHIONABLE LYNCHPIN IN MANY OF MY PRE-PUBESCENT FANTASIES)



ME AGE 8



ME IN MY 20'S



HEY

DUDE,

(THE BOY'S SECTION)





PHOTOGRAPHER / CHELSEA JADE  
STYLIST / IMOGEN WILSON  
FASHION ASSISTANT / LEAH NETTEN  
HAIR + MAKEUP / PHOEBE LEONARD  
MODEL / ANASTAZIA @ 62 MODELS  
ALL LINGERIE LONELY BY LONELY  
HEARTS ALL JEWELRY MANIA MA-  
NIA FROM BLACK BOX BOUTIQUE

## HOW TO GET THE GIRL

story / JACK GLOTTMAN

So you like a girl? What to do to get her to like you? I've been asked to give advice for us kind-of-shy, non-player, non-bad-boys type of guys, and I mean all this in the best sense. As a disclaimer I have to quote something Ray Charles said in an interview, "I don't give advice. I can say to people only what I have found out with me..."

So here are what I consider the basic elements one must keep in mind when undertaking such an endeavor. Remember, as with any endeavor, keeping your mind in the right place and sticking to these or your own guidelines can be a great deal of help. If you get to the point where you don't have to think about these things, or get better ideas than the ones I'm presenting, go for it, by all means. Yet, it's always nice to have something to

fall on for making order out of chaos, and this is where keeping these concepts in the back of your mind is useful. So without further ado let's dive right in.

"Eighty percent of success is showing up", is one of Woody Allen's more memorable utterings. Take note of that and realize that just by being at the place you need to be at and talking. You're really putting yourself out there and this is the defining thing that may count the most in the end, simple and obvious as it is.

Calm down. There's not much you can do about making someone like you, so you just got to give it your best shot and not worry too much. Besides, the whole 'liking' thing most likely happens subconsciously within fractions of seconds. Once it's happened, it's happened, she either likes

you or does not, and all you can do is find out.

Listen. I cannot stress enough the importance of this one, to the point where I'm thinking it might overrule what I wrote in the last paragraph. Needless to say, you ought to listen for signs that she likes you. More importantly though, just plain old listen to whatever she's saying, and it will win you many points.

Last but definitely not least, enjoy yourself. If you find any activity not to be fun, chances are you're not going to get very far at it. So when engaging a girl you like in conversation, make sure the process is somehow fun for you. If you really can't do this, then the next best thing to do is pretend that you can, and you may find yourself having fun. ■





# YOU WOULD GET *laid* MORE IF YOU LOOKED LIKE THIS

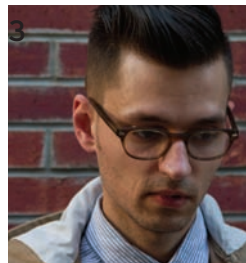


photographer / SHANNA FISHER

Michael Correy, our Design Director, has all of the attributes it takes to get a girl in the sack. Good face, gap teeth, glasses, a polished bring-home-to-mom type of vibe, and an unattainable presence (live-in girlfriend). He practically has "take me in the bathroom and fuck me" written all over him. However, this type of crush may be short lived, and for corruption purposes only. There is nothing like driving a guy who is a little too goody-goody into the arms of a girl that is not afraid to smoke, drink, swear, cry, fart, and experience a panic attack (sometimes all at the same time), in front of you. The great thing about this look is that it's doubtful that the girl will get attached. After she sees your 'O' face and hears for the tenth time how you think the iPad is the greatest invention ever, she will most likely not be satisfied, if not slightly disgusted, and banish you to her list of half smiles when she sees you in public. So all you pretentious nerds out there, take a clue from this guy!



- 1 shirt / j press
- 2 shoes / rachel comey
- 3 glasses / warby parker



## lonelyHEARTS

Their lingerie line, Lonely by Lonely Hearts, is a lustworthy collection of mesh, velvet and lace that has architectural lines yet retains its femininity via original floral prints and peek-a-boo cutouts. The mixtures of different fabrics heighten their sensual quality, and they feel like they can transform you into the woman you didn't know you could be. If you don't feel like hiding your lingerie, Lonely Hearts' ready-to-wear pieces give plenty of opportunities to show off your innerwear as part of your outfit. Whether it's their elaborate straps layered under sleeveless dresses, or sheer maxi dresses over lacy bodysuits, Lonely is a lingerie lover's dream.

