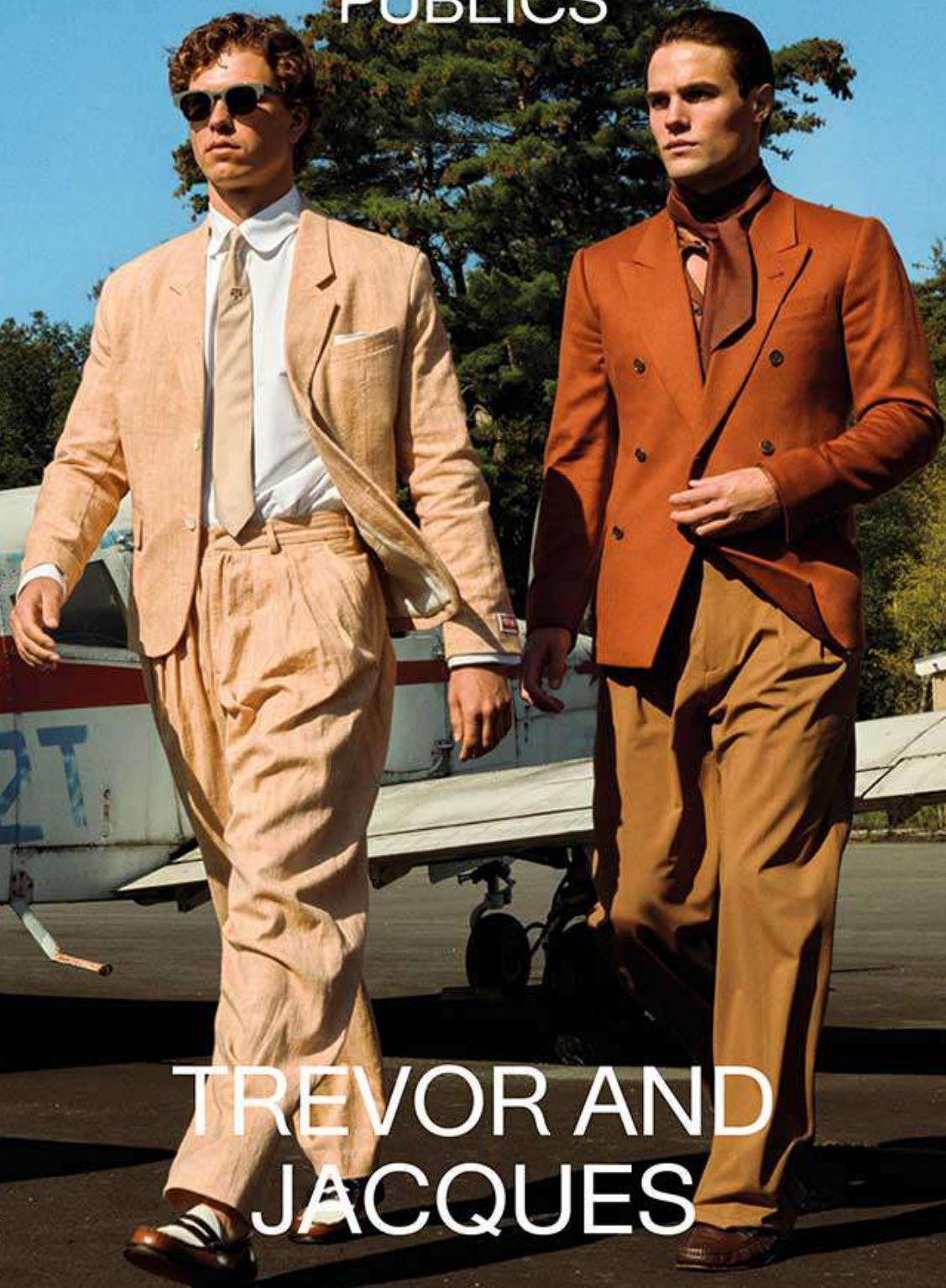


LES

# *HOMMES*

PUBLICS



TREVOR AND  
JACQUES

by ROBERTO PATELLA

BEHIND THE STAGE

CURTAINS

INTERVIEW BY CAROLINA BENJUMEA

HIL BARTON, ANY FUN PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS?

Yes! We're planning on just having a calm, chill holiday. Reading on the couch by the fire, snuggling with the puppy, and hopefully doing some puzzles and having a calm family Christmas.

YOU WERE RECENTLY DIAGNOSED WITH A BRAIN TUMOR, SO I FIRST WANT TO ASK, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

It's been quite a journey. I was diagnosed with a brain tumor on November 9 and went in for surgery on November 21. The operation was a huge success. Two weeks out from the surgery, the incision started leaking. They had to perform an emergency operation because there was an infection growing in the surgical site. So, I am rolling with the punches and I am feeling very positive and grateful. I am fully focused on getting back to my 100%. I don't think that a brain tumor is going to stop me.

