

# Art Department



Christine Baker

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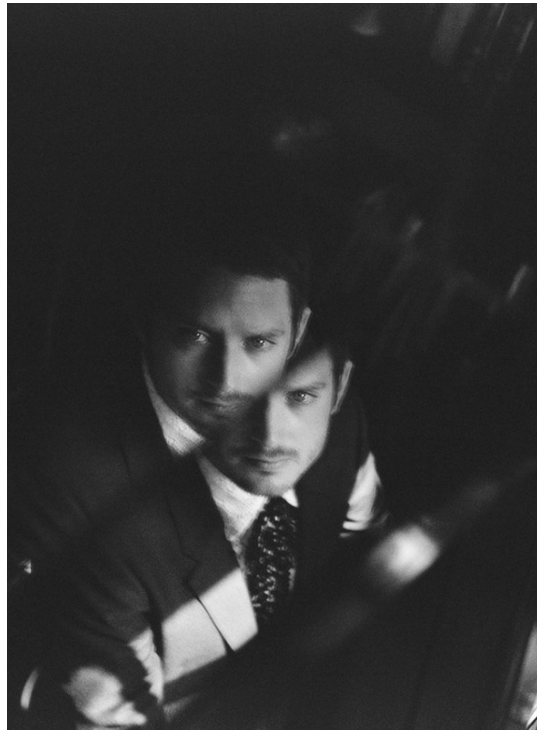


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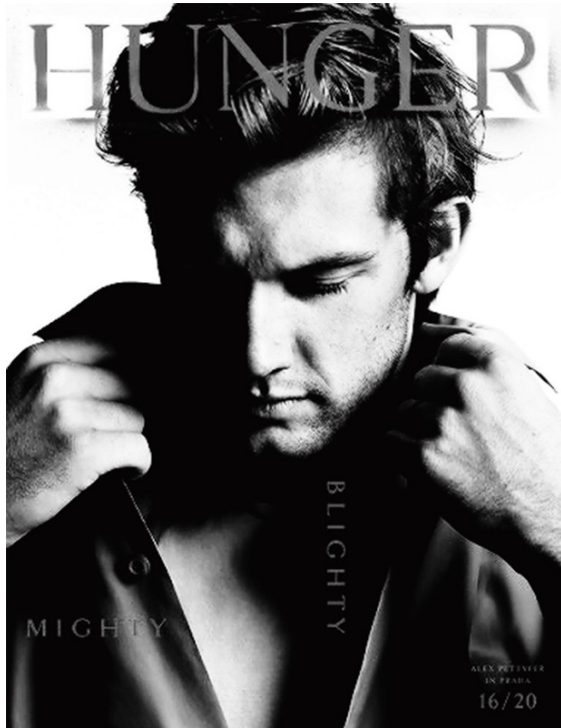
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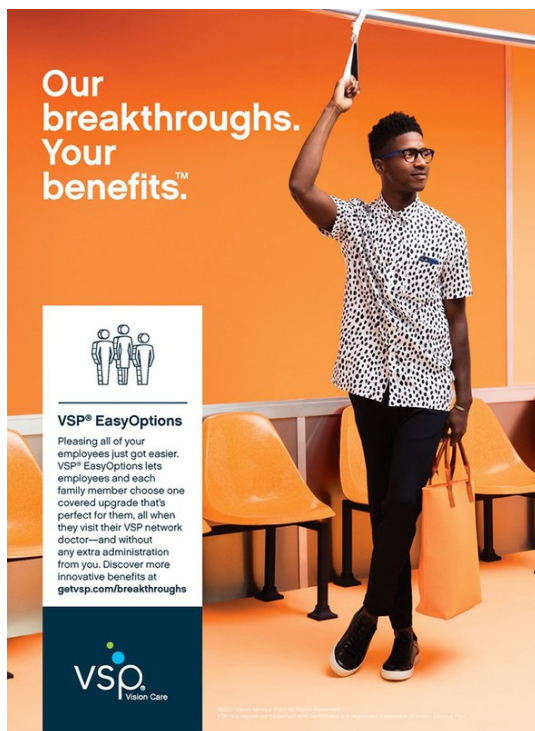


