

Local wolves

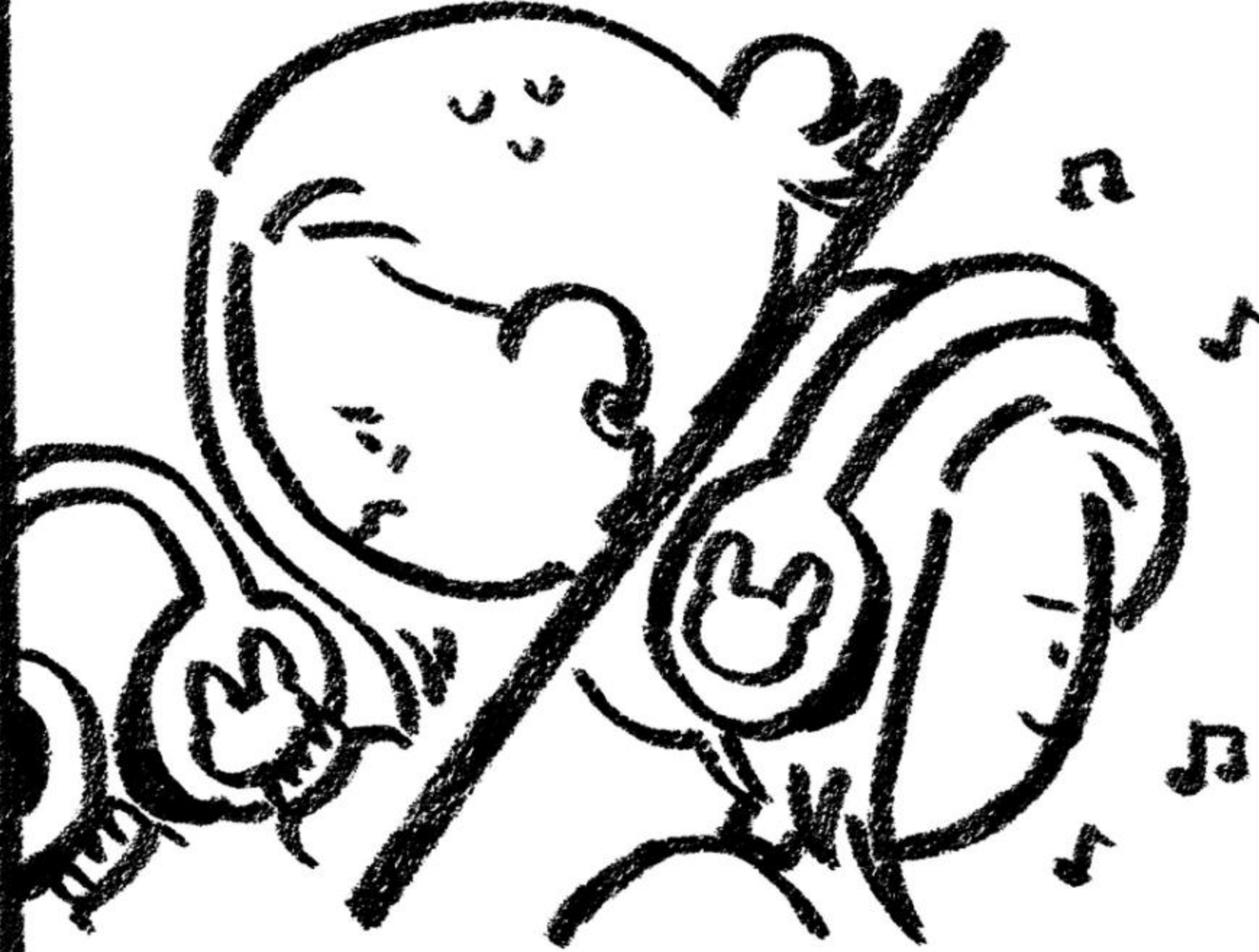
SPRING 2024

ISSUE 66



Kevinh Minh

Being FEARLESS is like -



Listening to good music.

It's about hearing
all the noise,



yet focusing on
the sounds that matter.

It's about losing yourself
to the rhythm of the beat



Because to be beat isn't
simply an option.

When the song is over,
you can't help but smile



hit 'REPLAY'
and turn the volume up!

@fish.draws

this 66th issue of Local Wolves, we're celebrating 12 years as a magazine and our golden birthday this spring season. The immediate thought that came into mind when I came up with this issue's theme was to be fearless. The team and I have achieved many milestones including a decade as a magazine and submissions from all over the world that continue to support what we do. To our readers, who still believe in the magic through each page of every issue. While brainstorming this issue, a content creator that brings fearless energy is Kevin Ninh— such a talented soul that continues to showcase being his flawless self. In this issue, we highlight incredible stories from artists like Rocco to Juliet Ivy and stunning visuals by our contributors. This issue is all about sharing our fearless moments and staying true to who you are!

Cathrine Khom

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Local wolves

ISSUE 66 — KEVIN NINH
SPRING 2024

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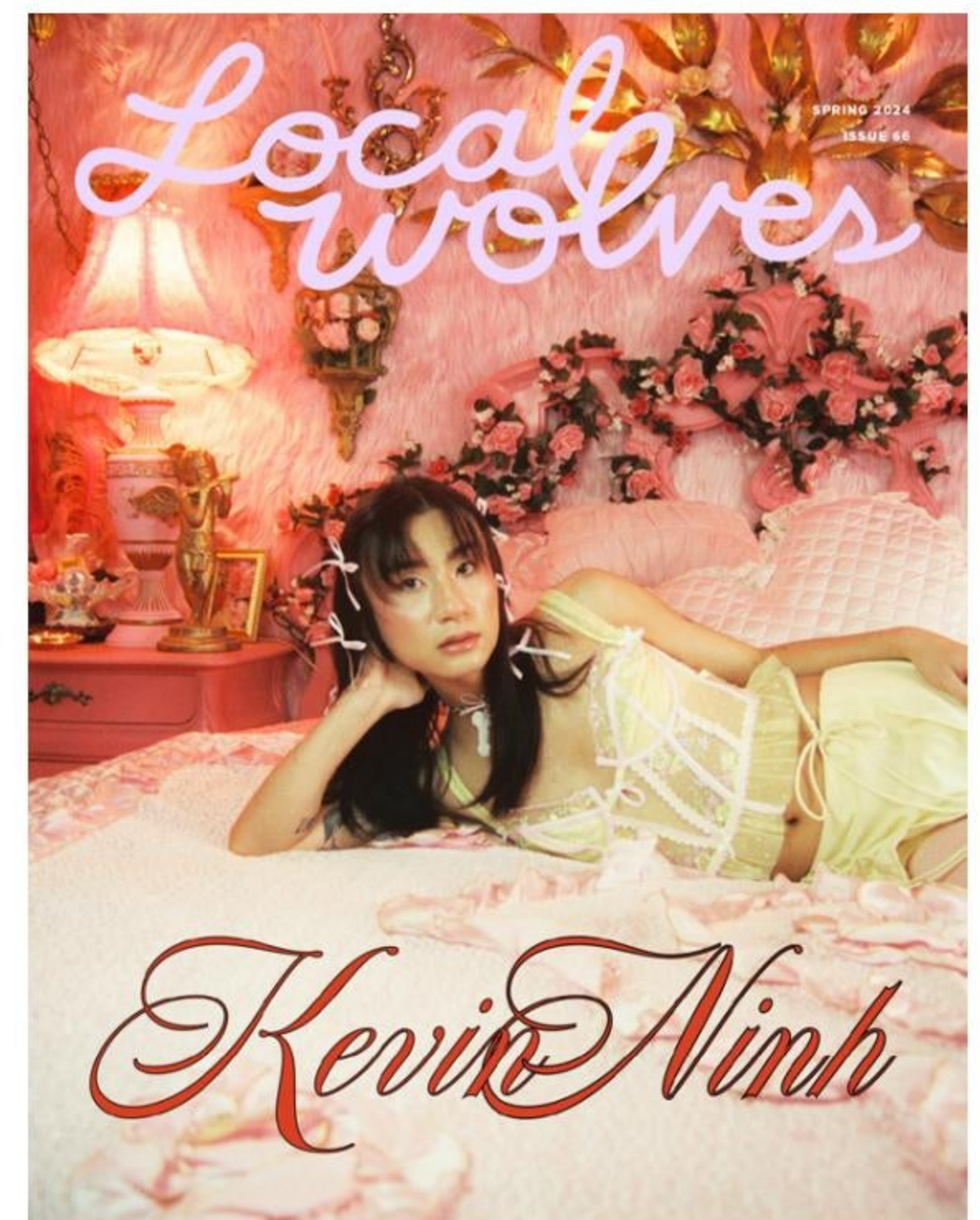
LET'S CONNECT

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TikTok: [tiktok.com/@localwolves](https://www.tiktok.com/@localwolves)

Pinterest: [pinterest.com/localwolves](https://www.pinterest.com/localwolves)





ON THE COVER

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CONTINUED ON PG 56

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LOCATION

Los Angeles, CA

01

US
Telever

02

FALSE ALARM
Heals

i promise

03

SCARS
Novulent

04

GAZE AT THE CEILING
Death of Heather

05

SMILES
Frowns



06

YIN TO YANG
runo plum

07

STRANGERS
Ethel Cain

08

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE
Bathe Alone



we'll be ok

09

CRYSTAL CELAR
Hayley Williams

10

SLOW MOTION
Vacations

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA





In the summer of 2021, after graduating university in the middle of Covid with little direction, a good amount of academic burnout, and on the fence about medical school (spoiler alert: that never worked out for me), I found myself in the middle of a perfect storm of circumstance and impulse to leave the country.

Truthfully, the seed of this desire was planted the summer before, after a particularly humbling co-op interview, which in combination with the uncertainty of the pandemic prompted me to forgo my extra year doing work placements and instead move forward with completing my degree that upcoming school year. Much of my life till now had been predicated upon mindlessly following a prescribed, linear path through school to supposedly, if stars aligned, land a high-paying, stable job that I would work till I retired, with the annual holiday being the only escape from my own mundanity, and little thought spared for ikigai.

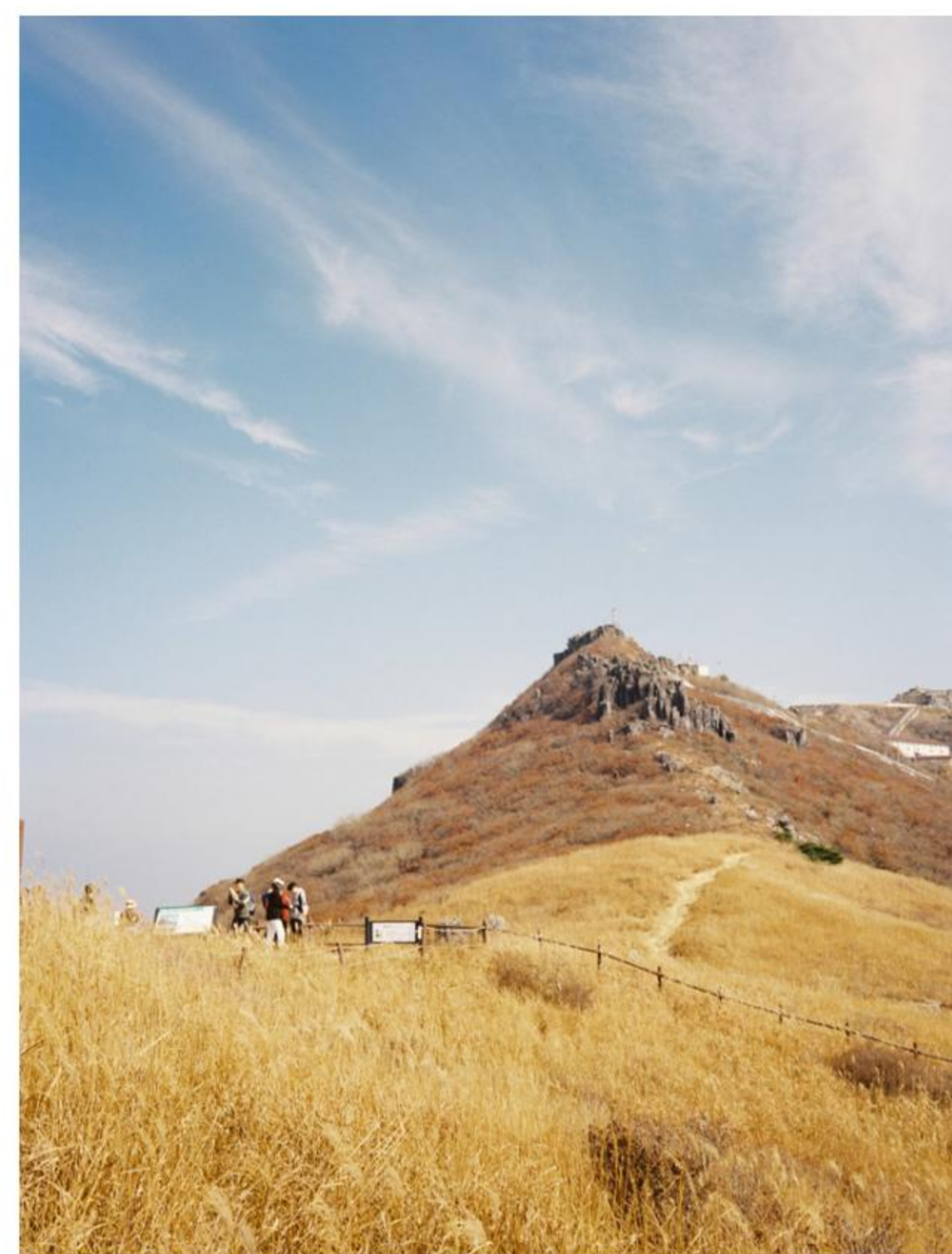
My decision to move to Korea for a year was the antithesis to my trajectory at the time. But the job afforded me the luxury of financial independence as a new grad, or as I like to call it, a trial run of true adulthood, something that would have seemed so distant and unfathomable otherwise if life continued on in Vancouver. I got assigned to a middle school in Gwangju, the city I placed as my first choice, and lived walking distance to school in my own tiny apartment that I had all to myself. I had never felt luckier. With ample vacation time on the horizon, a stable salary that afforded most things I wanted to experience, a job I enjoyed with work that I didn't need to take home, and kind colleagues who made a foreign place feel less so, I was set.





Though teaching is something I have enjoyed in various capacities since high school, I knew I wouldn't do it forever as my occupation so I only planned to stay for one year before starting my next, untitled chapter. Accepting that my time in Korea would be finite, there was a tiny part of me wary of what crushing wounds of sad longing I was about to impart on myself when the departure was inevitable. These photos are a reminder of that.

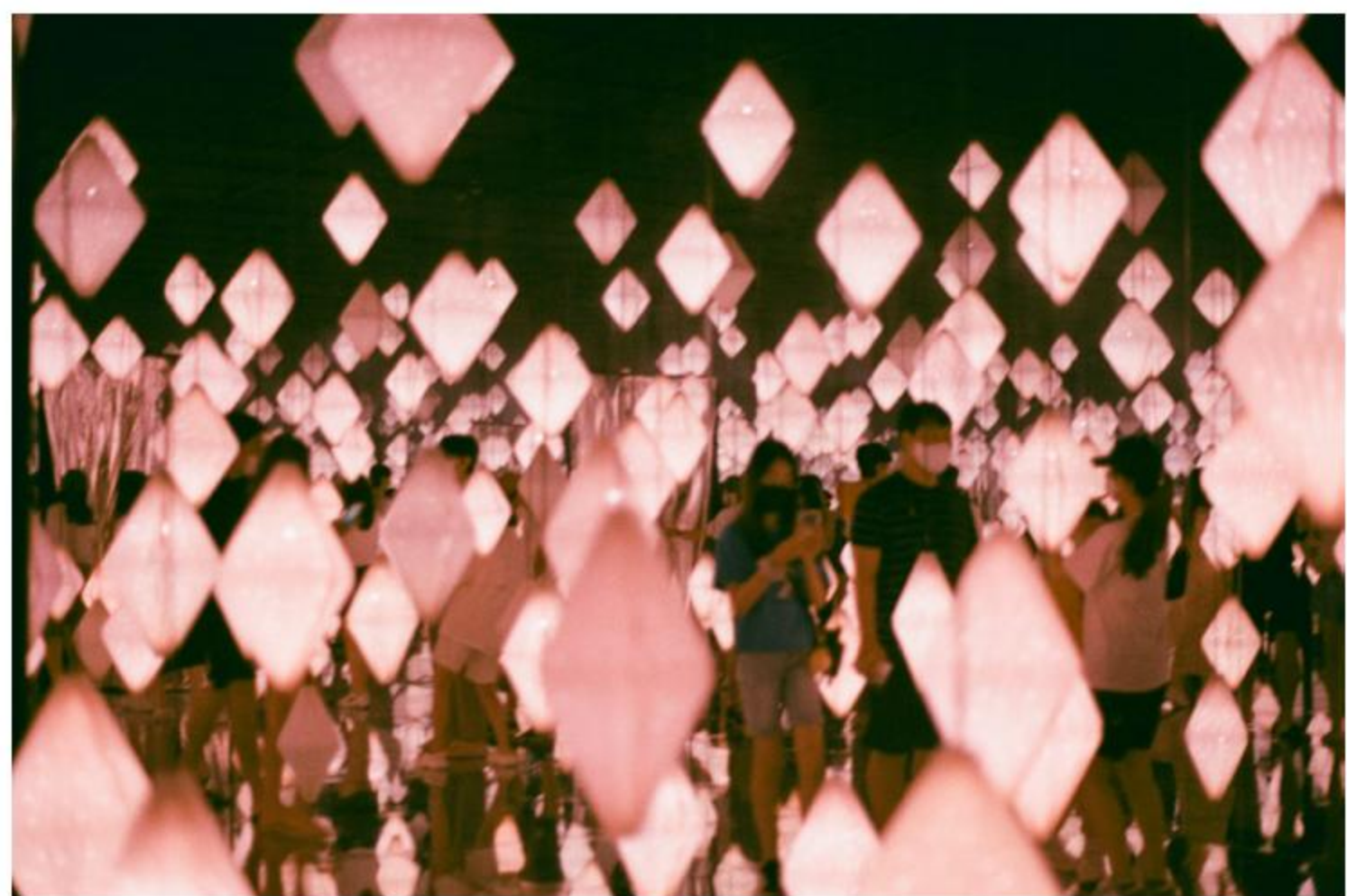
An urgency of life was born from the transience of these halcyon days. My weekends were spent in new cities wandering different streets before coming back to work on Mondays with new stories to share when coworkers asked. I suppose this is what would naturally happen if we were all told we had one year to experience a place. It's a rare privilege to live in a new country, ostensibly as a local. I found my approach to photography shifted in measure. Pay careful attention, don't overthink the shot, and hold on to the personal moments.





Documenting this year of life in stills has been a treat. Every image evokes a distinct story from that day, the person I was with (though often alone), and what the weather felt like. There are pictures of my favorite bagel shop in Gwangju and the very reservoir I pass by on my walk to work every day. I watched it bloom with cherry blossoms in the spring, glaze over in lush, lotus greenery in the summer, and freeze silently during the first heavy snow of winter. It has been a steadfast marker of my time in Korea.





I chose these images to capture the full spectrum of the Korea I saw. From scenic blues of Udo Island and Hyeopjae beach to vibrant Gamcheon village and produce stalls in a Gangneung market during Seollal weekend. I hope that when you look at the pictures, you can feel the warmth and comfort of the bookstores and shops I stood in, sun slanting in through the windows, illuminating a pocket of peace I found on unsuspecting streets of Junggu, Seoul and Yangnim-dong, Gwangju.





In Korea, life is brimming at every corner. Densely populated cities become a playground for imagery. Life here never stops just for a photo. Sometimes, you'll miss it right in front of you, until you look a little closer, as was the case of the shop owner in Bosu-dong alley, obscured by the stacks of old books under the vaguely eerie, fluorescent light. Simply being a spectator of the citizens' daily moments brought me great joy: an old man escaping summer's heat in an afternoon nap under the shade of trees overlooking a tennis court, fishermen gathering under a Yeongdo bridge when the sun finally broke after a rainy night, a man in a white shirt, untangling his earbuds while he prepares to behold the tranquil view of the gardens behind Gyeongbokgung on an overcast day in September.

Every frame is a little slice of life, humanity, and a piece of Korea that's left a mark on me.

