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RED-BLOODED AMERICANS.

BY AMERICANS WHO

BLEED THE SAME RED.

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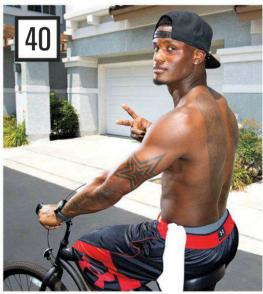






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EMBRACE THE LIFESTYLE.





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subscription info

prestige fulfillment 888-465-3305

subscriptions@themagstore.com

INKED, ISSN (1555-8630) Issue 59, is published bi-monthly by Quadra Media, LLC 12 West 27th St, 10th floor, New York, NY 10001. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Inked Magazine, P.O. Box 8607, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310-9965.



AN EVENING OF LIGHT SABERS, POWER TOOLS, ZOMBIES AND HALF NAKED WOMEN.



The Suicide Girls

BLACKHEART BURLESQUE



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INKWELL

















HALLOWEEN HAS BECOME TATTOO DAY FOR REGULAR FOLK. It is the day that conservative people express their repressed feelings by altering their look. The meek college professor releases her cleavage as a "sexy librarian," and the guy in middle-management ditches his khakis and puts on a Bane mask for an evening before it's back to cardigans and oxfords for the next 364 days. In the inked community there are tenured professors with pinup tattoos and more than a few 9-to-5ers that carry around Batman villain tattoos every day. Henceforth, let's claim October as Tattoo Appreciation Month for all.

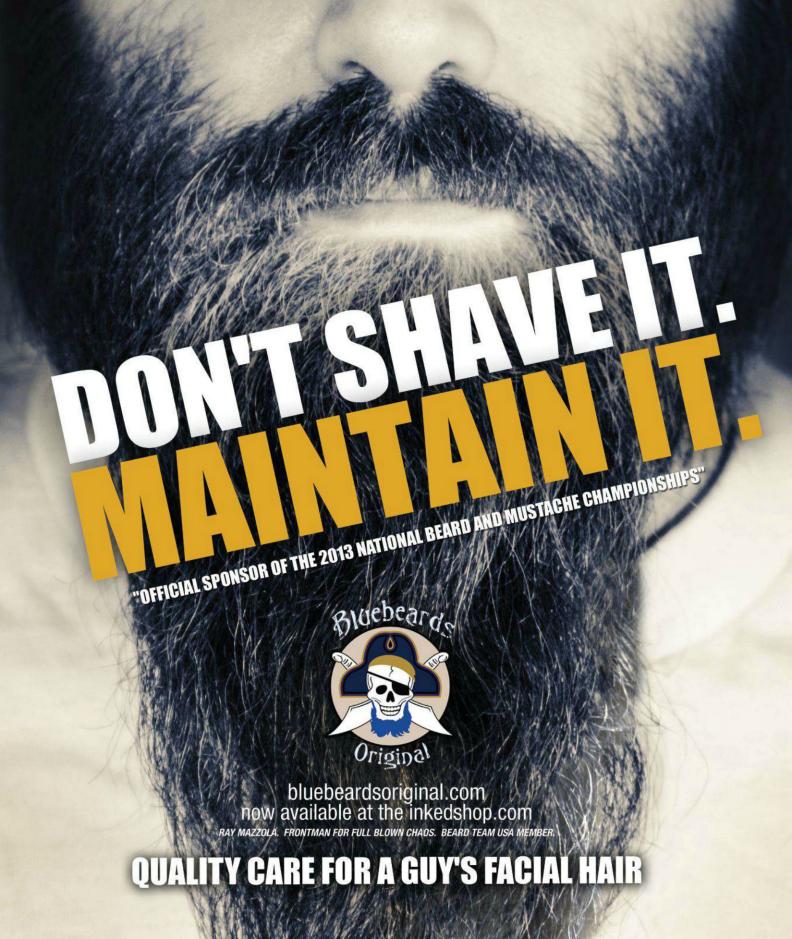
Getting into the spirit of the Halloween season, this is our first-ever Horror Issue. Personally, I was nervous to dispatch our photo editor, Liz Green (1), and writer Charlie Connell (2) to Gwar's lair, but they came back in two pieces with one hell of a story. Ilana Glickman (3) also found herself in a frightening setting as she navigated the spooky labyrinth of Sleep No More for the INKED Play column. And in a haunting motel, Bradley Meinz (4) shot-sorry, photographed-horror movie babes such as Halloween's Danielle Harris, whom Gil Macias (5) profiles.

Chris Alexander's (6) day job is editing Fangoria, and so we tapped him to interview the legendary special effects and makeup artist Tom Savini. While you might not recognize Savini, you've seen his work on films like Day of the Dead and Friday the 13th. Behind the scenes on this issue, aesthetician Roxanne Crisp (7) gave us tips on exfoliating dead skin for INKED Groom, and the tattooed hands rocking creepy rings in "Skull and Bones" belong to Brian Shapiro (8), the man behind the crummy Johnny Cash mask.

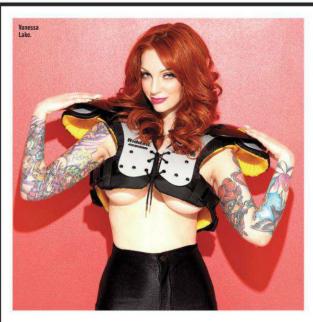
Read on if you dare.

Rocky Rakovic

editor@inkedmag.com



MAIL



SPORTY SPICE

Total babe! I loved Vanessa Lake's story in the September issue! She's an inspiration to ladies with tattoos, like me, who want to make it in the modeling world. Who knew sportswear could look so hot! Cassandra Bordner, Waco, TX

IT CAME FROM THE DEEP

I am an officer in the Royal Navy (British) and first discovered INKED when I was on exchange to the USN in Groton, CT. Having returned to the United Kingdom to take command of one of our nuclear-powered hunter/killer boats I remain an INKED aficionado, which I guess makes me an underwater supporter! Frankly, the domestic magazines in the U.K. don't get near your production standards, let alone the variety and interest value of your articles. I regularly have my interest piqued by your Playlists, my most recent downloads being The Bronx and Big Black Delta. And your photo shoots are great-the picture of Prissy Daugherty in the March issue actually made me drop my bacon sandwich! Anyway, I just wanted to say strong work and keep it up, chaps.

AJ Aitken

Across the Pond

BULLY FOR US

Thank you so much for coming to a Red Bulls game ("Running With the Bulls," September issue). You don't see many magazines writing about American soccer, let alone a tattoo magazine. You nailed the experience: It is organized chaos. We might seem like hooligans, but we are far from it. My only issue with you is that you didn't take a picture of my tattoos! Steve Cervelli

Section 101, Red Bull Arena Harrison, NJ

PERFECT FORM

Mankofit!!! I've been following her for months on Instagram but never thought I'd see her in INKED. Kudos to you for recognizing strong women are beautiful. Just because we have muscle doesn't mean that we aren't feminine and sexy!

Jess Gowan

Boston

facebook

CHER LLOYD

LARRY PILCH Absolutely Beautiful! **BOBBY BECERRAJR** What a beautiful woman she is.

DINESHA DOLLFACE GOODMAN She's sexy as hell.

CHRISTMAS ABBOTT

KELBY ANDERSON Yes she is smokin, and on a NASCAR pit crew. How awesome is that?

ALIX KNOTEK Most badass crossfitter. Kicks ass and is hot ... jealous!

RUSSELL EDWARD RUDELL Um, I would marry this woman.

JOE ROGAN

BARRY DONAHUE This dude is ripped and brilliant.

FRED SCOTT I had no idea Joe Rogan had ink!

VANESSA LAKE

SHELLEE BOULWARE ROBBINS One of the best photos I have seen, y'all. ARIELLE L. CORDOVA Her Alice in Wonderland sleeve is fuckin awesome!

VIDEO VIXEN: CERVENA FOX

JESUS SANCHEZ She looks like Jessica Rabbit with tats.

TONY TABOAS Gorgeous art, beautiful canvas, and fetching photo.

MANKOFIT

JONALLE BOUCHON This girl is a huge inspiration, showing that females can be strong, tattooed, and still look damn good.





WRITE US. GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? SEND ALL PRAISE, NOTES OF COMPLAINT, STORY SUG-GESTIONS, AND OTHER COMMENTS TO LETTERS@INKEDMAG.COM. ALL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD INCLUDE THE WRITER'S NAME AND ADDRESS. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CLARITY, LENGTH, AND CONTENT. ALSO JOIN THE PARTY AT FACEBOOK.COM/INKEDMAG.

INKED LIFE

DRINK. GROOM. GO.



STYLIST, MADELINE DAWSON; MAKEUP, STEPHANIE PEREZ; HAR, AIKO KAHN; VINTAGE TANK TOP, FOREVER 21 SHORTS, NOCTEX GARTERS, JEFREY CAMPBELL SHOES, AMERICAN EAGLE NECKLACE, STYLISTS OWN RING, MODEL'S OWN PLUGS



ARADISE BY THE

Adele walked into Bang Bang Tattoos on New York's Lower East Side with an "A" inked behind her ear, and she left with sharp lettering work from the tattooer to the stars. Bang Bang emblazoned the side of the Grammywinner's hand with the word "Paradise."



INK MY WHOLE BODY

Months before rapper Wiz Khalifa and former INKED cover airl Amber Rose tied the knot. Rose went to the tattoo shop to get an image of Wiz tattooed on her arm. The blackand-gray portrait shows the smiling rapper and includes his neck tattoos in the ink.



AMERICAN ICON

As part of Harley-Davidson's 110th anniversary, the company helped set up Tattoo, an exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum. The Milwaukeebased motorcycle manufacturer and American staple brought to life the works of legendary tattooer Amund Dietzel, who moved to the city in 1913. The MAM explains the installment as a celebration "in the midst of what many consider a renaissance of tattooing. ... Dietzel helped define the look of the traditional or old-School tattoo, kept the practice alive through two world wars, and passed on his craft to future generations."



ELECTION INK

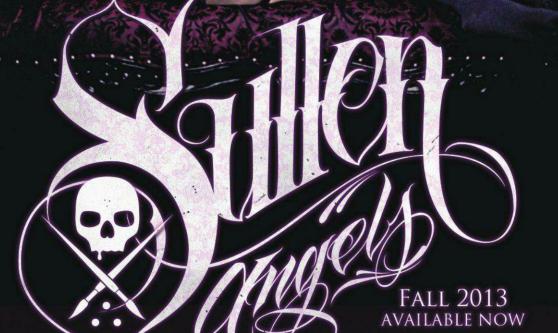
To garner interest for Saints Row IV, video game company Deep Silver created the website saintsgov.com, with fake government petitions to enact new laws, including one that calls for a Free Tattoo Friday. The petition reads: "Devoted to The Saints? Enact this law and all tattoo shops must offer free Saints Row tattoos on the first Friday of every month." Even though the game's audience is well-inked, more people voted to change the national bird to The Bird, the middle finger.





CURRENT MVPS IN THE FOUR MAJOR AMERICAN SPORTS ARE TATTOOED.

MLB (AL): MIGUEL CABRERA // NBA: LEBRON JAMES // NHL: ALEXANDER OVECHKIN // NFL: ADRIAN PETERSON



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www.sullenclothing.com



Flavors like maple and honey take the sting out of whiskey.

One of the most problematic decisions you make at a bar is what kind of shot to order for a large group. It's like ordering pizza or doughnuts at the office—somebody wants pepperoni, somebody needs a vegetarian option, another person would like anchovies, and Carol really wants chocolate sprinkles. No, Carol, the pizzeria doesn't have sprinkles.

The worst thing you can do is take shot orders from your group. Not only do you run into the problem of trying to remember the list, it's a pain in the ass for the bartender to make six different shots. So what do you do? The novice drinkers prefer SoCo and lime shots or lemon drops; the

party boys want tequila with salt; and the twofisted drinkers want Malört. Instead, give them flavored whiskey. The up-front sweetness will be palatable to all, and they have a kick that lets real men know they are still alive.

Taking a note from the vodka industry, which has been doing flavor infusions for years, whiskey brands such as Jack Daniel's, Crown Royal, Jeremiah Weed, and others are starting to swirl flavors like honey, maple, and cherry into their concoctions. The results are bottles that will be welcomed at any party—and a promise that we've drank our last Buttery Nipple. —*Rocky Rakovic*

COCKTAIL CONVERSATION

A chat with **Kanna Smith, a.k.a. Dagger**, a server at the Baby Dolls Lounge in Eli Roth's Goretorium, a year-round haunted house in Las Vegas.

How is it to work at a haunted house? There isn't anything else like it. We have all been to haunted houses before, but this one has two bars that are themed to match the incredible detail inside the haunt itself.

What kind of crowd do you draw? We get all kinds of people because we boast such a fantastic view of The Strip. Of course we also get a lot of horror fans, the stereotypical goth crowd, and people with horror tattoos—and lots of piercings. I like those who appreciate the art in all the blood, guts, and gore in the haunt.

Certainly you have specialty drinks ... I like Eli Roth's Blood: Stoli Blueberi, blue curaçao, cranberry juice, lime juice, and rock candy syrup.

Does your uniform show off your tattoos? My uniform is pretty revealing. Usually I wear a cropped shirt and a short skirt so my tattoos are visible. I get the most comments on my side piece, just because it is so big. Though people also ask me about my chest piece, which reads, "There's beauty in the breakdown."

Is your arm piece part of your outfit, or is that a tattoo? More and more I get asked about my forearm. The tattoo makes it look as if my arm has been cut open, the skin peeled back, and the inside of it exposed with some mediocre stitches on each side of the wound. It's a very gory tattoo.



CROWN ROYAL MAPLE FINISHED WHISKY

Already possessing the caramel color of maple syrup, this whiskey has caramel and vanilla tones that meld well with its mapletoasted oak flavor.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE HONEY

The official shot of INKED staff parties is incredibly smooth without being sugary. The smokiness of Old No. 7 plays nicely with the honey, whether served warm or chilled.



JEREMIAH WEED CHERRY MASH

Jeremiah Weed carefully added a touch of cherry to its 90 proof bourbon. Bartenders have worked with this flavor pairing for decades, and it's a good base for a Manhattan.

16 | INKEDMAG.COM photo by ERIC ITA



INKED LIFE | view











DARK ARTS

Come, if you dare, and visit the brain of Alex Pardee through his artwork.

When he was just 14, Alex Pardee was diagnosed with depression and anxiety and was admitted to a mental hospital, where he stayed for a few weeks. "While I was in there my parents brought me a book called The Draw Squad, which was an

instructional book on how to draw," Pardee says. "I realized at that time that drawing was the only thing that was able to make me feel better."

Now a grown-up, at least in age, Pardee gifts the world his art, which is equal parts horror and comedy. One of the best examples: a piece from his series "The Butcher Kings" in which the Rice Krispies mascots are given The Human Centipede treatment.

"I like drawing wrinkles, and I like messy splashes of red paint, and I like sharp teeth and tentacles and scrunched-up faces," explains Pardee of his style. And when asked which compartment his brain unlocks while he's creating, he answers, "It's more like rooms, and I think that most of my art comes from the bathroom of my brain."

