



#008

*london's calling*



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*A Slick Media Inc Publication  
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*I always feel more comfortable in chaotic surroundings. I don't know why that is. I think order is dull. There is something about this kind of desire for order, particularly in Anglo Saxon cultures, that drive out this ability for the streets to become a really exotic, amorphous, chaotic, organic place where ideas can, basically, develop.*

*- Malcolm McLaren*





# *The Ascot* **Royals**

“*The UK tends to sneak into our style of music, mostly because we spent most of our lives there. With living in the UK for such a long period we find ourselves more interested with what is happening over in Britain’s music scene more so than the North Americans as a reminder of home. Saying that though I find it a nice blend with the other members in the band and their influences being directed more towards North American music. The UK being such a small continent there is a huge music scene living on itself. We are just five friends playing tunes we enjoy to hear, hoping that people will gain the same enjoyment from them. Also the accents help.*”

- Jimmy Chauveau

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Words *Felicia Mancini* Photo *Joe Dibenedetto*

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The Ascot Royals have managed to tour North America while gaining indie notoriety and industry acclamation with their infectious songs and larger than life stage presence. Fusing Brit Rock with North American Motown compositions, UK native lead singer Jimmy Chauveau and keyboardist Ben Chauveau have embedded their homeland into a sound that blends effortlessly with their Canadian band-mates Joe Vinegar’s astounding guitar skills, Jesse Gilroy on Bass and Scott Cunningham on drums. You can’t really compare The Ascot Royal’s with English Indie acts or Canadian ones for that matter, they are simply the best of both worlds.

# Banksy

Words *Jonathan Kates* Illustration *Funky Swiss*

To know Banksy is simply to know a name, a style, and a creative personality. The elusive artist from Bristol is notorious for having never shown his face in public but his pieces are some of the most recognizable in street culture. His primary technique is stencilling, but before you laugh off the notion of replicating an activity for children, Banksy writes in his book, *Wall and Piece*, that when he started doing graffiti, he was too slow and was frequently caught.

In addition to being instantly recognizable, Banksy's art is famous not only for the aesthetic but also for the content. The pieces are frequently based around a thinly veiled political and/or social message, often referencing authority figures or depictions of characters with less-than-desirable qualities. For example, one of Banksy's well-known murals features a British palace guard peeing on a wall, standing next to a high-powered rifle. But probably what's most interesting about this piece is that the "pee stain" was the part of the mural that was originally on the wall and Banksy simply designed around it. This is a frequent occurrence in his artwork, he often uses what's already available to him, which allows him to greatly reduce the chance of being caught.

Despite a career that is almost two decades old, 2010 may be Banksy's biggest year yet and we're only 5 months in. At the Sundance Film Festival this past January, Banksy premiered his new film, *Exit Through The Gift Shop*, to an overwhelmingly positive response. In February, *The Whitehouse Pub* in Liverpool, which features a rat stencilled by Banksy across an entire wall, was sold at an auction for £114,000. And then in April and May, as *Exit* started to premiere at various cities across North America, new Banksy art started to pop up. At press time, pieces had been found in San Francisco, Detroit, Seattle, Chicago, New York and Toronto. His renewed notoriety has propelled him from a young cat that stomped around London pissing people off to an internationally recognized artist whose mystery and talent has everyone in the art world buzzing again.







# Vivi Brown

“*I'm from Northampton. Princess Diana is from Northampton and we are known for making the best quality shoes in the country. The greatest place in the UK to play a gig is Koko in Camden because its quaint, slightly retro, has a good sound and huge but intimate at the same time. What I love miss most about London is the history, architecture and the grass root reality of life.*”

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Words *Felicia Mancini* Photo *Universal*

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Its uncanny the way a song, a single line well actually a voice can transcend you back into a specific time, place or moment. It wasn't until I was in Portobello Market on a sweltering Saturday afternoon last summer that I first heard the voice of UK's promising soul scene. I didn't know who it was singing but everywhere I went I heard, "Baby there's a shark in the water" and to this day, now as I sit in my office back in Canada it plays on some top 10 radio countdown and I can taste the snakebite and smell the wet cement on Portobello's busy road. VV Brown is the quintessential English songstress that has received critically praise and mass notoriety all in the same breath. She has burst into the mainstream with her trademark retro infused look and the pipes to back it all up. The Northampton native named one of the most beautiful people of 2010 by Paper Magazine, the vintage connoisseur and shop owner (vvintage.com) is what London is all about. Style and soul.



# Andrew Buckler

“*London... always cool (literally as well). Spitalfields and Brick Lane are the best spots to visit.*”

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Words *April Wozny* Photo *Unknown*

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Men's designer Andrew Buckler is exactly what his line is: English Bloke meets New York. Literally - he's a super ace ex-Londoner now based in NYC. I never understood why he left London and why the general consensus is that the Brits know how to 'do' art, design and music. It all goes hand in hand with Buckler. He grew up in London when the times were about house music parties in middle-of-nowhere fields or at Ministry of Sound (which was "the coolest shit on earth at that time"), then went to The Royal College of Art and then realized that one of the dilemmas in London is that it "churns out a hell of a lot of design people and not a lot of design firms to work for". "So what are you gonna do? Sit there doing shit all and doing something you don't want to do?" Andrew says, "I wanted to follow my dream and design." So he went and made NYC home, which, to him, feels like an extension of London.

For those that do stay in London, the pressure is continuously on. It's an intense culture where everything is trying so hard to be the best that's it's almost by default you are going to rock what you do. He explains that the word of mouth in London moves so quickly that the idea of something being good doesn't survive; whatever it is you're doing has to be good. Always looking at it in a very professional kind of way trying to be different than the person next to you. He's a complete reflection of that culture. Take a look at his men's line - Buckler is one to "disregard the universal monotony". The designs themselves meld Roguish American icon with a Brit edge, evading uniformity by superimposing eccentric undertones with classic silhouettes.

Personally, I'd love to see every man in only Buckler's notorious Sexy Bastard briefs. For days when clothing is required, I want to see a man decked out in Buckler just like Liam Gallagher, The Rolling Stones, Shia LaBeouf, Giovanni Ribisi and Franz Ferdinand. The designs are tailored, versatile, masculine and sexy, brought to life with quality textiles. Check out the Buckler stores: 35 Artillery Lane (London), 93 Grand Street (Soho, NYC) or 13 Gansevoort St (Meatpacking District, NYC) and 700 Queen West (Toronto).





# Katy Chan

“London is not an easy city to live in. It’s gray and damp with moody people with harsh sense of humors. An awkward glance here and there in the tube and you’ll have people staring at you like you’re foreigner or assume you’re a terrorist (that was an exaggeration). At first glance, all you see is the ugly. However, I’ve learned that if you are patient, London will grow on you like moss to an aging rock. You’ll learn that each area has its history and characteristics along with their own fashion trendies. The people here know what they like: they love their pubs here, and they also love their sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll lifestyle. Londoners work hard and party hard. London will definitely grow on you if it wasn’t love at first sight. It’ll have you falling head over heels with time.”

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Words *Jonathan Kates* Photo *Joseph Bassary*

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The story of Katy Chan is rather polarized; she’s had great opportunities yet lived through them under less than desirable conditions. After arriving in London from Lisbon on a European backpacking trip, the photographer from Toronto landed in the English capital ready to start what should have been a 9-month UN-sponsored internship at design firm Suck UK. But seeing that she was living in poverty, Suck hired her after only two months as their in-house product photographer.