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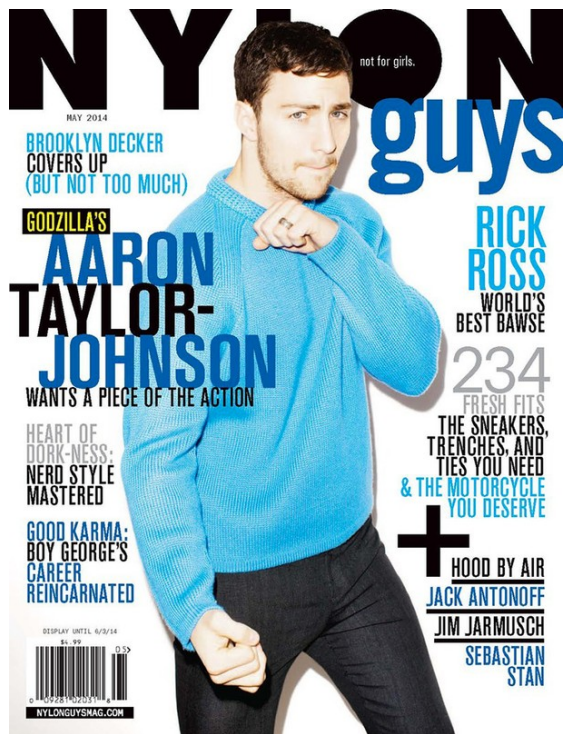
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mesmerized by Javier Bardem's character's grotesque injury, mutters, "Look at that fuckin' bone!"

"I didn't say the F-word in the audition, because it was against my morals, but they cost me anyway," Jones says now, extinguishing a cigarette that he will later put in his pocket rather than toss on the patio. He was raised in a strict Christian household that forbade most of the Coen brothers' oeuvre. Originally, Jones wanted to be a drummer, but, cowed by the talent of his grandfather, who played professionally with jazz and gospel bands, he switched to acting and took roles in small high-school productions often written and directed by his teachers. "It gave me the opportunity to express myself. He [his grandfather] never allowed to before," he says. "I was getting a reaction from people who might not look at me twice otherwise." He was plucked for the part in *No Country* by an agent's assistant, and that was followed by a small role in the belated *Friday Night Lights* as the drummer for Crucifiction, the Christian rock band fronted by Jesse Plemons's Lundy.

No one is more surprised by Jones's fast ascent than the actor himself. "I'm not the first candidate for roles—I think I have to do with freckles, red hair, and pale skin," he says, smiling. The directors of this

year's *Amiral* and *Byzantium* obviously disagree. The former is the oddly disturbing debut of Brandon Cronenberg (son of David) in which Jones for the first time stars, playing the ill employee of a clinic that harvests diseases from celebrities to infect paying clients. "It was cool because we lost our cherry together," he says of working with the first-time director. Jones is similarly conspirative in this month's *Byzantium*, a gothic drama about a mother-daughter vampire duo struggling to survive in a British seaside town, directed by interview *With the Vampire's* Neil Jordan. This time, he suffers from leukemia, and is flirting with the immortality afforded by his blood-sucking love interest, Eleanor (Saoirse Ronan).

"I made myself fall in love with Eleanor," Jones says. "I don't know if I put too much of myself into that role." He's smoking a joint now, and it's clear that tenacity comes easily to him. He punches his knees for emphasis when talking about things that excite him, from his favorite character in *East of Eden* (the manipulative Cathy) to the early film of Michael Haneke, and in between talk of that and the existence of

God, the actor drops hints that his feelings for his *Byzantium* co-star might not have been confined to the screen.

Regardless, he is single at the moment—and marveling at the tight, all-black ensembles of the passing waitresses. "How do you feel going to work every day in that outfit?" he wonders. "Knowing everybody's looking at the curve, that curve. If *Byzantium* was married to me—I couldn't have that, knowing that this many guys were masturbating over my woman?" Jones is prone to a certain asceticism. He says he didn't drink or have sex for months in 2010 when he was between work, a streak that ended with *X-Men*. Now he is again looking for his next opportunity—his red hair is still long from his last two films, and currently pulled in a knot—and this has meant being home in his small apartment for more time than he'd like. "I don't have a fridge," he says. "I like making things worse sometimes."