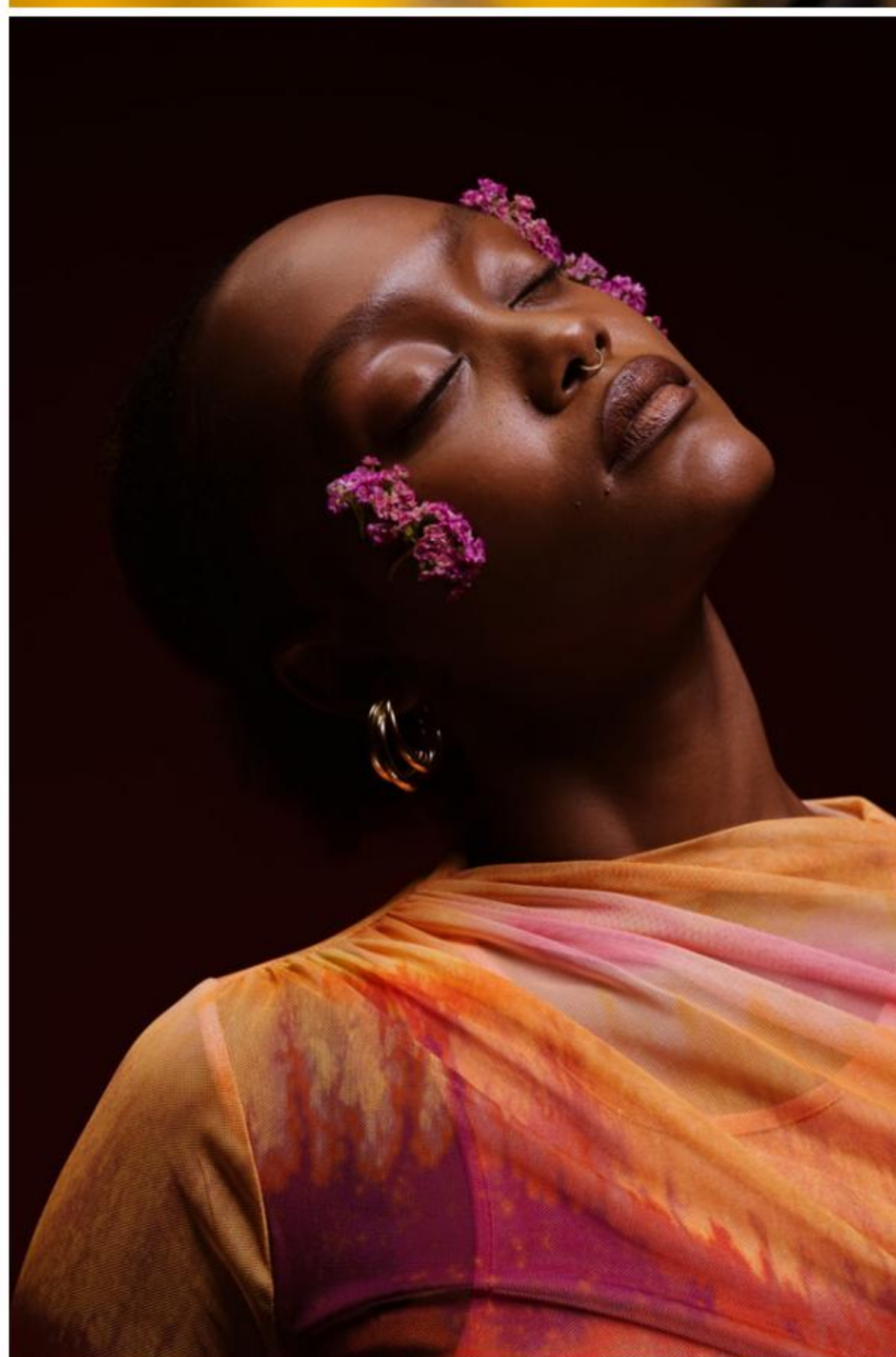
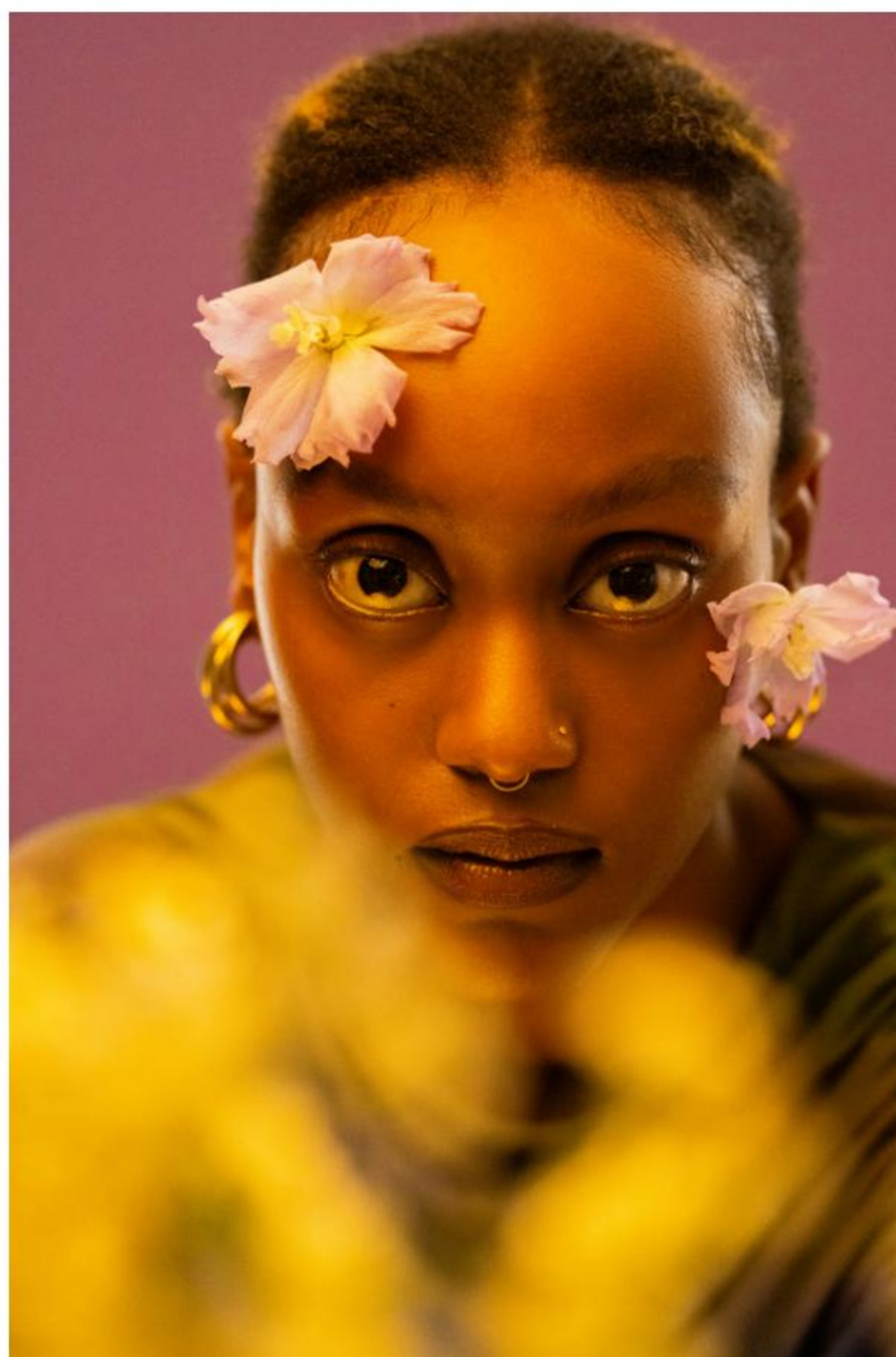


WOLFIE
SUBMISSIONS
FEARLESS

Let's enter the **FEARLESS** issue— our 66th issue is an exploration of fearlessness in all forms.

Everyone has fearless moments in their everyday life. It can be the decision to take the next step to follow your dreams, facing challenges head-on without allowing fear to take over your actions or helping to amplify unheard voices through creative expression.

It's time to embrace and seize the moments to step out of your comfort zone and be bold. Submit your perspective on what being fearless means to you. Let's discuss how you overcame your own fears, shortcomings and road-blocks or share a time when being fearless was your only option.



PAM LAU / MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA
Photos: Pam Lau
Creative Direction and Model: Léila M
Hair & Makeup: Axel Kamali



ELIE PICHANICK / Philadelphia, PA, USA
Photos and Creative Direction: Elie Pichanick
Models: Genevieve Sychterz and Katie Pichanick

Athena

Into her tribe, come.
Chant with sweet lips of marmalade,
and shake loose a warrior's heaven
from the dormant yet passionate corridors
of your vibrant, dreaming hearts.

March into the vast world.
Absorb it, like children grasping language.
Embrace it, like hustlers playing for unity.

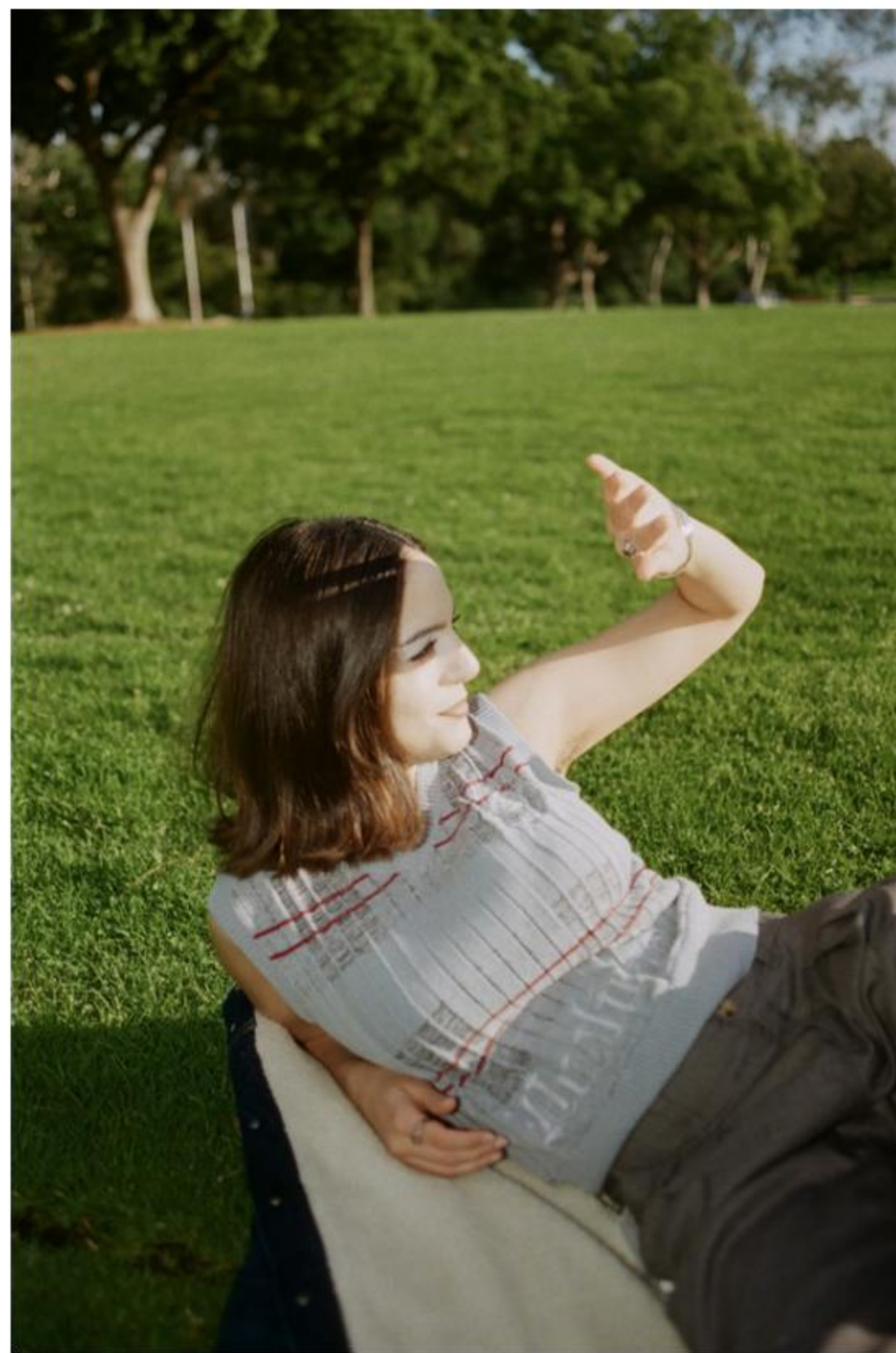
WILL MULLINS / Wilmington, NC, USA

Fearless...

It's to step out of your comfort zone, to feel free. To not be afraid, to face it head on. We all have those bumps in our life that we have to be fearful and overcome. Even if it comes from family and friends. To move along and leave those behind. From not depending on others to not waiting for their validation. One learns from one's mistakes and grows. To make changes and stand on your own two feet. This is where it all begins.... it started when I started to voice how I was being treated by family and friends. I know it's easier said than done. But to remove yourself from them. To the point that you feel like you can breathe once again. Disconnect. To grow away from those that do no good in your life. To let people think what they want to think. Because in the end, if they really wanted to know my side of my story, it would have been asked. There's a certain point in life that enough is enough and you become fearless. Remember, when you overcome that fear, that's when you start to live your life.

EMILIA BONILLA / Toronto, Canada





KAVI KARIYAWASAM / San Diego, CA, USA
Photos and Creative Direction: Kavi Kariyawasam
Model, Hair & Makeup, Styling: Giovanna Diaz

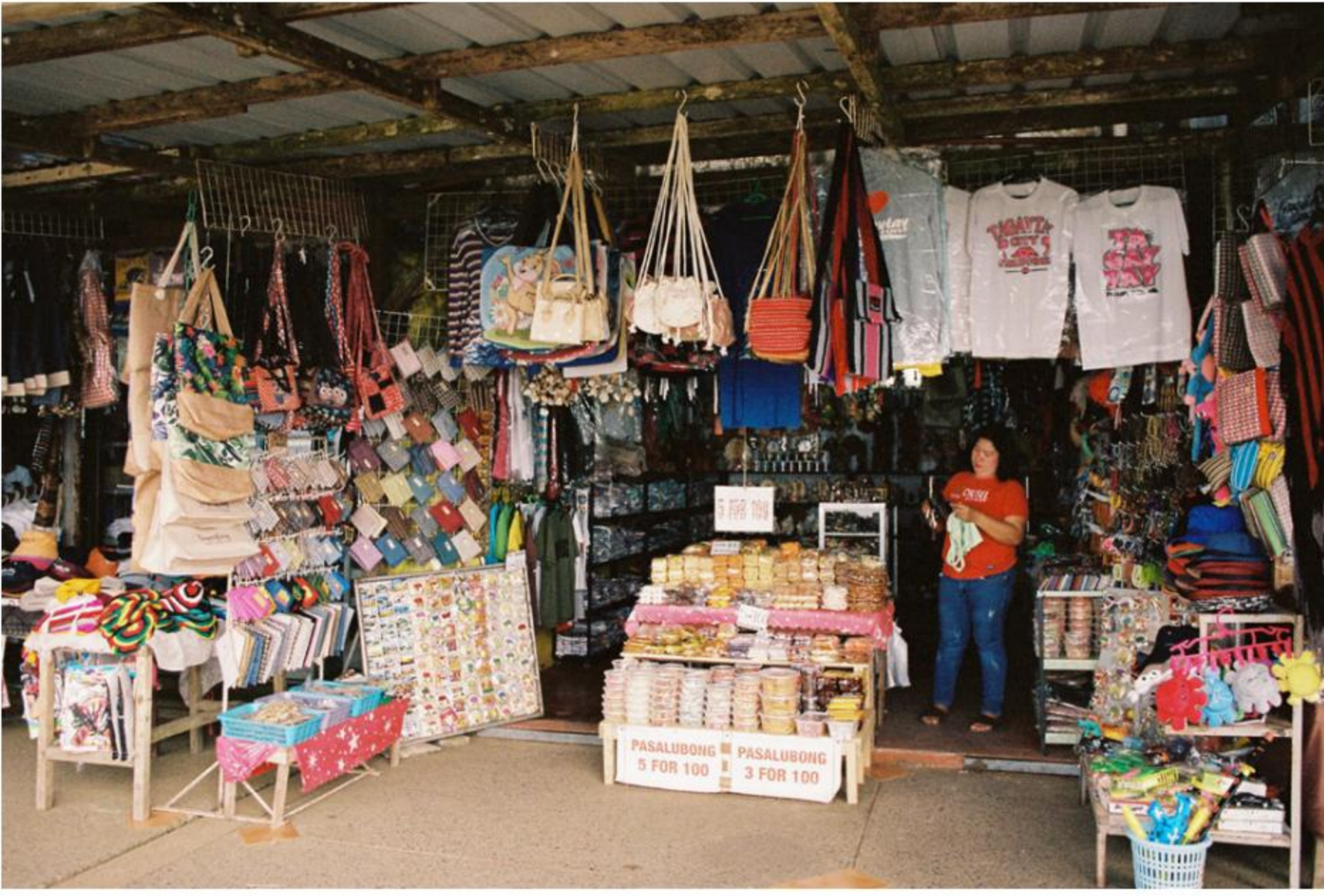




“Philippines on Film” – Travel Documentary Series

"Philippines on Film" is a personal reflection that explores the complexities of identity and culture. Through photography, I capture moments that encapsulate the unique spirit of the Philippines – the stunning landscapes, cultural richness, and the warmth of its people. Due to the lack of Western media representation of my culture, I was inspired to create this series. It is an attempt to bridge the gap between my Filipino roots and my American upbringing. Celebrating my heritage fearlessly is about embracing my cultural identity with pride, resilience, and a willingness to share it with others. It is a conscious choice to stand tall in the face of societal expectations, stereotypes, and the ever-present pressures to assimilate. I hope my photos inspire others to do the same and to be open to different experiences and cultures. It is a reminder that, ultimately, we are all connected and that our shared humanity is more important than our differences. This project, born from a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility, serves as a tribute to the resilience and wisdom embedded in the narratives of Filipino families. It is a visual homage to the countless untold stories, the traditions that have withstood the tests of time, and the strength that characterizes the Filipino experience. The choice of film imparts a timeless quality to these images, echoing the enduring spirit that persists through generations. I want to honor my parents and my grandparents, who have passed down their cultural knowledge to me. I hope this project brings visibility to Filipinos and their rich stories, contributing to a more inclusive narrative.

VANESSA MAE LIM / Cerritos, CA, USA



BY MUN AM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LIANA GLENNON

ROCCO



Emerging from New Jersey, the Filipino-born bedroom/indie pop artist **ROCCO** is making waves in the music industry with his cheery love songs. A born-to-be entertainer, Rocco first started out as a content creator and later ventured out to making saccharine tunes that have garnered about one million monthly listeners to date. It's an understatement that Rocco has a long and fulfilling journey to ride through in the industry. Being unapologetically himself, he never fails to integrate his colorful personality in his craft and release songs suitable for your Waltzing playlist. From refreshing vocals to soundtracking the feelings of young love, Rocco has it all covered for the hopeless romantics.

WHAT WAS MUSIC LIKE TO YOU GROWING UP AND HOW DID YOUR MUSIC JOURNEY START?

ROCCO: My culture definitely played a part. As a Filipino, karaoke is a constant thing in our culture. I feel like if you ask any Filipino, including ones who aren't musicians, you'll learn that music is also an apparent thing in their lives. The culture around singing and the art of music is something that's normalised in our households. I think that's what drew me into music in the first place. My parents also had a love for music growing up and that went on to my siblings and I too. They were somewhat musically inclined themselves. Alongside the cultural aspect, I had a nice, civil and loving home of music. I was also exposed to different genres growing up. My dad would always play oldies, a lot of 70s and 80s music. Pop and rap music was on the rise and that definitely consumed my youth. I didn't really develop my own musical identity until middle school. Of course I was consuming music but I wasn't really listening to it, you know? Yeah, it wasn't until middle or high school where I started to care about my new favourite artists and music in detail.

YOU RELEASED YOUR LATEST TRACK "BABY BLUE" NOT TOO LONG AGO, WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING ON THAT SONG LIKE?

ROCCO: It's actually the first song that I released independently after a long time. My career now is in a totally different position than it was a year and a half ago. I'm super thankful for my label experience but it's also cool to be independent again. Releasing this felt like I was back on my come up days when I was just releasing on SoundCloud. I made it with my brother, we both go back and forth with each other on our ideas. He helps make a bunch of my music. It's a blessing to work with someone you're so close to. When I was creating this song, I just felt really lovey dovey again. I feel like my writing process when making new songs, I like to

emulate a vibe that I'm going for and then I just go from there. For "Baby Blue," I wanted to create a very romantic vibe. "Baby Blue" just happened to be the song that came out at the other end. It took us about a week to get it done. I'm glad it's being well received by my fans and the fact that it's an independent release is quite comforting for me as an artist.

