

PHOTOGRAPHS BY

*Peter Heyrah*

They steal scenes from stars.

They're dangerous even  
when they don't play bad guys.

And they definitely aren't  
doing this for an invite to the  
Oscars. (Although you'll probably  
see some of them there.)

These charismatic Hollywood  
misfits are the most  
unpredictable actors in the game



  
CRISPIN  
GLOVER



# Crispin Glover

**THE ESSENTIAL** Crispin Glover question: Where exactly does the character he's playing end and the human being begin? Like, that monomaniacal guy with the piercing stare (see: *Charlie's Angels*, the upcoming Starz series *American Gods*)—how much overlap is there between that guy and the actor who showed up on *Letterman* in the '80s and almost kicked Dave in the head? It's the question we hope he'll never really answer. (We asked anyway.)—DEVIN FRIEDMAN

**What about you appeals to casting directors?**

There is a persona that was etched out pretty firmly in the '80s. An unusual quality. But I actually have to be pretty businesslike in the things that I do.

**Like buying a castle in the Czech Republic?**

It's an old château that was built in the 1600s.

**I hear that you have peacocks there.**

They are loud animals. Particularly in the mating season.

**About that eccentricity: How much of the public perception of you is true?**

There are certain things which, if not discussed in the proper fashion, would be maligned. People don't know the actuality of many things about me.

**Tell me one actuality.**

People think I'm psychotic.

**Does that bother you?**

I know that's what I'm going to have written about me, most likely. But as you can see, sitting here: I'm not.

PREVIOUS PAGE  
suit, shirt, and tie  
Dolce & Gabbana



# Mahershala Ali

**MAHERSHALA ALI** KNEW he was a leading man before anyone else did. He's portrayed a nursing-home employee (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*), a lobbyist turned chief of staff (*House of Cards*), and Jennifer Lawrence's bodyguard (*The Hunger Games*)—every fourth lead you can play, and always with the power of a man at the top of the call sheet. Now, with the Netflix series *Luke Cage* and the transcendent *Moonlight*, he's finally getting a chance to show what he can do with the camera on him for more than five minutes at a time.—ZACH BARON

**You've been acting for nearly two decades—it's been such a slow burn.**

It's like holding in a sneeze for 16 years.

**What took so long?**

African-Americans have to bring something to the table, like already being famous in some other arena. Kid you not, for

*The A-Team*, it was me, 50 Cent, and Quinton "Rampage" Jackson. I felt like I had a great audition. They went with the wrestler dude.

**What kept you from being discouraged during the many years before you**

**started getting cast in things like *Moonlight*?**

Fear.

**Fear of what?**

Mediocrity. I was poor, and you just get so many messages that encourage you to accept that your destiny is mediocrity. I never wanted to. I'm a stubborn person—but I'm patient, too.

# BD Wong

**WHITEROSE**, the most villainous villain on *Mr. Robot*, is a hacker who seals business deals in English wearing a suit and tie but is more at home speaking Mandarin in a fetching skirt set. She is not a character whose quietly terrifying heels just any actor could fill. So the show's creators enlisted BD Wong, who's made a career out of popping up in unexpected places (from Broadway to Disney movies to those weekend-long *Law & Order: SVU* marathons), to embody the woman, the myth, the legend.—CAITY WEAVER

**How do you perform a scene in Mandarin if you don't speak Mandarin?**

You painstakingly learn the lines phonetically, then learn what each word means, then understand how the word order is all different. At the end of the season, I said to [*Mr. Robot* creator Sam Esmail], "I'm very close to taking a Chinese class." He said, "That would be a really good idea." But my performance in Mandarin is going to be most enjoyable to people who don't speak Mandarin.

**Besides basic Mandarin, what skills have you honed as a perennial guest star?**

You have less opportunity to mess up. If there is a problem on set, let it be the weather or the lead actor being temperamental.

**You want to be asked back.**

And four episodes into your eight-episode arc, they can go, "Let's just kill this person right now."

suit  
**Hugo**  
shirt  
**Burberry**  
tie  
**Paul Smith**





MAHERSHALA  
ALI

suit  
Dior Homme  
turtleneck  
Club Monaco



**JESSE  
PLEMONS**

suit, shirt, and tie  
**Louis Vuitton**

pocket square  
**Paul Stuart**



suit  
Emporio Armani  
henley  
Armani Exchange  
necklaces, from top  
Miansai  
Pyrha





## Jon Bernthal

WHEN JON BERNTHAL walks into a café, heads turn. It's that face: the bashed-in nose, the eyes full of pain. Before he orders his Americano, his bruised knuckles catch your eye. Makeup? Nope. (Although he does have a few made-for-TV scars—he's filming the Netflix series *The Punisher*.) In every role—*The Wolf of Wall Street*, *Sicario*, *The Accountant*—Bernthal brings a sensitivity rarely seen in tough-guy characters. —AMY WALLACE

### Do you think you're good-looking?

I was born with these ginormous earlobes, and the doctor suggested to my parents that we get plastic surgery. Obviously my parents were like, "Fuck off." But they were definitely worried that I was going to be plagued.

