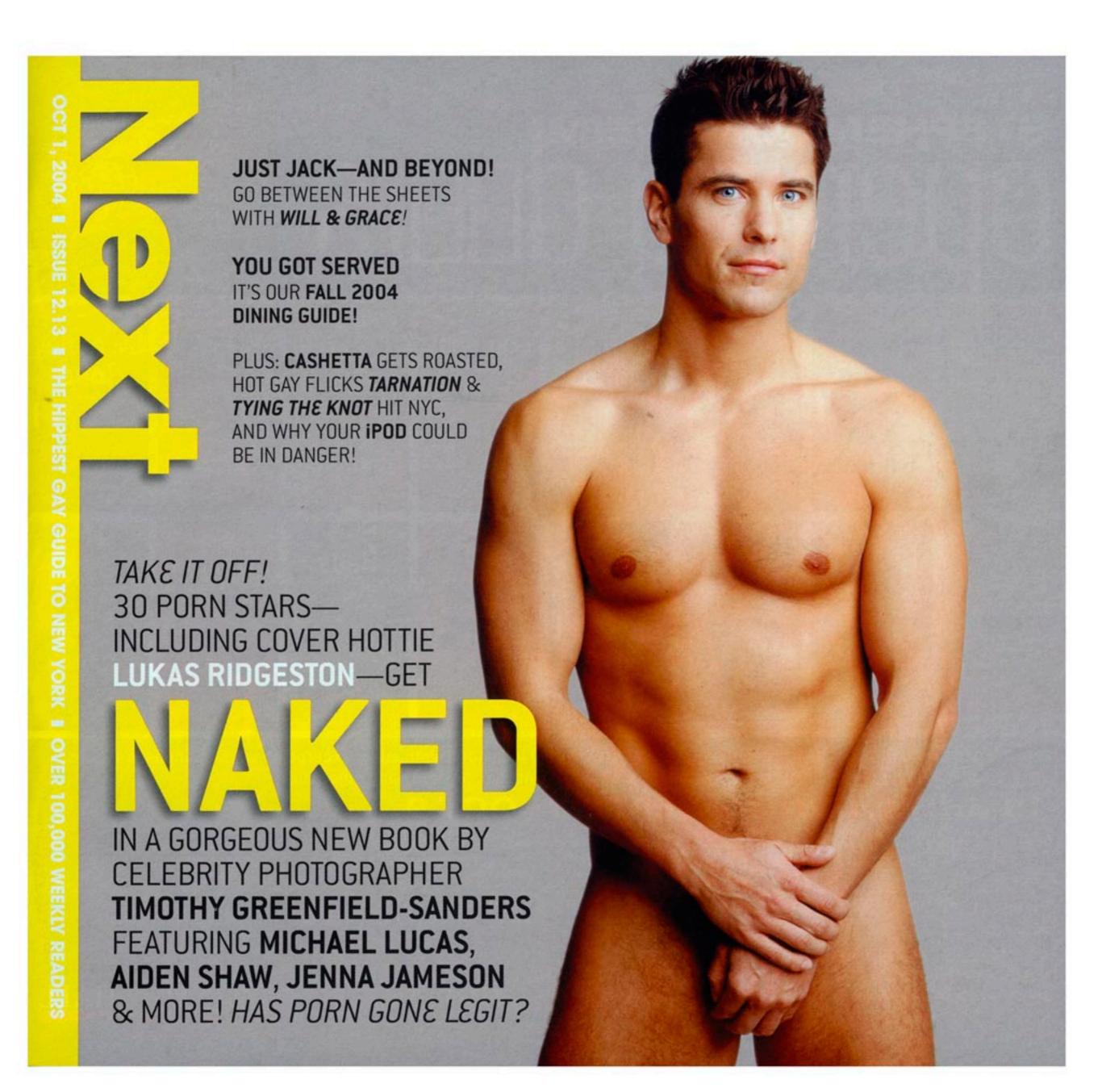
# Cover article from October 1, 2004



# Naked Glory

With his gorgeous new book, XXX: 30 Porn-Star Portraits, superstar photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders takes porn out from beneath your mattress and puts it on your coffee table.

