

November 27,
2017

SPECIAL
DOUBLE
ISSUE

Rolling Stone



People
EXCLUSIVE

Jordin Sparks
**WEDDING
& A BABY!**

**KILLER
CLOWN**

A Shocking
Murder Mystery



MICHELLE
PFEIFFER
**59 &
WOW!**

“
Gwen and I
couldn't be
more different,
but nothing's
ever worked
better”

Blake Shelton SEXIEST MAN ALIVE!

**THE VOICE STAR
GETS VERY PERSONAL**

On the Cover

- 88 BLAKE SHELTON
- 56 JORDIN SPARKS
- 76 KILLER CLOWN
- 84 MICHELLE PFEIFFER

This Week

29 SCOOP

Princess Kate's baby style, catching up with Denzel Washington and more!

62 ALY RAISMAN

In an exclusive interview, the Olympic gymnast reveals disturbing allegations of sexual abuse by a team doctor

67 JACOB TREMBLAY

The scene-stealing young actor takes on an emotional role in *Wonder*

76 KILLER CLOWN

After nearly three decades police say they finally have the murderer who dressed up in a clown costume and fatally shot Marlene Warren



**Sexiest
Man Alive**
2017

88

He's a country music superstar and heartthrob on *The Voice*—Blake Shelton is this year's Sexiest Man Alive! Plus: 43 more pages of Sexy Men.



56

American Idol alum Jordin Sparks opens up about her secret wedding and happy baby news.



26

The hottest color combo in fashion is pink and red, as seen on Kate Bosworth and Carey Mulligan.

ON THE COVER Photograph by Joe Pugliese. Groomer: Michelle deMilt; Prop Stylist: Ward Robinson/Wooden Ladder; Stylist: Trish Townsend; Tailor: Kim Cyre; Insets, from top: Ari Michelson; Olivia Maloney/The New York Times/Redux

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JOE PUGLIESE; DAVID CROTTY/PATRICK McMULLAN/GETTY IMAGES; GOTPA/STARMAX; ARI MICHELSON



Sexiest
Man Alive
2017

Sexiest Man Alive Blake Shelton

THE COUNTRY
SUPERSTAR AND *VOICE*
JUDGE GETS HONEST
ABOUT BEING A
HEARTTHROB, LIFE
WITH GWEN AND WHY
NO ONE SHOULD EVER
SEE HIM NAKED

by **Melody Chiu**
& **Julie Jordan**

BLAKE



Blake at His Best

“At this point I’m not covering anything up,” says Shelton (in Los Angeles on Oct. 14). “I’m not hiding anything about myself.”

photographs by JOE PUGLIESE

BB

Blake Shelton really hates being the center of attention. So when it came to his being named 2017's Sexiest Man Alive, his girlfriend of two years, Gwen Stefani, had to take charge. "She goes, 'Listen to me,'" recalls the country-music star. "You're going to regret this for the rest of your life if you don't take this gift and just live in the moment." Rightly so. Having just released his album *Texoma Shore* and a Christmas duet with Stefani, the 6'5" Oklahoma-bred Shelton, 41, is embracing a new pace in life. But what he's most looking forward to is sticking the title to his fellow judge on NBC's *The Voice* (and former Sexiest Man Alive) Adam Levine. "I've been ugly my whole life," Shelton adds. "If I can be sexy for a year, I'm taking it!"



*'I FEEL LIKE PEOPLE KNOW WHAT I LOOK LIKE, AND THERE'S NO REASON **NOT TO EMBRACE** WHO I AM ANYMORE'* —BLAKE SHELTON



So what did you think when you first heard that you were going to be named the Sexiest Man Alive?

That y'all must be running out of people. Like, "Wow, we're down to somebody who is somewhat symmetrical." And then the next thought I had was, "Man, I can't wait to shove this up Adam's ass." As proud as I am and honored that you guys asked me, that's really the only thing I care about.

Is it hard not to shout it from the rooftops?

Trust me, *trust me*, it will be shouted. I'm not going to treat this



GROOMER: MICHELLE DEMILT; PROP STYLIST: WARD ROBINSON/WOODEN LADDER; STYLIST: TRISH TOWNSEND; TAILOR: KIM CYRE

like Hugh Jackman or one of those guys who's humble about it. People are going to *hate* me over this. Because it's going to be used in every conversation, whether it's at *The Voice* or at the feed store in Tishomingo, Okla., or in a conversation with a doctor. Until I have to hand the title, which is what it is to me, over to someone else, this is *mine*. This is like a certification.