### Were you?

Yes, my looks have always been a source of real embarrassment. Just feel my earlobe, if you don't mind.

### It's not small.

Absurdly big. In India, I guess, it's a sign of wisdom—that's what my mom used to tell me. But then I was getting shit grades and getting kicked out of every school I went to, so I was like, "Ma, I don't think that's what it means."

## Jesse Plemons

JESSE PLEMONS looks so sweet, so amiable, that it's surprising when one of his characters kills somebody. In *Friday Night Lights*, when the beloved Landry committed murder, you could pass it off as a joke, a glitch in the plan. But by *Breaking Bad* and *Black Mass*, it was clear that menace comes just as easily to Plemons as innocence. Which is probably why directors keep casting him, in roles that veer from cult apostate (*The Master*) to grieving comedy writer (*Other People*). —Z.B.

### Is it true that you auditioned for a *Star Wars* movie?

My agent said, "You need to meet J. J. Abrams," and I said, "I probably should meet J. J. Abrams." Abrams was so nice, and I was just bombing so, so terribly hard.

### You were funny on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, but I could tell you were uncomfortable.

He was so nice. I was so nervous, but once it was over, I was like, "What was I so worried about?"

### Actors are usually a little more comfortable talking about themselves.

Last year I finally watched *The Sopranos* and became obsessed with James Gandolfini. I felt like, okay, I'm not the only one who's unsettled by the attention.

### Is there anything you haven't done yet that you want to try?

I guess... [long, languidly anxious pause] I guess I would like to play some more extroverts.

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# Ben Foster

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BEN FOSTER IS a Method actor. A very, very methodical Method actor. His committed preparation for certain roles—like taking performance enhancers offscreen to play Lance Armstrong in *The Program*—makes you wonder if there's a line between acting and genuinely losing it. But it works: The glee with which he watches someone burn alive in *3:10 to Yuma* was haunting enough to earn his character a cult following, and when he starts murdering cops in *Hell or High Water*, you feel like you're seeing someone snap. This year, watch Foster nearly drown in ethically murky waters as a cavalry officer/possible war criminal in *Hostiles*.

—BENJY HANSEN-BUNDY

**Do you have some hell-raiser in you?**

I was born like a rattlesnake. It's nice that work has facilitated an outlet; otherwise I'd be in prison or dead. Some people are just born with teeth. You gotta chew on something.

**Is there anything you do between roles to refresh?**

Drink a lot. Have a lot of sex. Pull myself up the next day, go to the gym. I've been meditating since I was a kid. That always helps to clean some of the racket, quiet it down at least.

**You're engaged now [to actress Laura Prepon]. Are you thinking about starting a family?**

I hope so. Kids are more interesting than most adults. They're just as vindictive. They're just as loving. It's a little dirtier, more present. I'd rather sit at the kids' table.

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# Billy Crudup

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**What's it like to go through life as an adult man named Billy? Ever think about chopping off the "y"?**

I'm not much of a Bill. I've considered William. There's recently been some Billys that have painted unflattering portraits of what grown men named Billy can do.

BILLY CRUDUP'S BREAKTHROUGH performance was in *Almost Famous*, playing the lead guitarist of Cameron Crowe's fictional (but-so-perfectly-realized-you-maybe-Google-it-to-make-sure-it-was-fictional) favorite band. In *20th Century Women*, he dominates scenes as a go-with-the-flow handyman sucked into the riptides of the women around him. In *Jackie*, he swaps loafing for provoking, as a journalist opposite another formidable woman: the president's widow.—C.W.

**Who are we talking about?**

I won't name names.

**Well...they're all named Billy.**

One of my agents, when I was 25 or 26, called me into her office and said, "I want to talk to you about your name. I just can't help but think of Billy Carter,"

the brother of Jimmy Carter. He was most renowned during the Carter presidency for coming up with his own beer, called Billy Beer. I said, "I can understand your reservations."

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# Aaron Taylor-Johnson

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AARON TAYLOR-JOHNSON BEGAN his acting career specializing in cerebral teens with rich inner lives (*Nowhere Boy*) before expanding into the roles of handsome superheroes and members of the armed forces with rich inner lives (*Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Godzilla*). This fall, he gave an unsettling performance as an easily affronted lunatic hillbilly (the scariest kind of lunatic hillbilly) in *Nocturnal Animals*. In the film, he wears a small plastic-heart pinkie ring, which is only the ninth creepiest thing about his performance.—C.W.

**Were there any specific serial killers you tried to channel through your character in *Nocturnal Animals*?**

At one point, I had these Coke-bottle glasses on—they looked very much like Jeffrey Dahmer's glasses—because I wanted to get that look behind the eyes. They made my eyes look bigger and skewed. But I couldn't see.

