

Segue/English

BEN ATTAL
di Maria Grazia Meda

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anni: quanto è massacrante questo mestiere, non ce la facevo più. Ma ho imparato qualche ricetta. Cucinare un buon piatto è un gesto d'amore». È così che ha conquistato il cuore della sua ragazza? «Bisognerebbe chiederlo a lei...», risponde divertito. Se oggi Ben ha ripreso gli studi e vive a Bath, è in parte grazie alla sua compagna: «Ero un po' allo sbando quando ci siamo incontrati a Parigi. Lei doveva tornare in Inghilterra per proseguire gli studi e l'ho seguita. All'inizio ero spaventato dall'idea di tornare a scuola, di seguire una routine, di adattarmi a un programma preciso, ma sto bene ora. Ho anche capito che non voglio lavorare in un ufficio. Ho sempre amato scrivere, e vorrei dedicarmi seriamente a un'attività artistica. Magari scrivere una sceneggiatura a quattro mani con mio padre. Ultimamente ci siamo riavvicinati molto. Da lui ho imparato che l'importante è amare ciò che facciamo». Chiediamo sulle sue, di qualità: «Uhm, cominciamo dai difetti: sono troppo impulsivo, dovrei imparare a riflettere un po' prima di agire. Invece una mia qualità... direi che sono molto sensibile, sono così tante le cose che mi toccano. Ma non sono sicuro che sia davvero una qualità, spesso l'estrema sensibilità può essere un difetto».

BROOKLYN BECKHAM
by Samira Larouci

«My parents taught me to treat people how you want to be treated, and you know, never give up, have a good work ethic and always be humble». This could easily sound like any other teenager endearingly doting on their parents, but this is Brooklyn Beckham, the oldest of the Beckham brood and son of David and Victoria Beckham. At just 17 years old Brooklyn has already lived a bi-coastal transatlantic lifestyle (he's lived in Manchester, London, Madrid and Los Angeles), shot a now-iconic Burberry campaign and played football for Arsenal's youth academy. But when speaking to him, it becomes clear that keeping level-headed and maintaining a strong work ethic is something handed down from his parents: «I started working a Saturday job at this French café from when I was about 14» he says «I lived two minutes away from the café and went there every morning. One day the manager asked if I wanted to work there, I'd never worked before so thought I'd give it a go». Since leaving his café job, Brooklyn developed a burgeoning interest in photography: «I studied photography in high school and straight away I knew it was something I was interested in. When I left school I started shooting in my spare time and really started enjoying it. I bought a few books and then I ended up interning for David Sims on a couple of shoots». He says excitedly «I love Steven Meisel and David Sims' work, I think they're both amazing photographers. I want to be at the same level as them one day». He beams somewhat timidly. And the way things are going – it's very probable: after convincing his mum to let him have a public Instagram profile (he'd been private for two years) he gained a monumental following on the platform quickly. As it stands, he currently has over seven million followers, so unsurprisingly his work quickly caught the eye of the industry. Christopher Bailey, Burberry's Creative Director, soon reached out. «He asked if I wanted to shoot the new Burberry campaign in the same style as my Instagram, it was literally the most surreal moment of my life so far». With his mum being a fashion designer, it begs the question, is fashion a field he wants to work in? «I really respect fashion but I don't follow trends to be honest, I'm much more into skateboarder style clothes, but I really like fashion photography, portraits and stuff like that. You know, and being able to come up with creative concepts». And what about when he's not working? «I really love to skateboard, when I'm in LA I love to skate at this really cool place called Skatelab and then when I'm here in London, I love this spot called Bay Sixty6, it's like three minutes away from where I live». It's clear that trying to remain as normal as possible is a major focus for Brooklyn, but it's undeniable that being the son of two of the most prominent household names in England comes with its disadvantages. «It's amazing that I get op-

portunities other 17-year-olds don't get, but I have to be very careful when I go out in public, I can't just go out with my mates and do what they do». And career-wise, it can be massively beneficial, but equally problematic: «I've played football since I was two but I went off of it about two years ago when I found photography». He continues «When I played football there was a lot of people watching me and my every move, even if I made one mistake, I had to work harder than every single person and prove myself even more». Having been raised across three different countries, Brooklyn has this kind of transatlantic accent that you can't quite pin down, he flits between softly-spoken English with a gentle American twang, a nuance he might've picked up from spending more and more time in LA recently, visiting his new girlfriend Chloe Moretz: «It's really hard for me to think of which city I prefer, it's 50/50 because my girlfriend is in LA and all my friends I met at school, but London is my home, it's where I grew up». And it looks like New York is next on the cards «I've actually applied to study photography, hopefully if I get in, I'm going to get a little apartment and live in the city» he says eagerly when I ask if that's where he sees himself when he's 25, he replies in a typically relaxed Californian manner «I don't really plan anything in my life to be honest, I just kind of go with it, whatever comes comes».

