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*OUR BIG FALL STYLE ISSUE

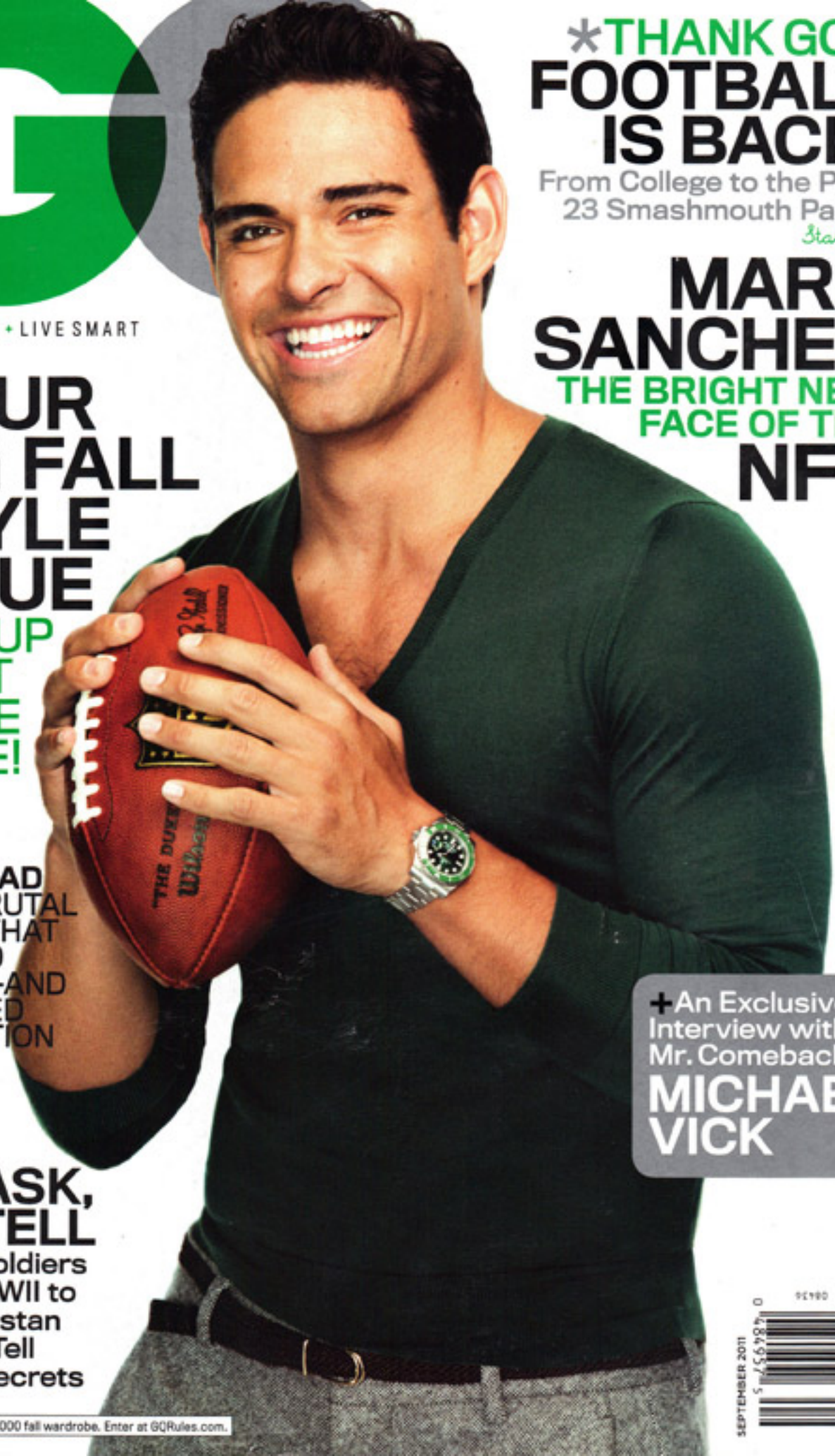
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Nice Guy No More

Here's a hypothesis: No leading man in the long history of cinema has ever starred in two more outrageously opposite movies in a single year than James Marsden. First movie of 2011: *Hop*, a zany Easter flick for kids in which he stars alongside a tiny CGI bunny. The second: *Straw Dogs*, a remake of Sam Peckinpah's ultraviolent hillbilly home-invasion rape-and-kill-fest, in which Marsden burns off James Woods's face with a pot of scalding hot water. "I made *Straw Dogs* first," he says, "and now I think you know why I did *Hop*. I needed to do some goofy pratfalls and talk to a rabbit for a few months."

In the 1971 *Straw Dogs*, Dustin Hoffman played David, a nebbishy mathematician who goes Seal Team Six on a pack of local lowlifes after they rape his wife. Marsden's rakishly handsome David? A "Hollywood screenwriter." This isn't the only break with the original, and Marsden, 37, is already bracing for the critique that sanding away Peckinpah's more provocative sexual politics leaves nothing more than an exploitative southern-gothic bloodbath.

"There's plenty of people out there who will say this movie did not need to be remade," he says. "But there are plenty of symphonies out there playing Mozart; you know?" Indeed. If you're one of those strange moviegoers who recoil from vivid depictions of rape, well, can we interest you in *Hop*?

—DEVIN GORDON

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PAOLO LUCIANO, 19
School: NYU '13
Future profession:
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p. 248