I BELIEVE MUSIC REVOLUTION IS PART OF AN ARTIST'S GROWTH. SO, I WAS WONDERING IF THERE'S OTHER GENRES YOU WOULD LIKE TO DABBLE IN, SOMEWHERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

ROCCO: I feel like right now, I definitely reside in the bedroom pop, soft pop genre. I want to develop a more mature sound in terms of a little bit more, darker tones. I don't want to go full emo but I definitely want to sway towards more of the alternative side for a couple of tracks and show a different side of me. I also want to get into some more poppy and dancy stuff, like Jersey Club. I feel like that'd be really cool.

WE'RE COVERING FEARLESSNESS IN THIS UPCOMING ISSUE, WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS THE HARDEST BUT WORTHY DECISION YOU'VE EVER MADE?

ROCCO: It was moving to Los Angeles for college. It was just for the security of college under my intention of making music full time. I didn't have any leverage or valid reasons to tell my parents that I want to move to LA, drop my bags and make music full time. So, I devised a super evil plan to apply for college in LA to get my foot in the door. It's funny, I only applied for one school and got in. I like how the theme is fearless. No kidding, I showed no fear about the decision I made. One of my main mindsets I have is if I do something and it's a hard decision, there's a reason why it's hard, because they're conflicting ideas. So, I go with one and try not to think about the other one anymore. I decided to make this jump to LA and do school for a year because I knew I was only going to be there for a year. If the music thing didn't work out, my parents would have definitely asked me to go home. Thankfully, it turned out the way that I planned and I met so many new friends. I was able to cultivate a new audience and do everything. It was a part of the process and it was hard. I was broke in college and alone in LA just trying to make friends while making music in my dorm. I'm just so grateful that my parents believed in me and gave me the opportunity to go in the first place. I can't be afraid when I come to those hard decisions, this is what I wanted to do. There wasn't anybody that was going to tell me that this was it. I just did it and ran with it. I worked hard that whole year.

you just have to follow your heart.

AS CREATIVES, IMPOSTER SYNDROME IS A COMMON EXPERIENCE WE GO THROUGH AND SOMETIMES HAVE A HARD TIME STARTING A NEW CREATIVE PROJECT OR EVEN GOING INTO A NEW DIRECTION, DO YOU EXPERIENCE THIS TOO?

ROCCO: I don't think I've personally experienced imposter syndrome but there's definitely moments where I feel like I suck then I'm reminded that everything is just temporary. I feel like overall, when I'm creating, I really try not to overthink the process and ride the initial vibe I was going for. It may take some turns along the way but that ends up being its own creation itself. I try to go in with confidence. Especially with being an artist, there's so much doubt in terms of what you're selling. Having a music career is like a business, you have to worry about multiple aspects like merch, live shows and maintaining your fan base. Sometimes I do wonder if I'm giving my fans the best experience and if I'm being the best artist I can be. Those are the questions I'm always asking myself but I reassure myself that I'm in an amazing position. Just continuing to hone in on the work ethic that has brought me to this position kind of helps me get through and navigate through those times of doubt and worry.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST EPIPHANY SINCE STARTING YOUR MUSIC JOURNEY?

ROCCO: There's probably a couple, I think a lot. One of my biggest epiphanies is that people's attention spans are really short. It doesn't matter if they're your biggest fan. In the grand scheme of things, I'm not thinking about my favorite artist 24/7 either. That made me realize just how active you have to be. I feel like in terms of people, just understanding how people think was a big discovery for me. That's why I started releasing more singles than projects, it helps spread out the attention span for people. Let's say you drop a single and get the hype, people stream really hard for about a week and then the hype dwindles down. The song did what it did but the initial hype is gone and people move on to the next day. If you drop an EP, that same amount of energy and attention is being put into it but it also dissipates in a few weeks too. So, I feel like just distributing that attention span between fans, the audience and creating that connection is just one thing I really thought about a lot. Sorry, I sound like a marketing major right now.

CONTINUING FROM THAT, WHAT'S THE BIGGEST ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO'S OVERTHINKING ABOUT CREATING SOMETHING IN FEAR OF FAILING?

ROCCO: You just have to follow your heart. Once you start doubting, that makes the decision even harder to make. In my early days of making music when I was in school and felt a little lost, I was overthinking about having to move back to my hometown, go to a state school and rotting away in my childhood bedroom. That was my absolute living nightmare, not being able to do what I love, especially in my early 20s. That itself was my motivation to try harder, I couldn't go back even though I had great memories

back home. It just wasn't for me and I'm glad I stuck with my decision.

I KNOW YOU CONCLUDED YOUR FIRST HEADLINE TOUR LAST YEAR, WHAT WAS THAT EXPERIENCE LIKE?

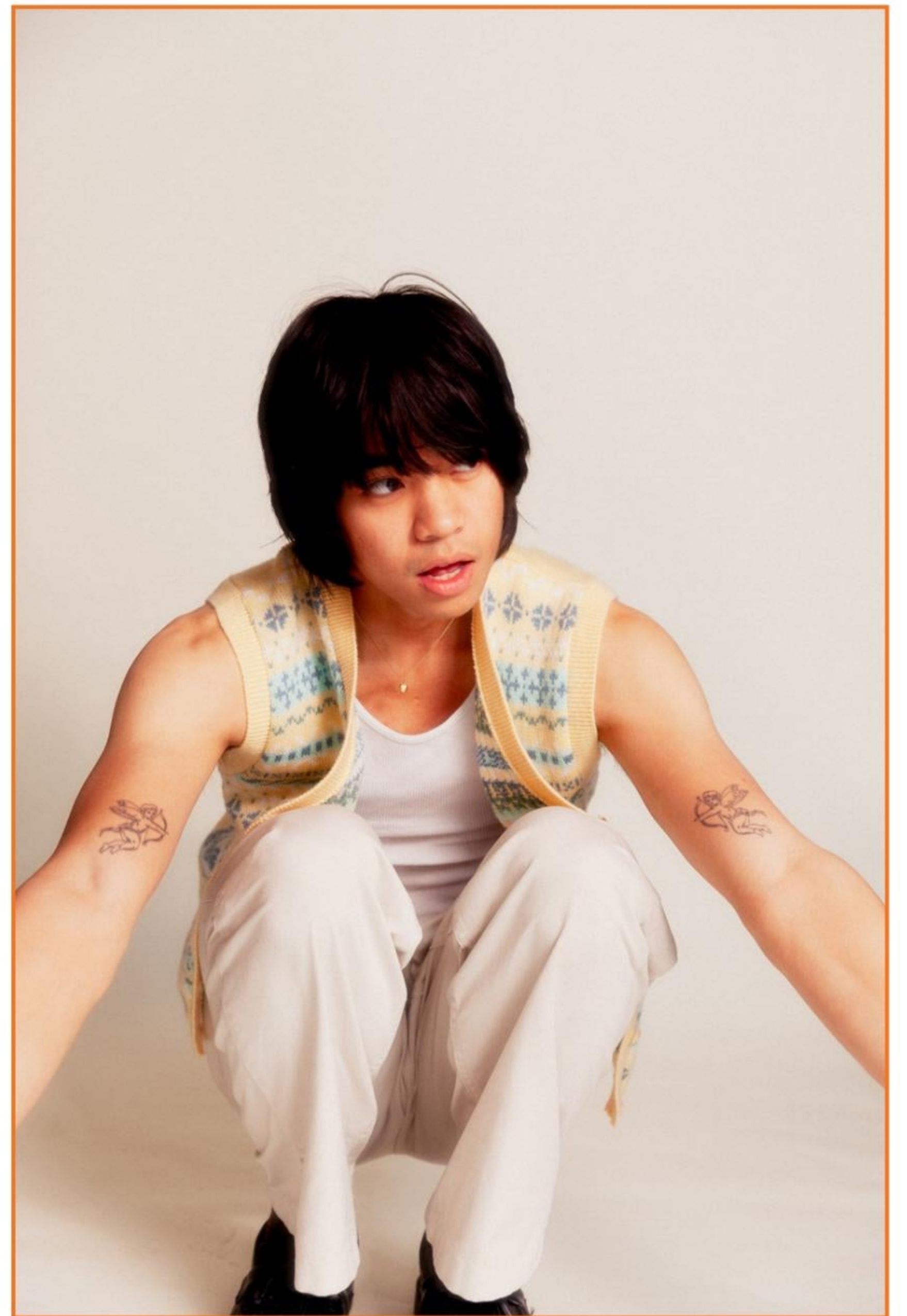
ROCCO: It's hard for me to comprehend the amount of love and support that I have. I am just kind of going out there and it's mad how there's so many people who listen to me and support my art. It's an artist's dream to perform and go on tour while being surrounded by my loved ones. It's great. The coolest part of doing a North America headline tour is exploring states I've never been to before and playing sold out shows there. I'm super fortunate to do that as an artist. You also carry a little swagger on tour, you're in the airport and you're doing the cool stuff you wish you were doing. It's a cool vibe and the whole experience

fuels your adrenaline. It can be taxing on the body and mind but I wouldn't do anything else. I appreciate the experience.

I SEE THAT YOUR LISTENER DEMOGRAPHIC LEANS MORE TOWARDS SOUTHEAST ASIA AND WAS WONDERING IF YOU HAVE ANY PLANS ON TOURING HERE SOMEDAY?

ROCCO: Oh definitely, my biggest touring goal for me this year is to visit Southeast Asia. It'd be so special for me to be able to go back to the Philippines. I was born there and have never been back since eighth grade. I want to go back there and connect with my people. I know so many of my fans are out there, it would be a blessing to go back to Southeast Asia and perform.









TO CONCLUDE THIS INTERVIEW, THE AUDIENCE NEEDS TO KNOW IF YOU'RE WORKING ON NEW PROJECTS AND WHAT THEY CAN LOOK FORWARD TO FROM YOU THIS YEAR? ANY SPOILERS YOU CAN SHARE?

ROCCO: I'm just continuing to develop my sound and release songs that people want and need. I'm trying to stay inspired so I can use those new ideas to make more music. Definitely expect more singles and collaborations with some really good friends of mine. We've already written the songs and it's an honor that I can come in full swing this year. I'm sure my fans know who the friends are but I'll let them figure that out. I also want to be more prolific this year. As compared to other artists, I don't have a lot of songs in my vault. It's funny, I look at my files app and I usually write the demo then the song is released. So, I want to do more sessions with different producers and continue to create because it's such a fun process for me.



GOLDEN BIRTHDAY

INTERVIEW AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY SRAVYA BALASA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CATHRINE KHOM

You have to admit, there's something unique about birthdays. Every year, beyond the chance to celebrate yourself with cake and candles, it's an opportunity to reflect on the past; I find myself reminiscing on the way a year, yet again, passed in the blink of an eye, somehow full of everything from belly laughs with friends to stressed-out nights.

It's a chance to slow down and ask yourself "How did we get here?". This year at Local Wolves, that question is particularly special as this year's issue marks our 12th year, our golden birthday. Golden birthdays, where the

age you're turning and date are the same, happen once in a lifetime and are considered auspicious as they represent the knowledge gained over the years. In honor of all the magazine has achieved since its creation, such as starting from a passion for music to now hundreds of features over 66 issues, we're uncovering 12 life-changing moments in its history. Through taking you, our readers, old and new, on a journey with our founder and editor-in-chief, Cathrine Khom, who shares the history of building a successful magazine, a passionate team, and a tight-knit community, we want each of you to believe that no dream of yours is too small.

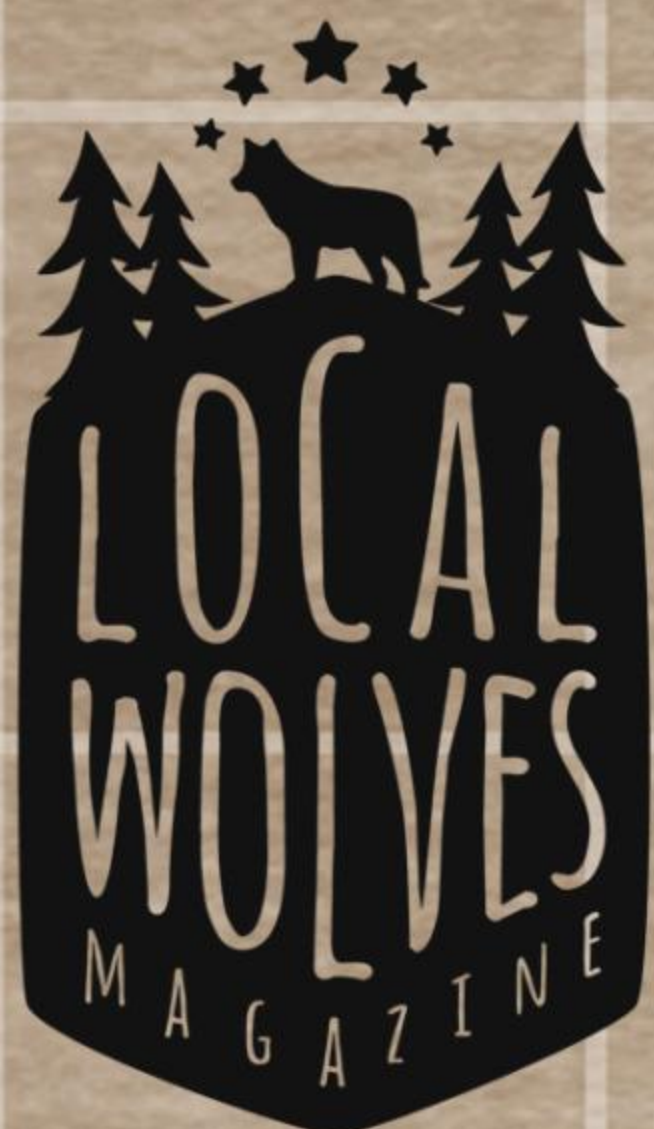


ONE



WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO TAKE THE LEAP TO CREATE THE MAGAZINE?

CK: Local Wolves started as a music blog focusing mostly on the LA/OC music scene. I'm grateful to have contributed to some amazing publications and I've decided to expand Local Wolves to be more than just a "music blog" but a curation of all the things that I wanted to see more of in a magazine. There were many trials and errors in creating the first-ever issue featuring Joe Brooks without using Adobe Photoshop or InDesign. I designed each page, one by one!



Local
wolves
MAGAZINE



Local
wolves

TWO

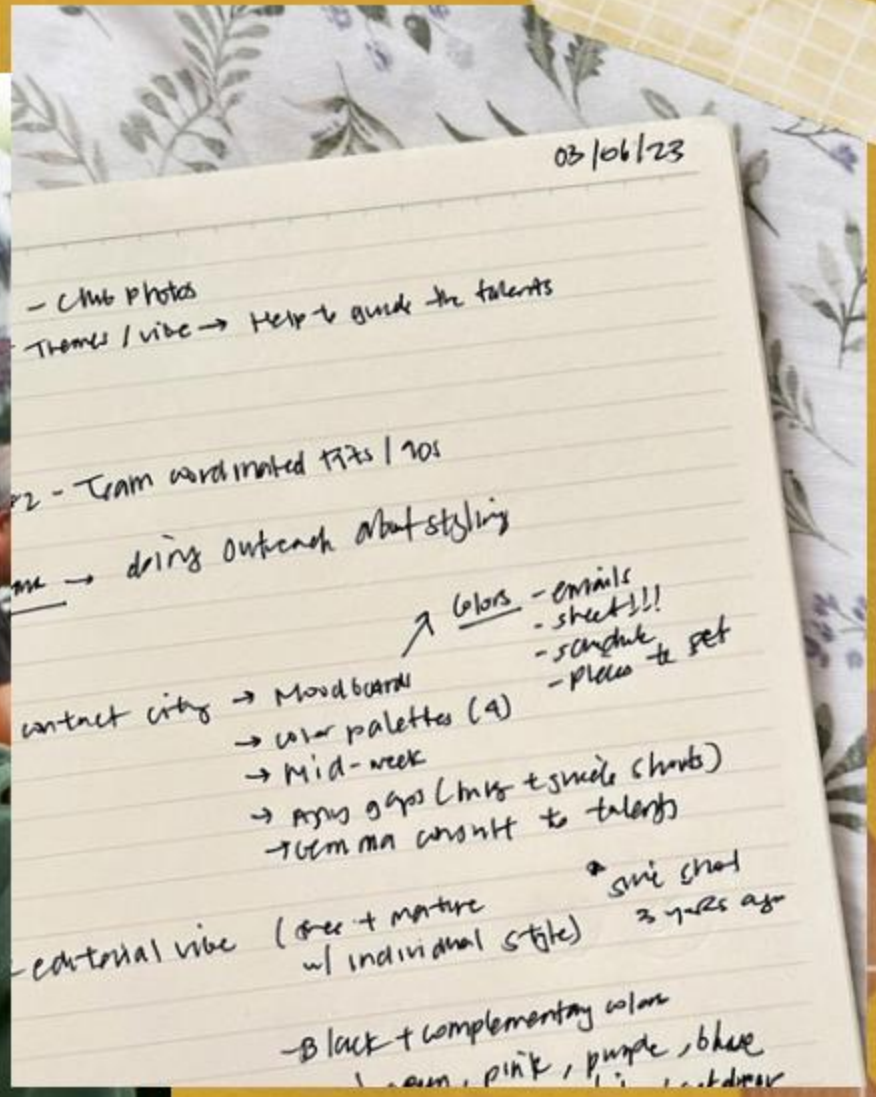
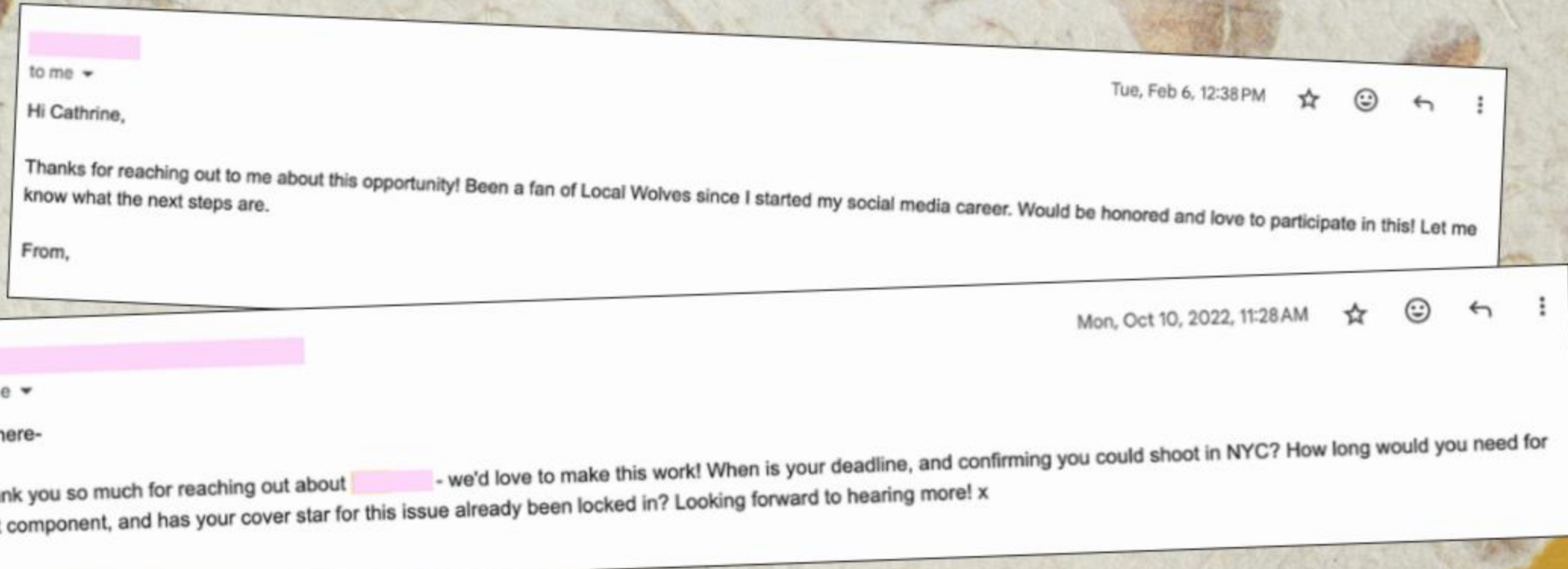
HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE NAME AND THE LOGO?

I watched a lot of *Diners*, *Drive-Ins*, and *Drives* and loved the concept of finding local spots, which inspired the initial concept of Local Wolves—discovering local artists and creatives doing what they love including more gems in between. The iconic logo was designed by Fiona Yeung and then refined by Lisa Lok.

THREE

HOW WAS THE FIRST TEAM BUILT?