What I love most about the beautiful collections from Lonely Hearts is that they seem to cater to the romance-obsessed girly girl, but if you look closely, small details throughout their label make the clothes feel, well, a tiny bit badass. And sometimes you need a bit of badass for protection, especially if you're a lonely heart in this world.

—Esther S. Kim, Founder & blogger, [PrettyLittleUnderthings.com](http://PrettyLittleUnderthings.com)



# dear DAS RACIST,



photographer / MEG WACHTER

Victor Vazquez (a.k.a Kool A.D.), Himanshu Suri (a.k.a Heems), and hype man, Ashkok Kondabolu (a.k.a Dap) form the Brooklyn-based rap trio, Das Racist. Unlike most rap groups, they produce a variational style that incorporates humor and satire to pose concerns about political and societal issues such as American consumerism. Since their "Combination Pizza Hut and Taco Bell" YouTube video fame, Das Racist has been attracting a lot of attention, having come out with a new album called *Relax* and they took some time to give some advice to some of our readers who needed to do just that with their relationship issues.

*How do you tell my boyfriend/girlfriend that I have an std.*

**Victor:** STD's aren't real just don't tell them.

**Dap:** If it's like Syphilis or Gonorrhea just get it fixed and don't tell them. If it's something like Herpes that they can get even if it's not flaring up you should probably tell them because if a woman get herpes if could make her sterile or barren and that's fucked up, but if its a clap type of thing and you just fucked someone get it fixed don't tell them. Honesty is not that important as long as you are a good person.

*I just starting dating this guys and he doesn't text me nearly as much as he used to when we first started dating how do I get him back into it?*

**Victor:** You shouldn't text him anymore, probably.

**Dap:** Treat him like a little animal and let him come to you.



**Heems:** Treat him like the dog that he is.

**Victor:** he's fucking your girlfriend, he's fucking your best friend.

**Dap:** Man, woman it doesn't matter who your best friend is he's fucking them. I don't know suck his dick, whatever!

*How do you know when the right time to have sex with your boyfriend or girlfriend?*

**Dap:** Whenever you want to! What is this 1950s?

**Victor:** Wait till you're married.

**Heems:** You know when you are ready, you feel it.

**Dap:** When blood rushes to your vagina or penis I think it's time go. ■



## Rebecca Minkoff answers questions about GAVIN.



**How do you guys influence each other's work?**

We love telling each other the things that are currently influencing us, new music, new trends and so we'll play off of each other.

**What is the best thing about being in a relationship with another person in the creative field?**

They understand what you are going through at work.

**Do you have any bodies of work in where you were each others muse?**

Yes! Ben Minkoff, my men's line is partly inspired by Gavin.

**What's your favorite thing about**

**what he does?**

Being 7 and 1/2 months pregnant... lately it's been giving me massages when I need them!

**What was your favorite thing about getting married in Italy?**

All of our friends being away together in our favorite place

**How did he propose?**

After several attempts at a romantic proposal I kept ruining he did it right before bed. it was perfect.

**Any couple's advice you can give our readers?**

Support each other, love each other and be each other's friend! ■

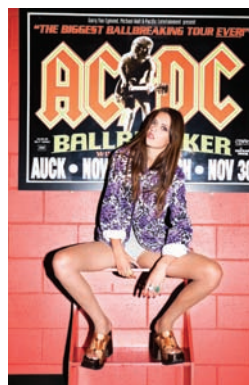
however it was played.

Blake's use of vocoder does not automatically make him the electronic Bon Iver, as he's been touted to be, but lately his songwriting process has been evolving into a more intimate human style that aligns him with Justin Vernon. "There's a song I've been playing live which is unadulterated, in that when I first recorded it I had a certain sort of poem and I just improvised the whole thing really, including the piano part. I recorded the whole thing together at the same time. I just looked at the lyrics and thought, right, I'm not gonna think about it, I'm just gonna sing it & play it. I believe that's what most people do [laughs], but I just never worked like that. It all just came out at once. I kind of had to be in a mind-state where I really believed the lyric, where I really believed what I was doing. When I was in that mind-state I came out with a cool song. I haven't changed it at all, in fact, the original recording was done on a Dictaphone and it might be the one I release."