The firm is known for its quirky furniture, lighting, interior products and accessories, and is run by Sam and Jude. They are Suck UK’s main designers but also buy products from those who they deem to be “some of the best around the world”. Their products – which I would call ‘abstractly useful’ – are available across the UK and internationally, and the firm has amassed a long list of awards, accolades and mentions from Gift & Wrap, the Daily Telegraph and the BBC.

Despite her company’s success, Chan’s personal situation wasn’t so bright. “Working 9 to 6 from Monday to Friday left little time to make money”, writes Chan, so the young jetsetter would piss before going home to not waste toilet paper. The life of an intern... In an attempt to offset her dire straights, Chan got a job working weekends as a server at The Big Chill Bar off Brick Lane but that provided no relief; “Brits aren’t big on a custom known as ‘tipping’.” (Note: on Chan’s online bio, the word ‘tipping’ is embedded with a link for the ‘gratuity’ Wikipedia page. Très drôle Katy très drôle.)

But as you have probably imagined, this story doesn’t end in tragedy. Whether Chan still makes it a daily priority to conserve toilet paper is unclear but we know that she’s diving into other projects. Our ex-pat is now a sought-after event photographer based in East London and runs across the city flashing her cam. So if you’re throwing down in Londontown and see a young photog who looks like she could be “a great tragic story for someone”, make sure to say ‘hi’.



# Cottweiler

Words *Jonathan Kates* Photo *Levi Kirby*

Menswear label Cottweiler is the brainchild of dynamic duo Matthew Dainty, a casualwear designer, and Ben Cottrell, a Savile Row designer and tailor. Their very different backgrounds allow each to bring their individual talents to the brand that is about to enter their third season. The clean, tailored casualwear is influenced by codes of dress in male youth and subcultures represented throughout Britain whilst drawing inspiration through classic sportswear. The design ethic always focuses on simplicity, fabrication, function, quality, wear ability and fit. All pieces are made from British cloth with the core range consisting of t-shirts, vests and polos through to seasonal outerwear and accessories.

So it came as a great pleasure when a representative from the Vauxhall Fashion Scout program approached the men to make a video for London Fashion Week. Even though the brand is in its relative infancy, Matthew and Ben didn't feel the need to attract new customers with this opportunity. "It's an art piece really. It's not about just selling our clothes, it's about creating a brand. We don't want to sell it to everyone."

That doesn't mean they wouldn't like to see their brand grow. In an interview with *le cool London*, the East Londoners claim they'd like to eventually open up a store and have their clothing sold in boutiques from Berlin to Tokyo. But until then, they're satisfied with London; "I've never felt more like I fit in in East London," says Matt, while Ben claims "It's the best city in the world for fashion."

Gentlemen, the city seems to dig you as well.

“*Being a London-based menswear brand is inspiring and challenging at the same time. Cottweiler is based in East London where there's a lot of creativity and innovation. It really motivates you to achieve something and our way of doing that is by creating clothing.* - Ben Cottrell”







# Freddie Forsyth

“*I was brought up outside of the city so I never really felt like a real Londoner, but from a very young age my own identity and my passion for visual culture has been shaped by my love for London. I guess that is what inspired me to make the book; I was just an outsider looking in on a culture that I loved.*”

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Words *Jonathan Kates* Photo *Ruedi One*

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As the days pass, and more and more is accomplished, it becomes harder to claim you were the first to do something. This feat can be monumental or minimal, and in the end may be nothing more than bragging rights, but it also may count for a lot more. Either way, it comes as a great surprise that *Crack & Shine*, the first book ever to be published about London's unnecessarily secretive graffiti culture, was only published in 2009.

*Crack & Shine* is the brainchild of London-based entrepreneur Fred Forsyth, who self-published this anthology after a vigorous two year study of the London street art scene. Unlike other major street art meccas such as New York, Los Angeles and Tokyo, the street art scene in London was mostly kept under wraps, an inexplicably taboo topic for such a cultured city. The book is both visual and insightful, combining the photography of Will Robinson-Scott with features on forty of the most influential artists to have ever lived or displayed their works in London.

Using his knowledge of graffiti, and combining them with his business skills, Forsyth started *Topsafe London*, “the first gallery to specialize in limited edition works from underground artists”. The online shop mainly produces and sells high-quality prints by artists who began by tagging trains and building walls, but who have refined their skills in such a way that they are now marketable. *Topsafe* also doubles as a creative agency that looks to connect its artists with brands to create marketing campaigns and products. What's important, and has not gone unnoticed, is the fact that brands are willing to buy graffiti and street art for commercial use. This helps to prove that these mediums are in actuality seen as art, and not the product of crude habits and paint cans.

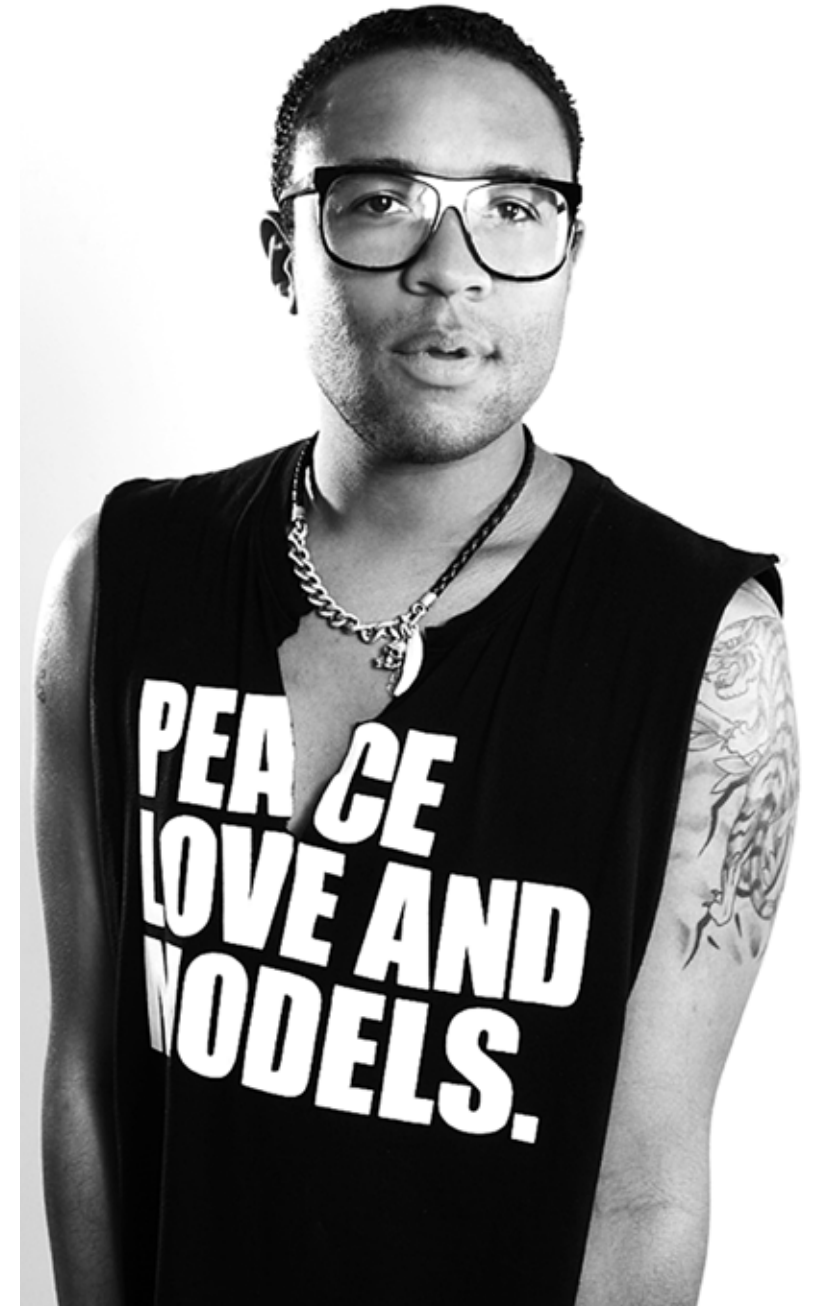
And just as we'd expect from a successful businessman like Forsyth, a new project is always on the horizon. His latest is *Private School*, a communications agency that focuses on art-led creative solutions. Although this is relatively in its infancy, based on his past success of projects that combine art and business, *Private School* is sure to be a success.