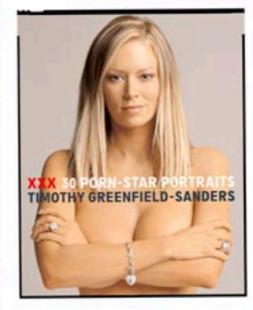
BY T. COLE RACHEL

t a time when American culture seems so desperately to be reaching back towards its own conservative roots, it's strangely appropriate that one of the world's most famous portrait photographers would decide to use pornography, or more specifically, porn stars, as the subject of his new collection of photos. From an abundance of movies and reality shows shedding new light on the adult film industry, to porn "celebrities" like Jenna Jameson and Ron Jeremy crossing over into mainstream media (Jameson's book, Hot to Make Love Like a Porn Star is a current bestseller, and Jeremy just completed a recent stint on VH1's The Surreal Life), the porn industry has come a long way since the shady days of Deep Throat. It's only fitting then that the most famous names in dirty movies finally meet up with some of the most famous names in popular culture in XXX: 30 Porn-Star Portraits by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders. It's an artfully executed book that moves porn out of the closet and places it where it truly belongs—on your coffee table.

"I've always been interested in people who are driven," explains Greenfield-Sanders, "and these people are, quite literally, the best at what they do. It just happens to be that what they do is, well, blow jobs." The book captures a diversity of the porn industry elite—male and female, legendary performers and rising stars, straight and gay (including such homo icons as Chad Hunt, Michael Lucas, Lukas Ridgeston and Aiden Shaw)—and presents them in a series of portraits that are, at first look, deceptively simple. The photographer takes a cue from Goya's famous paintings of a clothed and unclothed woman, with particularly interesting results. Each performer is shown in a set of two paired portraits holding the same pose-one clothed and one nude. The juxtaposition might seem obvious, but the contrast proves highly effective. As editor Simon Dumenco points out in the book's foreword, "That some of the porn stars seem more self-possessed, more of themselves, when they are nakedand others when they are clothed-speaks volumes about the often-poignant artifice of the porn persona." The clothed vs. unclothed pairings also have a humanizing effect. Naked, the porn stars look like pumped-up, untouchable sex objects, but

in their ordinary clothes they look just like you—or your little brother, or maybe even your mom. And while the bounty of naked flesh presented in the book in undeniably interesting to look at, it's often the fully-clothed portraits that are the most compelling.

Unable to decide on a single writer to handle the task of providing text—and context—for the book, Greenfield-Sanders decided instead to ask a variety of writers







and artists to provide their own personal ruminations on the subject of pornography. The resulting pieces approach the subject from a wide variety of angles, all of which attempt to place the often slippery subject in a different cultural context. Gore Vidal provides an introduction that approaches porn from a historical perspective. A.M. Homes offers up the A to Z of porn. John Malkovich reflects on his own early experiences in "Discovering Porn." John Waters chats with larger-than-life adult film director Chi Chi LaRue on the fine art of shooting a group sex scene ("I start with maybe two or three people and build and build..."). Even Salman Rushdie contributes, offering up an essay that considers the place of porn in the Muslim world.

In addition to the publication of the XXX book, Greenfield-Sanders is also producing and directing a documentary based on the book for HBO. The film, which includes footage from the XXX photo shoots, delves deeper into the lives of the profiled porn stars. "It's all kind of unexpected," says Greenfield-Sanders. "This whole thing started out as just a few photos, then it became a book. Having made films before, I decided to set up cameras at the photo shoots. That footage became the basis for the documentary. A simple idea



quickly turned into a much bigger thing."
Aside from the book and the documentary,
New York's Mary Boone gallery will exhibit large-scale prints from the book in conjunction with the book's release later this month.