Having become a fixture of blogs and magazines, Blake has as well become the obscure object of desire to a large amount of young, lovelorn ladies. Is there someone or something he finds himself thinking of often, if not daily? "Well, everyone thinks about the same thing, really," he discloses. "They think about meeting people—they think about when they're gonna fall in love or if they're not going to. Or how pissed they are that they're not in love anymore. But I'm not. I don't know, weirdly, I anticipate emotion as a thing to use. I remember a time at University, when being fairly inexperienced—not that I'm hardened now—but being fairly inexperienced at the time, I kind of got blown off, you know, not treated very well by this girl and I took it to heart. But then I realized that, at the time it was actually an incredibly useful thing to have happened to me, because I came out and wrote an amazing thing that I felt was the best thing I'd done for months. So, even in the moment of extreme bitterness, I was kind of reveling in this sort of silver lining which was the fact that I was about to write something very good."

In closing, here's a fan-quote overheard at his show:  
 Q: "How do I get James to be my boyfriend?"  
 A: "Tell him you have a cool hall with a cool ghost in it. And then see if he wants to sing to it." ▀

*we love rock and roll  
 put a dime in my jukebox baby...*



Photography / SARA ORME  
 Stylist / IMOGEN WILSON  
 Stylist Assistant / LEAH NETTEN  
 Photographer Assistant/ HAYLEY BAYLIFFE  
 Makeup +Hair / PHOEBE LEONARD  
 Models / KATIE and JORDAN at 62 MODELS  
 Thanks to PONSONBY POOL HALL

collection on one person. Mix it up.

**Coco:** We're totally opposite. I'm really about basics. I love black. It's my favorite color. And I really like simple shapes and 50s beatnic kind of stuff. I'll wear my faded t-shirts and I really love coats. I'm super simple. I like taking super simple J.Crew pieces, and busting them up. I like the straight forward, simple beat poet look. Kind of freaked out and destroyed in a little way. That's my favorite jam.

**Jem:** Graveyard chic. That was the old look. I don't know what the new look is. Maybe a modern-take. Just little skinny long legs and tight pants. I used to wear ascots. But now just leather jacket and tight black pants. Just rock and roll. Yeah, I don't know. Plaid shirts?

*How does it feel to have Sympathy for the Record Industry putting out your newest release Wicked Will?*

**Coco:** We talked about it since Long Gone John released our first album, *Shake the Dust*, in 2006 and then he went kind of dormant for a couple of years. He was moving and reorganizing the catalog. He has over 780 releases. So it's really a substantial piece of recent musical history over the last 20 years. So it was a great thing to be a part of. So I kept pestering him about when he's coming back and it just turned out that we had an album at the same time he was ready so we did it together. We single-handedly resurrected Sympathy for the Record Industry. We're not done. We have our very own imprint now, our very own record label called Fond Object. So we get to keep bringing stuff back from Sympathy. And we get to keep putting out new stuff on our new label. It's a new era but we don't want Sympathy and that catalog and those artists forgotten. Without Sympathy there would be no White Stripes. There wouldn't be all this stuff that impacted the last 15 years of modern rock and roll, of which there have been some great artists. So when you tell the kids these days with their ipods and everything and you're like, "Do you know Sympathy?". They're all like, "No." And that's not acceptable. So we're gonna find a way to bring back at least the good parts. 780 plus releases, there's bound to be some garbage and there is. But the stuff that's great in there, it can't go. The digital generation can't go without it and I'll see to it.

way. We're able to be more direct with each other and more direct with the people we work with cause it's like "boom".

*Do you guys have any celebrity crushes?*

**Coco:** I have a crush on Oscar Werner from *Jules et Jim*. I don't live in the modern days. I like his face. I think he's Austrian. He's dead.

**Poni:** Brian Jones. He's dead. He's murdered.

**Jem:** Monica Bellucci.

**Poni:** Jem likes the Italian ladies with the big boobies. ▀



“WE  
 LOVE  
 YOU MORE  
 THAN  
 ANYONE’S  
 LOVED ANYBODY  
 IN THE HISTORY  
 OF TIME.”

JADE SYNSTELIEN OF THE FAT CAT BIG BAND

*stockist*

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