# Jody & Bayo Furlong

“London is amazing, you can cast the whole world from here, sometimes we do by just hanging out our office window.”

Words *Sam Voltage* Photo *Eddie Blagbrough*

The twins were 90's club kids before settling down with the 'proper job' of finding people that everyone wants to look at. Together they run The Eye, a casting company turned agency that represents all the most fabulous looking people in the hippest of all hipster communities. Between them, they make music (Bayo), run marathons (Jody), can reel off all the nominees for every Oscar ever won since their inception (Bayo - never have I been so amazed by a useless talent), and are the biggest geeks in the universe about track and field athletics (both). With Bayo's history of working with model agencies and ability to name every supermodel since the invention of the camera, and Jody's niche as a casting director - having worked with the likes of Tom Ford, Solve Sundsbo, Rankin and fronting the BBC model scouting show "Find Me the Face" - they have managed to build a strong reputation for their company. New projects include The Eye Model Placement, a model scouting service that has successfully placed their discoveries at agencies in all the fashion capitals, and their funky Bric Lane studio that allows the agency to shoot in-house. Also, Jody was once sick on John Galliano, which is, in reality, his most notable achievement. These guys really are the one-stop shop for all your casting needs.







# Steve Glashier

“

*Sometimes, London is like the puddles that stick to the corners of its many side streets and alleyways: cold, damp and unfeasibly shallow. Other times, when the sun smacks against the side of the Telecom Tower and the streets are paved with girls, it's the best place in the world.*

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Words *Jonathan Kates* Photo *Lucie Goodayle*

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As creative as an individual can be, there is an underlying process to making anything worth someone else's time. Steve Glashier can tell you how he learned this first-hand. Five years ago, the Londoner was putting on illegal warehouse parties and one day, he picked up a camera and shot the visuals for his buddy's piece of music. He loved the creative experience and the collaborative process to making music videos but he had no real desire to become a director. Nevertheless, he made a handful of videos and one day received a call from Juliette Lewis. The American singer/actor was living in London at the time and after their initial meeting, the two hit it off and they hammered out a video the very next week. Glashier recalls the story and emphasizes that she was 'amazing', he felt spoiled to work with her and it would always be hard for anyone to follow her performance.

Still unsure of the process, Glashier knew one thing and had known it from the start: he wanted to do a Fatboy Slim video. He already had the concept; he just needed a song to accompany it. Unfortunately it didn't work out initially – “I didn't hear anything back, but looking back now, I see why, not because it was a bad idea, just it's not the way things happen – but his vision prevailed and the video was made, but for a band called Goose. He built a relationship with Skint Records and eventually got his Fatboy Slim video but it just sucked.

“Everything you thought you would get with doing a Fatboy video, you get, and it ain't good. I realized very quickly that I'd not been doing it for long enough to be put in that spotlight.”

It's important to know that this was all within the first year of the “five years ago” era. Four years later, Glashier isn't aiming for money – he knows the music video well has dried up – just to enjoy the opportunity to collaborate with artists on his own terms. All he really wants is to be creative, and if that means re-writing the processes he'd probably be down for that too.



# Sebastian Horsley

“Best place in London for a blow job/find a whore and or drugs is my flat. 7 Meard Street. (Black Bell) Soho. London WIF OEW. And bring a friend. I live in a brothel. Living in a brothel is all it is cracked up to be. Living in a crack-den is quite as sexy as you might imagine. It is a light-house for losers. They get off at Dover and make their way over. I work all day my darlings but I finish at 5.00pm if you fancy a fuck. And no, not with a moose. This is England, not Canada.”

Words *Felicia Mancini* Photo *Unknown*

While the British pride themselves on refinement rooted from royalty, Sebastian Horsley, a dandy by nature and repulsive by choice is an artist, writer and icon that has been crucified (voluntarily) in the Philippines, has a strong reliance on prostitution (some of the limbless variety), has walked the runway for Comme des Garçon, has frolicked in Shark infested waters in Australia all while dabbling in the world of drug addiction in London's Soho. When I first approached the author of *Dandy in the Underworld* I felt intimidated by his unabashed poire yet he was extremely approachable in his honesty and somewhere in the larger than life top hats the man even larger underneath them was pleased to find out he was being featured in a publication based all the way in Canada where he mentioned fur coats and whores of the Northern variety. I told him that regardless of the immediate disgust I felt while reading his Autobiography that he was the sole living person on my to-do list (not literally so much as literary) and he said that vomiting is his idea of a standing ovation. “Why thank you, Fellatio. You are cheeky and I like impudence. I will write you back but I work all day. I finish at 5:00pm if you fancy a fuck.” What you see is what you get with a dandy and Mr.Horsley, the pleasure was all mine.





# Kidkanevil

“*London is a silly place, but I like it. It’s a good place for musical progression, particularly of the bass infused variety. It’s pretty good for limited edition New Balance sneakers, good Korean food spots and making friends with foxes. I have a fox family in my garden. I’ve been feeding them burgers, so we’re cool now.*”

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Words *Jonathan Kates* Photo *Dan Medhusrt*

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Back in 2007, when kidkanevil released his debut album *Problems & Solutions*, he was toiling in relative obscurity. Now with three solid offerings under his belt, the DJ/producer from “Tokyorkshire” is receiving critical acclaim left, right and centre. With backing from DJ Shadow and *Wire Magazine*, and comparisons to producer extraordinaires like *Flying Lotus*, *Timbaland* and *RJD2*, it’s easy to see the amazing things that can happen in such a short period of time.

His music mixes genres – the kid is known to touch everything from hip-hop, jazz, jungle, dubstep and world beats – and is both a “headphone experience and dance floor dynamite”. Never failing to see how far he can go in terms of production and creativity, kidkanevil is a sought-after commodity: a producer whose beats don’t sound like they were made on your neighbour’s laptop.

Fresh out of the latest round of *Red Bull Music Academy*’s participants, kidkanevil is ready for 2010. With “a barrage of new music and collaborations” set to be unleashed on the world, the member of Leeds-based experimental band *Stateless* has planted his foot firmly as someone to keep an eye on.



