

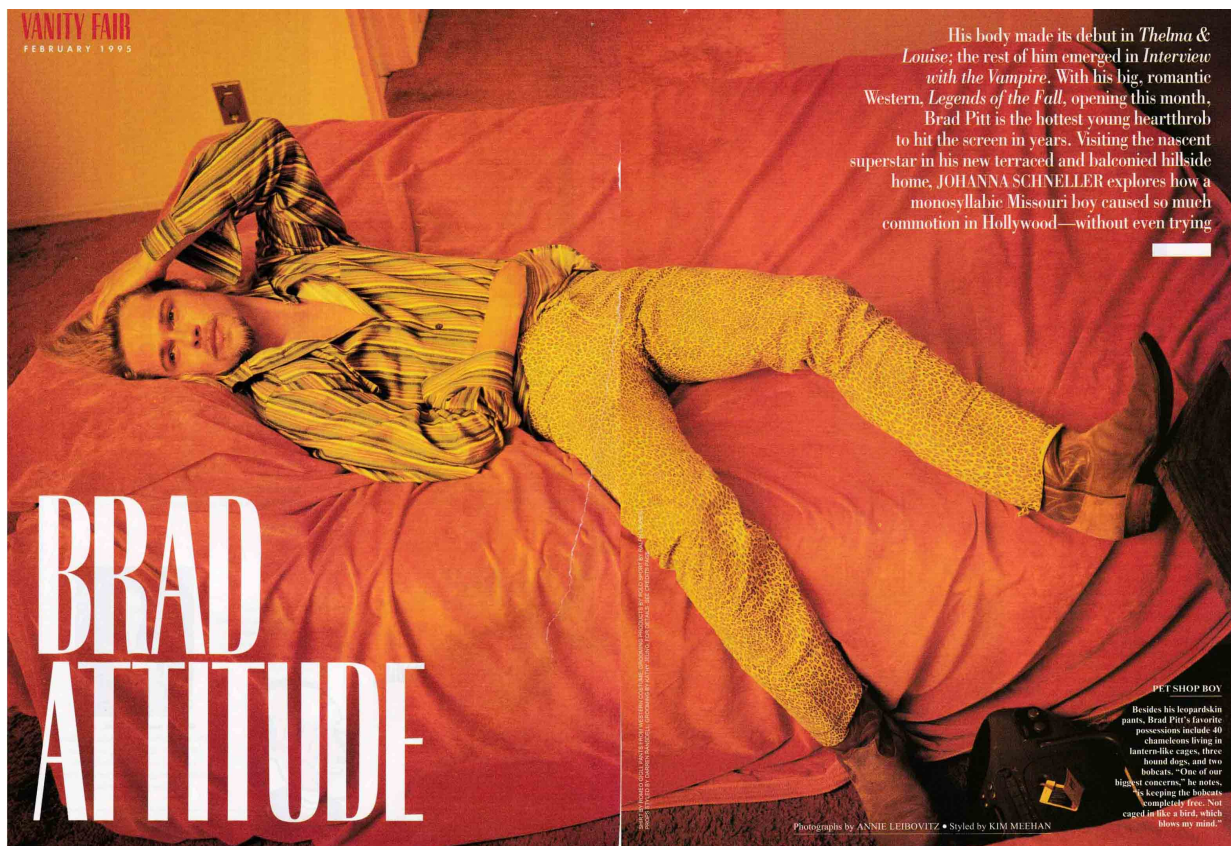
Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Vanity Fair Photography

Elisa Leonelli · Wednesday, February 12th, 2020

The latest exhibit at the [Annenberg Space for Photography](#) in Century City focuses on portraits of celebrities published in the magazine *Vanity Fair* (not just movie stars, but also film directors), captured by famous photographers.



Brad Pitt 1995 Vanity Fair photo by Annie Leibovitz

[Annie Leibovitz](#) is a big presence with prints of Brad Pitt (1995), Robert Mitchum (1995), Robert De Niro (2000), Heath Ledger (2006), [Helmut Newton](#) with Faye Dunaway (1987) and Sigourney Weaver (1995), [Herb Ritts](#) with Barbra Streisand (1991), Meryl Streep (1996), Sidney Poitier (2000), [Snowdon](#) with Tom Cruise (1984), Emma Thompson (1992), Helen Mirren (1993). Even the legendary [George Hurrell](#) is represented with a color print of Drew Barrymore (1984).



Vanity Fair- Hollywood Calling (c) Elisa Leonelli

More prints by women photographers are featured, Lupita Nyong'o by [Jackie Nickerson](#), Michelle Williams by [Collier Schorr](#), Yalitza Aparicio by [Cristina de Middel](#).

Vintage prints in Color and Black and White are not the only attraction at the Annenberg, the most interesting part of each show is the video that illustrates how the photographers work. In this case we are guided behind the scenes of the big production of shooting [Vanity Fair's Hollywood issue 2020](#). The complex task is entrusted to a young photographer, [Ethan James Green](#), 30, who used to be a fashion model. He says that photographing actors is different than working with models, because they know how to play characters. The setting is a surreal road trip along Route 66.



Vanity Fair 2020

On the foldout cover are Eddie Murphy (*Dolemite is My Name*), Renee Zellweger (*Judy*), Jennifer Lopez (*Hustlers*). Twenty more actors are on the inside: Florence Pugh (*Little Women*), Taika

Waititi (*Jojo Rabbit*), Daniel Kaluuya (*Queen & Slim*), Margaret Qualley (*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*), Awkwafina (*The Farewell*), Lily-Rose Depp (*The King*), Laura Dern (*Marriage Story*, *Little Women*), Willem Dafoe (*The Lighthouse*), Alfreë Woodard (*Clemency*), Roman Griffin Davis (*Jojo Rabbit*), Noah Jupe (*Ford v Ferrari*, *Honey Boy*), Oakes Fegley (*The Goldfinch*), Da'vine Joy Randolph (*Dolemite is My Name*), Jennifer Hudson (*Cats*), Lili Reinhart (*Hustlers*), Park So-Dam (*Parasite*), Taylor Russell (*Waves*), Antonio Banderas (*Pain and Glory*), Austin Butler (*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*), Beanie Felstein (*Booksmart*).

Banderas and Dafoe are interviewed in the video, as is Jennifer Hudson, who says, “This almost feels like making a movie.”



Vanity Fair 1995

The first *Vanity Fair* Hollywood cover was photographed by Annie Leibovitz in 1995, portraying Jennifer Jason Leigh, Uma Thurman, Nicole Kidman, Patricia Arquette, Linda Fiorentino, Gwyneth Paltrow, Sarah Jessica Parker, Julianne Moore, Angela Bassett, and Sandra Bullock. A backlit display scrolls through everyone of the 26 issues.



Jennifer Lopez © Firooz Zahedi 1998

Firhoov Zahedi explains how he wanted to photograph Jennifer Lopez in the style of pin-ups like Betty Grable.



Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner (c) Mark Saliger 2012

Mark Seliger says that he likes to photograph comedians like Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner because they contribute ideas to the creation of the image. Seliger has also been taking special portraits at the *Vanity Fair* Oscar party since 2015. This studio setting is recreated at the Annenberg to encourage visitors to take their own portrait and email it to themselves. I did and it was fun, you may wish to try it too.



Oscar party set © Elisa Leonelli

Vanity Fair-Hollywood Calling runs through July 26, 2020.

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