IN CINECITTÀ
JACK HUSTON
by Roberto Croci

Jack Alexander Huston calls me from London. Here in Los Angeles it's early morning, on the other side of the ocean it's late afternoon, "tea time", as they call it. Thirty-four, he's the last scion of the famous Hollywood dynasty: from grandfather John (Best Director Oscar for *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, 1948), father Tony (screenwriter, *The Dead* and *John Huston* and the *Dubliners*, both 1987) and great-grandfather Walter (Best Supporting Actor Oscar for *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*) to uncle Danny and aunt Anjelica (the latter Best Supporting Actress Oscar for Prizzi's Honor). Our first meeting was at the beginning of his career (in 2004, when he was doing the TV series *Spartacus*) and, despite the passage of time and his ascent among the Hollywood elite thanks to the success of productions like *Boardwalk Empire*, *Wild Salome*, *Kill Your Darlings* and *American Hustle*, I am pleased to discover that the qualities that had struck me then – sincerity, simplicity and directness – have remained intact. So, while he tells me about the latest adventures, pours a cup of tea, pays attention to his wife and children and quiets the dog, all very calmly, as befits an Englishman, although many mistakenly think he's American. «I am 100% British, born and raised in London, with my mother (Lady Margot Lavinia Cholmondeley, ed.) who did not, for obvious family reasons (Jack's parents divorced when he was three, ed.), want me to become an actor, let alone in America where in the summer I went to visit my father Tony, with whom I then would go to see Aunt Anjelica in Ireland. But I'm also a bit Italian by adoption», he says, laughing. «I just got back from Milan, an amazing city, my favorite in fact. I often go there for work. One of the things I love the most? The cotoletta alla Milanese, strictly on the bone». Jack's latest gig, which allowed him to spend a lot of time in Italy, is the new Ben Hur by Kazakh director Timur Bekmambetov (who also did *Wanted* with Angelina Jolie) and shot between Matera and Cinecittà (where we did this photo shoot). «This is not a remake of the famous 1959 film directed by William Wyler starring Charlton Heston, which won 11 Oscars», Jack explains. «but a new film adaptation, the fifth to be exact, of the 1880 novel *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* written by Lew Wallace. For me it was an opportunity to modernize a classic role in a movie that I've always loved. It was certainly the most physically demanding film I've ever done. I lost 30 pounds for the role. It was a very intense experience, and because of the heat, sweat and sand there was never any relief. Timur wanted a film with minimal special effects, so in the riding scenes, the chariot and fighting scenes, there are no stand-ins, it's always me. We wanted to make it as real and immersive as possible for everyone, because that's what Ben Hur is:

truth, passion and sacrifice. I want everyone to know when watching the chariot race at the end of the film that it's me driving, not a stuntman!». The Huston name is obviously a formidable legacy. «I have an amazing family. I realized this right away, as a child, when my father told me about my grandfather John and great-grandfather Walter, who at age 16 literally hopped a freight train to New York because he wanted to act. Those were the days of silent film, there was very little money, he never imagined he would become a star. But he had a great passion for the stage and he made it. We are a family of creative people, and we love cinema above all. My first and favorite memories are watching movies involving my dad, Uncle Danny and Aunt Anjelica, like *The Maltese Falcon*, *Ambush in the Tropics*, *The African Queen*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Escape to Victory*, *The Dead*. For me they were like home movies because there was always an emotional connection. I've always been very proud of the world into which I was born, for without my great family I wouldn't exist. Though I honestly don't consider myself yet part of the dynasty, at least at the professional level. I still have a lot to learn, and I feel lucky to have gotten this far. As a child I had no idea of my family's talent, I was more drawn to their ability to turn into different people, with voices and accents that I saw as magical. Fame and success were still abstract concepts for me. I owe a lot to Aunt Anjelica and Uncle Danny, who always encouraged me to pursue my passions, and who introduced me to Ginger Rogers, Fred Astaire, Jimmy Stewart, Marlon Brando and Jeff Bridges, real actors with virtues and vices and wrinkles and all». Upcoming projects? «You'll see me in the Iraqi war drama *The Yellow Birds*, with Jennifer Aniston and the new Hollywood faces Tye Sheridan and Alden Ehrenreich. And I'm finishing filming *Above Suspicion* with Emilia Clarke, who plays Daenerys on *Game of Thrones*».

OF THE YOUNG TURKS
CAIUS PAWSON
by Samira Larouci

Caius Pawson is the founder of The Young Turks, the independent record label behind Mercury prize-winning artists like FKA Twigs and The xx and many others. With an innate knack for finding, facilitating and nurturing artists, with pure instinct as his guide, it's no surprise that Caius' sophomore label skyrocketed to fame. Born and raised in London, Caius was studying Statistical Mathematics, Economics and Politics at Bristol University before he decided to quit and begin his career in music. In August of 2005, he started throwing underground parties under the name The Young Turks, with then unknown artists like Florence and the Machine, The Horrors, Jack Peñate and Adele. In 2006, at the age of 20, a chance meeting in the midst of catastrophic night he put on would find Caius scouted by Richard Russell (Founder of XL recordings). «We decided to put on a rave in an abandoned Transport For London building in East London» he explains «riot police burst in and shut down the party before midnight. It was an absolute nightmare, 3,000 people were going crazy, and somehow in the resulting chaos, Milo Cordell of Merok Records got arrested and I got a job at XL Recordings, as Richard Russell was stood there watching the whole thing unfold. Which resulted in XL helping turn Young Turks into a record label», he says, full acknowledging how unbelievably lucky he was. One of the first artist's he would go on to sign was the then unknown band The xx, who at the time were full of potential but not ready to record an album. Caius introduced them to their fourth member, Jamie Smith, and built a studio for them in the garage of XL Records. «When a unique artist has a strong vision, it's just my job to help get them, to get that out to the world. With the best artists, that often means just getting out the way and letting them do their thing» he explains. And get out the way he certainly did. By giving them time to build their creative vision, The xx took two and a half years to perfect their sound and finish their debut record xx. They would then go on to sell three million copies of their first two albums, accumulate a staggering 657 million downloads and scoop up a Mercury Prize – his patience sure paid off. Since then, the label has gone on to sign British artist FKA Twigs, Jamie xx, Sampha and a further 28