# Todd Lynn

“The best thing about living in London apart from the cultural menagerie (everything from seeing art at the Tate Modern to seeing the newest unsigned band at one of many music venues in the city), are the simple things that you see every day that make London famous around the world. Things like riding Double Decker busses and black cabs, sitting outside a pub on the Thames looking at St. Paul’s and shopping at the markets that feel like old school London. London is a city full of excitement and inspiration.”

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Words *Felicia Mancini* Photo *Nik Hartley*

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After graduating from Central St Martins, Todd Lynn has made his mark as Rock N’ Roll’s prestigious tailor. Bono, Mick Jagger, Marilyn Manson and The Klaxons have all worn his dark designs thanks to his impeccable tailoring. In 2006 Todd Lynn launched his own line turning his mostly celebrity based clientele into an international brand-making him one of London’s most talented young designers. His latest working relationship has expanded from dressing Rock’s leading men to collaborating with one of his biggest fans, Janet Jackson whom flew over to London Fashion Week in February to specifically sit in the front row of his show after sporting his creations in one of her latest videos. Clearly Rock N’ Roll’s best kept secret is a secret no more.







# Rahma Mohammed

“  
*The truth is London is the only place that caters to my diversity. I see new people every day from every corner of the world. I can also go about my business without anyone sucking their teeth or giving me the side eye.*  
”

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Words *Mason Smillie* Photo *Alisa Connan*

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She has walked the runways of London, New York and Paris alongside the likes of Lara Stone, Jourdan Dunn and Yasmin Le Bon and worked for big name brands like DKNY, Stella McCartney and Vivienne Westwood, but Rahma Mohammed is an upcoming model who is far more than just a pretty face.

Born in Saudi Arabia to Kenyan and Somali parents, she immigrated to Norway as a child due to the Somalian civil war. Her background, combined with her experiences as a Somalia-Norwegian child growing up in Oslo, gave her a unique insight into how the wider world treats its most vulnerable citizens. This set the course for her to change her destiny, moving to London to study for a B.A in Peace and Conflicts Studies at Metropolitan University. A modelling agent soon noticed her striking looks and it wasn't long before she was jetting around the world, juggling her studies with jobs for Halston and Alberta Ferretti.

In the course of her rising fame, she has managed to affiliate her dedication to human rights with fashion. She walks for Naomi Campbell's "Fashion for Relief" shows during London Fashion Week and appeared in the "Africa Rising" Fashion Shows in New York, highlighting emerging African fashion alongside her East African predecessors Alek Wek and Liya Kebede. Having recently ended her studies, she will be back on the catwalks next season with a degree under her tightly cinched belt and an ambition to eventually set up a charity that empowers young girls who haven't yet had the opportunities in life that she has. And yet with a of her diverse background it is London that is her base. She may be going places but it's the UK capital that she has chosen to call home.

# *thedirtystory*

“London scares the piss out of me. It’s full of people who bump into each other on the way to work [and it’s] so not low key that it makes me a bit anxious. I get the vibrancy and the constant nature of the place but I can only handle it for a few days. Sometimes I have nightmares about being single and living in London and then wake up next to my girlfriend and say a little prayer. Everyone in London seems to be a model/actress/singer/goat-herder and I’ve never quite got that [since] people in Manchester just work in a bar. Here’s to London, may she always be about 180 miles from Manchester.”

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Words *Jonathan Kates* Photo *thedirtystory*

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Meet thedirtystory, a photographer based in Manchester, UK. Unsure of his style – “it’s not fashion, it’s sometimes portrait, it’s not always erotica and most often it’s just messing around with friends” – thedirtystory just aims to produce intimate, pseudo-private moments that never stray too far from being funny. Possibly because of the subject matter (or possibly not), his photographic collaborations are with models who he deems to be his friends and fellow creatives, but he’s not in it for the money. “I shoot for myself and when this overlaps with publications, features, exhibitions and prints sales, so be it.” That’s an attitude we can’t help but stand behind.







# JJ Thompson

“London is a vast eclectic city and, much like Toronto, a patch work of people from everywhere. It’s a tough city and can be just as expensive as it can be fun. London’s best enjoyed on credit.”

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Words *Jonathan Kates* Photo *JJ Thompson*

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An ex-pat from London, JJ Thompson found himself in Toronto three years ago after leaving L.A. Having visited the US and Canada several times before, he loved the big spaces, wide roads and true optimism and after traveling a lot over the last few years, he is now proud to call Toronto home. In 2009, Thompson started a Toronto lifestyle website, The Compendium Daily, which he calls “a real labour of love that I’m infinitely proud of”. Even though the website is concentrated on his new home, he’s always looking for stories that are familiar and that he thinks would meet the standards of any world class city, including London. He says he’s best known around town as a photographer, snapping images for the site, and spending more time around socialites than his family. When he does have spare time on his hands, cooking and entertaining is how he chooses to spend it. “In my world butter is a basic ingredient,” says Thompson.

# *The* English *Eccentrics*

Words *Stephanie Waknine* Illustrations *Andrew Mitchell*

To epitomize the London look, take a stroll through the city's East end and you're sure to see the most outrageous fashion attempts. No garment, hair style, lipstick or accessory will shock or stand out in the old city. Home to some of the most renowned fashion and art colleges, London is a hotbed of new artistic talent. The schools contribute to the influx of youth within the city and thus are largely responsible for London's quirky and highly experimental nature. In comparison to New York, Milan and Paris (the world's other three fashion capitols) London embraces the new and innovative, lending itself an extremely democratic reputation.

In 2007, England lost one of fashion's greatest contributors, Isabella Blow. More recently, the country mourned the passing of two great artists whose work has contributed to and completely altered the cultural industries: Alexander McQueen and Malcolm McLaren.

Over the past two decades McQueen and Blow were two of fashion's greatest darlings. Evidently disturbed yet undeniably brilliant, the designer and fashion editor formed a partnership that was both personal and professional and completely took the fashion industry by storm. Their genius and success could only be met with tragedy in a Shakespearean ending reminiscent of a twisted version of Romeo and Juliet. The two developed a close friendship in the years following his premiere collection. Conversely, McLaren was a multi-disciplinary genius with his hands in the fields of art, music, fashion, business and revolution. He represents a specific moment in history that is irrefutably a symbol of England.

These three Brits are defined as eccentric because of their unconventional innovations and refreshing points of view. Their eccentricity is a representation of London.