In addition to painting, Pardee has created comic books, apparel, and album artwork for the rock group The Used. The method he uses to create his art is just as unique as the art itself. "I love making a mess with paint and then having the ability to control that mess by drawing and inking on top of the mess," Pardee says. "My preferred method is making a mess with watercolors, and then using a brush and india ink on top of it to make something hopefully cohesive out of it." -Trevor Lewis





HEADS WILL ROLL

Minnesota Fats meets Elvira with these skulls carved out of a set of billiard balls (\$4,795, theevolutionstore.com).



This is a cap that you can wear forever, and ever, and ever ... The Weir Overlook Special Edition hat (about \$41, shop. casualco.com) is inspired by the infamous carpet in The Shining.



Fashioned to replicate Jason's mask in the Friday the 13th franchise, the Forest Green Frenzy Jason replica mask (\$105, houseof mysterioussecrets.com) will put fear into the kids at Crystal Lake.

FREAKY FRIDAY



Back in 1922, when vampires didn't go to high school or have dreamy hair, there was Count Orlok of Nosferatu. Tattooist Edgar Armendariz captured his spirit on custom Vans (\$180, deadgartattoos.com).



HORROR BOWL

Need something to read while in the water closet? Japanese horror novel The Drop by Koji Suzuki is printed across three rolls of toilet paper (about \$11, thefowndry.com)











HAIR **BRAINED**

Uppercut Monster Hold pomade (\$23, amazon. com) makes even Dr. Frankenstein's grotesque creation look sharp.



BRIGHT IDEA

Before the invention of light bulbs, when people were struck with ideas they imagined a lit wick above their head. Actually, we have no idea if that's true, but the Brain in a Jar Candle (\$20, thegeminicompany.com) is pretty cool when lit.



this life-size, biodegradable Bobo Zombie Bleeding Zombie Target (\$90, zombieindustries.com) designed to look like a undead clown that is after braaaaaiiinns.

MASKERADE

This is no Halloween store costume. CFX Composite Effects has an extensive collection of masks, does masks of the month, and will work on custom requests. Seen here is the Horseman of Pestilence (\$670, compositeeffects.com).

BOARD TO DEATH

Zombie chicks make everything better, including a snow-covered half-pipe. Hit the slopes with this new Horrorscope FK Capita snowboards (\$250-\$270, capitasnowboarding.com) and try not to eat it.

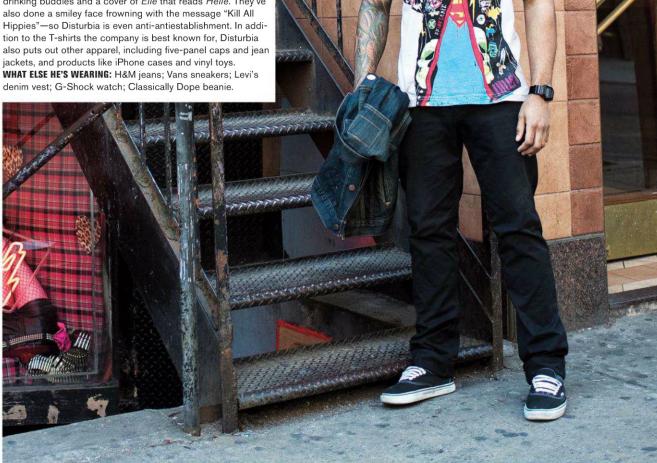
INK ON THE STREET

SUBJECT: William Feliz

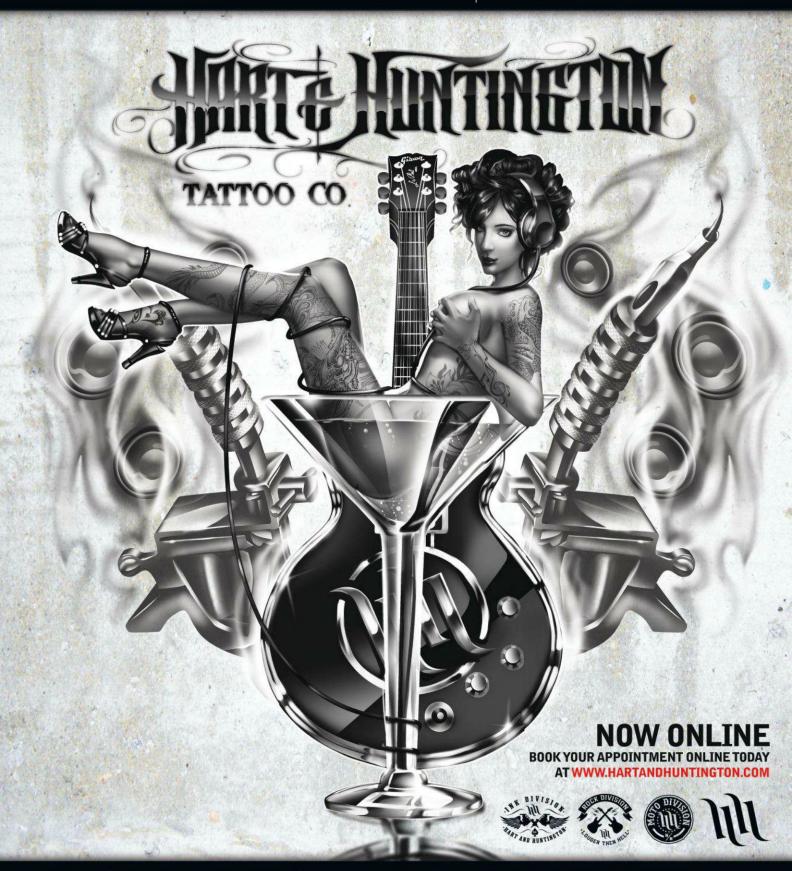
SPOTTED: Union Square, New York City

WHERE HE GETS INKED: Devil's Ink Tattoos on NYC's Upper East Side. Artist Gordo used green, orange, yellow, white, and pink to create Feliz's forearm sleeve that features a dragon with cherry blossoms. "I got the tattoo because dragons are fearless and determined, and that defines me as a person," says Feliz. "I am always striving to achieve and accomplish my goals, and having the tattoo gives me opportunities to have that exposed to the world. I usually wear short-sleeved T-shirts or tank tops for that reason."

WHAT HE'S WEARING: Disturbia tank top (\$26, disturbia.co.uk). BRAND BACKSTORY: Ten years ago—"long before the Spielberg movie, and ages before the Rihanna song of the same name"—Francis J Major named his streetwear clothing company Disturbia, a portmanteau of disturb and suburbia. The U.K. outfitter describes itself as "left of centre" and creates shirts with antiestablishment designs, like Alf and E.T. as drinking buddies and a cover of Elle that reads Helle. They've also done a smiley face frowning with the message "Kill All Hippies"—so Disturbia is even anti-antiestablishment. In addition to the T-shirts the company is best known for, Disturbia also puts out other apparel, including five-panel caps and jean jackets, and products like iPhone cases and vinyl toys.



22 | INKEDMAG.COM photo by DANIEL EDWARD



> FEATURE PRESENTATION



You'll be a little sketched out and highly stimulated by the Sleep No More production.

When you first approach the McKittrick Hotel in New York City, you might find a long line similar to the kind you'd typically see outside a

swanky club. And once you step foot in the mysterious, eerie entryway, the surprises continue. The dark, bare-walled hallway will remind you of the

haunted houses you loved and feared in your youth, but this time, it's different-more high-minded.

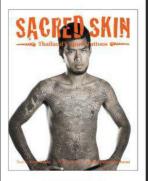
Sleep No More (sleep nomorenyc.com) jams the

senses by putting audience members in masks, turning them around a few times, and releasing them into a Choose Your Own Adventure-type immersive theater experience. The setting is the 1920s and the story line is loosely that of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Everyone along for the ride is as perplexed as you are as you traverse dark corridors eerily designed to resemble an asylum, cemetery, nursery,

Eventually you piece it all together, and the operative word is you, as it is up to you to navigate the halls and interact with the actors. Evocative and thrilling, the experience is pure art. And because you remain in control of how the production unfolds, you can return again and choose a different path for another unique experience. -Ilana Glickman

and even a bloody bath.

> BOOK



THAI DYED I never thought of Thailand as a place with

a strong tattoo culture, but my assumption was proven incorrect once I saw the intricate artwork of Sacred Skin: Thailand's Spirit Tattoos. Throughout the pages. author Tom Vater and photographer Aroon Thaewchatturat present beautiful sak yant (sacred Thai tattoos), which are traditionally applied by Buddhist monks. The book explores every angle of the mysterious hallowed craft, from its history to meanings of the spiritual artwork. -Trevor Lewis



CARRIE

Chloë Grace Moretz (Kickass, Let Me In) stars in this reimagining of the classic Stephen King horror tale about Carrie White, a shy, awkward teen girl who is bullied by her high school peers and lives at home with her religious whack job of a mother (Julianne Moore). Carrie has brewing telekinetic powers that become fully ignited after she's pushed to the edge at her senior prom. Bloody hell breaks loose-literally. The 1976 version directed by Brian De Palma is already a worthy adaptation, so to the makers of this film: Please don't fuck it up, or we're all gonna laugh at you! -Gil Macias



ESCAPE PLAN

It's no secret that Arnie is back, and once again, he's teaming up with Sylvester Stallone. This prison break action flick feels like 1985 all over again. Ray Breslin (Stallone) is a pro at escaping from any prison known to man, but this time his skills are put to the ultimate test after he's doublecrossed and wrongly imprisoned in a top-secret, high-tech facility called The Tomb. Breslin recruits fellow inmate Swan Rottmayer (Schwarzenegger) to help him devise a plan to escape the most advanced prison ever built and to find out who framed him. Jim Caviezel, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, and Vincent D'Onofrio all costar. -G.M.



GRAVITY

From visionary director Alfonso Cuarón (Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Children of Men) comes this realistic sci-fi thriller about two astronauts (played by Sandra Bullock and George Clooney) drifting alone in space after their shuttle is destroyed by space debris. If you haven't seen any of the trailers for this, jump on YouTube and watch them now. Not only are they visually striking, they're heart-pounding, terrifying, and hair-raising as fuck. Cuarón's trademark long, continuous shots are in full effect, and they're gorgeous. This is going to be one intense ride. -G.M.





FRIDAY THE 13th: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

Forget that measly eight-film DVD set from a while back. This is the real deal horror fans have been clamoring for. What's monumental about the Friday the 13th: The Complete Collection is that Paramount and Warner Bros. have struck a deal so all 12 films starring the beloved hockey-masked maniac are together in one complete Blu-ray set for the first time. You get a sexy tin case, a 40-page photo booklet, a Camp Crystal Lake counselor patch, and endless hours of bloody fantastic bonus features. The collection is available this month. Guess which day. -G.M.



INKED LIFE | play

> VIDEO GAMES



BATMAN: ARKHAM ORIGINS

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, WII U. PC

When the young Dark Knight disrupts the business of a few too many criminal masterminds, they make it their mission to end his vigilante campaign once and for all. On Christmas Eve mob boss Black Mask puts a handsome bounty on the caped crusader, turning the hunter into the hunted. With Gotham's most dangerous villains all gunning for his head, making it to Christmas morning is far from a given. Batman must tread lightly through the sprawling open city of Gotham, seizing opportunities to catch the dangerous criminals unaware. A new detective mode helps Batman scrub through evidence for clues about which scoundrels are hunting him down, and he'll need to rely on a new array of gadgets and combat moves to escape the holidays alive. PLAY IF YOU LIKE: The Dark Knight Rises, Batman: Year One, Legends of the Dark Knight -Matt Bertz



BEYOND: TWO SOULS PLATFORM: PLAYSTATION 3

Many games try to bridge the gap between interactive entertainment and film, but few are more successful than Quantic Dream's PlayStation 3 exclusive Heavy Rain. For the follow-up, the French developer turns its gaze toward the supernatural with Beyond: Two Souls. Film starlet Ellen Page stars in this psychological thriller about a young girl named Jodie Holmes and the powerful bond she shares with a paranormal entity named Aiden. The game tracks Holmes from her tumultuous teenage years and into her adult life as a CIA operative. Whenever she enters a sticky situation, players can assume control of her spirit companion to create diversions or possess perceived threats and make them commit suicide. Not a bad ace in the hole. PLAY IF YOU LIKE: Heavy Rain, Inception, Paranormal Activity -M.B.



NBA 2K14

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360

Fresh off two world championships, LeBron James is taking his talents to the virtual hardwood in NBA 2K14. King James isn't just gracing the cover; he also hand-selected the soundtrack and gave developer Visual Concepts tips on making the most realistic basketball sim to date. To match the brazen defense employed by its cover athlete, NBA 2K14 implements a new passing system that celebrates the art of the dish, and the tweaked controls allow you to transition from ankle-breaking dribbling moves to jump shots with the flick of an analog stick. The most exciting addition to this edition is the return of the popular Crews mode, which lets fans take their created player online for five-on-five pickup games. Who's got next? PLAY IF YOU LIKE: Miami Heat, pickup games, He Got Game -M.B.



THE INKED PLAYLIST

BY JONAH BAYER

"I Hope You Suffer"

AFI return to the spotlight with a goth-punk anthem that's made for sing-alongs.

HUMAN PARTS "Now We Wake Up"

Former Against Me! bassist Andrew Seward channels the "jamming econo" spirit of Minutemen.

TIM KASHER "American Lit"

Cursive frontman Tim Kasher shows he's still got it with this inventive indie rock masterpiece.

O'BROTHER "Context"

If your two favorite bands are Alice in Chains and Circa Survive, this one's for you.

JOEL R.L. PHELPS & THE DOWNER TRIO "Thank You and Goodnight"

Alternately crushing and beautiful, this song is a force of nature.

PIXIES "Bagboy"

Legendary punk icons craft another classic with this driving rocker that's surprisingly solid.

POLVO

"The Water Wheel"

If you like your guitar rock catchy and cathartic, look no further than this eight-minute-long opus.

က TOUCHÉ AMORÉ "Just Exist"

Touché Amoré dig deep on this emotional screamo track that will stay with you indefinitely.

TRIVIUM

"Brave the Storm"

Trivium pay homage to Metallica via this groove-driven headbanger.

TV ON THE RADIO

"Mercy"

Synthesizers, hi-hats, and guitars propel "Mercy" toward the sonic stratosphere.



DEAD SKIN?

Liven up your body with exfoliation.

For some people, exfoliating is a lot like flossing: something to do only if you remember or if it becomes necessary due to discomfort. But things should never get to that point, ever, especially for tattooed folks who flaunt their skin. "Exfoliating helps to remove excess debris and dead skin cells from the surface of the epidermis," says the lovely, tattooed Roxanne Crisp, an aesthetician at Wax Poetic Salon in Burbank, CA. "There are two forms of exfoliation, physical and chemical. Physical exfoliation means you are using a loofah or a scrub, while chemical exfoliation means you are using a product containing acids or enzymes that basically dissolve the debris."