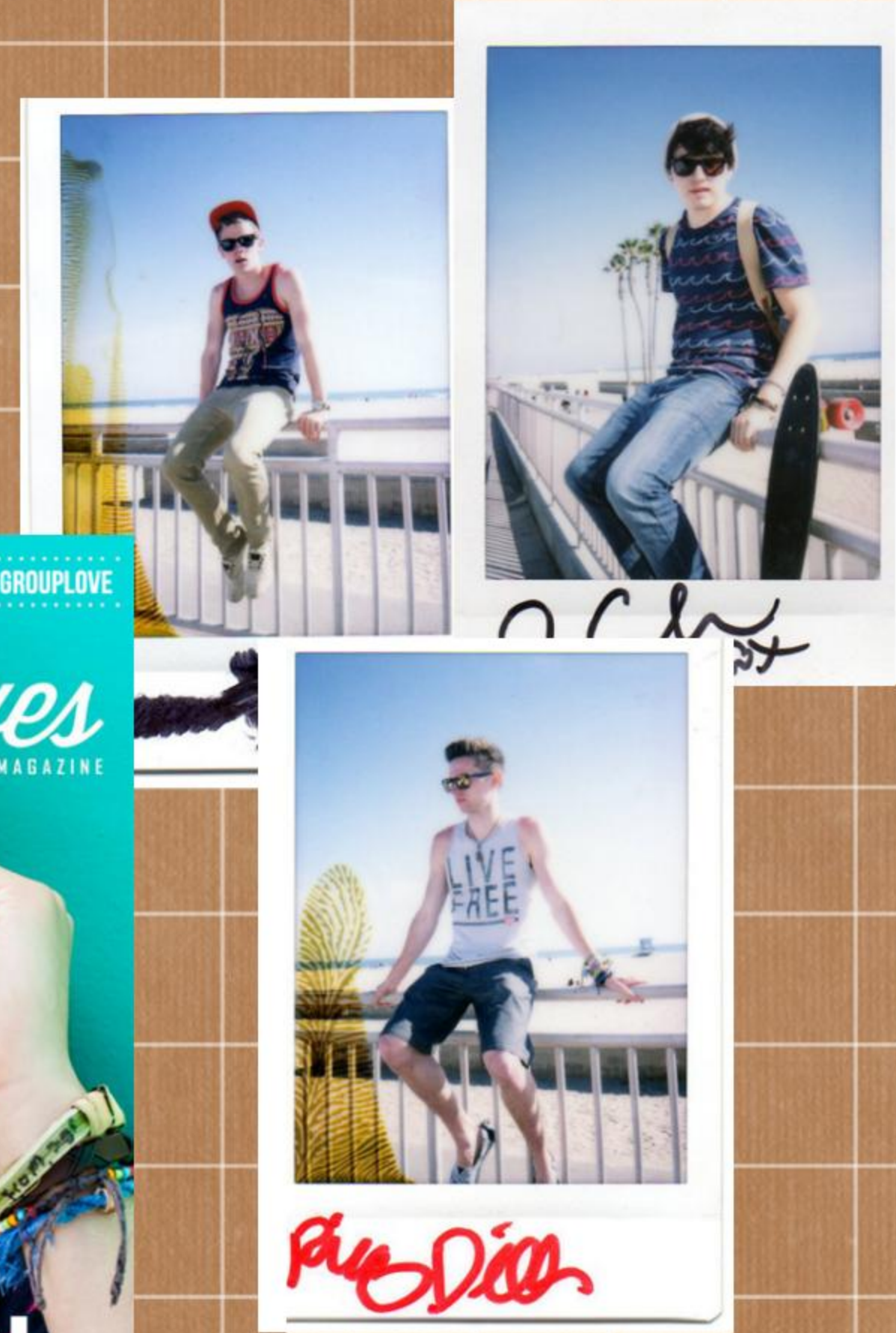
I started Local Wolves as a one-woman show during the early stages of creating a magazine. I was the magazine's PR, designer, website maintenance, videographer... I wore many hats and still do, but I honestly love being hands-on and getting involved in creative projects with my team. I was beyond grateful to build a team with friends who believed in Local Wolves' mission. Once the magazine started to expand, the team did as well through the United States, Canada, and the UK!



FOUR

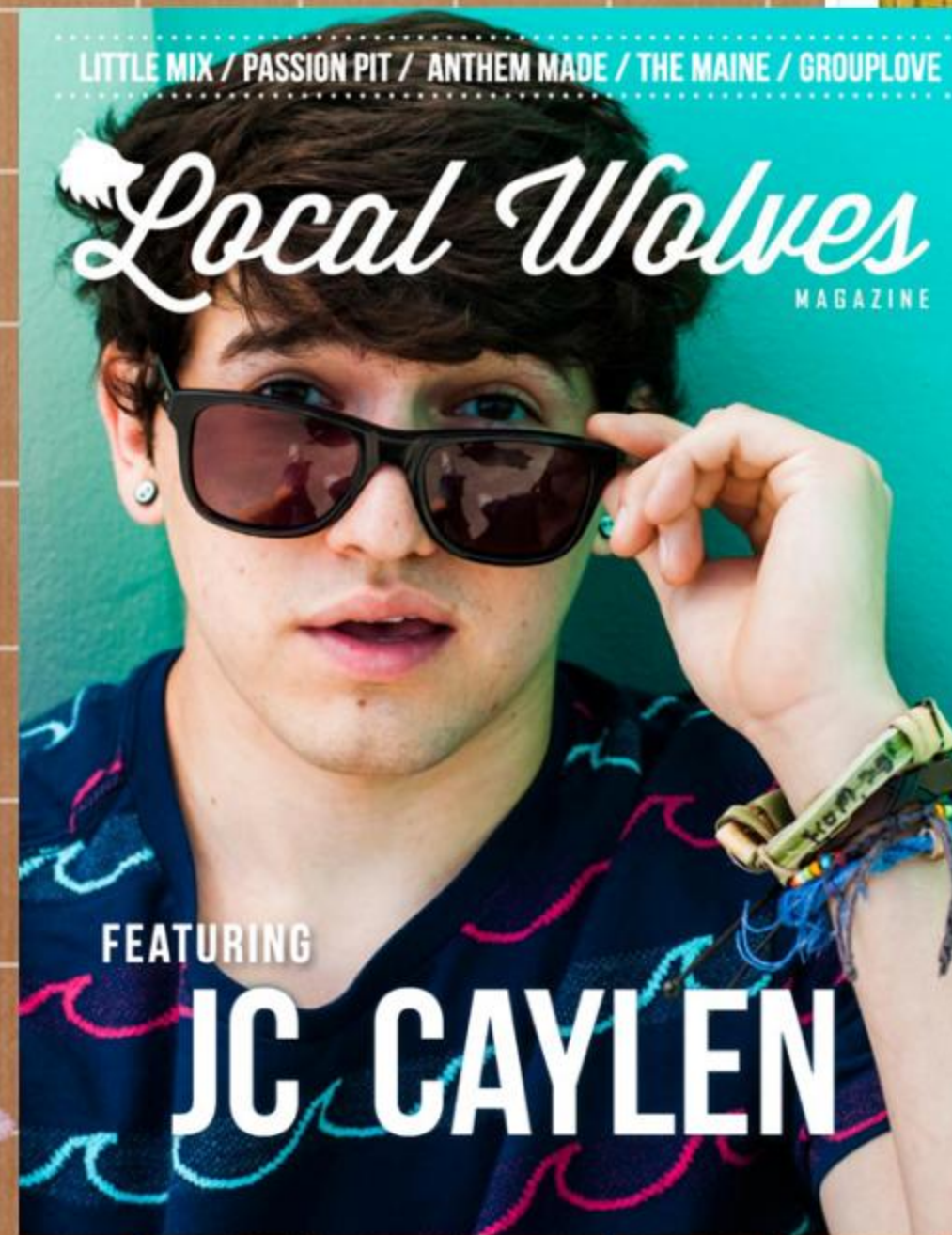
WHAT WAS A TOUGH MOMENT OF REJECTION?

I create a dream cover list every year and I remember a few years back when I really wanted to feature a band that I admire on the cover of LW. I sent a cold email that resulted in an immediate decline, which felt like bad timing more than bad news. I've learned to be more optimistic when it comes to outreach and trust the process including the highs and lows. However, within a year, we ended up landing the cover feature and it's still one of my favorite issues to date.



WHO WAS THE FIRST MAGAZINE COVER ACCEPTANCE?

Joe Brooks was on the cover of our very first issue on April 23, 2012, including Ed Sheeran, which sometimes I'm like 'Did this really happen?' and I remember having no clue what I was doing. It's been incredible to see the progression of the early stages of the magazine.



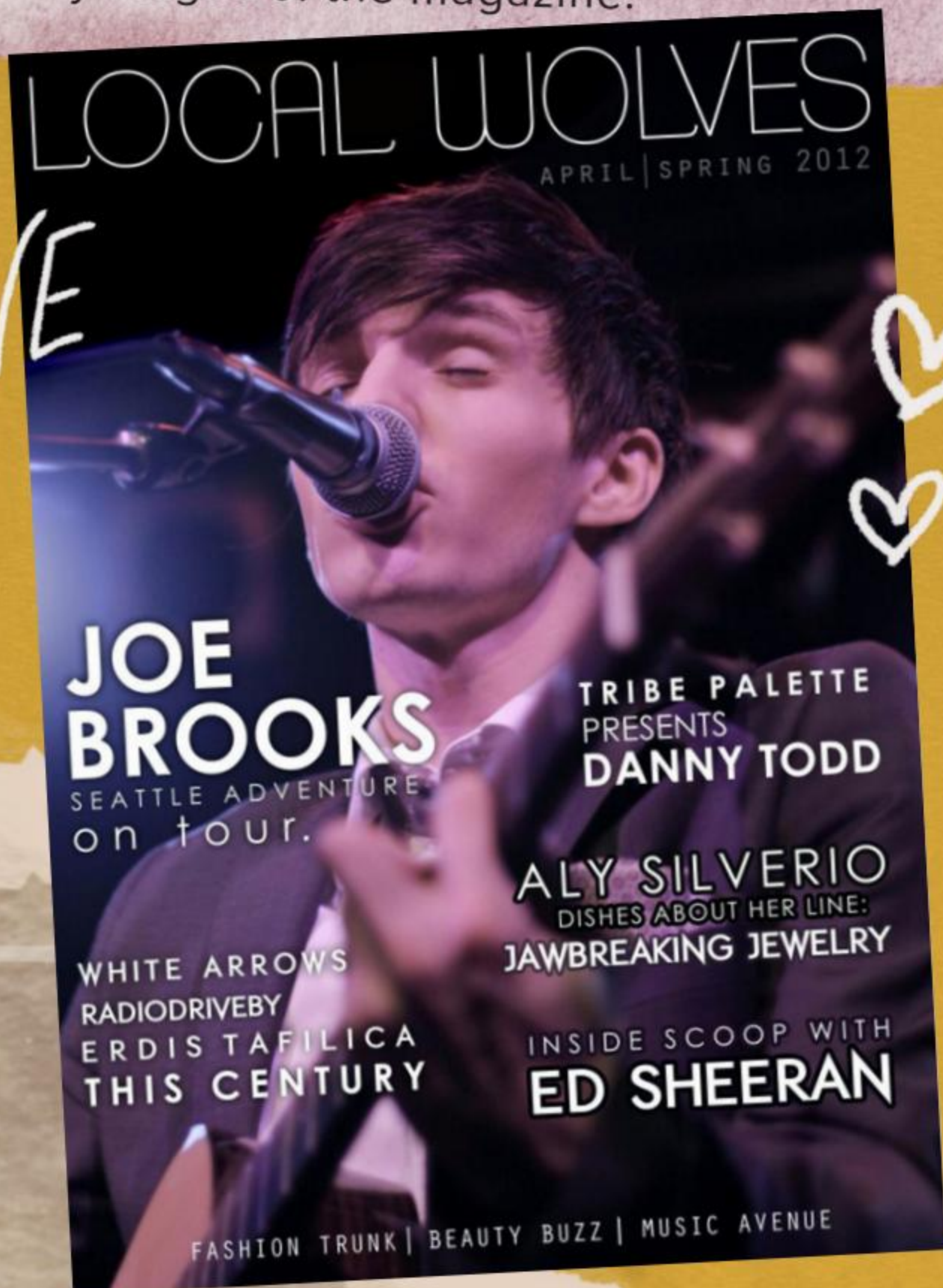
SIX

WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE TO RECEIVE THE FIRST PRINT ISSUE AND SEE ISSUES FLYING OFF THE SHELVES?

I received my copy of the first print issue featuring JC Caylen from O2L (Our Second Life) and it almost felt like an out-of-body experience to see the prep to production. I'm a design junkie so being able to see every single layout design and our blood, sweat, and tears into one curated issue. It was one of those moments where I felt like this was where I was meant to be with my team!

I remember the endless replies, notifications, and messages when we featured him and the support so blew me away. From the fanart to new readers from all over the world who asked how they could grab a print copy of our issues, I felt so much joy and was over the moon with the successful turnout.

FIVE



SEVEN

TELL US ABOUT THE MOST MEMORABLE OPPORTUNITIES LOCAL WOLVES HAS HAD.

We worked with so many incredible talents from Halsey, Troye Sivan, P1Harmony to Wallows— just to name a few. The most memorable opportunity was working with Conan Gray on our 51st issue. It was incredible to work alongside photographer Paige Sara and be in the studio during the shoot. It felt like such a dream to feature such an amazing artist and seeing Conan continue to slay is the perfect word to describe it.

Another memorable opportunity was being invited to speak at a high school. Even though I was nervous, it was so fun to interact with the students who were also fellow readers. So many students stayed after class to chat and discuss Local Wolves, wanting to create their own magazine and see the print issues.



GOLDEN BIRTHDAY



EIGHT

WHAT MADE YOU REALIZE LOCAL WOLVES WAS TAKING OFF?

It was when we found our niche for featuring a little bit of everything. We dabbled into music, fashion, entertainment, travel, and of course, digital content creators from YouTube. We can't thank JC Caylen, Ricky Dillon, and Connor Franta enough for such a fun-filled day. We even did a meetup at the beach with their fans. The OG O2L fans who went to the event are the real ones! Photos: O2L, Misc (showing magazine's reach)

NINE

TELL US WHAT INSPIRED THE START OF WOLFIE SUBMISSIONS.

I've always been fond of magazine columns and reading a curated issue based on a theme. Wolfie Submissions was created for our readers and any creatives who resonate with our theme and prompt. It's been so cool to read and receive submissions from different parts of the world.

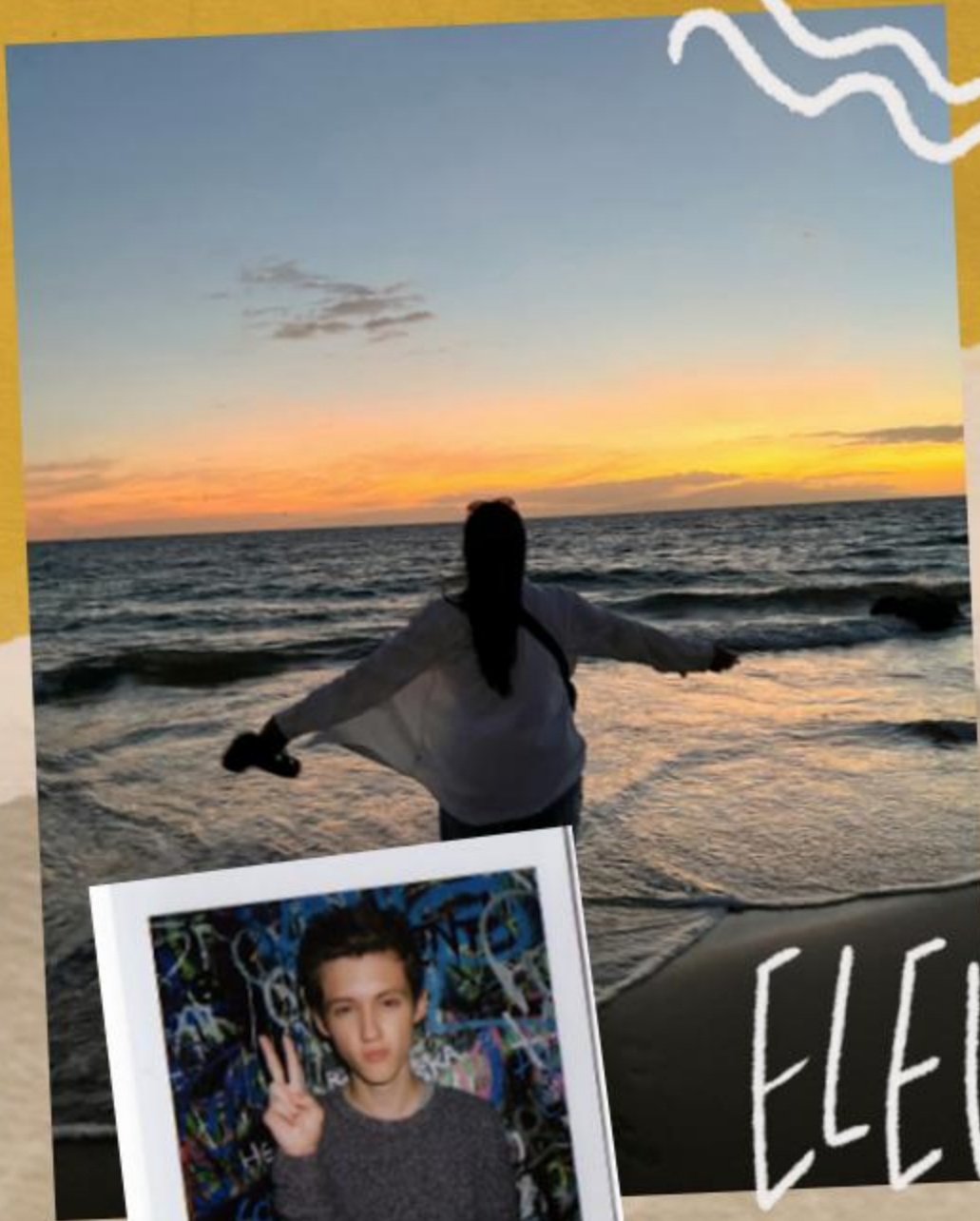




TEN

WHAT WAS A LOW POINT IN THE MAGAZINE?

2020 was definitely a huge hit for us— we usually published 6 issues a year and all of our content was taken in-house by our team. Our team is all over the world and everything was up in the air since we were all experiencing a pandemic in real time. There were thoughts of feeling hopeless and self-doubts if I even wanted to continue Local Wolves. We began to shift our focus to our online community on Instagram, which helped to push the envelope with our readers, collaborators, and creatives.



ELEVEN



WHAT WAS AN IMPORTANT LESSON YOU LEARNED THROUGH THE LAST 12 YEARS?

I was in such a creative rut and burnout from publishing the magazine to monthly and then bi-monthly. I never took time for myself to recoup and put myself as a priority, especially my health and sense of being more present. I've learned that 'no one is checking that email at night' so it can wait. I would find any ounce of time to respond to emails, prep the next issue, or plan my upcoming meetings. My mind was constantly running to the point where I got tired of doing something that I used to love. We all know how 2020 turned out and I decided it was time to take a pause and refocus on the next chapter of Local Wolves.

TWELVE

WHAT INSPIRED YOU WHEN BRINGING LOCAL WOLVES OUT OF ITS HIATUS?

In 2023, my word of the year was 'consistency' and I knew that this 'comeback' issue had to feel right. We had an awesome opportunity to feature P1Harmony and it was such a fun process to collaborate with our team and their teams from concept decks, and scouting studio locations to the launch of our 60th issue.