## Alexander McQueen

March 17 1969 - February 11 2010

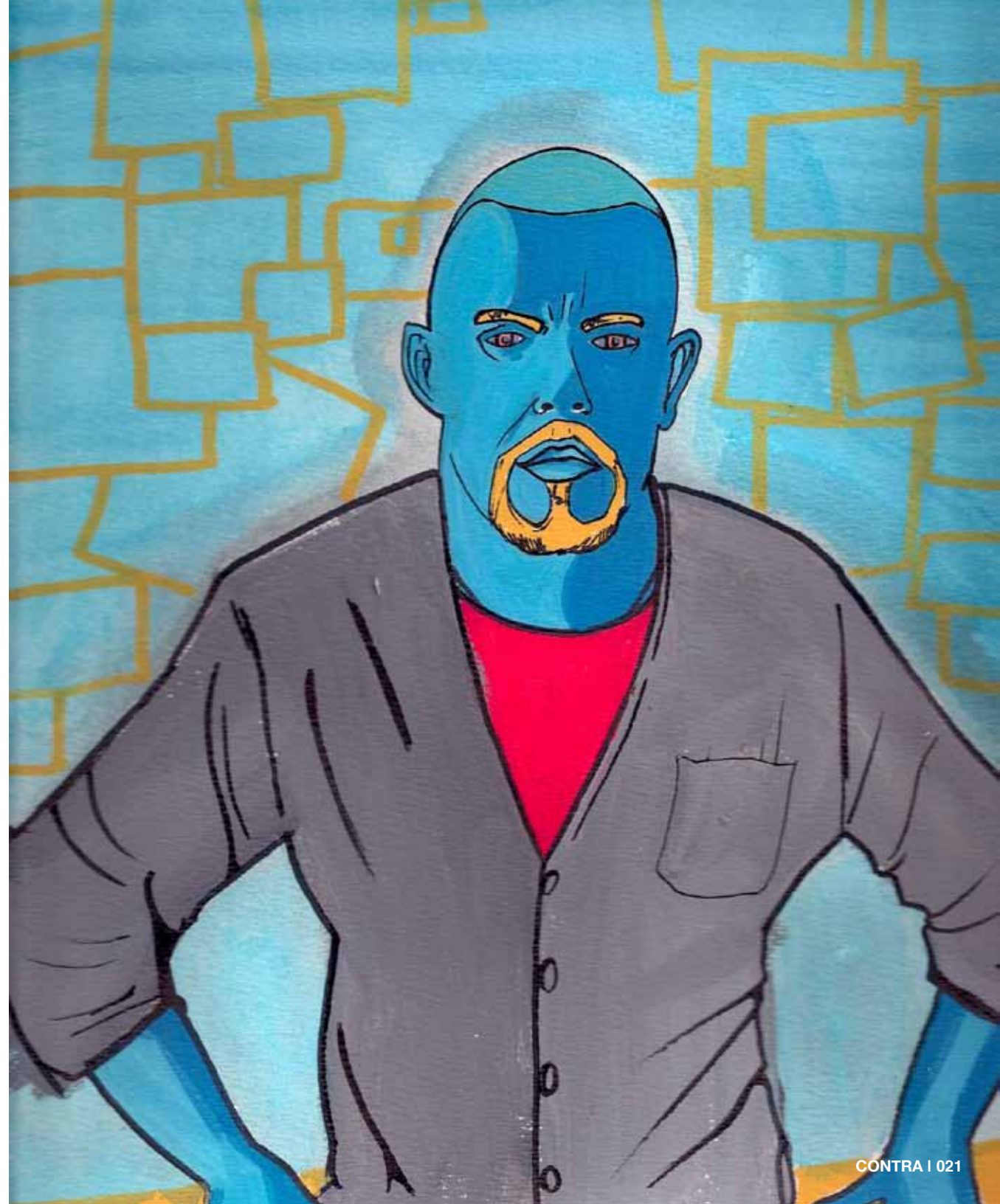
Called Lee by all who knew him personally, Alexander McQueen was born March 17th, 1969. From humble beginnings, McQueen found his calling at a very early age. Driven and determined, the London native took it upon himself to undertake tailoring apprenticeships. He trained on London's Savile Row, home to bespoke men's tailoring, making suits for clients such as the Prince of Wales.

In 1994, the designer took on Louise Wilson's infamous Masters course at Central Saint Martins, attended previously by John Galiano and followed by the likes of Hussein Chalayan and Pheobe Philo. McQueen's final collection displayed during Saint Martin's Graduate show at London Fashion Week won the heart of UK Vogue's then-fashion editor Isabella Blow. As a result, the course's Graduate Fashion Show brings international buyers and press to London every winter in wait for the industry's freshest and most innovative design talent.

Following a contract as chief designer at Givenchy, McQueen became financially capable of working under his own name when Gucci Group acquired 51% of his self-titled label. An interdisciplinary artist by nature, McQueen could now break free and create designs and performances that would meet his every imagination. In doing so, Alexander McQueen was like no other designer of his own or any previous generation. He was a magician and a master of the stage. His shows combined design, technology and performance to reflect and comment upon his social, cultural, political, and geographical context. The designer altered fashion completely and widely expanded the industry as a significant site for discourse.

McQueen's work consistently provides us with a social commentary and clear point of view; one that is never dull or expected. His catwalk productions were always theatrical and pushed fashion far into the realm of conceptual art. His ready-to-wear show, held twice-annually at Paris Fashion Week, was never for the relaxed, but in fact required an active audience. McQueen's viewers had to think critically and interpret his significant aesthetic statements.

Similar to Blow, McQueen's depression was known by his close friends and colleagues. Like numerous great artists before him, the designer's life ended with suicide just days after his mother's death. His work continues to prove itself relevant on a local and global scale.







*November 19 1958 - May 7 2007*

## *Isabella Blow*

Blow was born into an aristocratic English family. She left for America to study at Columbia University, and was widely known as a well-connected socialite during the 80's and 90's within the New York and London fashion scenes. She had unusual and terrific tastes, and could always be spotted with an outlandish headpiece and striking lipstick. She was renowned for her hats, which McQueen would later design for her (including a pair of veiled antlers). Initially working as Anna Wintour's assistant on American Vogue, Blow went on to work for Michael Roberts at Tatler and shortly after landed larger roles at UK publications including Vogue and The Sunday Times. Following McQueen's MA show, Blow took such a great liking to his work that she decided to purchase the entire graduate collection. Buying one item per month, she paid him approximately \$200 per week. Each time they met, McQueen would bring the editor an outfit in a bin liner just before following her to a cash point for immediate payment.

Along with McQueen, Blow is credited with discovering models Sophie Dahl and Stella Tennant. She was also the muse of hat designer Philip Treacy. Her acute eye for talent and quality brought the industry designers of a completely new caliber, putting London on the fashion map as a place to be taken as seriously as Paris.

As extreme lifestyles go, Blow was also a self-confessed depressive. She had a great deal of insecurities and confused feelings of identity that were only heightened by the breakdown of her marriage to art dealer, Detmar Blow. In 2007, Blow committed suicide by digesting a large amount of weedkiller. Following the incident, McQueen covered his 2008 Spring/Summer runway with extreme hats and head-pieces as a tribute to his dear friend to create the perfect embodiment of Blow's one-of-a-kind aura.

She leaves the fashion industry with a memo to always consider the underdog and to take chances on the less obvious, as her openness uncovered some of fashion's greatest gems.



## Malcolm McLaren

*January 22 1946 - April 8 2010*

The godfather of an aesthetic and political movement, Malcolm McLaren's influence on London's counterculture is undeniable. He effected a generation of anarchists and created new meaning for the term 'subculture'.

Born in North London, McLaren began his endeavors at art school. It was here that he met his partner, mother of his child, and soon-to-be co-parent of the punk movement, fashion designer Vivienne Westwood. He was also introduced to friend Jaime Reed, who would later create the controversial and iconic graphics for The Sex Pistols. Westwood would go on to become an icon in her own right as a revolutionary British Fashion designer, but together the two were unstoppable.