Crisp recommends exfoliating every other day in the shower-and always before you get a new tattoo. "Exfoliating before a tattoo appointment is actually very beneficial," Crisp says. "Think of it like you're prepping a canvas for an artist to paint on." After getting inked, hold off on exfoliating the fresh ink until it is completely healed, about two weeks after going under the needle. And when it comes time to exfoliate the piece, always use physical exfoliation. "Never chemically exfoliate a tattoo," Crisp warns. "The ingredients that help to break down the debris and dead skin can also fade and dull the appearance of your tattoo!" -Anja Cadlek



MenScience Buff Body Gloves

If using a loofah is too twee, try MenScience's gloves (\$16, menscience.com) that you can run along your body to exfoliate and unclog pores after you lather up.



Axe Controil Face Scrub

To rid your face of impurities and oil, the Controil (\$5, amazon.com) is like a liquid version of superfine-grit sandpaper.



Kiehl's Ultimate Man Body Scrub Soap

Made with oat bran, oat kernel, and pumice, this bar (\$15, kiehls.com) sloughs off dead skin and softens rough spots on high-action areas like your elbows and heels.



Hammacher Schlemmer Powered Pumice Stone

This battery-powered pumice (\$50, hammacher.com) has an exfoliating roller that spins at 1,800 RPM, buffing away your calluses and dry skin on your heels. Finally, the pedicure has a manly tool.



ETTER TOWNS

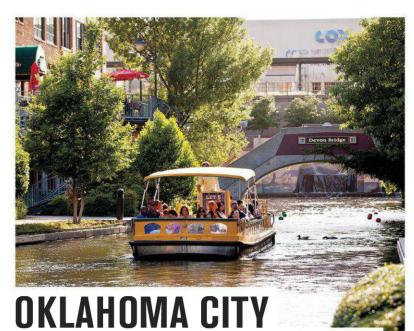




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OKC is earning a reputation as an epicenter of great art in the Great Plains.



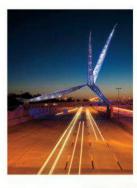
Kevin Durant and the Thunder may reign supreme in Oklahoma City, but the capital of the Sooner State has so much more to offer than its showstopping basketball team. Cassie Stover, an OKC resident of eight years, runs Hudson Tattoo and Art Studio (1210 N. Hudson Ave.). She opened the shop in September 2008, and it has since become one of the most popular places to get a tattoo in the city. When she is not tattooing, there's a good chance she's in her studio painting. And if she's not there, you might find her hanging out at some of these local spots. -Trevor Lewis

> OKLAHOMA ODDITIES Some people think older is better. If you agree, stop by The Salvage Room (1714 N.W. 16th St.), where you'll find a plethora of vintage goodies. "They sell one-of-a-kind vintage finds, from dresses to books to home decor," Stover says. You can also find oddities-framed bat, anyone?-inside.



< DIVIEST BAR Serving up \$3.50 "Adult Happy Meals," featuring a bottle of Miller High Life and a shot of peppermint schnapps along with music, burlesque, and drag shows, the HiLo Club (1221 N.W. 50th St.) is much livelier than your everyday bar. "This is my favorite dive bar night spot," Stover says. "I always take my out-of-town friends here."

> BONE COLLECTION The Museum of Osteology (10301 S. Sunnylane Rd.) displays full skeletons of more than 300 species of animals from all corners of the world. It's basically a haunted house with educational programs. "It's one of the largest privately held collections of osteological specimens in the world," Stover says.



< INSPIRATIONAL ARCHI-TECTURE It's not as famous as the Brooklyn or Golden Gate, but the SkyDance Bridge is just as awesome. The design was inspired by the scissor-tailed flycatcher. Oklahoma's state bird. "I recommend viewing the bridge at night when it's illuminated with LED lights," Stover says. "It really welcomes visitors to downtown Oklahoma City."



^ INVENTIVE EATS If you love pulled pork and macaroni and cheese, try them together in sandwich form at The Mule (1630 N. Blackwelder Ave.). It's a casual restaurant—which Stover says is tattoo-friendly-and they offer plenty of vegetarian options along with their unique sandwiches, beer cocktails, and other jewels such as a poutine with white gravy and a dessert of peanut butter and jelly with dark chocolate and a scoop of salted caramel ice cream.



< MOST ECCENTRIC ART **GALLERY** The WOMB Gallery (25 N.W. 9th St.) is owned by Flaming Lips frontman Wayne Coyne and holds exhibits of underground, contemporary, and lowbrow art. "The building's exterior alone is worth checking out," Stover says. "Brooklyn-based artist Maya Hayuk laid out the mural foundation of what is a kaleidoscopic color burst of rainbows, stripes, eyes, and mouths."



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MONSTER MASH

In the heart of the raddest monster trucks are a few recognizable brands.

MOHAWK WARRIOR The rebel yell of the Mohawk Nation can be heard from miles around when this massive 540-cubic-inch Merlin engine bears down upon its helpless prey (usually a 15-foot dirt mound or an unsuspecting row of ice cream trucks). The Warrior stands tall on 66-inch Terra tires normally reserved for plowing a few hundred acres or dredging through a raucous crowd in soylent green. The truck's unmistakable hairstylewhich sits atop a Cadillac body-is a trademark not only of the monster itself but of its driver, George Balhan, who has been rocking both the iconic 'do and the superpowered beast since the 2010 Monster Jam.

BAD HABIT Most of us try to shake our ill vices before we get old, but driver, owner, and team leader Joe Sylvester had a different plan in mind when he became the youngest man to own and operate a vehicle that's capable of crushing a string of SUVs and boasts a "hang time" record. The Habit's suspension is a tooled and retooled set of springs and shocks meticulously formulated by the King Company perched beneath a 1,200-horsepower, 512-cubic-inch Chevy engine. That's right, this beast is a Chevy, born and bred. Oh, and those growls and screams you hear erupting from its smoking chassis are the product of an Abruzzi Turbo 400 transmission. Whoever said smoking was a bad habit missed the mark on this one.

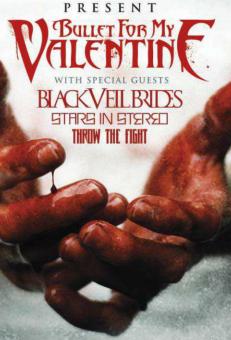
BIGFOOT A tip of our hat to the OG, the pioneer of souped-up monster madness, the one and only ... Bigfoot! The name is synonymous with the sport, and that's no surprise, considering that this truck has been racing since the '70s. An innovator from the get-go, Bigfoot was the original 4x4x4 (that's

four wheels, four-wheel drive, and four-wheel steering). With a Ford chassis, a 565-cubic-inch engine, and a set of massive 66" Firestones spinning around military axles, the only reason this 11,000-pound beast is blurry in your photographs is because it's spinning faster than your shutter speed can handle. The stuff of legend indeed.

RAMINATOR Normally, careening a \$150,000 truck into a school bus would raise a few suspicious eyebrows. But when the 10-foot-tall Ram 1500 with a screaming paint job does the deed, it's met with a Thunderdome-like reception from fans. Such is the case with the Raminator, a Dodge classic with a supercharged Hemi and 2,000-plus horsepower. Known for its air-grabbing freestyle maneuvers, high speeds, and low rollover count, the Raminator is piloted by the Hall Brothers Racing Team. Dodge has symbolized the American workforce for decades, and this beast raises the emblematic workhorse to new heights. -Nick Fierro







9/28/13 • CLUB MOKIA • LOS ANGELES: CA 9/29/13 • SOMA • SANDIEGO, CA 0/1/(3 • ROSELAND THEATRE • PORTLAND, C 10/5/15 . MACEWAN HALL . CALGARY, AB 10/7/2013 • BURTON CUMMINGS THEATRE • WINNIPEG, MB 10/8/13 . THE VENUE . FARGO, ND IO/IO/IS . ORPHEUM THEATER . HADISON, W IO/12/13 . THE FILLMORE . DETROIT, HI IO/IS/IS . LC PAVILION . COLUMBUS, OH 10/16/13 . FREEDOM HALL . LANCASTER, PA IO/18/13 . THE PARAMOUNT . HUNTINGTON, NY 10/19/13 . THE DOME @ OAKDALE . WALLINGFORD, CT 10/20/13 . MID HUDSON CIVIC CENTER . POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 10/22/13 + STARLAND BALLROOM + SAYERVILLE, NJ 10/24/13 . HOB . MYRTLE BEACH, SC 10/25/13 • UCF ARENA • ORLANDO, FL 10/26/13 - LIVE NATION AMPH. @ FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS - TAMPA, FL 10/28/13 - TABERNACLE - ATLANTA, GA

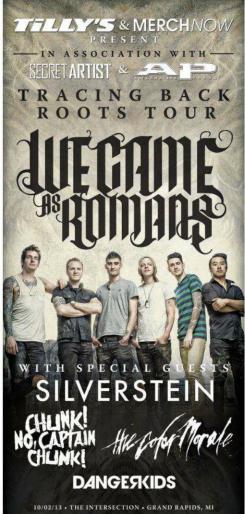
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10/15/13 · SUNSHINE THEATER · ALBUQUEROUE, NM 10/16/13 · FAR WEST EVENT CENTER · ODESSA, TX 10/17/13 • EMOS • AUSTIN, TX

10/18/13 · HOUSE OF BLUES · DALLAS, TX 10/19/13 • HOUSE OF BLUES • HOUSTON, TX 10/20/13 • HOUSE OF BLUES • NEW ORLEANS, LA 10/22/13 • HOUSE OF BLUES • LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL 10/23/13 • REVOLUTION • FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 10/24/13 · ROC BAR · JACKSONVILLE, FL 10/25/13 · LINCOLN THEATER · RALEIGH, NC

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11/01/13 • THE AGORA THEATRE • CLEVELAND, OH 11/02/13 · HOUSE OF BLUES · CHICAGO, IL 11/03/13 • ST. ANDREWS HALL • DETROIT, MI

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INKED PEOPLE

SINGER. PUMPKIN CARVERS. FOOTBALL PLAYER.

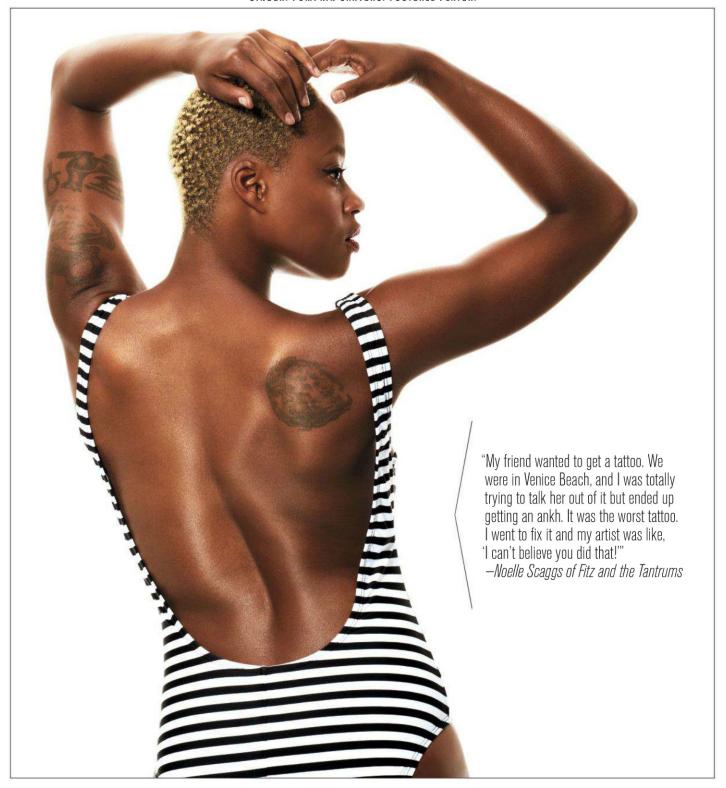


photo by CHAD GRIFFITH OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013 | 35

NOELLE SCAGGS

On the breath of this lovely tattooed vocalist, Fitz and the Tantrums are the breakout act of the year.

There's something mesmerizing about standing in a dark, crowded room watching the fluorescent lights of Fitz and the Tantrums' heart logo flash on stage in time to the beat of the band's song "Keeping Our Eyes Out." As the silhouette of vocalist Noelle Scaggs emerges from behind the stage, the crowd immediately lights up.

Scaggs is one part of the powerhouse vocals that help make up the neo-soul group Fitz and the Tantrums, and she has experience working with the likes of The Black Eyed Peas and The Rebirth. With a voice reminiscent of Motown in the '60s. she brings energy rarely seen in a frontwoman nowadays and even knows how to skillfully rock a tambourine. There's never a dull moment as she plays alongside the band's other vocalist, Michael "Fitz" Fitzpatrick. Celebrating the first tour of Fitz and the Tantrums' second full-length album, More Than Just a Dream, the 33-year-old singersongwriter is showing fans what she's made of. "When we started working on the new record, our main focus was really on bridging the gap of our live show with the recording," she says.

So far, the band seems to be on track. As Scaggs holds her own on the stage, it's nearly impossible to miss her stylized hieroglyphic ink. "I was always into tattoos," she says. "Both my father and my brother had a dragon tattoo on their left

arm." Thanks to their influence, she ended up getting her left arm inked as well. "It's all kind of royal, based around the eyes of Ra and the ankh," she says of the Egyptian-themed piece. "It is broken up as Nefertiti's eye—I always really loved her because my eyes were kind of shaped the same way."

Scaggs has gotten tattooed for all the major milestones in her life, starting at the age of 18, and has held close her love of Egyptian themes. But not all of her tattoos have worked out exactly as planned. "The one on my ankle was probably the most spontaneous," she says. "My friend wanted to get a tattoo. We were in Venice Beach, and I was totally trying to talk her out of it but ended up getting an ankh. It was the worst tattoo. I went to fix it and my artist was like, 'I can't believe you did that!"

Onstage, things go more according to plan. Scaggs performs her own modern spin on Fitz and the Tantrums' cover of "Sweet Dreams," originally by the Eurythmics. Speeding up the tempo of the song to make the venue feel like an al-inclusive dance party, she sings the lyrics in a backand-forth sway, pausing at one point to make sure the audience joins in. "I am a huge Annie Lennox fan," she says later. "We have similar timbres to our voices, so I really love doing that song."

But that's just one part of her musical style, which she says is "a new take on what soul

music was doing and [taking] the '60s and the British invasion period of the '80s and making them more of a modern sound."

Her favorite song to perform is "The Walker," a song that tells the story of the Silver Lake Walker, a local from the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles. "He just obsessively compulsively walked around the neighborhood, and you could see him anytime you came to Silver Lake in these little green shorts," she says. "He just really lived his life. He went to his own beat of the drum. He never stopped." When the beats of the song pulse during her show's encore, Scaggs belts out the lyrics: "Oh, here we go/Feel it in my soul." And the crowd does. —Natasha Van Duser





ANDY BERGHOLTZ AND RAY VILLAFANE

The men at Villafane Studios have carved out a place for themselves as the greatest jack-o'-lantern creators on the planet.