Juliet Ivy



BY YOKO ZHU
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATHERINE HUI

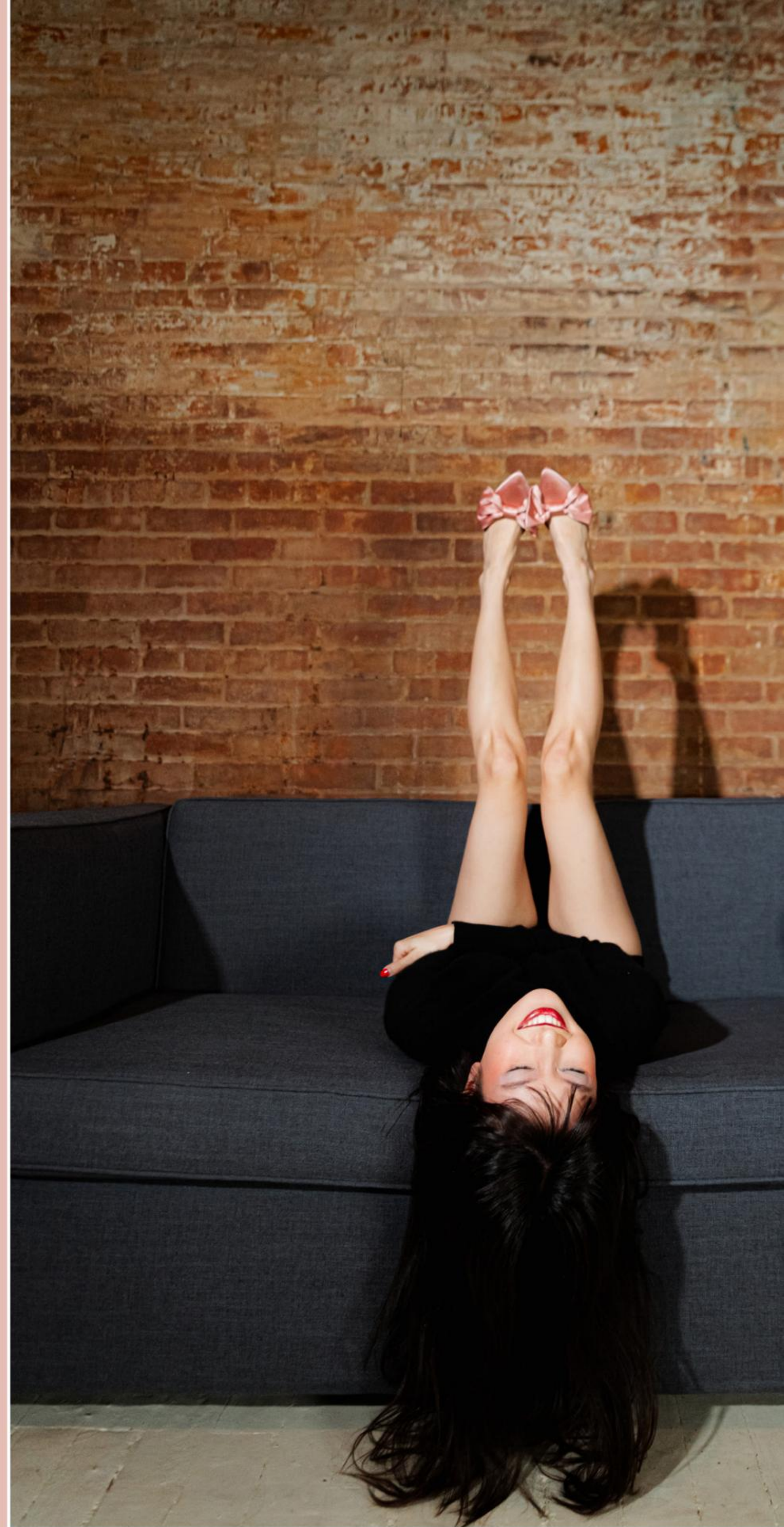
PHOTO ASSISTANTS – YUNA JO & AVANI BHARGAVA
MAKEUP – HANNAH LAUREN
STYLING – JULIET IVY

JULIET IVY's favorite things at the moment are: the way her dog smells, board games with her friends, going on planes, and gratitude. She's grateful for the people in her life right now. She's grateful for music, which is her biggest passion. And of course, for fun. She's also been to Berghain thrice. Despite the awkward medium of a Zoom call, Ivy is easy to talk to. Her demeanor is easygoing, and despite being twenty-three years old, her energy is youthful. She's very aware she sees the world as a new soul. In fact, a psychic in Berlin had read her aura and announced: this was Ivy's first life.

As a New Yorker born and bred, she spent her life surrounded by a diverse agglomeration of people which cultivated her fascination with human nature. Drawing inspiration from everyday existence, Ivy interprets human experiences through a whimsical, introspective lens. This outlook seeps into Ivy's work, and is sonically reflected through mellow guitar instrumentals and light synth tracks.

“I think that my songs are a perfect embodiment of my personality, because I am very light-hearted,” Ivy said. “I tend to have these deep mental rabbit holes that I fall down a lot...I wonder about things like death, being a human, what it means to exist, and hearing my own voice in my head. I present it in my fun and girly way, because that’s the way that I communicate everything.”

Ivy’s debut EP, *playpen* is filled with a full-bodied sound, featuring five songs with indie-pop melodies and eccentric lyrics. “we’re all eating each other,” an existentialism girly-pop anthem, is currently Ivy’s most streamed song with over 14 million Spotify streams. With lyrics like “we don’t know how to accept we’re a product of chance / and less like gods and more like plants,” the song confronts the inevitability of death. “lug” and “bestfriend” are softer songs in Ivy’s discography, earnest and self-reflective.



I felt like I had the freedom to
learn and to grow and to develop





Playpen came together naturally, Ivy expressed. She'd been creating songs with her friends, inspired by the concepts swimming in her brain. *What could possibly be out there? What does all this mean? Why are we here?* The songs were birthed easily; each track took about a day. Originally, there was no end goal in mind. What began as a personal project became Ivy's first full body of work.

"Being able to work with [my friends] and with other young artists in New York inspired me to be part of this community that is all making music together. I felt like I had the freedom to learn and to grow and to develop," Ivy said.

Since her metaphoric rise, Ivy is embarking on a headlining tour in May – hitting major U.S. cities like Boston, San Francisco, and Philadelphia, including Head in the Clouds festival in New York. Ivy revealed her upcoming musical project as "introspective" and "like the B-side" of *playpen*, and anticipates a single release around April.

"I think it'll be a project where people can get to know me more, and it feels really personal and still relatable," Ivy said. "I'm just really excited."



FILM ADDICT





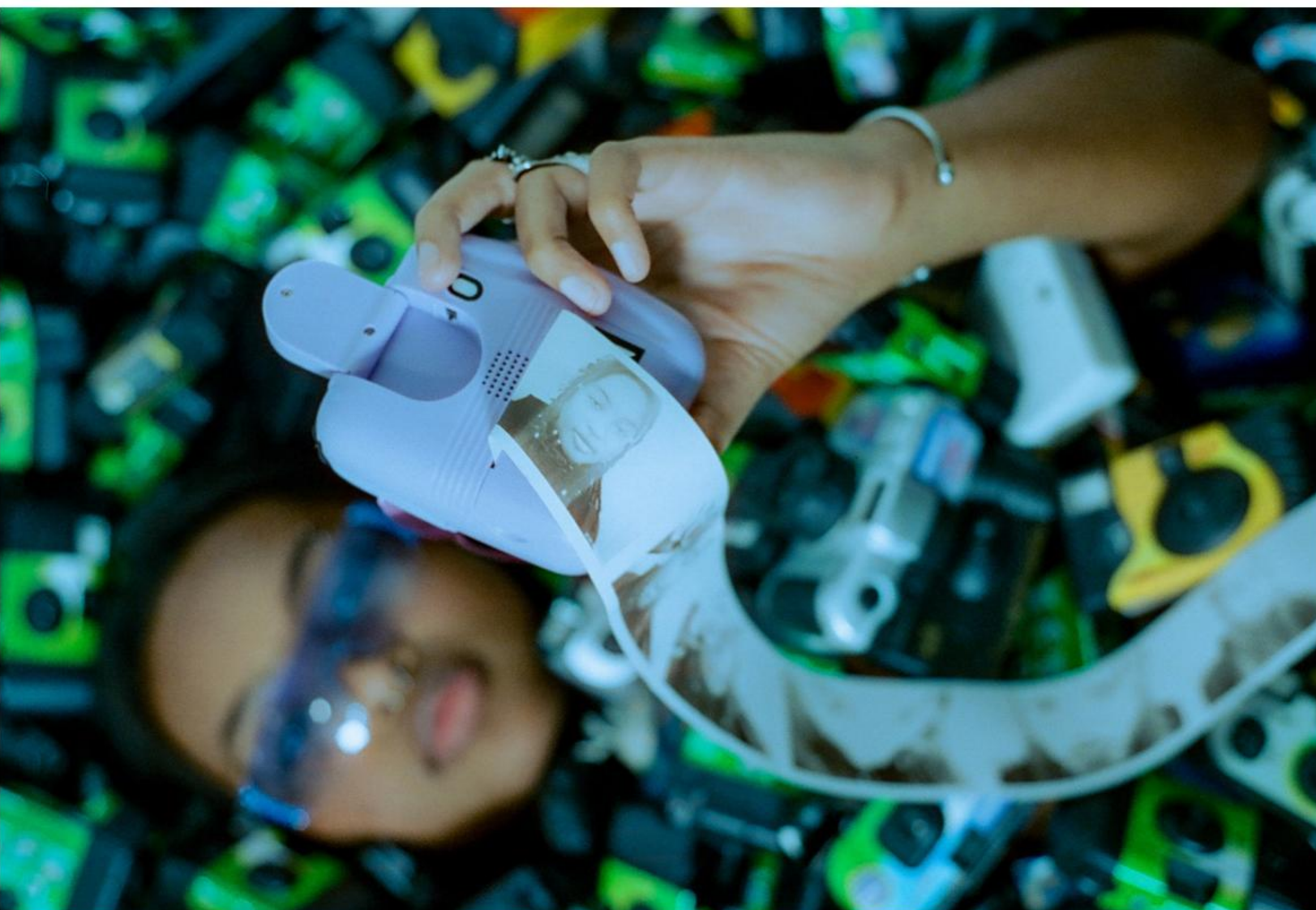
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SMILES MEYER
MODEL - MARS CIEZKI















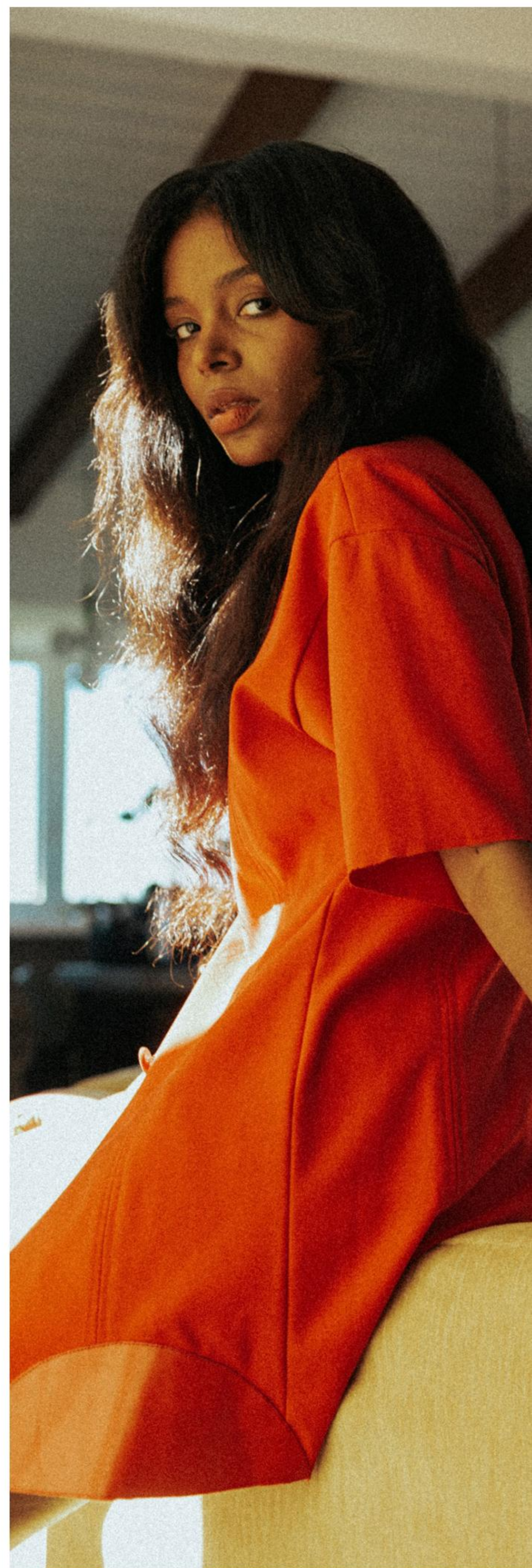
TOP: DELFINA BALDA
SHORTS: MC2 SAINT BARTH
JEWELRY: VINTAGE

SHADES *of Sunday*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARCEL PEAN
STYLING – CHRISTIANA GREENE
STYLING AGENCY – BERNADETTE & CHRISTIANA
MODEL – KANDIA NZINGA



TOP: PALOMA WOOL, PANTS:
CALVIN KLEIN, SHOES: GARDEN
HEIR, SOCKS: MARIA LA ROSA,
JEWELRY: YAM NYC / M JEWELERS





TOP: DELFINA BALDA
JEWELRY: VINTAGE



BLOUSE: BODE, SHORTS: SMOCK,
SOCKS: LOS ANGELES
APPAREL, LOAFERS: GH BASS,
JEWELRY: VINTAGE



TOP: OPEN EDIT
JEWELRY: VINTAGE



TOP: PALOMA WOOL
PANTS: CALVIN KLEIN
SHOES: GARDEN HEIR
SOCKS: MARIA LA ROSA
JEWELRY: YAM NYC / M JEWELER



TOP: NAKED WARDROBE
PANTS: VINTAGE
SHOES: BOTTEGA VENETA
JEWELRY: VINTAGE



TOP: DELFINA BALDA
JEWELRY: VINTAGE



Wholeheartedly

Kevin

PHOTOGRAPHY & CREATIVE DIRECTION BY LUCY DREWLOW
LIGHTING ASSISTANTS – CODY PUCCIO & EMILY DARLINGS
ONSITE ASSISTANT – ALEX LAM
STYLING – KEVIN NINH

“To be flawless is to be yourself”

KEVIN NINH's career as a beauty YouTuber was born from exactly that—a teenager being unapologetically himself. Ninh remembers his first upload as one of his earliest moments of fearlessness. It was Spirit Week at his high school, and the theme was what-not-to-wear. He showed up with stuffed animal cats around his body, carrying a basket full of kittens.

Hearing him describe the outfit over a Zoom call, it sounded like it should have been a silly, fun memory. But kids can be cruel, and bullying never stems from anything rational. “I had a friend pull up a tweet that was about me, saying how ‘gay guys who wear stuffed animal cats in a cat sweater should go to hell and die—hashtag [slur].’ And that was the first time I ever got anything that intense. So, rather than dwelling on that, I made a video about it on my iPhone 3 and I posted it on Facebook.”

It was Ninh's first time being vulnerable to an audience of faceless people on the internet, which was, of course, terrifying. But the positive response he received from his community—fellow classmates and adults alike—was encouraging, and prompted him to keep making videos. Now, over a decade later, FlawlessKevin has just hit 1 million subscribers.

“That's all fetus-Kevin ever dreamed of. It's almost like everything has worked out the way that it needed to, because once I hit a million, I [had] fulfilled that dream.” Ninh and his channel have evolved and changed a lot over the years—different eras, as he calls them, each one

a fundamental stepping stone to who he is now. Most recently, Ninh has been in his “wanderlust era,” documenting his way through Japan and South Korea.

This comes after participating in Netflix's *Squid Game: The Challenge*, a reality show based on the Korean series of the same name, where contestants play high-stakes children's games to win a large amount of money. “It honestly was the most exhausting thing I've ever done in my life physically, mentally. But it was such a once in a lifetime experience that I could not pass it up. . . . The one thing that made me really power through the whole experience with no makeup, no skincare, . . . was the connections and the friendships that I made on set.”

In May 2023, following the show's filming, Ninh visited Japan for the first time—and made the trip entirely on his own. “I was really inspired by my resilience in being able to just take life by the horns and owning it. After filming a reality TV show for Netflix, I was like, ‘damn, I can do anything.’ . . . And so for my 27th birthday, I decided to celebrate myself by taking myself out to my dream destination.”

It takes a lot of courage to travel alone, especially to a new country where you don't speak the language. For Ninh, the push to make that choice came from wanting to live life to the fullest. He hopes to encourage others to do the same as well, wanting to empower people to think, “If Kevin, a non-binary queer person of color, can navigate the world and occupy space in this world on their own, I can do it too.”





*I was really inspired
by my resilience in
being able to just take
life by the horns
and owning it.*

Ninh has certainly inspired change in the lives of his audience, especially for young queer people. “It makes me feel like I fulfilled my purpose, like everything that I’m doing is exactly what I’m supposed to be doing. And I think that the fact that I’m able to reach thousands of people with my values, my energy, whatever it may be—I think that is something that I will forever be proud of, something that money cannot buy.”

One of the coolest aspects of having such an influence on teenagers is the messages he receives from parents. Ninh recounts parents telling him that they watch his videos with their kids, giving the parents a better understanding of the queer community and those kids more confidence in themselves.

“I think that’s something that would make my mom proud, too, honestly, because for the longest time she wasn’t supportive of this social media career of mine. But eventually she came around and said, “You know what? Just do what makes you happy.” And when she realized that I was able to impact people, I think that’s when it flipped a switch like, ‘okay, this is important to not just Kevin, but for other people’. . . . I feel like she grew and became more accepting once she realized that me being me and empowering and inspiring people was a good thing.”

Back in 2018, Ninh’s mother passed from ovarian cancer. As is common in Asian immigrant households, it took a while for her to understand Ninh’s sexuality and career. When she did come around, though, she accepted him wholeheartedly, recommending Ninh clothes she

thought he would look good in or asking for makeup advice. “I’m really glad we had that dynamic before she passed away, but because she passed away at 48, . . . I think a part of why I navigate life the way I do after 2018 . . . [is] because I realized that life is too short. And so I think that’s another reason why I’ve just been doing whatever sounds fun. Netflix reality show? Sure, why not. Solo travel, why not?”

Ninh has his mother’s handwriting inked into his skin. He tells me of how, when his mom was in chemo treatment, he gave her a blank journal and told her to write whatever came to mind. A year after his mother’s passing, Ninh read the pages aloud on camera in a YouTube video that he will never watch again. “I remember just bawling my eyes out because seeing someone’s handwriting who has passed—it almost feels like they’re there with you. But she had written a letter to my sister and I, and at the very bottom it said ‘be happy.’ And I just knew that I wanted that tattooed on me. So I got a matching tattoo with my sister on what would have been her 50th birthday, to commemorate that. And that was my first tattoo.”

He now has multiple tattoos, each deeply meaningful to him, many of which connect Ninh to the people he cares about most. The word ‘flawless’ in his own handwriting, when he turned 25. Matching Super Mario characters with his sister, on their ankles as a reminder of how they walk side by side through life. A lotus—the national flower of Vietnam—with five petals, symbolizing femininity. Ninh, his sister, and some of his cousins all have this same tattoo, each petal representing one of the five fam-









ily members. He has his parents' birth year in his father's handwriting on his shoulder. "So they're always looking over me," says Ninh, laughing a little at how much poetic thought went into his every tattoo. It's heartwarming, seeing the sheer amount of love inked into his skin.

A lot about Ninh's appearance is thought out and intentional. Recently, Ninh dyed his shoulder-length hair a dark, subtle red to mark the end of his reality show era. "I thought it was symbolic because at the end of season 1 of *Squid Game*, Gihun, the main character, dyes his hair red to . . . step away from the games." He added that another reason for choosing red is because of the Vietnamese flag, to commemorate his trip to Vietnam.

Alongside his change in hair color, Ninh feels that, lately, he has been embracing his femininity more than ever. "I think my style in the present [reflects] whatever I'm going through internally, externally. . . . I've been really leaning into a more delicate, coquette, schoolgirl type of vibe, with a bit of an edge." Recently, Dua Lipa and Sabrina Carpenter have been some of Ninh's biggest style inspirations. "For Sabrina Carpenter, I've been loving her tour looks when she's opening for Taylor Swift. . . . And then with Dua Lipa, . . . It just looks so chic—sleek but with a new modern twist to it. It's just something that you wouldn't see hometown Kevin wearing."

Another way that Ninh has found himself stepping out of his comfort zone is through acting. "I recently started taking acting classes, and I think that's a pretty fearless thing to do—to put yourself out there in a new space and to learn something new at my age." While taking these classes is something fun and challenging for him, he also hopes to one day be the representation he never had growing up.

"I was so nervous at first because I [was] like, 'what if I'm not good at it?' But when you start something new, you're never going to be good at it, you know? . . . At first I was nervous, but. . . I've been doing it for a few months now, and so I'm at a point where I actually feel the growth and I feel that improvement. . . . And it makes me hopeful that this is something that I could potentially pursue."

Thinking about the next steps for himself and his social media career, Ninh wants to keep up his solo-travel, "being the wanderlust queen that [he is]." Beyond that, he has no idea what the future holds—he chooses to simply embrace whatever might come his way. "I'm confident that whatever it is, it's something that I'm [going to be] proud of, something that will make me happy, something that [will fulfill] me." With how hard he has worked to build up his platform and balance the online world with his personal life and well-being, there is no doubt that things will only go up from here. Kevin Ninh is sure to remain flawless as ever—strong, bright, and wholly his own.