In the early 70's, the power couple opened a boutique on Kings Road in London selling Westwood's bondage inspired designs and S&M gear. Under McLaren and Westwood's reign, 'punk' became a popular state of mind as well as a fashion. Part youth rebellion and part artistic statement, punk rebels against bourgeoisie ideals in the form of fashion, music, art and pure way of life. The couple's shop promoted the gathering of fellow Londoners who were lost within the dictation of government and society and who sought an alternative. McLaren thus wrote the punk manifesto to entirely summarize its ideologies. He says, "Be childish. Be irresponsible. Be disrespectful. Be everything that society hates".

In 1972, McLaren took a trip to New York to attend the city's annual boutique fair. During his time in America, he was introduced to the performance group The New York Dolls and designed and styled provocative costumes for them. After the costumes failed and the Dolls split, McLaren returned to England. He continued his attempt at music production and in 1976 met a group called The Strand. This group would later become The Sex Pistols and as their manager and producer, McLaren's tactic was to emphasize the importance of image and branding in addition to sound. In doing so, he directed the band to #1 on the music charts with their single "God Save the Queen", punk's unofficial anthem.

The Pistols' musical amateurism along with Westwoods' anti-fashion styles promoted an egalitarian and non-hierarchical social structure. Their refreshing perspective would not only alter London, but fashion, music and art for years to come.





# ROCK -n- Rolla



SAVE  
THIS BROADSIDE  
FOR FUTURE  
REFERENCE

## PHONY BEATLEMANIA

*Has Bitten the Dust!*



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
**CALLING  
TO THE UNDERWORLD!**

**You Boys & Girls**



*Now Don't Look To Us*



# SEE



*We Ain't Got No Swing...*

*'Cept for the ring of that truncheon thing!*



**"LONDON  
CALLING"**



RRRING...

**THE ONLY BAND  
THAT MATTERS**



**CALLING  
to the faraway towns**



★ JOIN  
THE FIGHT  
FOR  
VICTORY



# NOW



★ **WAR IS DECLARED!**





# Queens

Photos *Carl Heindl*

Styling *Nicola Smith*

Makeup *Cheryl Gushue*

Hair *Kam Ross*

Models *Gwen, Renata, Chanele (Elite)*

Assistants *Rabee Younes, Nicole Simmons*

Location *The Ossington*

Some Clothes pulled from *Delphic*





*Renata*

Sunglasses & Fur Vest *Vintage*  
Necklaces *Cynthia FINDLAY Antiques*  
Ring *Stylists own*  
Bracelet *Gay Isber Designs*  
High Wasted Shorts *Unger Ligne*  
Shoes *Urban Outfitters*

*Chanele*

Jewellery *Cynthia FINDLAY Antiques*  
Bustier *Vintage*  
Pants *Marrakech*  
Belt *Stylists own*  
Shoes *Urban Outfitters*





*Gwen*

*Jewellery Cynthia FINDLAY Antiques*

*Jacket LaRock*

*Body Suit Seamless Essentials*

*Shoes Urban Outfitters*





*Renata*

Cotton Pearl Necklace & Bracelet  
*Gay Isber Designs*  
Bodysuit *Henrik Vibskov Copenhagen*  
Denim Jacket *Levis*

*Chanele*

Bra *Montelle*  
Denim Shorts *Urban Outfitters*  
Plaid Shirt *Peoples Market*  
Jewellery *Cynthia FINDLAY Antiques*

*Gwen*

Tee & Denim Vest *Vintage*  
High Wasted Panties *Blush*  
Jewellery *Cynthia FINDLAY Antiques*

























*Chanele*

*Bodysuit Princess Tam Tam  
Bracelet Gay Isber Designs  
Necklace Cynthia FINDLAY Antiques*

*Gwen*

*Sheer Top LNA  
Denim Shorts Vintage  
Purse Stylists own*

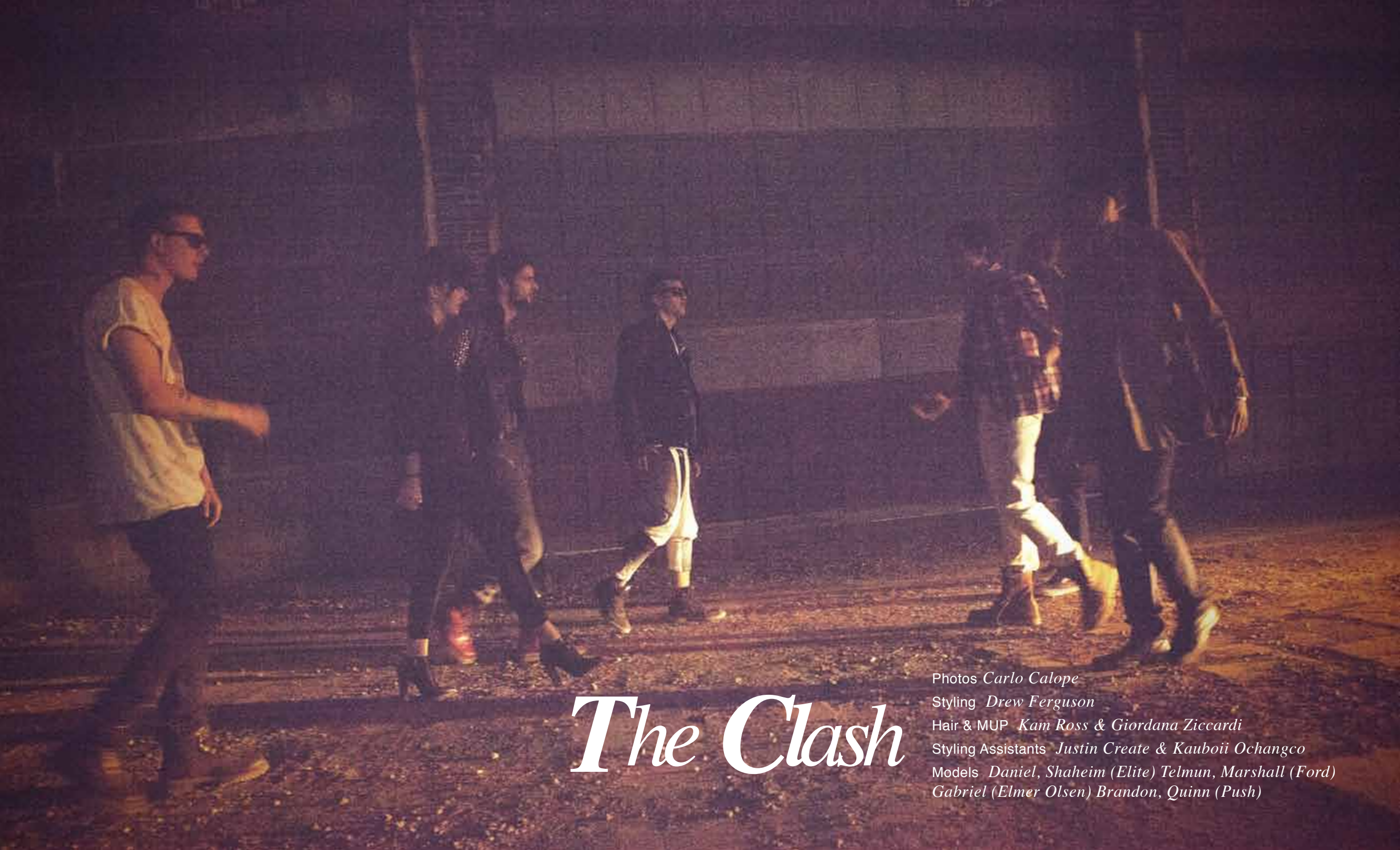
*Renata*

*Tank Carte Blanch  
Shorts American Apparel  
Bag Stylists own*









# *The Clash*

Photos *Carlo Calope*

Styling *Drew Ferguson*

Hair & MUP *Kam Ross & Giordana Ziccardi*

Styling Assistants *Justin Create & Kauboi Ochangco*

Models *Daniel, Shaheim (Elite) Telmun, Marshall (Ford)  
Gabriel (Elmer Olsen) Brandon, Quinn (Push)*



