As if channeling Michelangelo, Ray Villafane sculpts with bold and hurried strokes, creating lifelike facial features with remarkable precision. His medium isn't marble, but rather the orange shell of a sizable squash, the pumpkin. With basic clay carving tools, Villafane and his business partner, Andy Bergholtz, are the duo behind Villafane Studios, which creates intricate (and mostly ghoulish) 3-D figures for the Halloween season. "A well-carved, animated face on a pumpkin is something that seems almost magical," says Villafane. "It appeals to not only our visual senses but also our inner kid."

Villafane, who started his career as an art teacher, used to carve rudimentary pumpkins for his students each fall. But after visiting a friend who was a professional commercial sculptor in New York City, he decided in 2007 to ditch his day job and began working as a sculptor, securing gigs creating collectible statues for the likes of Marvel and DC Comics. Eventually he landed on Food Network's Outrageous Pumpkins, as well as Pumpkin Challenge II and Halloween Wars. His growing media presence also scored him invitations to the White House and one of Heidi Klum's Halloween parties, where he enlisted Bergholtz's help for the first time. "Ray dangled a carrot I couldn't pass up," says Bergholtz. "I started sculpting pumpkins a couple of days before that gig and have never looked back."

While Michelangelo's *David* still stands more than 500 years after it was created, pumpkin sculptures are obviously perishable—and that suits the men of Villafane Studios just fine. "Because the final product is short-lived and seasonal, I believe it has the ability to exist in our memories in a slightly more

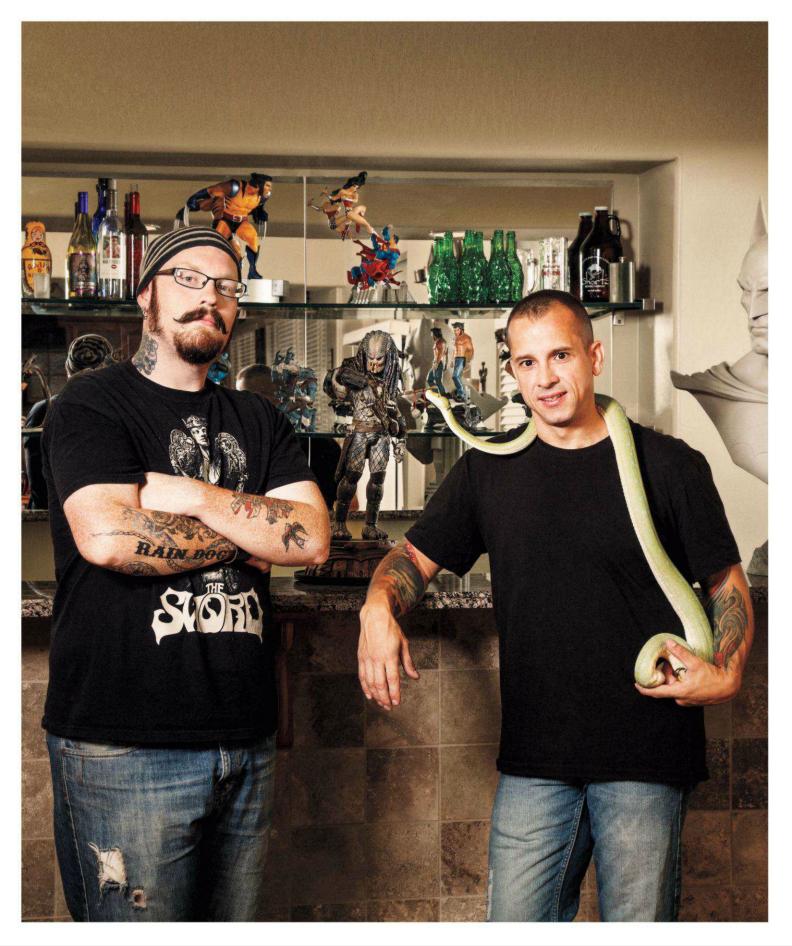
exaggerated, romanticized state," Villafane says.

According to Bergholtz, the duo goes through about 150 pumpkins each season, tossing a dozen or two aside due to errors or natural imperfections. The sculptures can take anywhere from about three to eight hours to complete, depending on complexity, and they're best shaped under an overhead light source in a relatively dim room. The guys essentially whittle away the thick outer flesh to create their sculptures in relief. "Being too cautious will only yield flat carvings that lack the deep shadows that really cause the face to jump out at you," says Villafane.

These purveyors of artistic impermanence also delve into sand sculpting, which allows for the creation of massive sculptures in quick turnaround time. "It's tremendously satisfying, although it's definitely not without its challenges," says Bergholtz. "When working exclusively with sand and water, gravity is your worst enemy."

Impressive works of art aren't solely reserved for pumpkin and sand creations. The heavily tattooed skin of the Villafane Studios men reflects their overall passion for the arts. No matter how contradictory the artistic process of tattooing and pumpkin sculpting may seem, Villafane finds a commonality. "While its shelf life is totally opposite of that of tattoos, for the artist creating them it is not much different," says Villafane. "I have to believe the majority of tattoo artists never see their creations again once that client leaves their shop. ... The finished photo is the only remaining link to the experience, much in the same way [photos of our] pumpkins are to the carving." —Lani Buess

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WILL BLACKMON

The cornerback doesn't just have a Super Bowl ring; he's got the number XLVI tattooed across his knuckles.

While football player Will Blackmon may not yet be a household name or have his own Fathead, he is in air more rarified than that of the 1 percent. According to the NFL Players Association: "Statistically of the 100,000 high school seniors who play football every year, only 215 will ever make an NFL roster. That is 0.2 percent! Even of the 9,000 players that make it to the college level only 310 are invited to the NFL scouting combine. As you can see, most people who want to become NFL players will not."

Much is written about the lifestyle of NFL superstars during the off-season— Tom Brady parties with his supermodel wife in Rio, Jared Allen hunts bears, the Manning brothers become rap stars—but there are also players who spend that time spiraling in the air, not sure which helmet, if any, they will be wearing come the fall. Will Blackmon is one of those players.

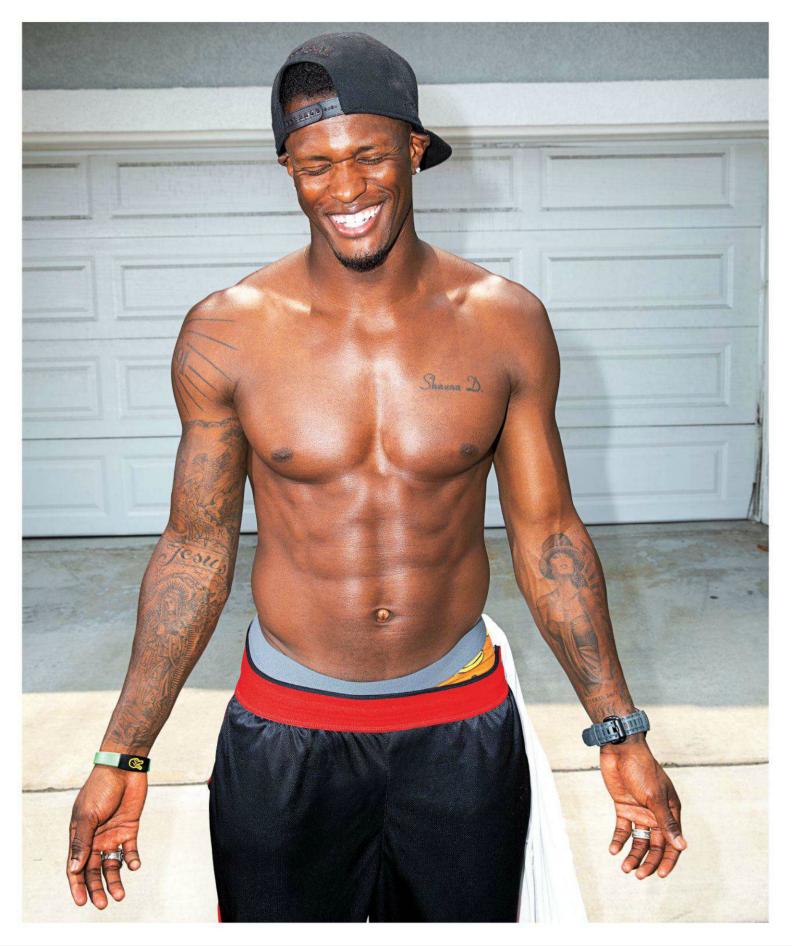
Drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 2006, the cornerback and returner had his share of highlights, such as scoring off a punt return and a fumble in the 2007 NFC title game, but he was also hobbled by injuries and a botched surgery. In 2010, the Packers released Blackmon, and he had to watch the team that he helped build go on to win the Super Bowl.

But he focused on his rehab and got the chance to play for the New York Giants, whom he helped win Super Bowl XLVI. "That was honestly just so surreal," Blackmon says. "I felt like I was owed one." In lieu of a Disneyland celebration, Blackmon got the number of the Super Bowl tattooed across

his knuckles. But due to roster moves, the Giants cut Blackmon and he didn't play last season. "I kept dealing with injuries so I was like, dude, I need to do something crazy—like how when some women are dealing with something incredibly painful and cut off their hair—I went and had my entire back blasted," he says. The tattoo features angel wings that represent his mother, Alice, who died when he was 6 as a result of having Crohn's disease. She was also the inspiration for his first tattoo, 5/14/91 (the day she passed), and the sleeve with religious iconography on his right arm.

Through extremely hard work in the offseason Blackmon was signed by the Seattle Seahawks earlier this year. He fought valiantly for a spot in their vaunted defense but after the third preseason game he was yet again released. Blackmon was down but not out. The next day the Jacksonville Jaguars called and he put on the two-tone helmet. Jacksonville is the fourth city in four years where he and his wife, Shauna Danielle, have had to make a home. "She is everything to me," he says. "We ride or die together." So far, the couple and their young son, Ryder, are loving Florida, and Blackmon is loving life back on the field. "I haven't had this much fun since playing high school football at Bishop Hendricken back in Rhode Island." He is focused on putting "my damn stamp on games." If Blackmon plays up to his expectations, he and his family will spend the next offseason shopping for a bigger house in North Florida or the next town in need of a speedy, hard-hitting, and determined football player. —*Rocky Rakovic*

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PHOTOS BY HYUNA SHIN



HERE ARE SOME KEY POINTS IN JESSICA LOVE'S LIFE:

on mother number three by age 10, daddy issues, Christian cult, started smoking cigarettes at 8, boarding school, mental institution, heroin, jail, David LaChapelle photo shoot, work as a dominatrix. To do her story justice would take a book-and in fact, Jessica has completed the first draft of her memoir. Following are some excerpts touching on her tattoos:

My arm was something I drew after my sister died. It was dark. I was on crystal meth. It was one of those drawings that drew itself. Even though it was dark, it was my tribute to her. I find beauty in darkness. I wasn't good at keeping mementos or photos because it was too depressing. My tattoo, however-I would wear it everywhere and stop running from her memory. I got it on my right arm-the arm I held my heart with when I ached for her.

I got my leg tattooed with a poem I wrote about time and a drawing I drew with all kinds of body parts morphed into each other. I chose these particular drawings so I could watch the body parts wrinkle in time with my own. The question I get asked most is, "What about when your skin gets old and wrinkly?" Well, then I'll have old, wrinkly, tattooed skin rather then old, wrinkly, not tattooed skin. I prefer the former, just like I prefer tattooed young skin to non-tattooed young skin. A tattoo isn't going to make the aging process any worse and will in fact mask veins and marks of aging.

I tattooed my face. It was something I knew I would do at some point, but I hadn't put a whole lot of thought into it. I always knew I would probably tattoo something around my eyes that would frame them, but it always seemed so far off that I never put much thought into what the design would be. One day I looked in the mirror for about five minutes, visualizing what I would get, and it hit me.

I got my half sleeve, chest, and back in the matter of a couple months. I drew them when I was serving time. The chest tattoos are the tree branch arms that stem from the woman on my back who has babies on vine umbilical cords swimming out of the top of her head. She also has little vines coming out of her mouth and eyes that wrap around her throat. Her arms reach around my hips and up my chest. Ants crawl out of her scratches on my shoulders that create wings. I hate putting my art to words because art is a way to create what can't be put to words. It's a thought we feel but can't quite explain but just flows, and when it's birthed it's very satisfying because we no longer feel the need to explain. Others with the same thought get it and those who don't, won't, no matter how hard we try to explain.





Agent Provocateur fringe necklace; model's own underwear.

Page 43: Victoria's Secret underwear; RRRentals bracelets and rings.



Joanna Mastroianni choker; RRRentals bracelets and rings.







"I FIND BEAUTY

IN DARKNESS."

Victoria's Secret underwear; Alexander McQueen vintage pumps.

Stylist: Rod Novoa for Seen Artists Stylist assistant: Nicole Morales Pinto Hair: Seo

Manicurist: Jessica Tong
Makeup: Aeriel Payne for Inglot Cosmetics







🗻 ince day one of this magazine, it has been INKED's mission to fully document the wild world of tattoos. Up until now, we have mostly focused on humans, but in order to broaden our horizons we decided to reach out U to the aliens known as the Scumdogs of the Universe. You may be familiar with them because they started a band here on Earth called Gwar. Although the band members have a bit of a reputation for killing humans that cross their paths, they agreed to let us into their fortress-in Antarctica, naturally-on a lazy Thursday afternoon. With bloodlust and regular lust fulfilled just prior to our visit, Oderus Urungus, Gwar's leader (who is sometimes known as the human Dave Brockie), discussed tattoos, tanks, and the amount of blood that Gwar has spilled over the years.

INKED: Hello, Oderus. What took you so long to answer the door?

ODERUS URUNGUS: Hello! Sorry, I was slogging my knob-you know what I mean? I've got that feeling like most dudes do after they get their fucking nuts fucking cracked open. I came like a keg of beer, like a fucking water fountain, for at least 30 or 40 minutes. Drowned the chick in sperm. Well, I don't really know if you would call it sperm. She didn't really drown, either-she sort of melted. It was disgusting either way but I enjoyed the hell out of it. I've been kicking back, smoking weed, smoking crack; it's a beautiful day in Antarctica. The penguins are not attacking the castle right now. So it might be one of those most rare of things in the Gwar universe, a peaceful day. Now, if it is peaceful that means that we'll have to start a war. We'll probably invade somewhere like South America or South Africa, somewhere that's fairly close to us so that it won't be too inconvenient.

What's going on with the band? Have you been working on recording anything? That was, like, two questions at once! Jesus! What the hell is going on out there? What are you people smoking? 'Cause I want some right now. We are unleashing yet another completely savage assault on the human

race: our album [Battle Maximus, released in September] and a huge, world-encompassing tour with a brand-new show telling the whole, disgusting story of Gwar and what has been going on with us the last couple of years. There will be new creatures to be destroyed and a few celebrities and historical and political figures that we put to death in as rude a fashion as possible. So there's lots of cool stuff going on in the world of Gwar. But let's never forget that at all times the whole point of the entire thing is to get my dick sucked and be fucked up all the time!