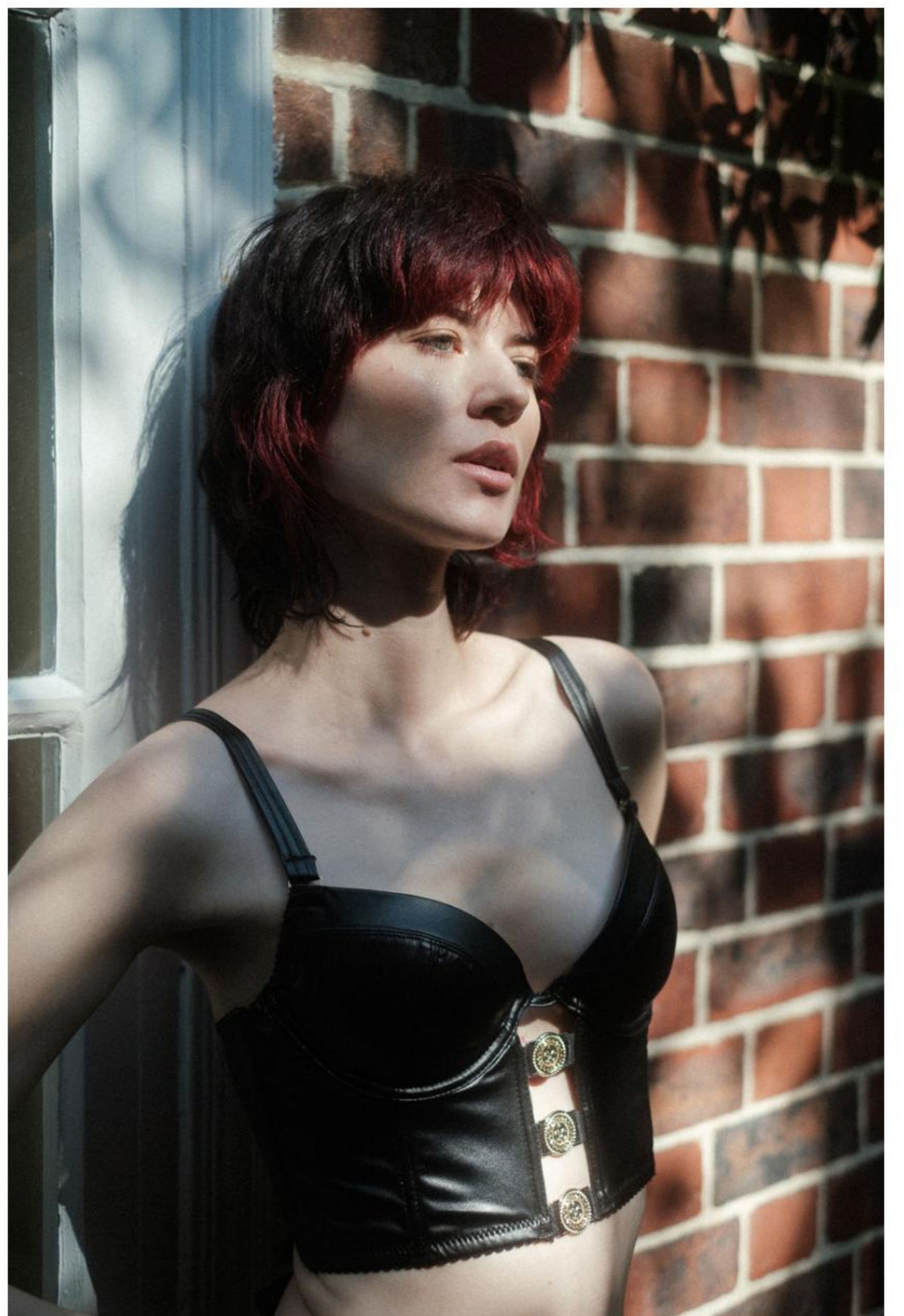
DA
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WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY BY MILA F.
MODEL & STYLING – IOANA CRISTINA NOVAC,
AT FAITH MGMT

In this photo series, captured in an intimate quarter of London, Greenwich, I wanted to transcend the boundaries between reality and illusion, unfolding within the enigmatic confines of the model's home. Shot both on film and digital mediums, the series employs a palette of deep, brooding tones that mirror the complex facets of Cristina's character. Cristina, a muse with a formidable personality, exudes an aura of strength and allure that seamlessly intertwines with the shadows surrounding her. Her presence, characterized by a magnetic and seductive energy, evokes a sense of mystery and intrigue. The underlying gothic vibe paints a narrative of passion, secrecy, and the allure of the unknown.















THE WOMEN BEHIND



THE SUPER BOWL



BY KYRA GANSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KYRA GANSON & BO BAUMGARTNER / POPULOUS 2024

Learning to lead with a love that leaves you changed, to make softness your strength, to leap where no one like you has gone before, to lay down your ego for the sake of the collective, and to do it all scared: many women paving a path to greatness centered around collaboration and compassion in industries dominated by masculinity and its inherent methodologies have felt these sensations firsthand, both in their numerous trials and tribulations and even more so in the triumphs that are made most meaningful against the context of a competitive and individualistic environment that traditionally has made little to no space for them.

The sports industry is certainly no exception to this phenomenon, but since the start of my career at 16-years-old, I found myself amazed at how many women are in positions of power in the planning of the Super Bowl. I have watched, with reverence, these women who mentored and raised me strive to move with grace despite being imperfectly and complexly

human, knowing that their actions represent not just them as individuals but, in a way, all women. The following group of inspiring individuals are a small but mighty contingent that play a major role in the creation of one of the most beloved sporting events worldwide, which has generated over 450 million views in the few years I myself have been involved. When asked this year, at the 58th iteration of this event, if they had a particular role model or figure that triggered their pursuit of this career, I received a resounding “no”: each of these women, unprompted, cited each other as inspirations, as there was a nearly non-existent feminine presence in the industry when they started, making their bravery all the more admirable. I will not let their efforts go to waste, and will always strive to emulate those who have come before me. We can take up space here and progress forwards with pride.

I asked each of these women what the proudest moment in their career has been thus far, and how they felt its impact today. These were their responses.



JENNIFER HILL

Stadium Operations at Populous

Number of Super Bowls: 17 (7 of which working directly for Populous)

“MY PROUDEST MOMENT in my 17 Super Bowls is a tough one, honestly it changes every year. Every gameday I arrive around 3:00 am, spend the first few hours walking the site, every level of the stadium and end up on the field. I try to take 5 minutes at that moment and take it all in, the magnitude of what we have accomplished over the past weeks of building and years/months of planning. In those moments my mind always goes to the incredible staff we have working with the Populous team and the fact that no matter if these folks are Stadium Managers, Directors/Vice Presidents of Team or life long event personnel they come back year after year and push themselves and take on more and more with us. The expectation to make every Super Bowl better than the year before is only do-able when you work with such great vendors, contractors and staff that will give their all to you and this event. This is not your average 9:00 – 5:00 event. The hours, effort, sweat and tears that go into making the Super Bowl the biggest one day sporting event is incredible. I would have to say my proudest moment is seeing our Super Bowl “family” come together year after year and kicking ass no matter what is asked of them.”



ARIANNE SHEAN WERT

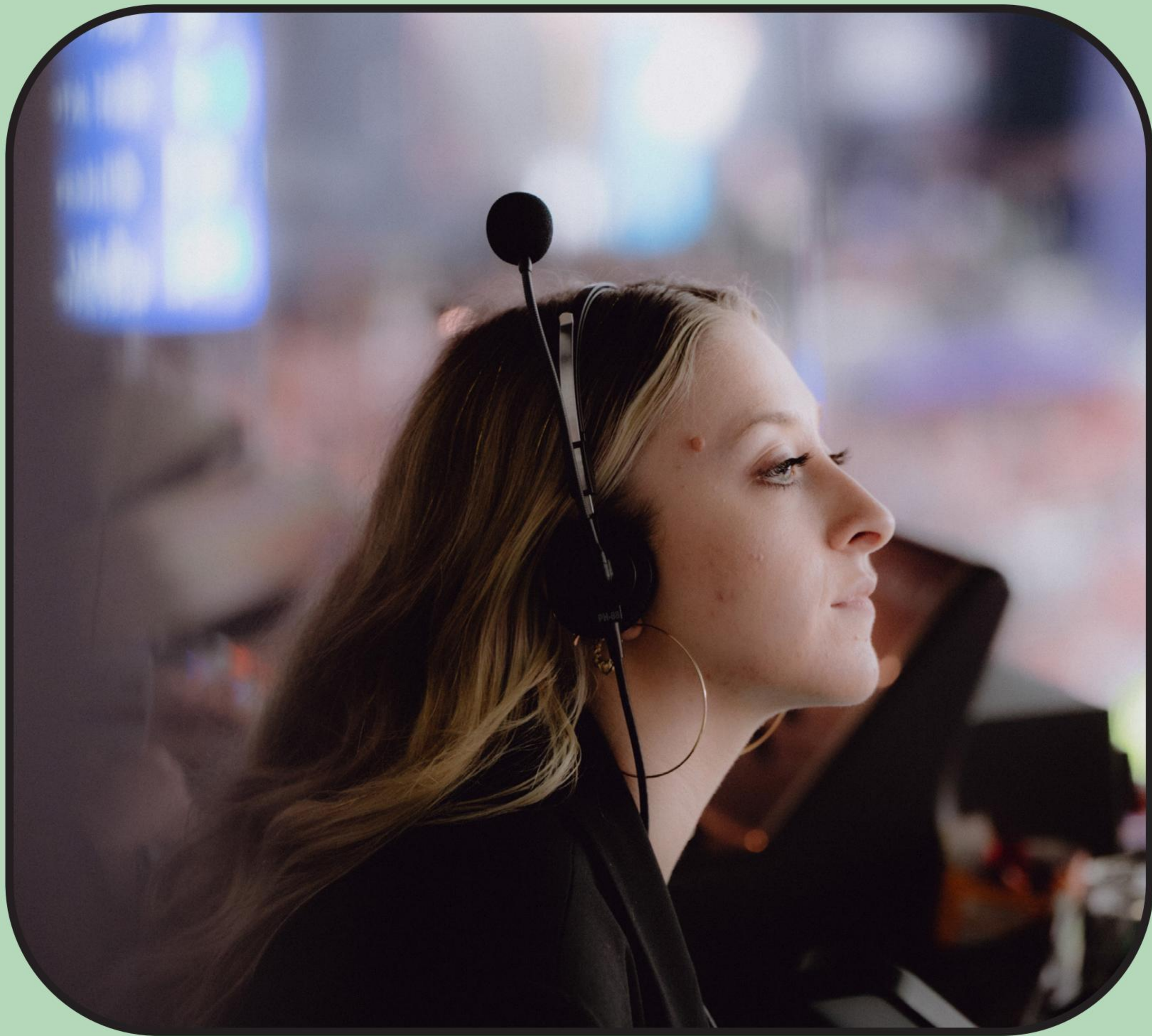
Interior Operations at Populous

Number of Super Bowls: 20

“OVER 20 YEARS of Super Bowls, I have experienced many highs and lows. Each of these experiences has given me insight and offered ways to grow. Often the failures are the best learning opportunities. Whether it's finding wayward coaches who need some guidance to their booth or clearing sidelines so there are no trip hazards, or figuring out how to store 600 semi inflated spheres (the answer is a 52 foot truck!), solving these puzzles is gratifying. My proudest moment is when a complicated plan works. When all the planning, replanning, altering the plan, throwing out the plan and starting over, comes together to create an amazing experience for those involved, for those watching, for those working. Those are the moments I am proud of what I do. When I started working on Super Bowls, there were only a few women in the room. Over the years, those of us working on this game, came together and helped one another. We have formed a sort of sisterhood. Each of us helping the other, encouraging, listening, making different choices to make change and empower each of us to rise.

This year's Super Bowl is run on so many levels by strong and accomplished professional women. We have been each other's inspiration. We have raised each other up, shown we are more than capable, that we are effective communicators, problem solvers, detailed planners, and truly amazing leaders. As the ladies of the Super Bowl, we have formed our own team to inspire each other and the next generation.”





CASSIDY COLPOYS

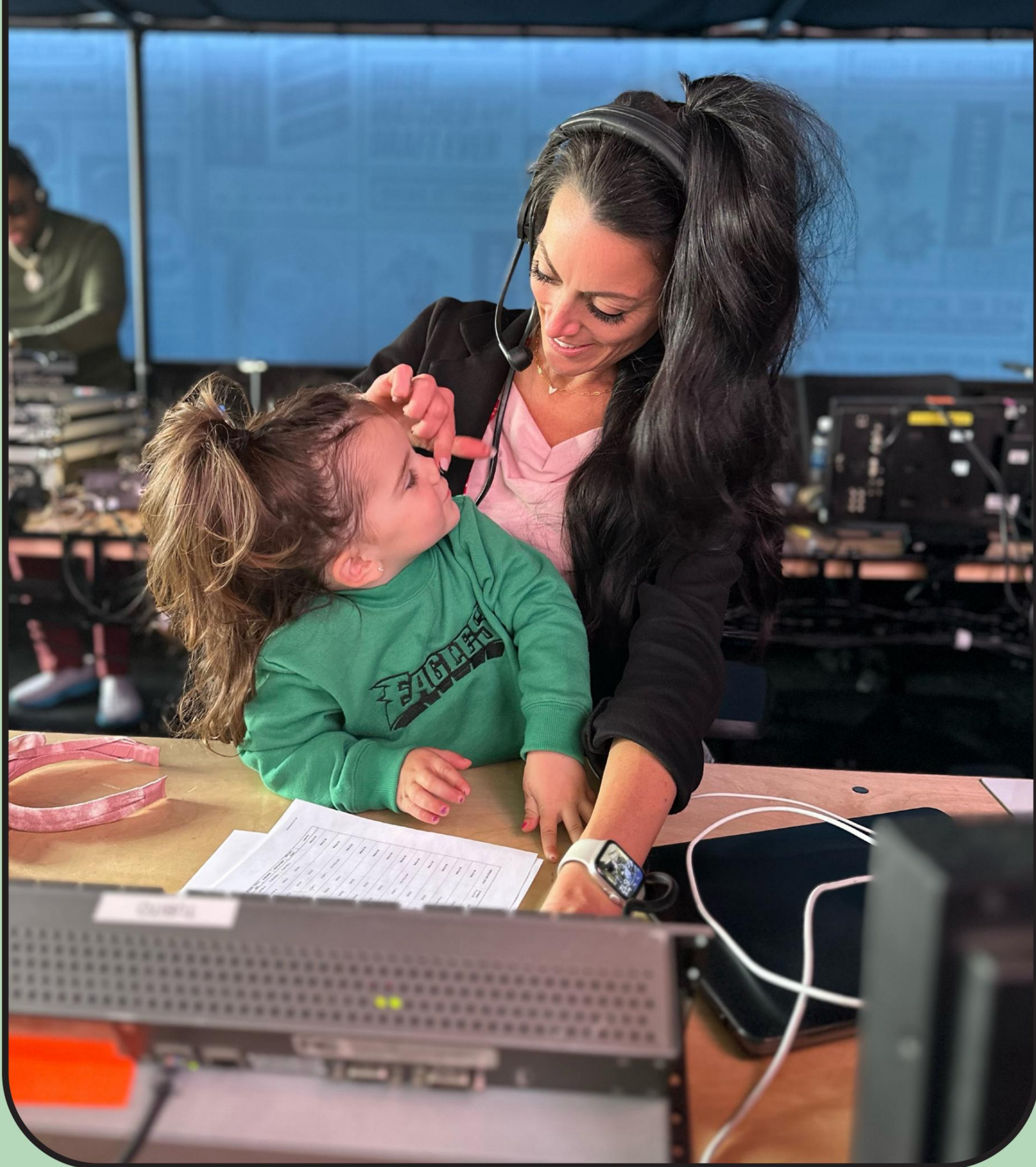
Operations Producer at Van Wagner

Number of Super Bowls: 5

“MY FIRST SUPER Bowl was in 2019 in Atlanta Georgia. I was 23-years-old and working my first job out of college. Up until a few months before, I really had no direction in what my life after college was going to look like. I had graduated with a Fashion Business Management degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology, but wanted nothing to do with the fashion industry. The Super Bowl was the last place I expected life to take me but I was beyond excited to get the opportunity.

I remember my first Opening Night vividly. I was tasked to be a stage manager, receiving the players on the ramp, and cueing them for their introductions. A few minutes before the introductions were set to start, the players were nowhere to be found. I frantically ran up to the guys standing outside the Player Holding room to find out who was lining them up. They looked at me like I had ten heads. My instincts kicked in and I took charge. I asked them if I could round them up and they led me right into the Player Holding room. I walked in to see a sea of larger than life men, and started yelling out numbers of players telling them to line up. The looks on their faces was priceless.

It was at that moment that I knew this was what I wanted to do. I've been made fun of and called a "Bossy Bitch" for most of my life. Growing up, I never really felt like I fit in. It wasn't until I discovered this world and the people in it that I felt like I belonged. My strong personality makes me a great leader and successful in what I do. It was the first time I truly felt proud of myself.”



LINDSAY ANSON

Executive Producer of Talent at Van Wagner

Number of Super Bowls: 3

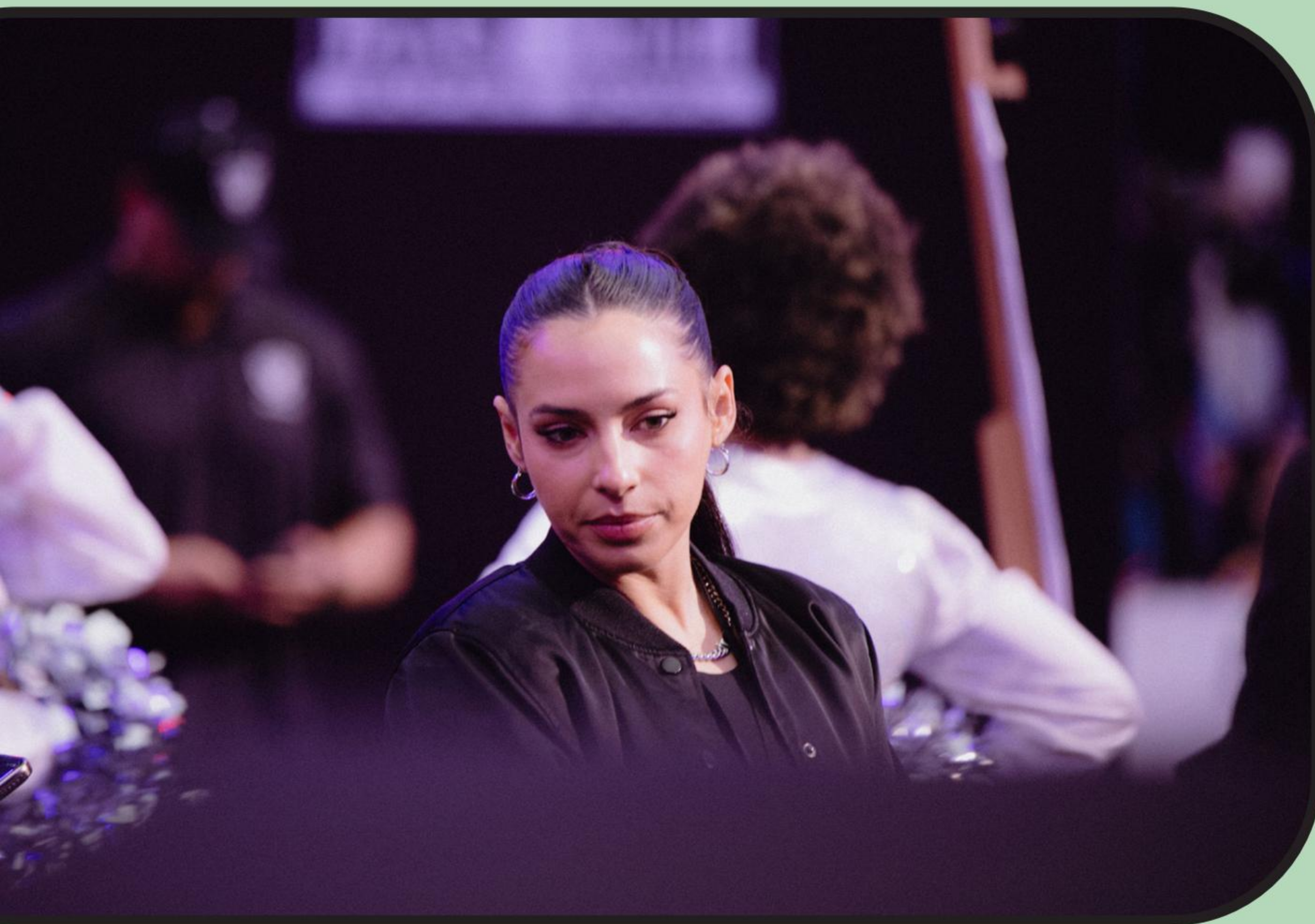
“**THERE ARE COUNTLESS** moments but last year's NFL Draft was extra special for me. My worlds collided as a producer, choreographer, and mother as I stood on stage rehearsing with Mötley Crüe for the post Draft concert at an event that I was producing while holding my little girl. It struck me that very moment how fortunate I am and I hope that my daughter grows up believing that, with hard work and a strong character, she can achieve anything. I want other young women in this industry to know that it is possible to have big dreams, a family, and a career- but there are certainly sacrifices that go along with it at times. I cherish the moments that I get to bring my Lily into my "work life" and so grateful for the loving acceptance she receives.”