How would you describe yourself as a kid growing up in Ada, Okla.?

I think to describe myself as a child, one word comes to mind. And that's "fat." People say I haven't changed since before I made it. And I'm still fat today. That's proof!

Have you always been comfortable in your own skin?

No, not until I turned 40 and I just kind of figured, you know what? I made it. I've got a job. And people have



Watch *People Cover Story: Sexiest Man Alive—Blake Shelton*, available now on PeopleTV. Go to peopletv.com, or download the PeopleTV app on your favorite mobile or connected TV device.

accepted me, so I guess I just don't care anymore. [Laughs]

What's one of the biggest misconceptions about you out there?

That I'm this big partyer. In my 20s, hell yes I loved to party, but that was a long time ago. In fact there's nothing that I hate more than going to a party. I'm half deaf, and I can't hear what people are saying to me. There have been times where I would say, "How you doing?" And they'll tell me something horrible that's going on in their life, and I'll just say, "Well, I'll be damned, that's great." And not real-

ize what that person just said to me. **Does Gwen tease you about anything?** I'm younger than Gwen, and lately things like, I don't know, gout and a back going out. Or my knees are constantly bothering me. Those are things she's like, "Aha! How do you like *that*? You're 41 now, Blake." She teases me about my age.

How did your friendship evolve into a romance?

When you're where she and I were, and you just feel so betrayed and on bottom, this bond that we formed when we found out what each other were going through, it's still there. Like this unified front of, "You know what? I know how you feel right now, and I've got your back." What's most important to Gwen is somebody who has her back and is a best friend, so that's kind of how it started, and it just kept snowballing into what it is now, and it just feels like it gets stronger all the time, you know? It's crazy.

A lot of people couldn't really see you guys together like that.

I'm right there with everybody. I see people all the time going, "I just don't get it, I don't understand the Gwen and Blake thing, it's got to be fake." That doesn't upset me, because it's a hard thing to wrap your head around. She and I, on paper we couldn't be more different, but in



"I'M A MORNING GUY. I WISH I COULD BE MORE COWBOY AND HAVE, LIKE, A TIN OF BLACK COFFEE, BUT I LIKE MINE LIKE A MALT. I GOT TO HAVE A SPLENDA AND FRENCH-VANILLA COFFEE-MATE IN IT"



Happier Than Ever

"It started as a couple of people ready to stand by each other," says Shelton of Stefani (in 2016 and, above, performing together in Las Vegas).

life nothing's ever worked better for me.

What do you love most about being around her three sons?

The best part for me, selfishly, is discovering a part of myself that I guess I never really knew was in there. It's definitely an instinct that kind of kicks in. For a long time it was awkward trying to figure out what my place is, and in their mind too. There's days where you go, "Oh my God, when does school start?" And then an hour later you're going, "God, I can't wait till they get home." They're so damn funny. It's just my first time being around it, and it's easy to fall in love with those kids. They're pretty special.



"Mom and Dad made a very wise investment getting me a guitar."

"I've gone full circle to my hair turning completely white again," says Shelton (right, with brother Richie and sister Endy in 1980).

Through
the
Years



"I'm missin' a front tooth. Those glasses. And that mullet. That is unacceptable."

"My mom always made me feel super-good about myself."

"Apparently I found an old Opry member's jacket. It's just bad."

What's your perfect date night?

Oh my God, it's so easy: Lying in bed and watching a movie, that's it. That is such a coveted, special-like and rare thing for her and me, you know? And I rarely make it through the movie, which I think drives her crazy too.

Would she say you are romantic?

I don't know. I try to be a gentleman as much as I can. I think the thing that she needs most in her life is to be put on a pedestal. Every day that I'm around her, that's what my goal is.

Are you good about taking care of yourself?

Do you like to work out?

I've never been good at it. You can see pictures of me; it is what it is. I'll lose a bunch of weight and feel good about it, and what do I do when I feel good? I eat. Then next thing you know, some picture comes out of me, and I've got three chins.

So what's your biggest vice?

Chips. I love, like, corn tortilla chips and any kind of

cheese dip. There's nothing I can do about it, and I can't just have a bite. It's a problem.

What do you eat in a day?