Isn't killing your main goal? That's so important that I don't even feel that I need to mention it. That's such an inherent part of my being that I don't-I mean, literally, you can die just from smelling me. That's how I originally got my name, Oderus-I was such a bad-smelling baby that I wiped out all the other babies in the infirmary. Actually, it was in a gladiatorial pit, I think. I was born with a sword in my hand, which of course made for a rather difficult labor for my mother.

In all the years Gwar has been touring how much blood do you think you have spilled? That is the single-most-asked question of all of the incredibly stupid questions that I've gotten over years.

Not to say that your question is stupid; it's certainly not any stupider than all of the other times it's been asked. I may be stupider than that stupid question because I can't count. I do know it would have to be measured in gallons. It's definitely more than a few buckets. Sometimes it depends on what size of a crowd shows up. Let's say we have a thousand people and we actually manage to kill every single one of them and drain them of every single drop of blood that is in their body. At that point-I don't know. It's too confusing. There's the victim, and here's the sword, and I just don't give a shit anymore. Let's just say that at [one] Gwar show there was so much blood spilled that the fans who survived performed a slam pit using rowboats. It was amazing. It became a mosh-boat-pit thing. It was the first mosh pit that was ever floated. It was a very unique experience. The handicapped were encouraged to join in the fun. We've always encouraged the handicapped because most times these people became handicapped at a Gwar show. We want them to come back so we can finish the job!

Last summer you executed Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi and her baby onstage. What was the most fulfilling celebrity murder you've committed? There have been so many. You seem to think that I make some kind of distinction between the different people that I kill onstage. That couldn't be further from the truth. I have no idea who these people are or why they are famous, nor do I care. That's like paying attention to the actions of an insect or trying to write a thesis on the philosophy of being a fucking tree sloth. I don't give a fuck about these people! I just wish I could kill Woody Allen. I want to kill Woody Allen. I don't even know why, but I do. Kill him!

Tell us a bit about how Scumdogs get tattoos. I have various war symbols all over my thorny hide. Let me tell you, it is not easy to tattoo a Scumdogian; our skin is designed to deflect broadswords. It's a little bit tough on tattoo needles. Though certain artists have mustered the force required to brand our flesh with various symbols to commemorate particularly gruesome and disgusting orgies of violence and terror.

Can you describe the kind of artwork that would properly commemorate such a thing?

Recently I had an image of myself tattooed on me. It was myself as a boy in commemoration of a song that is on our new album. The song is called "Raped at Birth." It recalls the time of my life when I was born, fully grown, already in armor, a broadsword in hand, directly into a gladiatorial arena where I fought for my life in front of an intergalactic pay-per-view audience. So that would be one of the symbols. Of course my back is branded with the chaos arrows, the closest thing we have to a talisman, I suppose. The great chaos arrows-eight red rays emanating from the essential orb with an eyeball in the middle, which implies the third eye, or the second eye, or the fourth eye, whatever. The eye that can see within, the eye that can see through time, the eye that can see through space. The mind's eve, if you will. Then wings sprout from the eyeball and in this way I say let these visions take flight and spread my filthy majesty across the universe. There's all kinds of symbology in my tattoos. I could sit here and babble on about it repeatedly for hours. For instance, the tank I have tattooed across my arm. It isn't any particular model of tank, and that was done on purpose. I wish to fuse all forms of human tanks into one and therefore not have a nationality associated with it. I just wanted the symbol of the tank, one of my favorite things that humans have ever created.

What makes you so fond of tanks? So much time and effort and skill and care and money goes into the crafting of these machines that are designed to destroy each other. It's the ultimate self-fulfilling prophecy. The utter futility and waste of it all is hilarious to me. So it's kind of a symbol of what your race is capable of doing but that they are doing it in a completely backward direction. I would have to say: More of that, please. It has always been Gwar's goal to destroy the human race and escape this planet. Unfortunately, humans seem to love each other so much that you are breeding faster than we can kill you.

Uh, thank you? You're welcome, and mercifully this visit has come to a close! Thank you, human, and all of the readers of INKED. All you readers keep going out there and having your bodies scarred and mutilated with all sorts of outlandish designs.

Gwar-they're just like us! This page, Oderus Urungus checks out a centerfold! Following page, clockwise from top left: Jizmak Da Gusha pours a drink! Balsac the Jaws of Death can't cross his legs! Beefcake the Mighty steals someone's Chinese food leftovers! Pustulus Maximus uses two-ply!

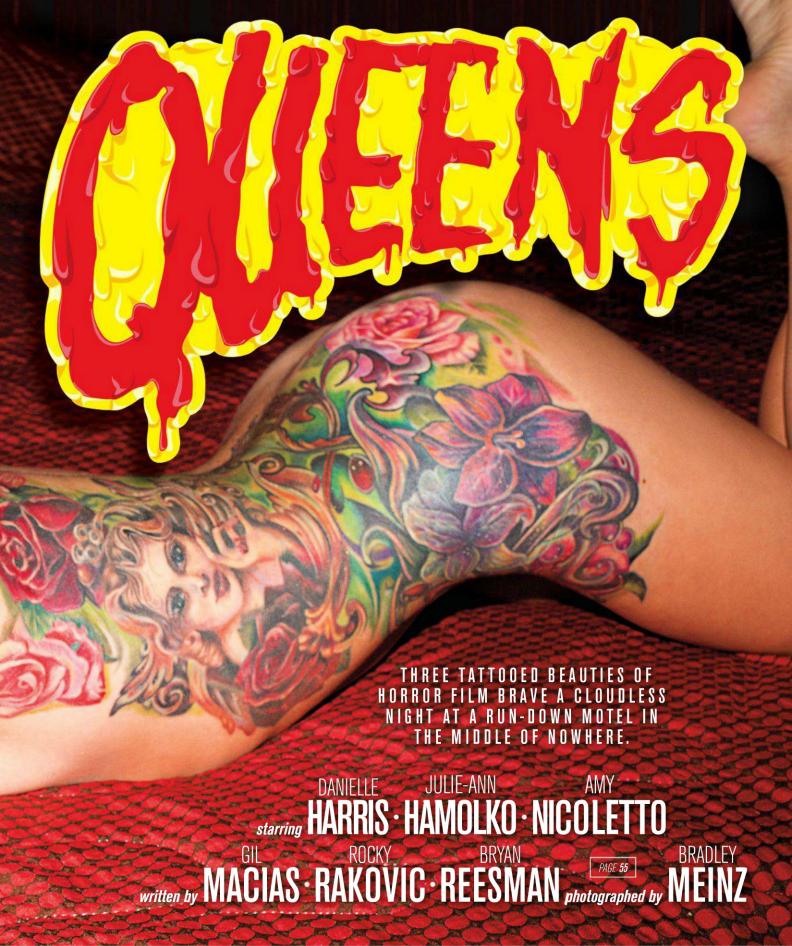












DANIELLE HARRIS It's a no-brainer that John Carpenter's Halloween is one of the greatest horror films of all time. And while subsequent films in the franchise never quite lived up to the original, some of them had their charms. Even the muchmaligned Halloween 5: The Revenge of Michael Myers (1989) had one thing going for it-Danielle Harris. Whether you loved it or hated it, "Who's that little girl?" was a common question after the film's release, thanks to Harris's electrifying performance that carried the entire film. Before Dakota Fanning was even conceived, a then 11-year-old Harris (her 12th birthday was celebrated on the set) delivered some of the best child acting, well, ever.

After she starred in two Michael Myers movies, she popped up in The Last Boy Scout, Steven Seagal's Marked for Death, and some lighter, family-friendly fare like Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead and a recurring role on Roseanne. But it wasn't until Urban Legends (1998) that Harris turned heads again, this time for different reasons. All grown up, she was playing the nymphomaniac. EMO bad girl Tosh-and the guys noticed. She was back in the horror genre looking hot, and she was on her way to becoming a modern scream queen.

Offscreen, the actress has developed her own real-life bad girl look with gorgeous ink that started out as cover-up work on a tattoo she got when she was a teen. "I got my first tattoo when I was 17. My uncle tattooed me. It was a yin-yang. He literally traced a quarter." Not too happy with the piece, which she describes as "lame," she got it touched up at age 22, and then again years later.

"I found Kirk Alley online, and he wasn't available. But his apprentice was this chick-she was super badass," says Harris. "I went in and said I wanted a cover-up and mentioned all these things I like. I wanted this whole big piece with lilies and initials. So she drew up this design and printed it out and it was fucking enormous. It literally wrapped all the way around my body."

For someone who's witnessed the brutal on-set murder of Michael Myers firsthand, surprisingly, her first massive tattoo was a bit too much to handle. "I sat straight through for six hours. I got home and took off the cellophane, wiped it down because it was bleeding and oozing, and then I threw up," she says, laughing. "I actually love getting tattooed. I usually do five-hour sittings, but my body starts to shut off during the last 40 minutes. When I first get there, I'm excited, 'Fuck it, awesome, go for it! Make it bigger!' and then I lay there and go, 'Oh my God, I don't know why I do this to myself.' Then 20 minutes later, I'm like, 'I'm so excited I'm getting a tattoo right now, it doesn't matter."

After Urban Legends, Harris went on to land roles in countless horror flicks and solidified her status in the pantheon of modern-day scream queens. She's starred in movies like Rob Zombie's Halloween and Halloween II, Left for Dead, Hatchet 2, Hatchet 3, Stake Land, and ChromeSkull: Laid to Rest 2, to name a few. Not long before Hatchet 2, Kirk Alley finally got around to working his magic on her-and he's become an artist she totally trusts and has confidence in. "We just keep adding," she says. "I wanted something art nouveau to balance the softness with the edginess, which is kind of how I am as a person. I just let him do whatever the fuck he wants to do. I lay there, he grabs a marker and starts to draw, and he just goes for it. I trust him. I would let him tattoo my entire body if I could."

As for getting tattooed in more visible spots, that's something Harris is hesitant to do since it would affect her acting career. However, launching her website horrorgirl.com and her directorial career with Among Friends (a horror flick, of course) is giving her some second thoughts. "As I'm figuring out that I want to be behind the camera more than in front of it, it's allowed me to tattoo up higher than I normally would. I've always had it where it never went above the shoulder blade, because then you'd see it. Recently, we just added the other rose on top, and now you can see it. So I had my first audition the other day and I walked in and the first thing they said was, 'Wow, how far does that go?' Anyone who has seen my films knows that I usually play the girl that would probably have a tattoo. Now that it's so large, I don't know if it's going to be an issue, but honestly-it's not my problem. If they don't like it, they can cover it up." -Gil Macias

JULIE-ANN HAMOLKO While many young actresses like to play dress-up, Hamolko prefers playing mess-up, whether she's appearing in an indie horror movie as a vampire or doing a reenactment for TruTV or Discovery Channel as a party girl or lawbreaker. "I'm always this big hot mess," she proclaims. "I love it, it's great. I get to sit there and be made up to look like I was up all night rolling around in garbage."

A Florida native now based in Los Angeles, the stunning actress has always gravitated toward the dark side. As a kid she wrote Choose Your Own Adventure stories in the vein of Choose Your Own Death. Her classmates loved them; her principal was perturbed but gave her a writing award for her creativity. She also loved horror movies and started to veer toward acting. Modeling for Gothic Beauty magazine led to a role as a Troma Entertainment spokesmodel at conventions, some work doing fetish fashion and burlesque shows, then finally films, including an extra role in Rock of Ages.

"When I was blond all I did was scream and cry and get naked," recalls Hamolko. She dyed her hair darker around 2009. "I started to get stronger roles where I was allowed to be the one with the gun. I was still dying. I don't think I've ever made it through an entire film." Her latest role, as a newly turned vampire in The Lost Girls, is tentatively scheduled for a December release.

Hamolko's ink reflects a mixture of personal interests and statements. She got a biomechanical tribal piece on her left arm after she learned that she would need valve replacement surgery later in life because of a heart condition (plus, she says

she loved H.R. Giger's Alien work). The zombielike sparrows on her chest are for her late mother and grandmother, and the death moth above them represents her interest in collecting taxidermy (insects and animals). Her redheaded pinup on her right arm signifies her passion for Vegas, while her skeleton "voodoo guy" shows her love for the Big Easy. Other tattoos include a tiki mask and an oni water demon with a snake body and a fan.

She got her most recognizable work, "Live Love Life," which wraps around her neck, after her mother passed when she was 17. "My mom had cervical cancer and my grandmother had leukemia. At the time I needed some positivity and a reminder, so I just decided to put it on my neck," says Hamolko, looking ever forward. -Bryan Reesman

AMY NICOLETTO You wouldn't immediately think of a tattooer as being a scream queen, but television personality and tattoo artist Amy Nicoletto drips horror. She dresses head-to-toe in black, her makeup is copied by goth girls everywhere, she hangs out with the Misfits and Glenn Hetrick, and the highlights in her hair are reminiscent of the Bride of Frankenstein. "I don't think I ever noticed it before, but I cross over into the horror world," Nicoletto says.

Since her role on LA Ink, she has spent most of her time traveling, guest spotting, and following the convention circuit. Recently, one of the booths she found herself sitting in was at the Full Moon Tattoo and Horror Festival in Nashville, TN. "I think the two scenes share similar fans, and tattooers should attend or tattoo at more horror conventions," she says.

Nicoletto has become somewhat of a fixture at horror conventions, including Son of Monsterpalooza, in Burbank, CA, where she met Bela Lugosi Jr., namesake of her favorite horror actor. "Most people don't know it, but Dracula [1931] was the first horror flick with sound," she says. "It didn't have any blood but it was creepy as hell."

She loves Lugosi's work so much that she is sketching out a leg sleeve of him from Brooklyn Payne. "You see a lot of Dracula portraits, but [Lugosi] was in a lot of other badass horror flicks," Nicoletto says.

Following in the footprints of her Hollywood hero, Nicoletto was even cast in a scary movie of her own, House of Horror: Gates of Hell. "I didn't see it but I'm told that my head got blown off. I can't watch myself. It's like listening to your own voice on the answering machine, only 1,000 times worse," Nicoletto says. "I never watched LA Ink, but I am told by friends that instead of showing the great art we were doing they only showed the tattooers who acted like they were on Jerry Springer."

From her current chair, at Electric Pen in North Hollywood, CA, she says she doesn't regret being on LA Ink. "Because of the way I look, people have always stared at me. But at least now some of them come up and say, 'Hi, weren't you on LA Ink?'" -Rocky Rakovic











MODEL LEFT, BRIAN SHAPIRO; MODEL RIGHT, BRETT DAVID; MANICURIST, JESSICA TONG





TOM SAVINI

The multi-hyphenate horror legend Tom Savini talks tattoos and terror.