CHRISTIE BONK

Bonk Management, LLC: Contractor at Populous

Number of Super Bowls: 7

“**ONE OF THE** proudest moments of my career was getting to work my first Super Bowl with Populous in Miami. It was my home stadium for over 6 years and I left my full time job there just prior to Super Bowl LIV and I was devastated to not be there to see it through. Not long after I moved away from Miami, Sarah Schock connected me to Todd Barnes and Jenn Hill with Populous. After what I remember being an intimidating interview, I was added to the team and couldn't believe that I was actually getting to join such a high-level and hand selected group (imposter syndrome at its finest). I got to work both Opening Night at Marlins Park and Super Bowl at Hard Rock Stadium. After the game, I was on the field with a glass of champagne realizing that I'd just played a small role in one of the largest events on the planet. Not to mention, all of my worlds collided in one place and it was an incredible experience. I felt like a little sponge, soaking in all of the new information, and learning everything that I could. This experience truly has helped shape me into the professional I am today and made me fall in love with the world of mega events. I loved the challenge, the pressure and the reward is like nothing else. A few short years later, I started my own LLC and decided to make contracting a full-time job, and it's been the best decision that I've ever made.”



CHRISTINA BARRAS

Hair & Makeup Artist at Van Wagner

Number of Super Bowls: 3

“**HONESTLY, THE SUPER** Bowl is up there! And it's had a huge impact on my career as it's introduced me to so many amazing women in sports who have become regular clients. I think in a traditionally male dominated industry, glam is not always prioritized so when given the opportunity I really try to make these women feel taken care of. I want them looking and feeling their best so they can just focus on being the rock-stars they are!”

TAYLOR HEDRICK

Production Coordinator at Van Wagner

Number of Super Bowls: 1

“**MY PROUDEST MOMENT** came when I worked my first Super Bowl, making me realize I was exactly where I was meant to be. As one of the few women in a room predominantly filled with men, I couldn't help but feel an immense sense of pride that we were breaking barriers. It wasn't just about being part of such a legendary event; it was also about witnessing the ongoing progress of women's involvement in sports. Amidst the hustle, as I took a moment to reflect, I realized the privilege of my position and the countless individuals who aspire to be in my shoes. Seeing women excel in prominent roles within the NFL is incredibly motivating for me as I continue carving out my path.”

BRADY



PEARL EARRINGS: AMANDA LEILANI DESIGNS

PAPPAS

BY MARA GO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELIE PICHANICK
MAKEUP – LAUREN RUSNAK
STYLING – JESSICA WEIKERT
DESIGNER – FAI KHALIDAH,
VENUE – WEST ART

In Manila, a bright, summer morning provided the perfect backdrop for the interview — notes of roasted beans wafting through the air, the natural sunlight seeping through the curtain of the coffee shop, the temperature settling into the perfect al-fresco warmth. At the opposite end of the call (and the world) was **BRADY PAPPAS**, a Pennsylvania-based photographer, accompanied by the moon and the stars in the night sky, greeting *Local Wolves* with a radiant aura and a big smile.

“I’ve been seeing it all over my feed! I have to see that!” they smiled, referring to the latest season of the show *RuPaul Drag Race: UK vs. the World*. “How is the drag culture in Manila?”

“Thriving!” I said. “Drag shows are mostly full-house nowadays with some of the clips landing on everyone’s social media feed. Many of us are looking forward to the next season of *Drag Race Philippines*. Many have grown curious about drag culture, kids are lip syncing to songs as if they are up for elimination — I love it.”

Manila and Pennsylvania are 8,544 miles away but if there is one thing these countries have in common is a growing, vibrant queer culture. “It’s a divine responsibility as a queer artist to document what the scene looks like in a small town like Pennsylvania,” Pappas reflected on the true means of their photography. “I really want to do something that honors, immortalizes and celebrates the queer culture, something that uplifts and empowers people in my community.”

Pappas was introduced to the world of photography at an early age, “I’ve learned most of the basics from school but I didn’t know that my interest for it would grow into something more,” they said. “When I got my first camera, I began taking photos of friends and aspiring models around town — that is the very moment when I realized that I feel more connected in capturing people.” Their fascination with fashion photography eventually met a stronger purpose: visually narrating the story of queer culture and championing how impactful LGBTQIA+ spaces are for the community.

More than anything, the *tulle queer series* is a manifestation of that. “I bring the mood board and the tulle. I’ll probably shoot for an hour and a half — it’s like making the magic happen. But, you know, conceptualizing it is a reminder to do more with my art, to take a step further, and to start creating images that mean to me and the community,” they expressed. “The exhibition features fifteen images, beyond that, it is a visual celebration of a small town queer culture. From the colors to the direction, everything is made to honor and represent the community.”

Of course, it is only the right time to ask: “Brady, what do you think makes the series truly empowering?”

“Being captured in a way you haven’t seen before, in a way that celebrates your individuality, in a way that gives you flowers — it’s very empowering,” they said. “I always hope that the series communicates how beautiful the queer community is and inspires everyone to be an advocate. Other than that, I’m grateful. I’m grateful to have the opportunity to do the series and I’m grateful that it can mean so much to anyone who will see it.”

The series, of course, has touched the life of the artist. “In a way, the series also empowered me. It’s definitely one of the most fearless things I’ve done,” they revealed. “It transformed me into a person that I needed to have by my side ten years ago and that really takes a lot — it takes a lot to get here, to be confident about myself and my work, to put myself out there and to live my life. Choosing to overcome the challenges and to continue is definitely something that’s fearless.”

That conversation made one thing clear: your passion will lead you right into your purpose. Pappas never talked about fame or marketing, the only thing they say most often during our time together is their hope to empower the community, their genuine love for visual storytelling, and their determination to champion the queer culture. In front of their lens, everyone is a muse, everyone feels empowered, everyone feels like themselves — even more and so, Pappas didn’t just immortalize a portrait or a moment, they immortalized an experience.

“I’m in a new creative era,” they said, looking into their growth as a photographer. “I feel more liberated to do my art. I shifted my entire focus on empowering my community and embracing my path to healing. Today, I’m in a space that is no longer limiting and that gave me a clear perspective on what I can do to highlight the beauty of queerness and how it’s thriving in a small town.”



BOLO TIE: THE WATCHMAKER'S DAUGHTER



BROOCHES:
THE WATCHMAKER'S DAUGHTER



BOLO TIE: THE WATCHMAKER'S DAUGHTER



BOLO TIE:
THE WATCHMAKER'S DAUGHTER

ON REDEFINING FEARLESSNESS

“Being fearless can be as simple as not being afraid to choose your dreams,” they emphasized on how the word resonates with their life as an artist. “Photography has taught me to be a better curator, how to see the beauty in people, how to believe in myself. It also made me a go-getter: I put myself out there now, I believe in myself, I believe in my art and in the power of art. I believe in what I can bring to the table and my worth.”

Pappas continues, “I have also learned how powerful it is to be a photographer in 2024 in Pennsylvania. To hold that camera, to stand with what you believe in, to celebrate the things that are often told to hide, to continue capturing our story — that is fearlessness, that is power.”

ON EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY

“Choosing to love yourself full heartedly is revolutionary and expressing yourself is something that is fearless,” they said. “I just want to inspire people everywhere and in small towns to know that you can follow your dreams. You are worthy of being seen in the world and celebrated — that they have star power. Beyond the glam and the immortalization of themselves, they are worthy. Ultimately, I just want to see the community happy, queer, and thriving.”

ON THEIR LOVE NOTE FOR THE FUTURE

So what’s next for the brilliant photographer? *The House of Tulle*. “This is how I manifest things!” they said. “The focus is definitely on the *House of Tulle*, my family and the community, the artists in my town, the night life, the icons — to have time to nurture and create a concept beyond photography. I’m going to have an exhibit in a few months then proceed to pursuing photography and taking on more opportunities. Fast forward to the future, a lot of iconic things are coming. I promise myself that I am going to be an artist until the end and I’m excited to see where it takes me.”

FROM ONE ARTIST TO ANOTHER: BE FEARLESS

“If you have the idea, pursue it. When inspiration hits you in the shower, pursue it,” they said. “Just know that the idea is coming to you for a reason. Always believe in yourself, take a small step and make it happen. Know that you are worthy of opportunities. And in the midst of all the chaos in our lives, one thing you can always do is to do art.”



I WANT



Candy

PHOTOGRAPHY BY YAZ REVE
PHOTO ASSISTANT – ANGEL MONTEJANO
STYLING – KEYANA PALOMERA
HAIR – JESUS ALARCON
MAKEUP – CLARITZA CASTRO
MODELS – SHANTAL IBARRA & GISELLE PONCE
SET DESIGN – MICKO













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...ed está
...tográfica

Rec Hall

BY ALEXIS MARION
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KELLIE CHEN
PHOTO ASSISTANT – ARIANA DENG



Hailing from Southern California, surf-rock band **REC HALL** released their EP *Localism* in December 2023 after growing up influenced by musicians like Led Zeppelin, The Clash, The Shins, and artists alike. The record set the tone for the rest of the year, preparing the band's members—Lance Meliota, John Barry, and Ben Tyrell to open for Beach Weather on tour throughout spring 2024. Now signed to Arista Records, the boys of Rec Hall are learning how to use support from their label while keeping their original sound and vision.



HOW DID EACH OF YOU GUYS GET INTO MUSIC?

LANCE MELIOTA: My second grade teacher noticed me banging on a bunch of books, so then my parents were there to pick me up one day and she was like, “You should really put your kid into some drum lessons, he’d probably like it.”

JOHN BARRY: I think I just liked music since I was really young. I liked the idea of playing guitar since I was really young. So then I just pestered my parents for like a decade. They finally let me!

BEN TYRELL: That’s similar for me, I always liked music. What really got me started playing was looking up to several people...I wanted to play guitar because I saw my brother doing it and I started playing clarinet at an even earlier age because I saw Squidward doing it.

WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO PLAY?

JB: Well, Lance and I both took lessons from the same local music store... they have really talented teachers. They taught us to the point where we could just start working on what we really found interesting about our own instruments.



HOW DID YOU GUYS MEET?

JB: Lance and I, we met a long time ago. He and I went to the same preschool and I think we officially met backstage at the third grade talent show. Our dads were friendly to each other and were like, ‘Hey, your kid plays drums and my kid plays guitar.’ They were basically like, ‘What song do you guys both know?’ We both happened to know “Wipe Out.” So we played backstage for the first time together. I think we impressed our parents because then they were like, ‘you gotta keep on doing that, you gotta meet up with this kid.’ So that’s kind of how it started.

BT: That’s so stereotypical Southern California that you guys started with “Wipe Out”...that really foreshadowed your surfing.

JB: There’s ups and downs of growing up and being interested in music and not being interested— being more involved with sports and stuff. But eventually in high school, [Lance and I] got really interested again and we really wanted to have a band. We wanted dedicated players because we had some kind of wishy-washy players. We put up a flyer and Ben’s guitar teacher saw the flyer...[Ben] tried out and kinda hung out...we wanted to see if we were going to be friends with this guy, and then he never left.

BT: I’m like a bug...like a roach.

YOU GUYS WERE OFFERED A RECORD DEAL IN 2023. WHAT WAS THAT EXPERIENCE LIKE?

LM: I mean, for me it was huge because we would always joke about it talking about things like, 'Oh, what if we got signed by a big record label?' But then the day actually came and it was a little bit out of nowhere. It was one of those days where your feet don't even feel like they're touching the ground.

JB: It's a very nervous experience [at first] because you're like, I really hope the label likes us. I really hope that they follow through and that we don't say anything that turns them off from us. What's really nice about being signed is that it kind of legitimizes you to your friends, to your family and your extended family who judges you for working on your music. It felt good to finally be able to go to Christmas dinner and be like, "Yeah, I got signed."

BT: Yeah, it sort of takes the quotation marks off of the word "work" when you tell people I work in music. Also they're really good people at Arista [Records].

JB: You hear horror stories of evil producers or evil record labels...I don't know where those stories come from.



WHAT ARE YOU GUYS MOST EXCITED ABOUT FOR YOUR UPCOMING TOUR WITH BEACH WEATHER?

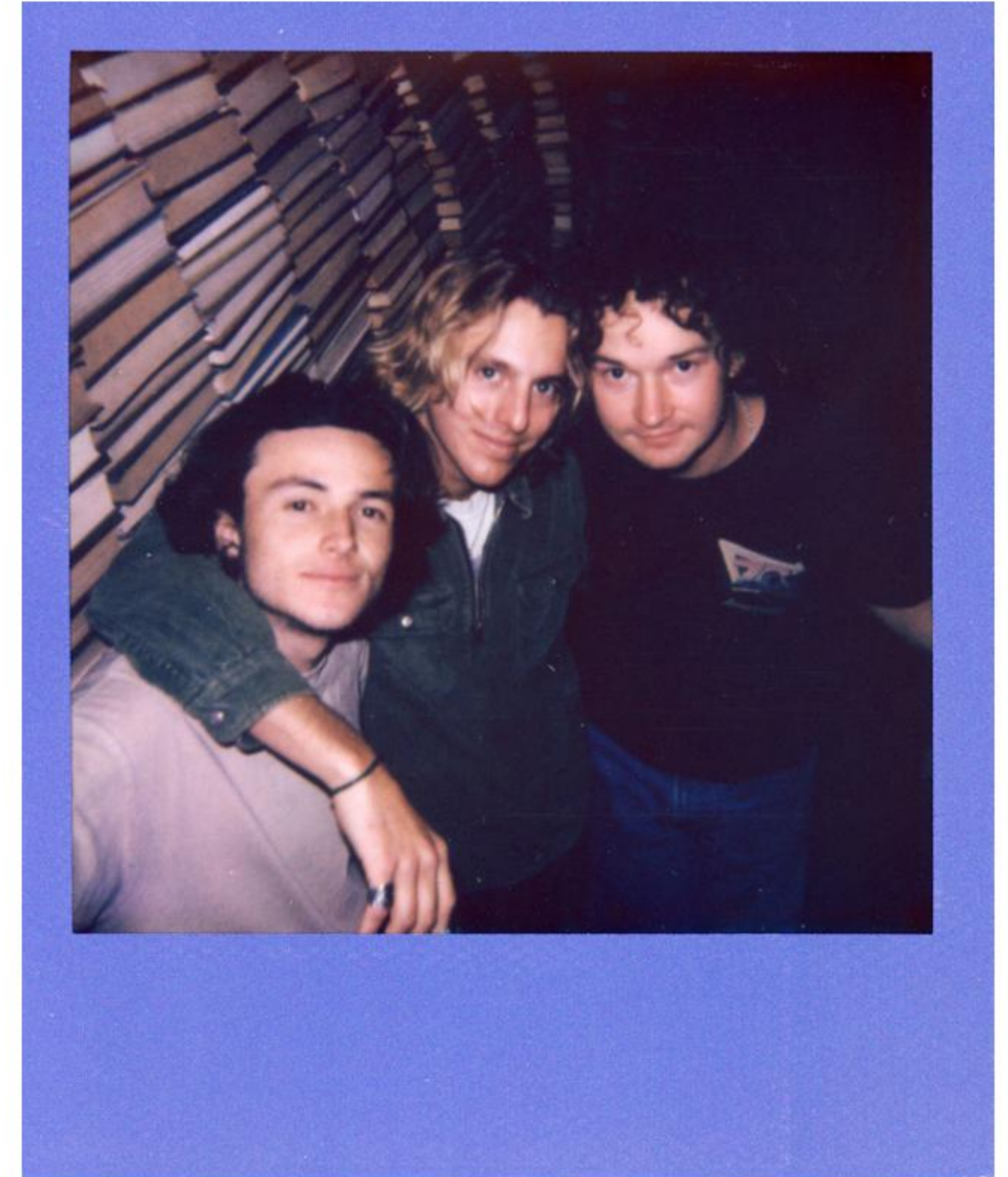
LM: I'm excited to just explore the country and see cities we haven't been to.

BT: I'm super stoked for every second that we're on stage. I'm not excited right before that [moment] because we get really nervous.

HOW HAS WHERE YOU GUYS HAVE GROWN UP KIND OF INFLUENCED YOUR BAND'S SOUND?

LM: In every way possible...everything that's around here culminates like the music we listen to, the scenery around where we live and even what room we're in while we're writing. I don't think we realized that until kind of recently, like every little thing...where you're writing, who you're writing with, what clothes you're wearing matter.

JB: I think more specifically, LA has a very vibrant music scene. People come around the country or world just to be part of it. So I think being exposed to just a lot more art and music in general [influences us]. I think that being close to LA gives you almost like a support to the rest of the world...like an interconnectedness to the rest of the art scene. It also kind of shows that these dreams, although they're lofty ambitions, they're obtainable because of where we live...there are different challenges that artists have to face when they're in a place that has less opportunity musically.



WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU GUYS EACH LOVE ABOUT YOUR EP *LOCALISM*?

BT: I really love the way the last song we wrote came together called “Marty.” It was a really fun song to write and it happened very quickly.

JB: Songs can sometimes be very laborious and take a long time and a lot of mental effort. That one felt really good because from writing it to releasing it, it was a very short process. We still hear that song when it's played on Spotify with these rose tinted glasses.

BT: It's easy to hear a song you've released and be like ‘I don't want to hear our stuff,’ because we've been hearing it nonstop for months now. But that one I don't mind because it was so quick, it just happened.

JB: I really liked taking the photo for the album. That was really a good time...it was our good friend Jason that took it. We were just like, ‘Can we do it where it has us on the cover, but it's not just our faces.’ So we were trying to come up with creative things and that was just a fun time riding bikes with a goal, you know?

WHAT ARE SOME GOALS FOR THE BAND AS OF RIGHT NOW?

BT: We're writing a ton of music, like we probably have multiple albums worth of material that we're working on.

JB: I feel like we're still young into this business and we're still early on in our careers. So we're trying to figure out exactly who we are right now. The collection of songs that made it onto *Localism* were across a decent amount of time, it wasn't like it was all written in one month or a year even. So, I think [we're] just trying to figure out who we are going forward and just having more control over the entire process... just being able to do it from start to finish. We love the support we get from other people to help us finish our art, but it's definitely an ambition of ours to be able to do it all ourselves. Some songs more than less on *Localism*, like “Marty” for example, I think we did a fair share of the production and recording on our own. We just want to keep on honing that craft, being able to engineer and produce our own material.

LM: We want to become performers too because being a musician in a band, obviously you have to write the music, which is one facet, but then you also have the live facet as well, which is a completely different ballgame. You can't take your time on stage... you need to put on a show and a performance. So it's a lot more pressure and just like a different skill set. So, on this tour we'll definitely hone it in more.

JB: We've been looking at the headliners of our last tour, Lovelytheband, and they're some of the best performers I've ever seen. It's nice seeing a true professional at work and seeing how they really move the crowd. It's just impressive and I want to be able to do that someday.



FINA



BY MUN AM

PHOTOGRAPHY & CREATIVE DIRECTION BY ESTHER KIM

HAIR & MAKEUP – RACHEL LEE

ONSITE ASSISTANT – ALEX BARRIENTOS



Hailing from Malaysia, the New York City-based artist Fay Liew aka **FIG** pays homage to both indie pop and R&B while embracing everyday emotions in melodic tunes alongside soul-stirring lyrics. Making unwavering growth in the industry, self-expression is a recurring theme in her craft and she never fails to hold a comforting space for her listeners. From designing her own cover artwork to directing and editing her music videos, her craft is a masterpiece of cosmic proportions and her DIY roots can't be overlooked. With such flair existent in her, it's no doubt that FIG's potential is bound to be unleashed into the world.

I KNOW YOUR MUSIC BACKGROUND STARTED FROM CHOIR BUT I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST MUSIC CORE MEMORY?