*Marshall*

Sunglasses *RetroSuperFuture*  
 Tee *Ehlife (custom)*  
 Jacket *Rick Owens*  
 Pants *Chronicles of Never*  
 Shoes *Nike*

*Daniel*

Sweater *Com de Garcon Homme Plus*  
 Blazer & Pants *Junya Watanabe*  
 Shoes *Red Wings*

*Gabriel*

Jacket *Bess NYC*  
 Pants *Rick Owens*  
 Boots *Doc Martens*

*Quinn*

All Clothes  
 provided by *TNT*

*Shaheim*

Shirt *Supreme*  
 Sweater *W+H*  
 Coat *Com de Garcon*  
 Pants *A.P.C.*  
 Shoes *Common Projects*

*Brandon*

Sunglasses *Rayban*  
 Shirt *Ksubi*  
 Pants *Bess NYC*  
 Boots *H&M*

*Telmun*

Shirt *Gitman Bros.*  
 Vest *Engineered Garments*  
 Jacket *Unis*  
 Pants *Opening Ceremony*  
 Shoes *Common Projects*



# Unionjack

Photos *McKenzie James*

Styling *Jessica Tjeng*

Hair & MUP *Shobana (Judy Inc.)*

Prop Styling & Set Design *Natasha Diak*

Model *Robin Buss (Elmer Olsen)*

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Dress *Ksubi*, Accessories *Stylists own*







Blazer *Freemont*  
Jeans *Cheap Monday*  
Necklace *French Connection*  
Shoes *Town Shoes*

Leopard dress *Wayne Clark*  
(*House of Vintage*)  
Accessories *Stylists own*  
Shoes *Town Shoes*









Plaid shirt *Fremont*  
Accessories *Stylists own*







Bra & Skirt *Ksubi*  
Blazer *Cheap Monday*  
Booties *Town Shoes*  
Accessories *Stylists own*

Tank & Skirt *French Connection*  
Leather Jacket *House of Vintage*  
Shoes *Town Shoes*





*Tee The Furies*  
*Blazer Ksubi*  
*Accessories Stylists own*





# Strange Love

Photos *Dwayne Evans* Styling *Drew Ferguson & Nicola Smith*  
Hair & MUP *Tami Sombati* Photo Assistant *Michael Dauda* Models *Jenna (Ford), Dennis R*  
Styling Assistant *Kaiboi Ochangco*







*Her*

Tee *Rebel Tell*  
Vest *Levi's*  
Denim Skirt *GSUS*  
Rings *H&M*  
Necklaces *Stylists own*  
Boots *Jeffrey Campbell*

*Him*

Cardigan *Hollywood*  
Pants *Ksubi*  
Accessories *Surface to Air*  
Boots *Common Projects*





*Him*

Tank *Damir Doma*  
Denim *Oak Shirt*

*Her*

Tank *Erin Wasson*  
Skirt *Fashion District*  
Stockings *Stylists own*  
Boots *Jeffery Campbell*



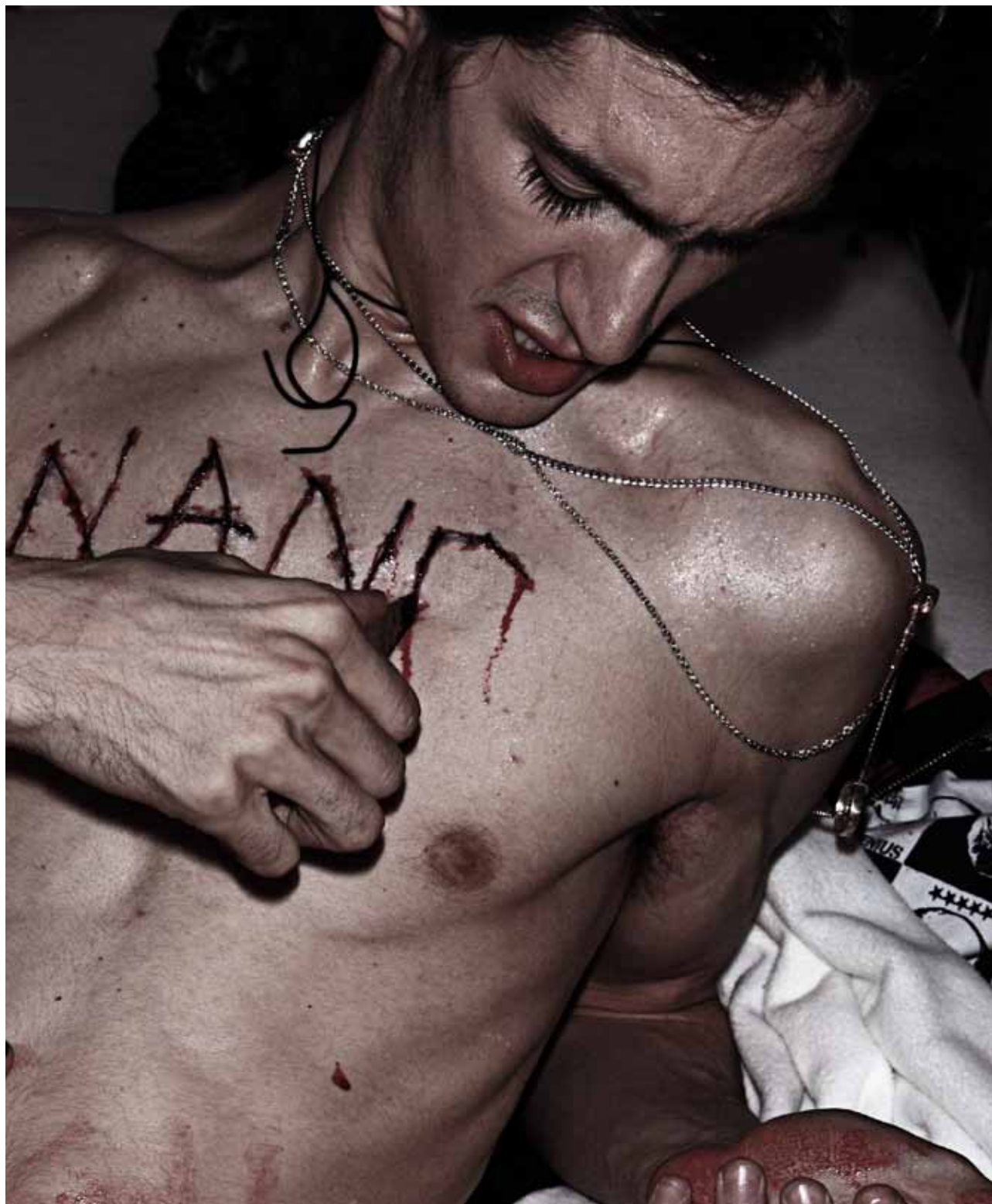


*Him: Tank Bess NYC Denim April77 Accessories Surface to Air  
Her: Dress Cheap Monday Knee Socks Joe Fresh*