BY CHRIS ALEXANDER PHOTOS BY NATHAN ELSON

In 1978 horror history was irrevocably altered by a man who had already done so 10 years prior. The film in question was Dawn of the Dead, the go-for-broke color sequel-cum-companion film to 1968's Night of the Living Dead, both of them written and directed by George A. Romero, both landmarks of the genre. But Romero, the godfather of the modern shocker, didn't do it alone. In Dawn, his right-hand man was fellow Pittsburgh resident and frequent collaborator Tom Savini, a fledgling special makeup effects wizard who previously had both acted in and spurted ample blood in Romero's 1977 film *Martin*. But with *Dawn*, Savini—armed only with a toolbox full of greasepaint, bags of squibs, foam latex, and kitchen spoils—sculpted a full-blown symphony of bodily decimation as the living blew holes through the living dead to avoid ending up as lunch. In the middle of the mall-bound cannibalism and exploding skull orgy, Savini single-handedly invented the subgenre of "splatter."

As the '70s oozed into the '80s Savini's sanguinary star swelled, and his practical, ingenious illusions graced such iconic films as Friday the 13th (both the original and the equally messy fourth installment), the sickening Taxi Driver riff Maniac, Romero's Creepshow and Day of the Dead, and oodles of others. But there's more to Savini than painted rubber and Karo syrup. He's a rather prolific actor (you can see him now in the gonzo Robert Rodriguez seguel Machete Kills), noted director (he helmed the Romero-penned remake of Night of the Living Dead), author, educational figurehead (his Special Makeup Effects Program at Douglas Education Center is thriving), and recently minted tattoo enthusiast. It is with the latter credit that INKED finds its entry point into the still-evolving legacy of one of horror's most respected and fascinating figures.

INKED: How old were you when the needle first touched vour skin?

TOM SAVINI: Oh man, I was, like, 55 when I got my first tat. See, my oldest brother, Henry, is a wellknown tattoo artist. He runs Tattooing by Savini in Corapolos, PA.

Why did you wait so long? You have to understand, tattoo culture is relatively new to me. When I was a kid growing up it was only bikers and convicts who got tattooed. Getting one myself really was something I never even entertained until much, much later.

Can you tell us a bit about your tattoos? Sure. Paul Acker from Deep Six Laboratory is the artist who did the initial skull tattoos. Fantastic work. Then my brother Henry added the center tribal skulls-and believe it or not, it was George Romero's son Andrew Romero who fleshed out the three points on the bottom. I'm incredibly proud of the work.

Are the skulls symbolic or simply an aesthetic choice? Nah, not symbolic of anything. I just love skulls, always have. I have a rather large collection of skulls at home.

How about the names on your forearms? Lia is my daughter, and on the other arm is her son-my grandson, James.

Have you found the process addictive? Oh, sure it is.

Are you plotting another? I am! There are a few ideas I'm working on right now, in fact. It will happen soon.

Aside from your brother, was there a member of your family who influenced your personal and professional life? Well, my dad was a guy who did it all, and his philosophy was that the more you do the more opportunities you'll have. I agree with this. But it wasn't just my dad-I had my brothers, who were like my dads. I had Henry, as I mentioned; my brother Sullivan, who was a physical fitness nut, which is where I get the desire to stay in shape; my brother Joe, who is a comedian and helped shape my sense of humor; and I had another brother who passed when I was 13. All of these people influenced who I am and what I became.

"MY WORK HAS ALWAYS TRADED IN GRUESOME AND CLEVER DEATHS."

When you look back on your incredible career-the rules you broke, the ways in which you made an entire generation watch and enjoy film-it's admirable and inspiring that you are constantly living in the present, in the moment. Is that difficult sometimes? Not now it's not, not for me. One of the most important books I have ever read, the one that changed my life, was a book called The Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle. It's a popular book-wellread. But it's changed everything for me. It taught me not to be concerned about tomorrow or worry about mistakes of the past but simply live in the present moment. That's literally all we have is today. Ten years from now all we'll have is today. This has helped me love life and live it to its fullest. I can appreciate my legacy, and I'm proud of my reputation because it got me here. But I live in the now.

Regarding that rich legacy, however, what are you most proud of? Well, besides my children and my grandson ... directing, I think. Or at least that gives me the most pleasure. You know, I just came back from a convention in Calgary where there was a Night of the Living Dead remake reunion. We had Patricia Tallman, me, Tony Todd-it was an absolute blast, and I watched the film again for the first time in years. You know what? It really holds up. It's a really good zombie film.

It got knocked around initially, and it's fantastic to see the sizable cult that it now has. I agree. It took a while. But people love it now, I think. I think the key to that is the performances, what we did with the character of Barbara-making her tougher, stronger, like a Sigourney Weaver heroine.

Plus, even more than Romero's original, your version proves how fatal it can be to board yourself up in a zombie apocalypse. Oh yeah, only an idiot would board themselves up. If such a thing ever happened, I would run for my life to my house and load myself up with all of my guns I can carry and the rest in a shopping cart and go out and blast the living shit out of every zombie I could find. I mean, how much fun would that be?

On the directing tip, you steered a few episodes of the lamented TV series Tales From the Darkside, but we were really impressed with your more recent effort in the short film Wet Dreams, which was part of the superlative omnibus The Theatre Bizarre. Thank you! We had Debbie Rochon in that one. She was so good.

When will we see another Savini-directed picture? Well, we are currently launching a Kickstarter campaign for a new zombie film I'll be directing.

Will you be handling special effects too? Well, what I do now-with the school and with film-is consult. I mentor new talent to do these magic tricks, these grand illusions. It's what I do with my school. It's what I did recently in the Australian horror film Redd Inc. [aka Inhuman Resources]. It's what I've always done, guide people into creating these effects in economical and effective ways. But you know, right now, I'm really enjoying my acting work. I have this scene with Danny [Trejo] in Machete Kills where it's really honest and emotional. If you saw Machete, you'll remember I played this horrible human being, this terrible guy who killed Machete's brother. Here, I was given the chance for a kind of redemption.

The world of special effects has changed since you and Rob Bottin and Rick Baker et al were viewed as rock stars of foam latex. You're talking about CGI, right?

Yeah. Do you embrace or reject it? I love CGI but it has to be done well. When it's blended seamlessly with practical makeup effects it's outstanding. Look at what Greg Nicotero did with The Walking Dead. Those are the best zombies I've ever seen, and they're a mixture of digital and practical. His work in Romero's Land of the Dead was great too.

In Land you actually played a zombie, one of the have-nots rising up against the haves and a riff on your biker character in Dawn. Did Romero give you any motivation before rolling? Yeah, slam the shit out of the guy who comes up to me! And later they tweaked it with a great CGI effect on him where he splits into two.

What do you think of extreme violence in contemporary horror cinema? Generally it's not my idea of entertainment.

But it was your work that in part gave birth to films like this. no? I may have spearheaded the leaning toward

this trend to some degree, true. My work has always traded in gruesome and clever deaths, but the films that people call "torture porn" are not my cup of tea and give me no kind of pleasure.

You're a monster guy. I am.

You have a son named Lon, after Lon Chaney, "Man of a Thousand Faces." What has happened to our monsters? Look at Boris Karloff as the Frankenstein monster, especially in Bride of Frankenstein. Chaney in, well, everything. Hollywood used to love its monsters. Look at your monsters. Look at Jason in Friday the 13th, or Cropsy in The Burning. There was a genuine pathos and humanity in those creatures. I have to agree. When I think back to when I was 8 in 1954 and I saw Creature From the Black Lagoon for the first time-that movie scared the living hell out of me. Now, that was an incredible monster, even today. That costume when you look at it was ingenious. But you also felt for the creature; you felt bad for him. You mentioned Karloff: Just look at Jack Pierce's designs for that monster-incredible. Or look at Dick Smith's Regan in The Exorcist or the original Alien. Those monsters meant something.

Or Howard Sherman as Bub in Romero's Day of the Dead. Some of your finest work in that film and one of the most human and vibrant monsters in the history of horror. Well, thank you. but to be honest, I'm afraid we just made him up to be a zombie, that's all we did. We made him look the part. That's it. Any humanity or sympathetic aspects came from Howard's performance. In fact, Bub and David Emge as Stephen in Dawn of the Dead were some of the best zombies ever. And that's what it was, that mixture of special effects and fantastic acting. Absolute magic.

You're a staple of the convention circuit these days and are worshipped there accordingly. You have a distinct "look," but do you often get recognized in the non-horror-centric world? Oh yeah, I get recognized all over the world! Even in the deepest woods, in the middle of nowhere, while I'm hiking, it happens. Everywhere I go. But sometimes they think I'm someone else. Once I was mistaken for Jason Miller from The Exorcist. Another time someone actually thought I was AI Pacino. Now, that was amusing. M



SANDY

RIGHT

C O A S T

Last October, Mother Nature was a real motherfucker when it sent Superstorm Sandy to devastate the East Coast.

This is the tale of a Jersey Shore tattooer who rebuilt his shop one piece at a time.

BY JON COEN PHOTOS BY ANN MARIE COEN



an Binai keeps an eye on the weather. He sorta has to as the owner of Right Coast Tattoo, which sits on a skinny New Jersey barrier island that's constantly at the mercy of the elements. Located on

Long Beach Island, one block from the Atlantic Ocean, his shop naturally does a ton of maritime tattoos and traditional American and sea-themed Japanese-style work, and Binai is no stranger to bad storms. So when he saw Hurricane Sandy's projected path into LBI last October, he packed up his pigments, needles, and machines. He lifted things that were on the floor and did his best to batten down before evacuating to ride out the storm at his home on the mainland. "I figured we'd hunker down, have a little hurricane party. Maybe I'd tattoo my ol' lady while we waited it out," he remembers.

On the afternoon of Monday, October 29, 2012, with the storm bearing down, water started to rise in the bay west of Long Beach Island. Binai's longtime friend and customer Chad O'Dell made a lastminute escape when he realized his house was going to be flooded. As he passed Right Coast Tattoo, he took a photo and sent it to Binai. "The water was in the street, but I had seen it [that high]

before so I wasn't too concerned," Binai says.

But that night, the atmosphere famously exploded. The hurricane combined with a cold front from the west to create a superstorm that stalled over the mid-Atlantic. While the dunes on the eastern side of Long Beach Island mostly held back the 20-foot ocean waves, the bay surged up from the west, causing some of the worst flooding the area has ever seen. Even at Binai's home-some 20 miles inland, in the Pine Barrens-trees snapped like toothpicks that night, as the storm bore inland.

After the power went out, Binai had no information about what was happening back at the shop. The next day, with police guarding the bridge that led to his shop and the National Guard occupying LBI, there was little news coming from the island. It was a full week before business owners were permitted to return.

When he finally made it to Right Coast to assess the damage, Binai found sand from the beach and mud from the bay inside his soggy shop. The Sheetrock was already growing mold, and some of his artwork and flash was ruined. He took photos for the insurance company-and then it was time to gut the shop.

When Long Beach Island reopened to residents several weeks after the storm, Binai got to work. He's fairly handy and knew the local electricians and plumbers, many of whom he had tattooed. So he would do repairs on the shop all day, and each evening a contractor friend would swing by to keep him on track. Nearby tattoo shop owners even reached out to offer support. Ty Pallotta of Premium Blend Tattooing, Mitchell Perkins at Atlantic Tattoo Shop, and Desi Mooney of White Lotus Tattoo and Art Gallery all told Binai he could work at their shops in the aftermath.

"That was pretty nice, but I just had to get my place back together," Binai says.

Pallotta's shop, which is in Manahawkin, on the mainland adjacent to LBI, stayed high and dry, and at first he thought Binai declined his offer because the shop, located so close to Binai's, was technically a competitor. But he didn't take it personally. "I just realized he was so overwhelmed and he just wanted to get back up and running," Pallotta says. "It was a pretty devastating storm. But it was inspiring to see people come together instead of looking out for number one. Maybe it was good for young people like us to experience something like that.'

The Right Coast repairs took some of Binai's own money and lasted two months-a full 60 days with zero income. The only day he tattooed that fall was at a benefit at White Lotus, in nearby Toms River. The event raised \$21,000 for Sandy relief, but Binai didn't ask for any of the money himself. He even helped friends rebuild their homes when he wasn't laying his shop's new floor, putting up plasterboard, spackling, or painting.

Finally, on New Year's Day, Right Coast reopened for business. The mood was somber that winter, but every new door that opened gave the residents of LBI hope. Still, the storm's devastation created a dichotomy in the community, says Binai. "There were people doing things themselves and people who were just helpless," he says. "Some people had no insurance and know-how. It was sad. I have to stay ahead of the game. I can't just sit on my hands and wait for something to happen."

Throughout the winter and spring, armies of contractors come over the bridge each day. Little by little, Long Beach Island returned to some form of normalcy, but it still wasn't operating at its full potential when the summer rolled around. "I feel like we lost a summer tourist season," he says. "We rely on rental properties, and I've seen a lot of homes that haven't been repaired yet. I wonder if people are ready to walk away from some of them, but I'm always a skeptic. Our beaches are open. ... And I've seen a strong spirit here. There's a real sense of camaraderie.'

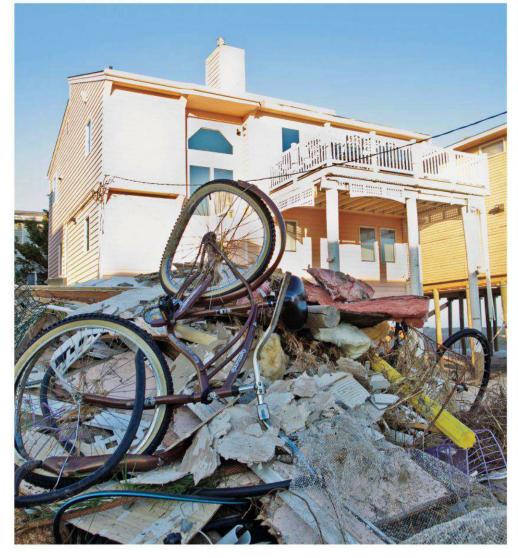
A year later, Sandy flash hangs on the walls of Right Coast in spots where Binai lost art to the storm. He's also added some custom Sandyrelated tattoos to his portfolio, including one he did of the now-famous Jet Star roller coaster, which sat in the ocean off Seaside Heights, just north of LBI, for months after the storm. And the appointment book is filling up again. Binai has had requests for Old Barney, an iconic lighthouse located on the northern tip of LBI, as well as other ink commemorating the Sandy chapter in the lives of those affected. Not only do these tattoos represent business for Right Coast, they symbolize that people who lost everything a year ago are finally getting back to normal. They've gutted their homes, replaced the essentials, applied new coats of paint-and now they're adding new ink to their collections.

"IT WAS INSPIRING **TO SEE PEOPLE COME TOGETHER INSTEAD OF LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE.**" -DAN BINAI















PART 2 OF ONE MAN'S JOURNEY INTO THE ELITE WORLD OF TATTOOING ART AND CULTURE.