CONSIDERING THAT THERE AREN'T THAT MANY MALE BALLET DANCERS, WAS IT HARD FOR YOU TO MAKE THE DECISION TO FOLLOW THIS PATH?

My little brother took a Hip-Hop class with a girl that he had a crush on and asked me to take the class with him. I went, and I just fell in love with it. The moving, the music, the sense of community, I felt like I had stumbled into something that was super fun. People at the studio were telling me that my moves would get better if I started taking ballet. I did it and slowly but surely started to fall in love with it. I love the detail-oriented nature of it.

AND BEFORE STARTING WITH BALLET, DID YOU HAVE ANY PRECONCEIVED IDEAS ABOUT IT? DID YOU KNOW ANOTHER MAN WHO WAS DOING IT, OR DID YOU JUST DO IT BECAUSE THEY SAID IT WOULD IMPROVE YOUR HIP-HOP MOVES?

I had a mentor at the studio who kind of blew me away. He is a male dancer, and his name is Brian Young. I saw him perform a solo in one of the winter recitals that just blew me away. I had never seen a man move this way ever in my life. I remember sitting there watching him perform this solo and telling myself, "I want to be able to do that, and I want to be able to make people feel the way that I am feeling".

YOU ARE A DANCER, MODEL AND ACTOR, WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE THREE OF THEM?

In dance, acting and modeling, your body is the instrument; your body is the cello or the violin or the piano. But with modeling, it's about the clothes, it's about the product. Dancing and acting are both forms of storytelling. Dance has an element that requires a soundscape, whereas in acting and theater, your choreography is the script, and with dance, your script is the steps and the music, and your playwright is the choreographer.

YOUR CHARACTER IN TINY PRETTY THINGS WAS ALSO A DANCER. WERE THERE ANY SIMILARITIES BETWEEN YOU AND THE CHARACTER?

I definitely think there were similarities. I can relate to the desire to achieve a sort of perfection that is ultimately unattainable. The character had so much insecurity and was really trying to find his place in the school and in the world. And I definitely know what that feels like — to not feel sure of yourself and to do whatever it takes to try to find your path and find a way to fit in.

HOW HARD WAS IT FOR YOU TO PORTRAY THIS CHARACTER, AND HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

To prepare for the role, I did a ton of research about eating disorders and about men with eating disorders. One in three people with an eating disorder is male, so it's a common misconception to think that it is just a female problem. I really had a responsibility to everyone who does suffer from an eating disorder — to represent that honestly and truthfully. The show gave us an opportunity to pull the curtain back and show people that what someone's going through is not always what it appears to be.

DO YOU THINK THAT THE DANCING INDUSTRY IS HARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND PREJUDICIAL FOR THEIR MENTAL HEALTH?

It depends on the circumstances and the community that is with you. I know that while I was training, I had a really incredible support system. I loved my teachers and felt like I could talk to them about anything. And that doesn't exist in every institution. Some places have really unrealistic, unachievable standards. Ultimately, it's about the people that are around you.

YOU WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE BROADWAY MUSICAL, THE OUTSIDERS. CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE CHARACTER YOU WILL BE PLAYING?

My character's name is Brill. The show is The Outsiders, which is an adaptation of the novel that S.E. Hinton wrote in 1967, and that Francis Ford Coppola adapted into a film in 1982.

What I'm really excited about in this adaptation is that the creative team has endeavored to represent those communities much more accurately than in the novel and in the film. So, we've asked ourselves, what did these communities really look like and really go through?

IS IT SCARY TO KNOW THAT YOU WILL HAVE A LIVE AUDIENCE?

I love live theater. It is something that makes me feel alive: to put myself out there in front of an audience and to know that there is always a chance that it won't be perfect. It is a process of practice and repetition, going back and trying to do better than the previous performance, than the previous attempt.

HOW CAN YOU EXPRESS YOURSELF AND CONNECT WITHIN YOURSELF THROUGH DANCING?

I love to improvise. If it's just through the dance medium, I love to find music that I think is moving and move to that with no choreography, just moving the way my body instinctually moves when that music is playing. Or if there's no music, just move the way that my instincts are telling me. It's kind of an exercise in mindfulness and being present in the moment.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

My New Year's resolutions are to stay on the healing path, get healthy, and back in shape so that I can do this Broadway show after undergoing brain surgery.

BEST TRIP YOU'VE EVER TAKEN?

To Maui with my fiancé. We went to Maui for twelve days and explored the whole island. We did the road to Hana, which is one of the most beautiful drives in the world. It's a bit treacherous, but it's incredibly beautiful.

ARE YOU MORE OF A WINTER OR SUMMER PERSON?