That's easily the toughest question you've asked me today. There's nothing typical about it. If I'm at home [in Oklahoma], it could be 2 o'clock in

the afternoon before I eat, and then I realize I'm starving, so then it's a bag of Cheetos. And there's a Sonic in town—they got jalapeño poppers. And then I'm not hungry again until 10 o'clock. Well, what's in there? Fish sticks. And, like, a big pickle, those pickles that come in their own package with juice? It is really bad.

Have you learned from any of your failures over the years?

Hopefully I've learned from all of the things I've failed at. I've learned to just keep my mouth shut and go about my day. I've gotten way better at ignoring haters. You just get to a point where you go, "Man, I have got to grow up."

What's still on your bucket list?

This probably sounds stupid, but there's really not much left on my bucket list after I met Dolly Parton. I've been so blessed and so lucky, and it's happened in a short amount of time. I'm going to look back at all this extra bucket stuff that I didn't even probably really let soak in at the time. Like *The Voice*, it's coming at you so fast—even though we're having a blast, it's a lot at once.

Do you sing around the house?

I don't sing as much as I used to. I wonder why that is, now that you say that. I'm a TV star now—I don't sing. [Laughs] I don't even sing in the shower much anymore.

On that note, when were you last naked?

I guess it would've been in the shower this morning. I normally get naked to get in.

Do you ever walk around the house without any clothes on?

No! Oh Christ, I wouldn't do that to

His
FIRST
TIME...

FIRST GIRL I KISSED
MONICA CASH. WE WERE 12 OR 13. SHE'D BEEN MY GIRLFRIEND FOR TWO MONTHS, AND WE FINALLY KISSED. I'M SURE SHE BROKE UP WITH ME AFTER THAT.

FIRST CAR
A GMC STEPSIDE 5-SPEED. MY DAD WANTED ME TO LEARN HOW TO DRIVE A STICK SHIFT.

FIRST PERSON WHO MADE ME FEEL GOOD
MY MOM. SHE'D ALWAYS SAY SOMETHING THAT WOULD COMPLETELY TURN THE DAY AROUND FOR ME.

FIRST RECOGNIZED EARLY ON AT WHAT'S NOW THE CMA FEST. I HEARD SOMEONE BEHIND ME GO, "TERRI! TERRI! TERRI! TERRI!" THEY THOUGHT I WAS TERRI CLARK. I GOT A HAIRCUT SOON AFTER THAT.

Blake FILLS IN THE BLANKS...

The oldest thing I have in my closet is...

A pair of boots from high school that I don't throw away because I think one day if an apocalypse happens, I'll need 'em.

I always borrow Gwen's...

Gum. But it's really more like stealing. You don't give that back.

I'm self-conscious about...

My man-boobs. My moobs.

I've checked into a hotel as...