BY JOHN BUFFALO MAILER PHOTOS BY KATRINA EUGENIA

UFFALO AND KATRINA SHOWED UP TO GRACELAND

early. Tattoo artist Josh Lord was late, but when he got there it became clear that this was not a process that was going to be rushed. He had a way about him that put Buffalo at ease, as if he were the Zen Master Yoda of tattooing. Lord took a look at the designs Buffalo had brought and admitted he wasn't sure how to marry the one Katrina, Buffalo's girlfriend, had created with the version of the Celtic cross Buffalo wanted as part of the sigil he was getting on his left shoulder today. So Josh called for Patrick Conlon. Out of nowhere, a wiry guy with a pompadour and a pissed-off expression appeared. He snatched the two designs out of Lord's hands and held them up to the window, giving the sheets the appearance of trac-

ing paper. After less than a minute of looking at the two designs, Patrick said, "Okay, I got it." He placed the design Katrina had done on top of the Celtic cross, and drew the image that would live on Buffalo's shoulder forever.

Buffalo wasn't sure how he felt about this. He thought he was getting a tattoo from Josh Lord, one of the finest artists in New York City (and more importantly, someone whom Buffalo had placed his trust in already), and now some dude who didn't even look him in the eye was designing the fucker? Just as that train of doubt was about to leave the station, Patrick slammed the finished drawing down on the table, and it was brilliant.

He had somehow managed to incorporate the design Katrina had drawn, creating an image to convey the crazy map of existence Buffalo had in his head with the interconnected chaotic balance of the Celtic cross. And it looked badass. Josh had to do some carving, which would take a few hours, so they all agreed to meet up at Josh's other shop, East Side Ink, later that evening.

When they got there, Josh did a rough sketch on Buffalo's shoulder with a green Sharpie, then placed the wet stencil and got it positioned perfectly on the first try. It was time to get to work.

Buffalo had forgotten how much needles bite when they get their teeth onto one of your sensitive parts. He had missed this particular pain. It always came with that adrenaline, that unique feeling that occurs whenever people take the look of their skin into their own hands by changing it permanently through someone else's. What a great fucking high! A thought flashed through Buffalo's mind: In many ways, ink is very much like weed. Not only do tattoos act as a bridge between almost every class, culture, race, and gender, like marijuana, but getting a tattoo also gets you a little high.

Katrina was snapping pictures of Josh at work. She was wearing a buttondown shirt that was tied at the waist and a pair of jeans that perfectly defined her generous, round derriere beneath. Buffalo loved that Katrina was confident in her body. By allowing her own light to shine in the way that she did, Katrina gave all those around her unconscious permission to do the same. It was one of the million and one things Buffalo adored about her. But just then, he became somewhat concerned that said bottom and exposed midriff might be distracting for Josh and the other artists who were permanently altering the flesh of their clients. As he looked around the room Buffalo got the sense that everyone else getting tattooed that afternoon shared his concern.

So Buffalo tried to interview Josh while he worked on his shoulder. It was harder than he had anticipated to think of anything other than what was happening to his body, let alone a good question. He couldn't even think of something rudimentary to ask Josh. No, he would have to wait until they were done for the night before he could hope to get a decent interview.

After a few hours, tired from snapping more than a hundred pictures, and on the verge of getting bored, Katrina decided to lie down on the couch and take a nap. This proved no less distracting to the hardworking artists, but was most likely a good thing, as it would take Josh another two hours just to finish the outlining.

It was time for a drink. They woke Katrina and went down the street to 7B, a bar Josh and the rest of the artists liked to frequent at the end of their shifts. This particular bar was another new door for Buffalo, who was as comfortable in a basement bar wearing a jean jacket with a swill beer in his hand as he was in a tuxedo tossing back martinis in the rarified air of an exclusive Manhattan rooftop party. But amongst the crowd that night on the Lower East Side, contemplative artist Josh Lord came alive. 7B was located on the corner of Tompkins Square Park, once the crack mecca of the East Coast, and those who weren't swept away in the cleanup stayed put in their barstools and were now buying Josh, the mayor of Alphabet City, drink after drink.

This guy is rapidly becoming one of my heroes, Buffalo thought to himself. I hope my piece can do him justice.

After a few guick whiskeys, Buffalo asked Josh if he had ever said no to a tattoo request from a client. Josh explained that while he had never said no to a tattoo, after going through all the possible cons of getting one, he had talked a person or two out of going through with it. There was one guy who had asked Josh to tattoo a swastika on his neck. But when Josh pointed out the downside of applying for a job at a company that might be prejudiced against neo-Nazis, the guy said he had not thought of that and decided Josh was right-could he put it on his back instead?

There was also the woman who wanted a tattoo on her face. Josh said no

In many ways, ink is very much like weed. Not only do tattoos act as a bridge between almost every class, culture, race, and gender, like marijuana, but getting a tattoo also gets you a little high.



for two months, but she kept petitioning him and finally convinced him that he wasn't going to be turning her into a freak because she already was one. She had pointed to her split tongue as proof that bodily alterations were something she had already wholeheartedly embraced, so Josh agreed to do it, but only if she promised to call him every once in a while to let him know she was okay (according to tattoo shop lore, people who get facial tattoos have the highest rate of suicide in the country).

As Buffalo listened to Josh reveal the inner workings of his philosophy about the art of tattooing, he couldn't help but think that a tattoo artist was part priest, shrink, historian, and surgeon. He might as well have added bartender to that list, because he and Josh had downed enough brown liquor that Buffalo was nice and saucy to the point of having forgotten the soreness in his arm and what it meant.

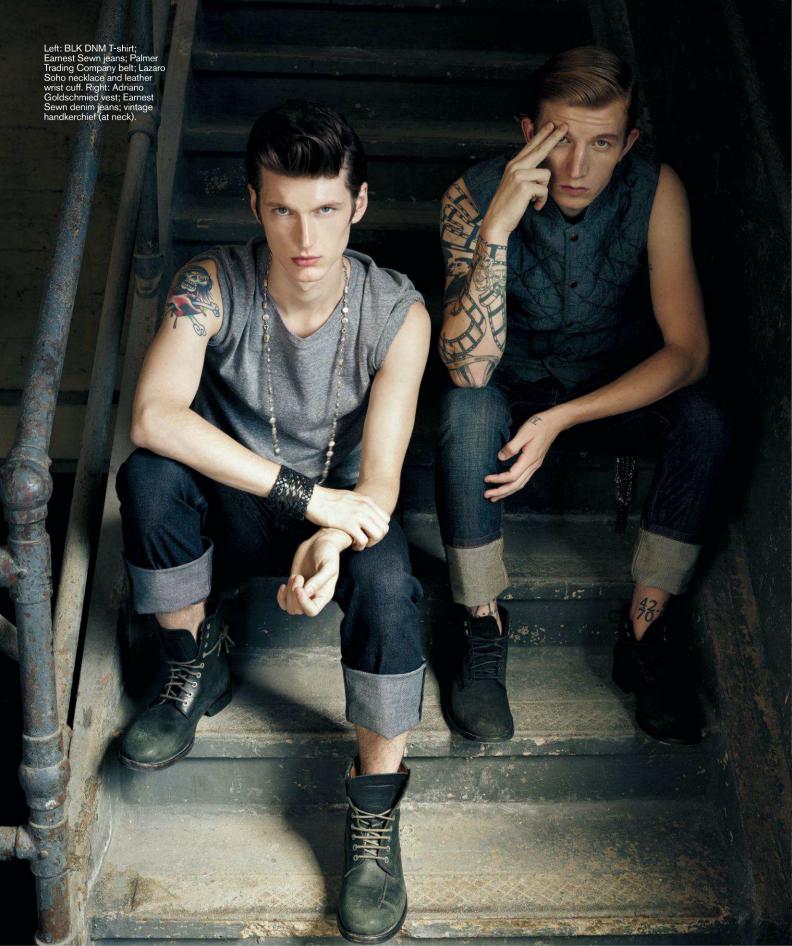
What Buffalo did not know yet was that getting a tattoo from Josh Lord is not like getting a tattoo from anybody else. Like all great artists, Josh brings a unique magic to the equation one cannot fully define. That might be why he is booked through the year and has a waiting list of 300 people (he says he had to cut it off there, as it was getting ridiculous). Simply put, he is a master. Just look at his list of notable clients. Scarlett Johansson comes to mind. She loved Josh's work so much, she decided to reciprocate by leaving an indelible piece of herself on his flesh. After he had finished a session doing her tattoo, Lord says Scarlett kissed his bicep, then traced the mark of her lips with his gun. And that's to say nothing of the extraordinarily talented male actors who have graced his shops, including Daniel Day Lewis and Peter Dinklage. Many INKED readers probably know all this already. But what you can't know unless you've met him is that Josh Lord may just be the nicest tattoo artist the world has ever seen.

Outside the bar, Josh and Buffalo smoked some weed and lamented their love-hate relationship with tobacco, then went their separate ways. Buffalo had never gotten a piece that took more than one session before, and he did not look forward to walking around with an unfinished work on his body for a week. Little did he know that he would live with the unfinished work on his shoulder for another two years before this particular tattoo would be complete. M

Over the course of a year, INKED will be serializing John Buffalo Mailer's literary tattoo memoir. If you missed Part 1, visit inkedmag.com/buffalo to read it.

























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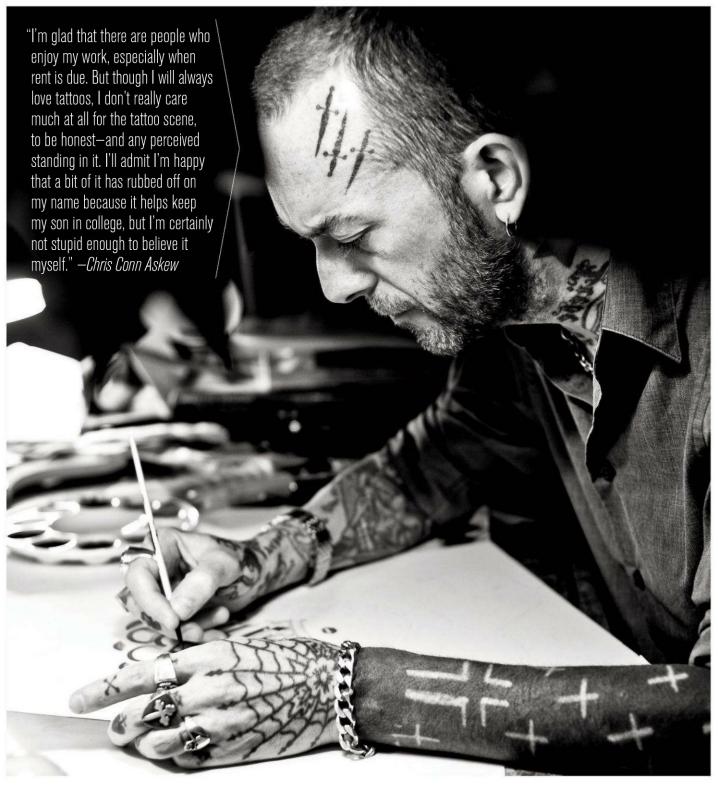
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CHRIS CONN ASKEW

INKED sits down for a rare interview with the reclusive genius who has returned to tattooing while fighting a devastating affliction.

> BY LANI BUESS PORTRAITS BY JON DRAGONETTE



Chris Conn Askew is a private man. Though raised by performer parents, Askew would rather hide behind a desk and draw. His penchant for pigments led him to become one of the most revered and respected artists in the tattoo industry. And yet he remains somewhat of an enigma, shying away from the tattoo scene. After 16 years in the field, he left for six years-shocking fans of his workand turned to a successful illustration career. It wasn't until last year that he was able to use skin as his canvas once again, bringing with him a whole new approach to the art form. In this surprisingly revealing and introspective interview, Askew talks about his love of art, a plethora of side projects, the reason for his hiatus and return, and how he juggles his passion for tattooing with a debilitating disease.

INKED: You were born and raised in Hollywood in the '70s. What was it about this art form that attracted you?

CHRIS CONN ASKEW: Well, I'm really not sure why, out of all the arts, I gravitated primarily toward drawing and painting so early. My father was an actor, and my mother was a singer, so it would have made more sense had I become a musician or performer. But I was shy, and it was the visual arts that really seemed to be my forte right off the bat. I think the real reason I became so obsessive with drawing was simple: I was very much an introvert, and didn't much care for the world around me, so I drew to create my own. That's still one of the driving forces behind my work, in any medium, though obviously much more so in painting. I've never felt like I was made for this world. I much prefer the world inside, though it definitely has its own hazards and horrors. I think that's part of what first drew me to tattooing: to put some of what is inside of me on the outside.

What does that world look like for you? A lot like my paintings, when I'm feeling good. Otherwise it's pretty black and hopeless and riddled with anxiety.

When did your love of tattooing emerge?

Growing up primarily in Los Angeles and surrounding areas, the first tattoos I saw were mostly fine-line cholo style. I also saw a fair amount of bolder, more traditional tattoos, though mostly aging ones, which I have always liked. I don't understand people who want their tattoos to look like perfect stickers forever. I love the changes that occur in tattoos over time; they are the by-product of living, and cannot be bought or faked. No hipster kid in the world can walk into a shop and get an old, slightly fuzzy, somewhat pale tattoo. You can only get that from earning it by living all of those years with it. The tattoo changes as you do, and that's one of the beauties of the medium. I can't wait until all of my tattoos are big, blue cow spots!

When did you get your first? At a very early age I knew I had to get one, but it was a long time before it actually happened. The first tattoo I really wanted was the teardrop tattoo I had seen on so many veteranos.

Of course, by the time I was able to start to consider getting it, I had learned the symbolism behind itand I certainly hadn't earned that. and had no intention of doing so in the future. It wasn't until a few years ago that the idea came to me of doing [it] in the runny eyeliner style that I have now, which is definitely not prison-y looking at all. I finally got it! I got and did my first handpoke tattoos when I was 13, and I got my first shop tattoo in '87 at Tiger Jimmy's in San Diego, back when it was behind the old Funland Arcade. It was a great, spooky little place, totally covered in tobaccobrowned flash, and the tiny, dingy lobby was chock-full of merchant marines, waterfront weirdos, and hookers-all chain-smoking. It was such a wonderful experience; it was like stepping into another world, a little secret room where the normal, chafing rules of society were no longer applicable. It was a little scary and totally magical, nothing like the brightly lit, hairdresser-with-a-needle shops that are so common now.

Why do you prefer American traditional tattooing? First off, I must admit that I really dislike it being called American traditional. They were tattooing in very similar styles at the same time in Europe and Australia, for instance. Many other places too. I think that perhaps a lot of the American traditional style was built on the British fine-line stuff that predated it, and then just simplified further and further for faster work, primarily for commercial reasons, high turnover. In my work, I feel a stronger stylistic influence now from those old Brits. Anyway, when I was old enough to start getting tattooed, my visual language was very influenced by the music I was listening to at the time, which was mostly pre-hardcore punk, post-punk, and death rock. I remember seeing the "Music and Sea Tattoos" issue of Ed Hardy's Tattootime. It was one of the first books I had ever seen on tattooing, and it quickly became my bible, along with its sister issues. The gorgeous work that Bob Roberts was doing in L.A. in the '70s and '80s-a lot of very bold, dramatic punk-rockinfluenced designs that had more in common with the work people would now call traditional than with the

"I WAS VERY MUCH AN INTROVERT, AND DIDN'T MUCH CARE FOR THE **WORLD AROUND ME, SO I DREW** TO CREATE MY OWN."

fine-line work I had been more used to-really rung my bells. It had such a strong, direct, modern style to it that was tempered with just enough fine detail. Between that and all of the crazy-sophisticated stuff Ed was turning out at the time, I was sold the minute I saw it.