FIG: When I was in choir, we sang this *SpongeBob SquarePants* song, "Best Day Ever" and I remember we added ad libs and claps during parts of the song. It was the first time we were adding percussion and funnily enough, it was to a *SpongeBob* song. It was really fun, I think that was my first core music memory.

FROM YOUR LOFI BEGINNINGS TO SOLIDIFYING YOUR INDIE POP SOUND, HOW HAS THAT JOURNEY BEEN?

FIG: It's been interesting. I was into Lofi back in high school and would study the beats. I saw this girl on Instagram making Lofi music and thought it was really interesting so I'd try to recreate it but when I attended college and started getting into music more, I felt like Lofi wasn't my vibe. I think myself as a person, I'm more energetic and bubbly and want to convey that in my music but Lofi had some sad undertones to it? Bedroom Pop was also on the rise around that time and I naturally started getting curious about it. I made these lip sync music videos to artists I really liked and really embodied the DIY vibes back then. I was trying new things. So, I'd say that the change was quite a natural process.

ALBUMS, EPS EVEN MOSTLY FOLLOW A NARRATIVE ARC OR THEME, DO YOU HAVE ONE TOO? CAN YOU WALK ME THROUGH YOUR MUSIC PROCESS?

FIG: Yeah, I released this EP called *BUD* and just like what it's called, I made it in a way like bud as in flower and representative of growth. I started releasing music when I had no idea what I was doing, so that project was inspired by finding the sounds I like and my identity as an artist. That project also included some of my firsts. It was my first time processing my emotions and events that happened through song making and it was an interesting experience. The EP was surrounded by the concept of growth and learning.

WE'RE COVERING FEARLESSNESS IN THIS UPCOMING ISSUE, WHEN DO YOU THINK WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DID SOMETHING FEARLESSLY?

FIG: I embrace doing things solo but the last fearless thing I did was probably going on a solo trip to Japan back in July. I got these great priced tickets and decided to go. I think just from that trip alone, I did a lot of things I wouldn't usually do. Usually, I'm like 'I don't want to do this or that' but since I'm in a foreign country, why not? I guess that was the fearless thing that I did too. It was an experience, going to a country that doesn't speak much English.

TO CONTINUE FROM THAT, I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW IF YOU'VE HAD ANY EPIPHANIES OR "LIFE LESSONS" SINCE YOU STARTED YOUR MUSIC CAREER?

FIG: My epiphany was that I shouldn't compare myself to people who are in other fields. I'm on my own path and doing my own thing while everyone's doing theirs too. Most people I know work a nine-to-five job and it was hard not to compare myself to them. I used to feel like I was not on the same level as them and behind but if I'm able to do music and something I love without needing a nine-to-five job, that's a blessing itself. That reminder made me appreciate my craft even more.

I KNOW WE'RE COVERING FEARLESSNESS BUT TO BE FEARLESS IS TO SIT WITH FEAR, SO, HOW IMPORTANT IS FEAR TO YOUR ARTWORK?

FIG: I think fear is important in the themes of making music since that's how people convey their vulnerability. Sometimes people have this fear of talking about their inner thoughts or things they don't feel good about and end up using art to express those difficult feelings. I think that's a great way to overcome the fear of vulnerability. While I believe fear is important in the process of making music, uncomfortability allows people to try new things. It's good to make things that's in your comfort zone but pushing boundaries and trying things you were unsure about and working with new people can lead to something even cooler. You get to discover yourself and new things you may potentially like.

I BELIEVE CREATIVE BLOCKS ARE INEVITABLE BUT I'M CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HELPS YOU MOVE FORWARD AND GET INSPIRED AGAIN WHEN YOU'RE GOING THROUGH ONE?

FIG: It's kind of cheesy but living, if that makes sense. Being present is important. It's so easy to be wrapped up by work but I think a lot of times, you just need to live actual experiences. Do the things that you've always wanted to do, even things that make you feel uncomfortable. Just live life and go explore things. I think experiences lead to the creation of things. If you're not taking the time or prioritizing that, life can feel stagnant or may not feel right. Being able to remove yourself from your work or the creative process itself and simply living life is essential.

AS A MUSICIAN AND A CREATIVE YOURSELF, HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH IT?

FIG: I used to have this habit, I still have it sometimes but I had a really unhealthy relationship with numbers and social media. It's easy to just compare yourself with others but I really try to create a balance with it. I think with music, if you want to maintain a healthy relationship with it, you just have to watch live shows and catch the





people you wouldn't really think to catch live. I think sometimes, especially in any art form, you're somewhat in a bubble. Exposing yourself to different experiences helps broaden your perspective on art. I also started liking music because of live shows and when I'm doing that, I get hit by this reminder of why I love music in the first place.

YOU'VE TOURED BEFORE BUT I'M CURIOUS, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO DROP BY SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR YOUR NEXT TOUR?

FIG: I would love to. Especially just being from Southeast Asia, it would be a dream to play there. I've been an opener for other artists but I've never been on a headline tour before. So, I've been

a little nervous about that. I want people to come to my show but I'm going to take it one step at a time and do it when I'm ready. I'd really love to tour Southeast Asia though! Considering how I lived in Singapore for a bit, playing at Esplanade would be such a dream for me.

THE LAST PROJECT YOU RELEASED SOLO DATES, DO YOU HAVE ANY UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR 2024? WHAT CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO?

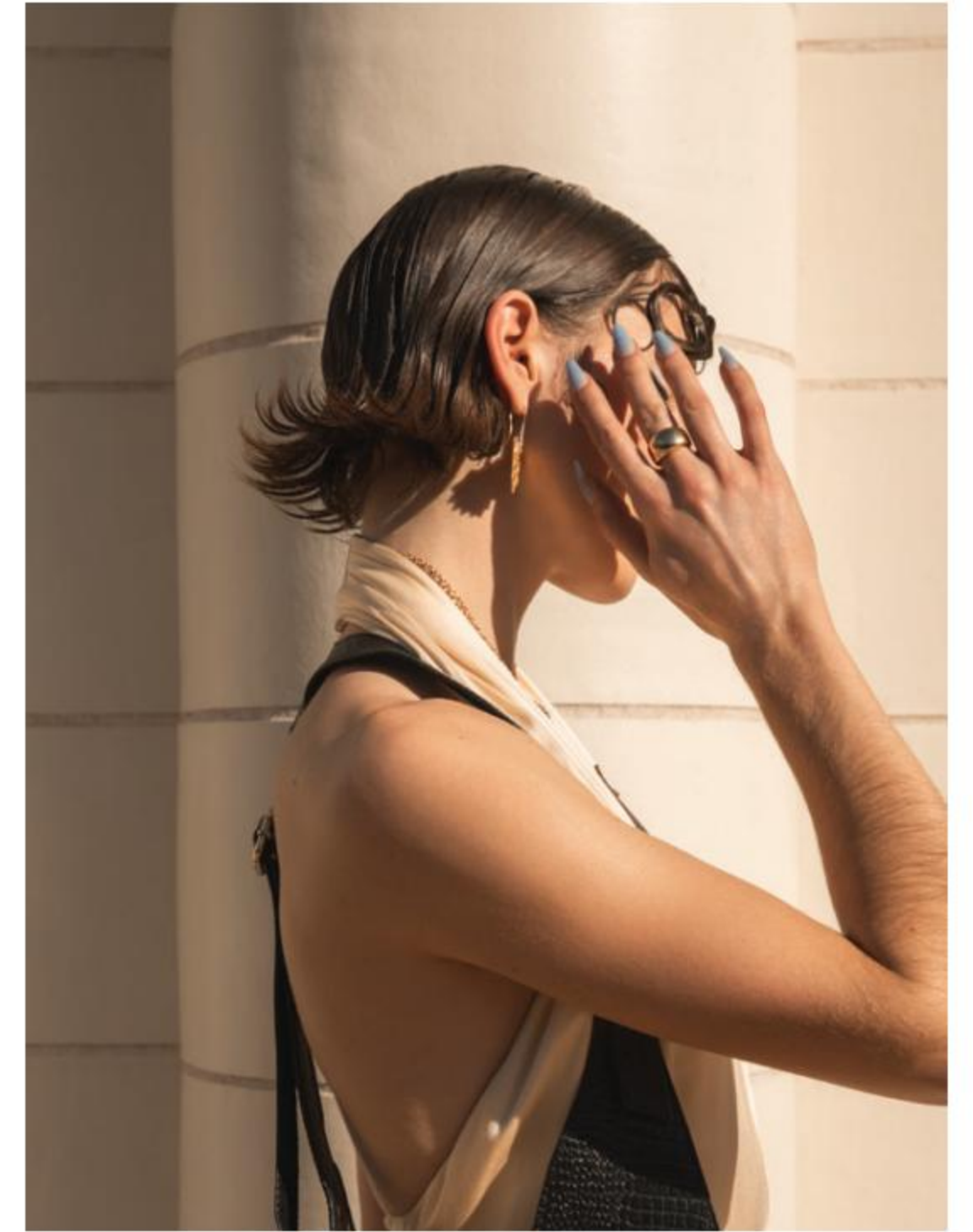
FIG: Yeah, I have a project coming out this year. Probably in Fall time and speaking of tour, I'm planning to do my first headline tour this year. I'm excited to see what the community and the audience is like, what the vibes will be like. Those are just some things that I



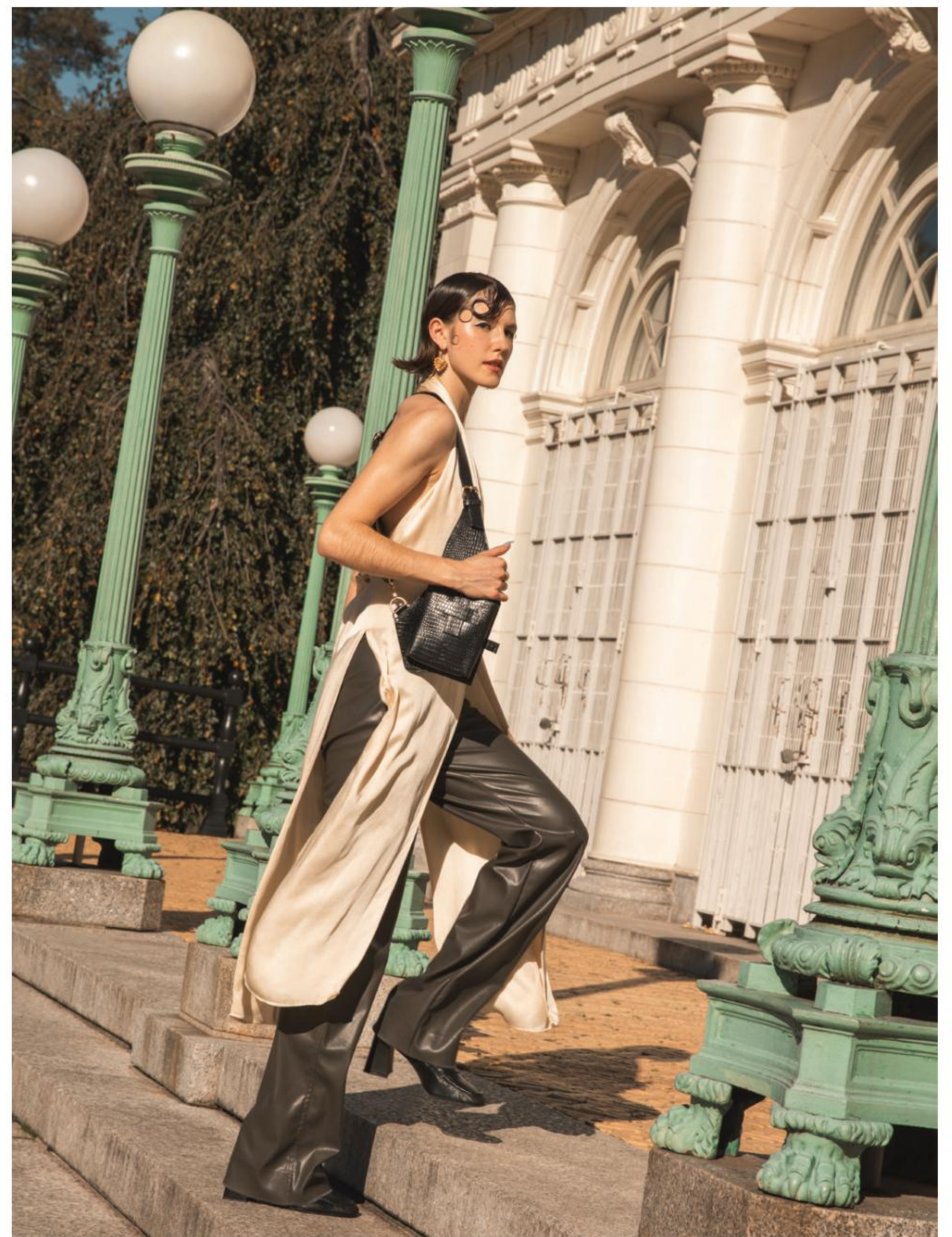
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOY CHO
HAIR – NAJÉE WATERS
MAKEUP – HANNAH LAUREN
STYLING – LILIANA BOGART
MODEL – LILIANA BOGART

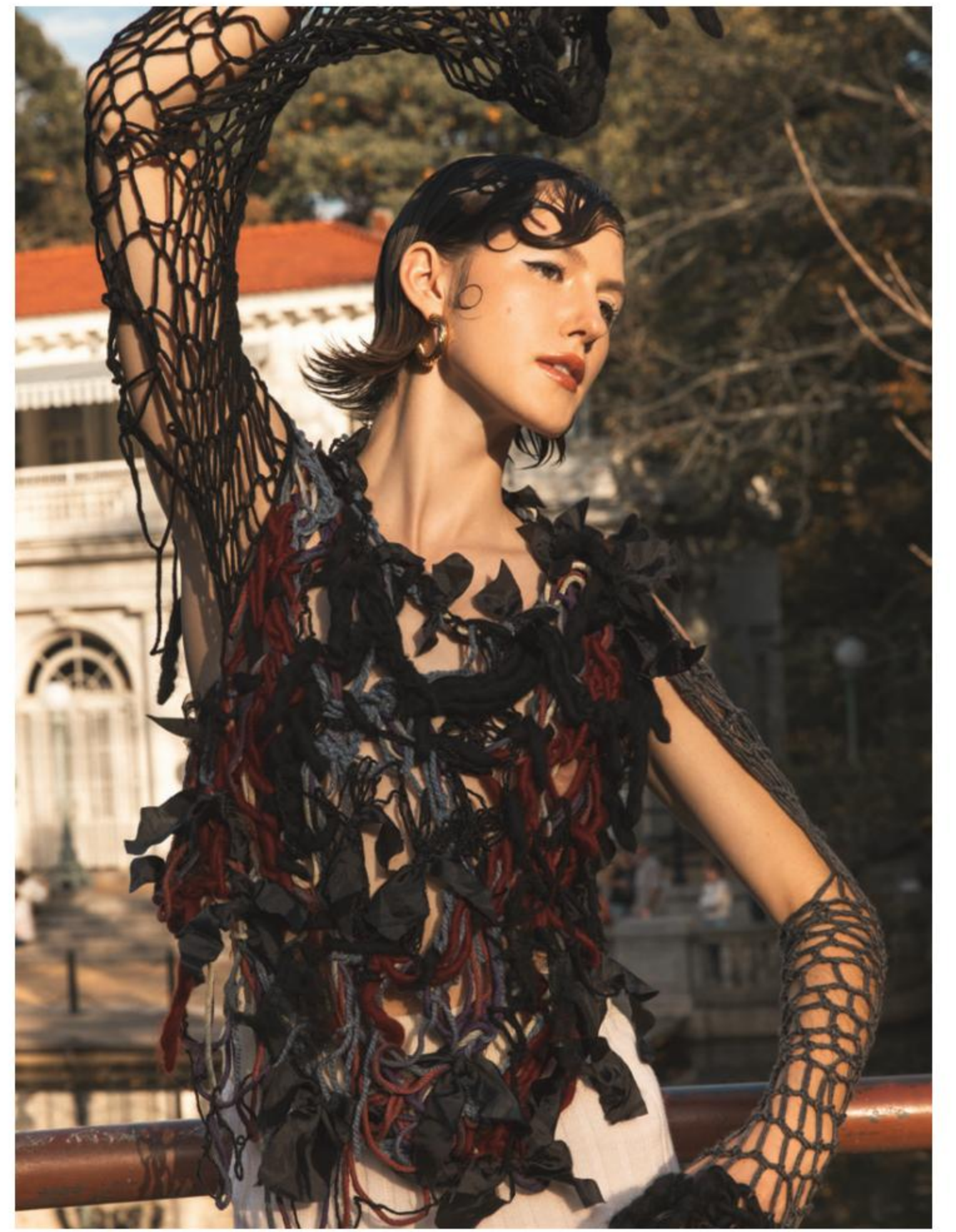


SHIFTING SPACES



ĀROHI
WINSTON LUXURY
MOM'S PANTS
IN CAUDA VENENUM
BEAUTISOLES
LA DAJE





IMURANI
J'KARTA
HER THE LABEL
DEL ESTE

MARGOT VII
AINOHEINIO
GONGDID DESIGN
LA DAJE
EXUBERANT JEWELLERY
CRUSH JEWEL
VOLAIR



PK BIJOUX
HURRICANE B







IMURANI
GISCARD.CO
MILK & ROSE
EXUBERANT JEWELLERY
J.CREW



Bows

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY
BY SRAVYA BALASA
MODEL - MORGAN OIJEN









In 2015, I ended my day at the mall by walking into a clothing store with five dollars left, just enough for an accessory to wear when I went back to 10th grade after summer. My hands roamed over pearl studs and headbands, landing on two hair ties with cloth bows sewn on them.

I'm not lying when I say I wore those nonstop for the next year, fueled by the hairbows seen on YouTubers like Bethany Mota and Zoe Sugg and on Tumblr. It scares me how I don't remember falling out of love with them, but as with all trends, one day I must have looked at them with disgust and wondered why I ever bought them in the first place, and let them take a backseat. However, I couldn't let go of those two bows, with the hope that I may want them someday again. I brought them with me through high school graduation, college in San Diego, and my post-grad move to New York City, where, eight years later, I finally wore them again.

The trend of bows doesn't look the same as it did when I was a girl in high school, but they're sweet, girly, and joyful nonetheless. They've transformed from clip-on bows and hair ties in a teenage girl's bedroom to flowing ribbons, bow bags, gold earrings, and ballet flats on Simone Rocha and Sandy Liang runways as well as Vogue trend reports and pages of Instagram influencers. It happened overnight, as if one day, everyone realized "Why haven't we been wearing these all the time?"

As much as I enjoy wearing bows again to everything from work meetings to drinks with friends, I wish that I didn't wait because I feared others' thoughts that it may be childish, influenced by the slow push of social media to wear the new accessory, that it wasn't cool until a model walking down the runway breathed life into the silhouette again.

It's a constant mistake we all make, to let trends dictate when something is cool enough to wear or not instead of looking at it as a learning opportunity, something to take inspiration from. How often have we said, "Wear what you want and ignore the trends, but...never let X silhouette come back again," only to be buying it ourselves a few months later after seeing it nonstop. I didn't think about the hypocrisy of this statement until bows made a resurgence after being seen as "outdated" for so long. By coming back as a fashion statement, it sparked a political conversation about the beauty in embracing femininity, and for that alone, I would be upset to see it once again criticized.

Many of us who wore bows at a younger age are old enough now to watch trend cycles happen, and it scares me to think that, inevitably, bows may not be the precious thing they are now in the fashion world. All that to say, if you're like me and tying a ribbon on your braid again brought you immense childlike joy with the reminder that the little things in life are worth keeping around, don't let the next hair trend steal that from you.









Offline itinerary



Full Name:
Alexis Marion

Pronouns:
she/her

Occupation:
Freelance Writer/student

Location:
Los Angeles, CA

Instagram:
@alexis.marionn

Website:
N/A

Fave local spot for a comfort meal:
Burritos from Tom's Tailgate

Morning beverage of choice:
Iced chai with oat milk and hazelnut

early riser

OR

night owl

Currently watching:
Gilmore Girls

Currently reading:
Rereading The Hunger Games

Currently listening to:
Splinter by spilltab

What do you do just for you?
I love to go to a coffee shop to write, get a Spanish latte or lemonade, and explore new music artists on Spotify.

Describe your ideal day off

morning

Sleeping in, picking out an outfit for the day, and grabbing an iced chai!

afternoon

Go on a photoshoot in the studio or around the city with friends and try a new lunch spot

evening

Go to the gym with my boyfriend, get some dinner, wind down with some Netflix and tea, and skincare!

BTS OF OUR COVERSHOOT



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX LAM

To be flawless



to be yourself