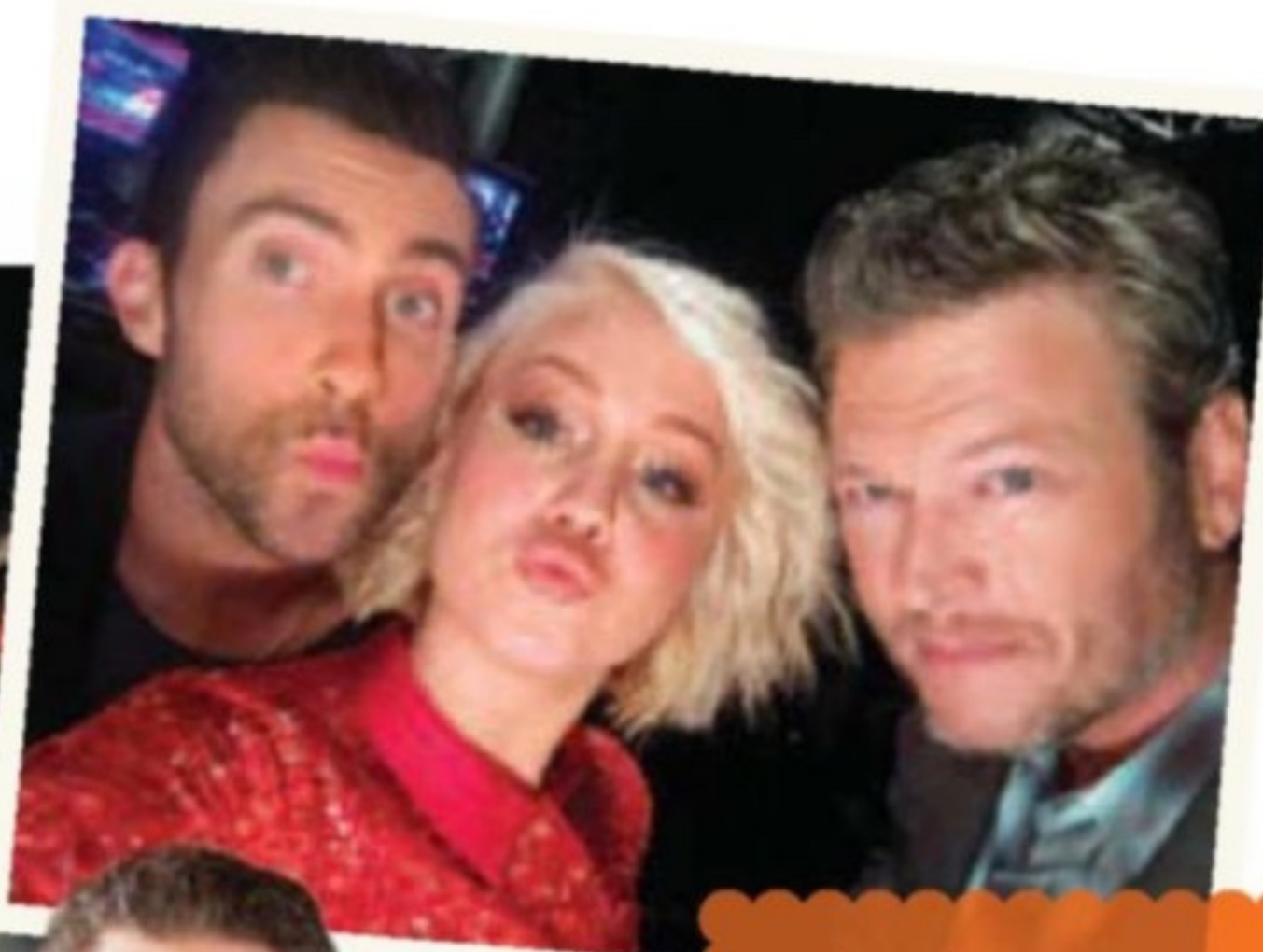
Butch McLintock. My favorite movie at some point was *McLintock!* with John Wayne, and people used to call me Butch in high school.

If I want to look sexier, I...

Suck in. [Laughs]

If you look in my glove box, you'll find...

Uh, vehicle registrations from various years. A flashlight, some loose change and probably ketchup packets.



Friends Forever

They bicker like brothers on *The Voice*, but Levine is "one of the most loving people I've ever known," says Shelton (above, with the Maroon 5 frontman and former contestant RaeLynn).

anybody. I wouldn't want my dog to have to see me naked. It's like half-melted vanilla ice cream with little hairs stuck to it. That's what I look like naked.

So what do you normally wear around the house?

I wear a T-shirt and Air Jordan shorts that go down to my knees. I'm a jeans-and-button-up-shirt kind of guy—always have been. You can dig up pictures of me in high school and see I like plaid and flannel.

And you often wear a hat.

It's all about I don't want to mess with my hair. When it used to be brown it would do what I said, but when it goes gray it turns into a Brillo Pad, so I put a baseball cap on. The Brillo Pad drives women crazy.

Do you ever pamper yourself?

No. I do not want anybody touching

me. And I'm proud to say that I've never had a manicure or a pedicure. Proud of that.

When Adam was Sexiest Man Alive, he told us he waxes so you can see his tattoos better. Could he persuade you to try that?

No! I don't want people to stare at my body so badly that I have to remove hair from it. Just saying that out loud is a little ridiculous, isn't it?

So how do you think you'll wear the crown better than he did?

Because when they'd say to Adam, "Mr. Sexy," you'd always see him go, "Well, awwww..." If you say that to me, it's going to be, "You're damn right, I'm Mr. Sexy! That's Blake Shelton, Mr. Sexiest Man Alive to you." That's how I'm going to treat this. To me, if you're going to get this, don't be bashful about it. I'm owning this moment.

With reporting by **Alex Apatoff**

*'I'VE JUST
BEEN SO LUCKY
AND GOTTEN
TO DO THINGS
I NEVER, EVER
WOULD'VE
DREAMED
I WOULD GET
TO DO'*