How do you approach your artwork? It's very simple. Two things: the appropriate choice of loud music, and drugs.

Tell us about your business, SekretCity International. Why the name SekretCity? Mainly I just liked the idea of SekretCity as this mysterious organization, something bigger than just me. I liked the anonymity of it, though that didn't last long. Now it has become a real organization, with business partners and employees. This has allowed me to devote so much more of my time to my work and spend less time in business gear. We are all working together to get these projects done, every day. Without them I could never paint and draw, tattoo, and make jewelry simultaneously, and their input always gives me fresh ideas. It's like a group workshop of sorts, at times. I feel like I am really hitting an exciting new period in my life, and every day that my health allows I am so thrilled to work on all of these things. I wish I had a hundred arms like a Hindu deity so I could do even more. I have so many plans for the future. SekretCity has only just begun to get started.

Where is your secret company located? Currently our world headquarters is in Los Angeles, where I was born and where I now live again. But we do have a representative in Yokohama: Kioko, at Botan Toro, who handles sales over there, helps us find cool shows and events to be involved in, and allows us to communicate easily with Japanese customers and artists. Eventually, I would like to

have further outposts in Europe and Australia, maybe elsewhere as well. It is SekretCity International, after all! We really try to make things as easy as possible for our international friends to be involved. So far I have sent some prints to every continent but Antarctica. If no one in Antarctica gets any prints from me, I'm just gonna send one randomly to someone down there, even at the risk of them just tossing it out. Any Antarcticans down there want a free one?

We've heard that you never thought you would be an accomplished artist or tattoo artist. Now you are one of the most highly respected and sought-after artists and tattoo artists in the industry. What are your thoughts on that? That's very flattering of you to say so, but I never really had any goals to be well-known or anything. I just wanted to do my work and do my best at it, to achieve the respect of those few whom I respected, and make a decent living. I've never been a competitive person at all, and I'm glad that there are people who enjoy my work, especially when rent is due. But though I will always love tattoos, I don't really care much at all for the tattoo scene, to be honest-and any perceived standing in it. For better or worse it really doesn't mean much to me. I'll admit I'm happy that a bit of it has rubbed off on my name, because it helps keep my son in college, but I'm certainly not stupid enough to believe it myself. I'm just an incredibly immature man who can't hold down a real job.

You tattooed from 1990 until 2006 and then essentially retired from the tattoo industry. What was the reason for your hiatus? I was just really burnt out. I needed some time away to work on my own art. After 16 years of always drawing for other people, I just wanted to explore my own world for a while and get back to the joy I felt when

"I WISH I HAD A HUNDRED ARMS LIKE A HINDU DEITY SO I COULD DO EVEN MORE."



I drew as a child. I really enjoyed my work, but holding a pencil had become just that: work. I wanted to get back to the freedom I felt when I first started drawing. It's an amazing experience to take a blank sheet of paper and let your mind and your hand just flow freely, and to watch as the piece takes shape, as you mold it and let it grow and take on a life of its own. I had many very positive experiences tattooing as well; there's no feeling quite like the one you get when you and the customer just click, and everything just flows together from the two of you properly, and the whole thing finally comes to fruition as a piece that moves and breathes as part of a living body forever. It's amazing, and there's nothing else quite like it at all, but even on my best days tattooing, I have never had that same feeling of freedom and true escape from the banal reality of daily life that I get from making my own art.

Did you have a specific goal in mind that you wanted to accomplish or pursue with your art when you took the hiatus from tattooing? Just to unlearn a lot of what I had learned from tattooing, to allow myself complete freedom, and explore media and styles that I never had done before, to really stretch myself in all kinds of directions wherever my whim took me, to try and figure out more about

myself by letting a bit of my deeper self come through, to play without boundaries. I am still always looking for new ways to do things, new directions, new projects.

What compelled you to dabble in these different mediums? I just want to try everything! Keeping myself involved in multiple projects every week keeps me interested, keeps me fresh, keeps my imagination burning. It's been very interesting to me that often, what I learn in one medium really affects how I work in other, less obviously related media. I wanted to try working with three-dimensional mediums, which has led to my interest in porcelain, and the jewelry is something I always wanted to do but just assumed was out of my reach. I looked into it, I started trying to figure out a way to make it possible for us, and now we've begun doing it! It's a very interesting feeling for me to create something in metal. We will be releasing a new line of jewelry very soon that will feature hand-painted miniatures and cameos in silver settings. I'm very excited about that one.

You returned to the tattoo industry in 2012. Why? Well, basically, it had just been long enough that I wasn't afraid of tattooing anymore. When I quit, I felt that I had to completely separate myself from tattooing for a very long time in order to get my mind in order, to do



what I felt I needed to do with my life, to find a new direction, new ways of seeing and thinking. It's hard to just give up a career you put 16 years into that has somewhat dependably supported your family for so long, and just take that blind jump into doing your own work and nothing else, with no safety net at all. It was a real leap into thin air, a major risk. But I landed on my feet, thankfully, and I have not regretted that decision for even one moment since. I had no idea whether I'd be able to support myself and my family without it, so I was deathly afraid of getting sucked back into the tattoo world before I was ready.

You mentioned briefly on your blog that you've been battling a chronic illness. How has that affected your career? Yes, unfortunately-about three years ago I was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease that causes periodic bouts of constant vomiting, very often to the point of hospitalization. Sometimes it's only for a few days, sometimes a couple of weeks, which gets really debilitating. It's had a profoundly negative effect on my general quality of life. Obviously that interferes with my work schedule quite a bit, and has been a major problem on many occasions. I was scheduled to do a solo show this October in Rome, but sadly, I had to cancel it, entirely due to my health problems and the issues it affects. It isn't really lethal,



so it's not going to kill me, at least. I am trying some new treatments that I sincerely hope will help me get out from under this. Fingers crossed.

Has the illness had any impact on the subject matter you paint or tattoo? I haven't drawn or painted anything related to my illness yet, but I suppose it's only a matter of time. It all shows up in there eventually, though not always obviously.

How does your art serve you? Someone once said that for them, making art was like clipping their toenails: It just has to be done. I make and make or I start to succumb to the black vortex of doom. It's the only thing in life besides my ridiculously fantastic son that gives me any real satisfaction or sense of worth. I have nothing else to offer as a sacrifice to the innermost light that brings beauty into my life and makes it livable.

Your artwork has graced the covers of books, albums, and magazines. What has been your biggest accomplishment so far in your career? I haven't achieved anything. I just paint and draw and will continue to do so until I can't anymore. Maybe then I'll write a book or devote myself to a monastic lifestyle, or die, or something like that. It doesn't really matter. M

For inquiries on Chris Conn Askew's tattoos, prints, and his store, visit sekretcity.com.





DEEP SIX LABORATORY

2483 Grant Ave. Philadelphia, PA 215-332-4803 deepsixlab.com

BY NICK FIERRO Portrait by Dom Savini What is it about horror that keeps us coming back for more? Nine out of 10 times the good guy loses, and the villain, beaten and seemingly defeated, opens a lone eyelid at the last second to the accompaniment of some dramatic orchestral flourish. Maybe it's the honesty in the admission that the good guy doesn't always win—or maybe, by the end of the book, or movie, or old-fashioned nightmare, we side with the monster, for no reason other than it's far more interesting than the hero.

At Deep Six Laboratory in Philadelphia, owner and artist Paul Acker combines his love for this very genre with his love for the craft of tattooing. "The shop definitely has a darker tone, but that wasn't the original plan. In the beginning I just wanted to raise the bar when it came to quality and cleanliness. I also wanted an art gallery, separate work areas for the artists. You didn't really see anything like that in Philly at the time. Since then we've really embraced our reputation for having a dark side but still kept the things you would want to see in a tattoo shop if you were a customer."

Starting out as a customer in a northwest Philly shop in 2001, Acker remembers how his penchant for the obscure opened doors for him along the way. "I was going in there to get tattooed, and I always brought in my

own drawings because flash tattoos didn't really appeal to me—I was into darker imagery. They liked my drawings and basically offered to teach me how to tattoo." Within a few weeks he had earned himself a position at the shop, and a platform to globe-trot his lifelike renderings of everyone from Freddy Krueger to the Joker to a bloody, fanged Betty White.

After years of travel, Acker honed his craft, dug a sturdy niche in the convention circuit, and assembled plans for the kind of shop he would want to work at. A place to showcase not only his talent, but the works of friends and fellow artists from across the country—and in the past seven

Clockwise from below: tattoo by Paul Acker; tattoo by Dan Henk; tattoo by fom Taylor; tattoo by Bill Foulkrod; tattoo by Craig Gardyan.











years Deep Six has evolved into a community fixture in a city already known for its ink. "Philly is a huge tattoo city," says Tom Taylor, who's been tattooing alongside Acker for three years. "There's a lot of history, and tons of awesome tattooers I respect and look up to. I think we've found our niche in the tattoo scene around here, which is no easy task these days. Shops seem to be popping up left and right, and you really have to sift through the bullshit to get to the good ones. That being said, I think the cream always rises to the top."

Maybe it's the death metal blaring from the speakers or the gruesome decor that attracts the clientele to

a shop like Deep Six, but it's also the jaw-dropping work that keeps them coming back. The balance of shock and awe is something Acker and crew have developed over the years, mixing the aesthetic of horror with the refinement of photo-realism and the high-end draw of a gallery. By showcasing the beautiful side of something ugly, the shop has struck a chord with the community. "We have a good reputation in Philly and beyond, and most of the shop was born here," says Deep Six artist Dan Henk. "It seems like we have friends in everything. From people who work at comic shops, to comic book artists, bartenders, record and art store

employees, and even quite a few people on the Philly police force."

There's a sense of belonging attached to Deep Six. It seems that each artist has a different tie to the area. When Taylor isn't tattooing, he's playing drums in a local metal band whose members include artists from other shops in the area, an investment banker, and even one of the aforementioned Philly cops. "Yeah, it's a weird mix," admits Taylor.

The community spirit doesn't end with a mutual love for metal. Deep Six is a shop for the artist's artist. "We often collaborate on shows with and even tattoo local tattoo artists from other shops," says Henk. "Tattooing

is a very word-of-mouth business, and our customers tend to be very loyal. Their friends and coworkers often end up as our customers. There are a huge number of shops [in Philly] and we have great relations with some of them, like the guys at Black Vulture gallery. I've referred people to artists at other shops before, and they have done the same for me.'

As an art, tattooing has flourished in Philadelphia. And although its acceptance within the community has made tattoos less shocking, Acker and the Deep Six crew have found a way to keep tattooing scary: putting a gruesome expression on their clients' skin, instead of their faces. M

INKED SCENE | profile













CHRIS VENNEKAMP

Do you live every day like it's Halloween? It sure seems like it sometimes. Halloween never lasts long enough.

What is it about the macabre that draws you in? Honestly, I have just always been fascinated by monsters and aliens. I had a young start watching these come to life on the big screen, books, and such—I guess they rubbed off on me.

What is the most frequently requested horror image for a tattoo? Tough question, but if my memory serves me right I'd say that zombies win.

Do you feel like your clientele is a little different than the usual clients that walk into a tattoo shop? Oh, for sure. They are unique and aren't looking for what is trendy or acceptable by the masses. You definitely don't find what they are looking for on Pinterest.

While there is already a stigma with tattoos, do you feel horror tattoos give the wearer another layer of that? Depending on their environment, I could see that. Most peo-

ple fear what they don't understand. That's how monsters were invented.

Artistically, is there a horror figure that you have a deep appreciation of that deserves more adoration? Baby Face from *The Hills Run Red* is one of the greatest killers in years. I think a lot of people overlooked or missed him.

Do you have a horror tattoo that you want to do but have no takers on yet? For sure. I would love to tattoo more of my own original characters. I have sketchbooks full of creatures that usually go toward my work in masks or prosthetics but would be cool to see in flesh.





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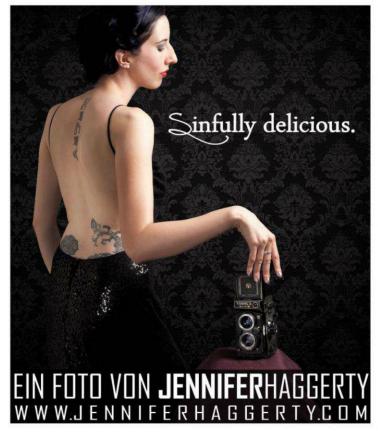
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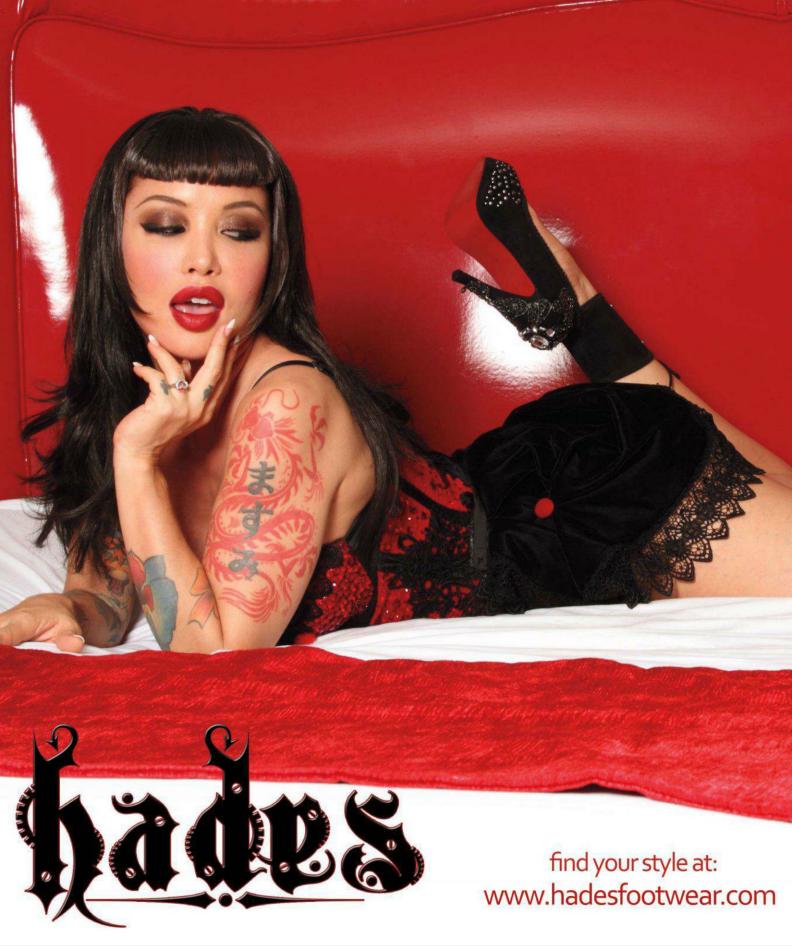
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