*Her*

Tank *Milky Way*  
Jacket *Danier Leather*  
Accessories *Stylists own*  
Shoes *Aldo*

*Him*

Tee *Acne*  
Jacket *Robert Geller*  
Denim *Marc Jacobs*  
Shoes *Common Projects*





*Her: Tank Insight Waist Bodysuit American Apparel  
Sincher Fashion District Jacket Danier Leather Stockings Hue Boots Aldo  
Him: Jacket Acne Tee Supreme Accessories Surface to Air*





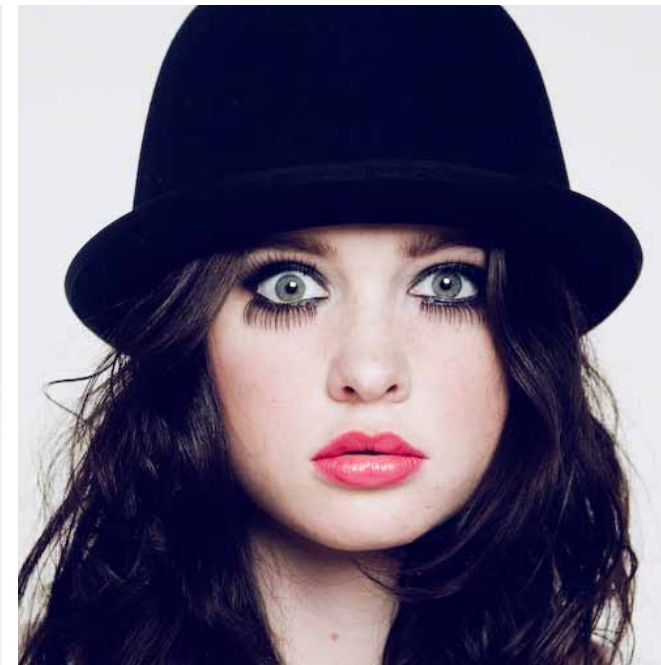




Necklaces *Gay Isber Designs*  
Tee *Camp Tenemy*  
Fur *Vintage*  
Shoes *Aldo*







# *Misfits*

Photos *McKenzie James*

Styling *Drew Ferguson*

Hair & MUP *Taylor Borris (Judy Inc.)*

Models *Emily, Jillian, Randi, (NAM), Dana (Spot 6)*





*Dana*

Shirt *Kane*  
Pants *Blanket NYC*  
Boots *Dr. Martens*

*Jillian*

Boustier *Elizabeth & James*  
Pants *Robert Geler*  
Boots *Jeffery Campbell*

*Randi*

Shirt *Vieri*  
Pants *Ransom Holding Co.*  
Shoes *Christian Louboutin*

*Emily*

Shirt *Robert Geller*  
Pants *American Apparel*  
Boots *Vintage*

All Hats *Big It Up*  
All Suspenders *Vintage*

































# *Reflections*

Photos *thedirtystory* Model *Ella*





















# *knees-up*

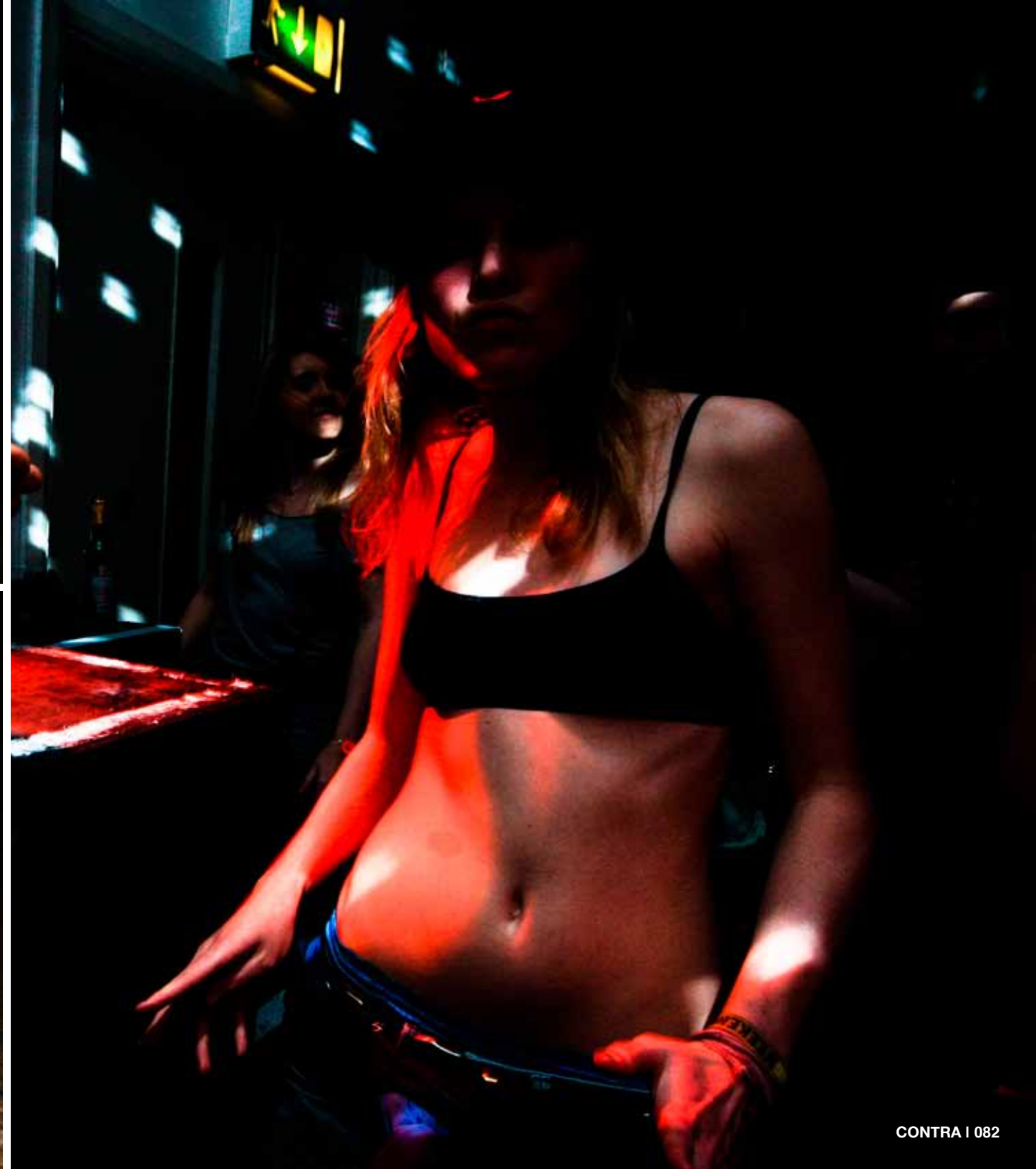
Photos by *Katy Chan*























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