"My preconceptions were totally off the mark," says Greenfield-Sanders of his photographic subjects. "These are incredible people. I was amazed to meet folks like Michael Lucas and Nina Hartley, who are just profoundly smart and interesting. I had to reconsider my whole notion of who these people were." The book itself requires the reader to do something similar, and it does so without attempting to condemn or legitimize the porn industry. The somewhat conflicted view of pornography is perhaps best put forth by Salman Rushdie who writes "Pornography is almost always an effect, or a dramatic symptom, of some non-pornographic social malaise. It is almost never a cause."

XXX: 30 Porn-Star Portraits is out this week from Bulfinch Press (bulfinchpress.com).



## Come Pose for Me, Michael

A trip behind the scenes with XXX model Michael Lucas.

ew York's own gay porn magnate, **Michael Lucas**, the man behind Lucas Entertainment and some of gaydom's hottest films, appears in all of his legendary glory in XXX: 30 Porn Stars. We asked him what the experience was like, how it came to be, and about the end results.

How did you come to be involved in this book? Was Mr. Greenfield-Sanders a fan of yours?

Mr. Greenfield-Sanders wasn't a fan of mine, because he's a straight, married man! He didn't even know who I was. But his friend, fellow photographer Christopher Makos introduced us at a party. I had been familiar with Timothy's books and his photographs of all sorts of political leaders, actors, writers, and entertainment stars. You can imagine I felt very honored when this wonderful man asked me for my opinion on gay porn. After talking, Timothy did a few shots of me. I was the first model he worked with on the project, so he wasn't sure about the concept yet. In the end, he decided that the best way to do it was to have two pictures of each model: the same pose for

each, but one with clothes and one without. I recommended he shoot Chad Hunt and Aiden Shaw too.

Months went by and Timothy went to Los
Angeles to photograph famous straight porn stars
like Jenna Jameson and Savanna Samson. We
kept in touch the whole time. He invited me again
to do another shoot... So I became the first and
last model he shot for this.

#### Do you think porn is becoming more accepted by the mainstream?

There is definitely a lot of interest in porn now. It's not possible to avoid it... Everyone watches it. It sells. Ratings go up on any show that has a porn star on it, from Bill O'Reilly to Anderson Cooper.

And what about gay porn? Is it the last taboo?

I don't think it's more taboo than straight porn, but the thing is that the majority of porn viewers are straight. And straight people might not be necessarily interested in hearing what Michael Lucas or any other gay porn star has to say. They want to see a straight star... That's much closer to home.

## You run your own production company and direct your films. How did it feel to let another artist call the shots on this project?

It felt great. I love to work with artists, especially of this caliber. And I am very obedient when it comes to that point. You really want to give them the opportunity to present their artistic vision. Although I believe I gave him a tip that my dick would look better if it was a little warmer in the room... And he listened!

### Besides your own portrait, who do you think looks hot in the book—and why?

Chad Hunt looks amazing. And I think Jenna Jameson deserved the cover.

### And why is it that gay male porn stars are soooo much better looking than straight guy porn stars?

That's an easy one... Producing movies for gay men, you are looking for the hottest-looking men you can possibly find. Producing movies for straight men, you are looking for the hottest-looking women. It's focused on the woman. The absolute majority of straight-porn viewers are straight men. And those guys may or may not be the best looking dudes... So those fellows would feel much more confident seeing beautiful girls being banged by an average-looking man. This way they can relate to it. A lot of straight men don't even like seeing dick around in the action... That's why there are so many girl-on-girl movies!

### Seeing your photos now, is there anything you'd like to change about them?

Yeah, I'd definitely add more pages, put myself on the front and back cover, and call it *Michael Lucas* by *Timothy Greenfield-Sanders*! I think that would be hot, no?

-John Polly

For more on Michael Lucas and his films, visit LucasEntertainment.com.