**Because the prescription was wrong for you?**

Yeah. I had to go to an optician to get contact lenses to make my eyes worse.

**Did you notice any recurring patterns in the serial killers you studied for the part?**

Charisma. Like an enthusiastic, magnetic pull, but with unpredictability.

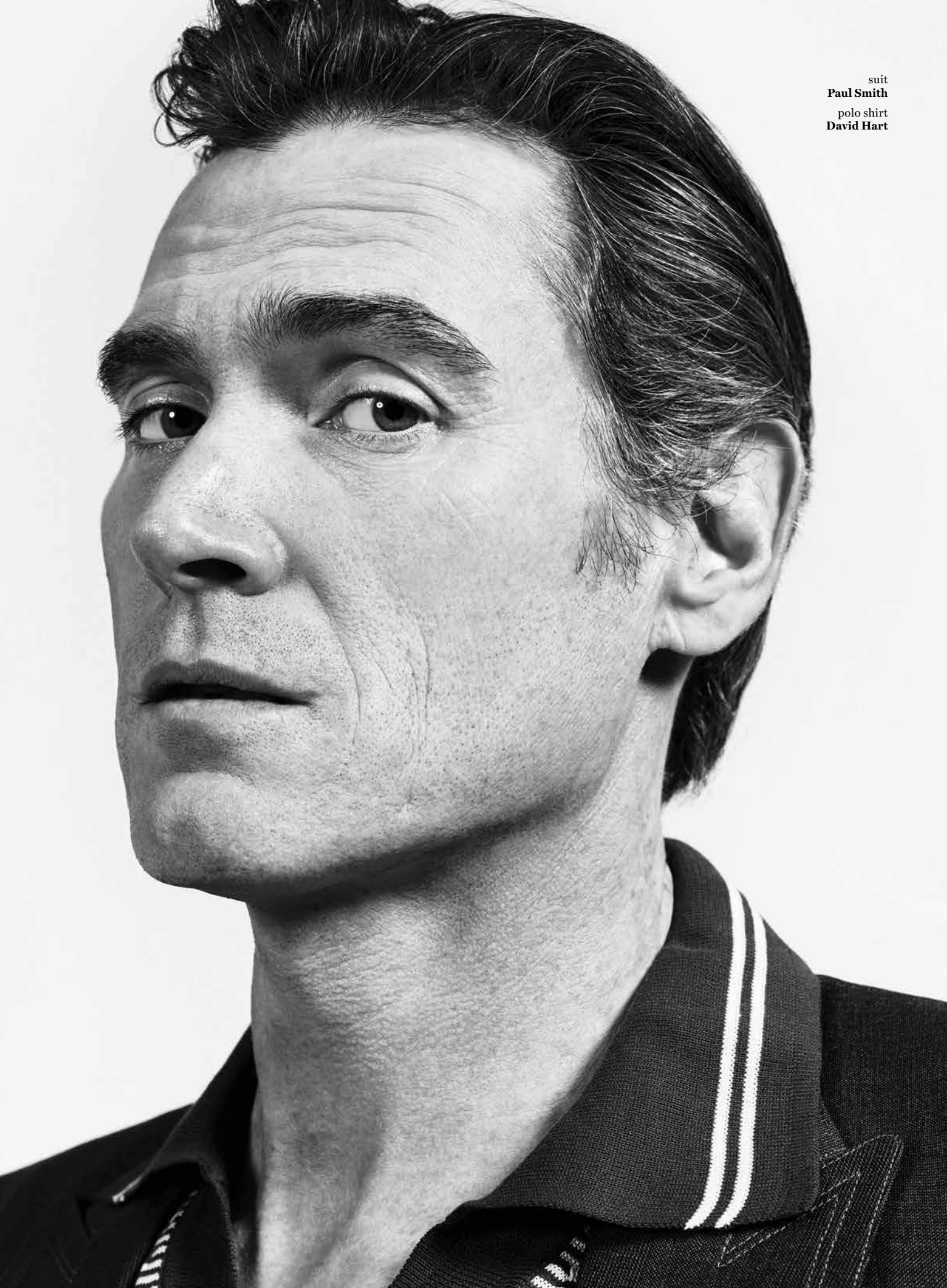
**Do you think you have enough charisma to be a serial killer in real life?**

No. I found it really hard to relate. So [*Nocturnal Animals* director Tom Ford] wanted me to grow out my hair and my nails, which were really long and thick—I was embarrassed to shake people's hands.

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suit  
**Paul Smith**  
polo shirt  
**David Hart**





**BEN  
FOSTER**

suit, shirt, tie,  
and pocket square  
**Brunello Cucinelli**



AARON  
TAYLOR-JOHNSON

suit and denim shirt  
Tom Ford