I grew up in Colorado, near the mountains, so I'd say I'm more of a winter person.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD?

I have huge ambitions for my career now that I can continue to pursue it and know that I can pursue it without this huge health scare. I'm going to make my Broadway debut, I would love to do some film and television again. And I also would love to go on a vacation and get some sun before we start working on Broadway. And I'm going to get married to my fiancé!

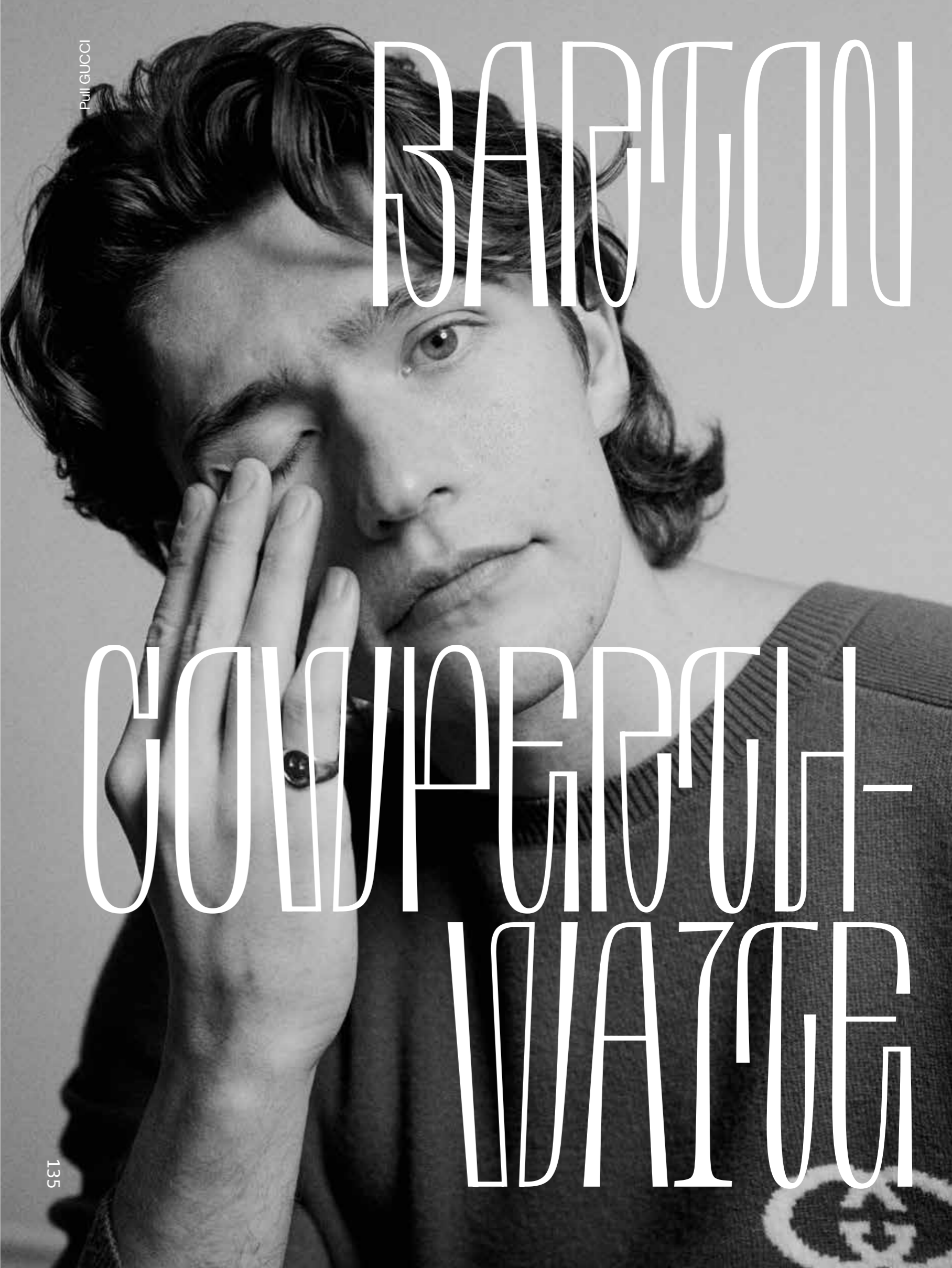
WHEN ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?

We're looking at late July.

CONGRATULATIONS! I CAN'T WAIT TO HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO SEE THE BROADWAY SHOW, AND... BREAK A LEG!

PHOTOGRAPHY NAGI SAKAI

FASHION JAIME KAY WAXMAN



Production Tracey Thomas @De Facto INC.  
Photography assistants Carl Chisolm, Shane Rooney and Kyle Lacey  
Fashion assistants Chris Lee and Olivia Sinnott  
Thanks to De Facto INC. and Home Agency