Having to go, "Fuck, I'm hungry at 2 a.m., I wish I had some cereal, but I don't." Since Steven Spielberg dashed his teenage dream of tackling Stanley Kubrick's never-made *Napoleon* masterpiece—Jones is half-pledging about this—he's looking for other work, and earlier in the week he had an audition. "It's nothing that's going to help humanity," Jones says. "But I want to express something to humans."



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shirt and necktie  
by MICHAEL, STYLING BY  
SAOIRSE RONAN, STYLING BY  
JAMES, STYLING BY  
OPPOSITE: sweater  
by KIMBLE, STYLING BY  
MICHAEL, STYLING BY  
JAMES, STYLING BY  
SAOIRSE RONAN, STYLING BY  
JAMES, STYLING BY



stylist:  
CHRISTINE BAKER  
groomer: JESSICA  
age: 21  
artist: JESSICA  
in her fashion  
assistant:  
SAOIRSE RONAN  
shot at page 53  
SAOIRSE RONAN  
SAOIRSE RONAN

cardigan by MICHAEL,  
shirt by MICHAEL, STYLING  
BY MICHAEL, STYLING BY  
JAMES, STYLING BY  
CHRISTINE BAKER



"i don't have a fridge, i like making things worse some-  
times. having to go, i'm hungry at 2 a.m., i wish i had  
some cereal, but i don't."

sweater and shoes  
by MICHAEL, STYLING BY  
JAMES, STYLING BY

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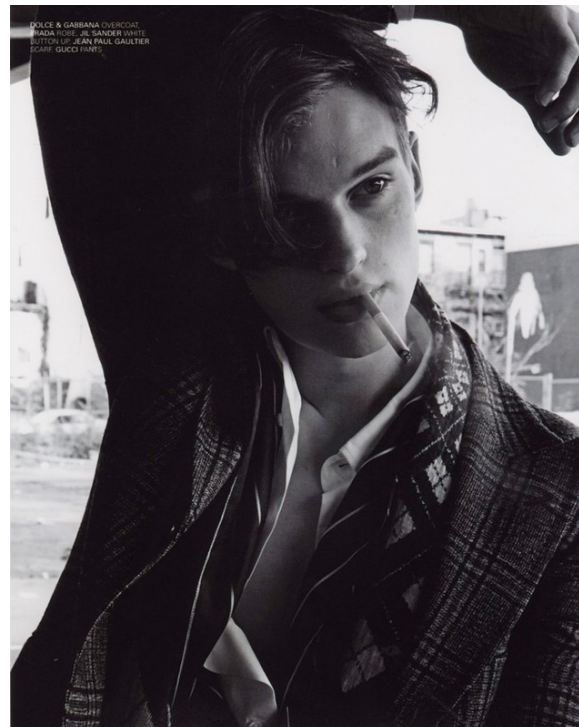
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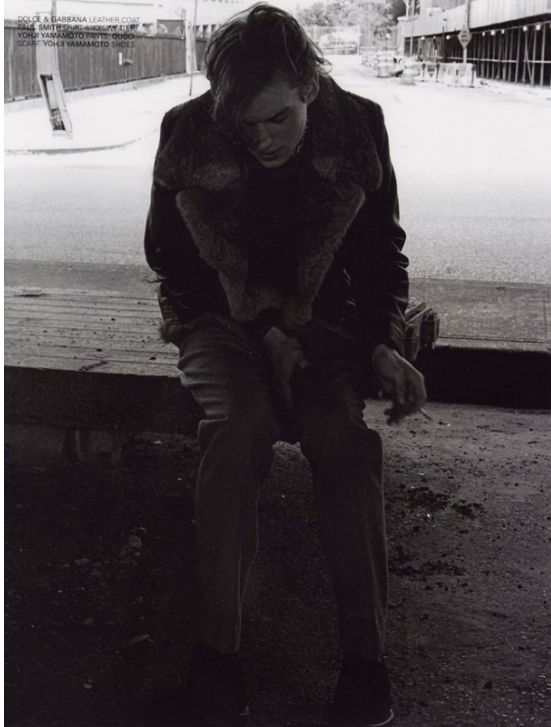
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