

TEEN MEN
ISSUE 25
SPRING SUMMER 2011
PRICE £4.95



10 men

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREA SPOTORICO
BASTIAAN WEARS PRAHA



THE
GUERRILLA
ISSUE

IMAGE MAKERS YOU SHOULD MEET



LEIGH LEDARE

There isn't much we don't see of Ledare's mom, Tina Peterson

In his best-known series of photographs, *Pretend You're Actually Alive*, the rebellious child ballerina, who, among other things, grew up to be a porn star, strips and gets off with younger lovers before her son's unflinching lens. Yet, as she spreads her legs, posing with tiara and magic wand like a knowingly Oedipal fairy godmother, the question's forced: "Who's it for and why?" No "real" Tina, she performs for the camera in a complex cabaret act, conflating how she wants to be seen and how others want to see her. By comparison, Ledare's everyday images of her in a neck brace or just sitting around seem more exposing. Perhaps the young artist put it best when he said, "I have not attempted to take a picture of the stocking but rather to turn the stocking inside out."

It seems the most revealing images aren't where your mother is performing nude, but where she's getting on with daily life. How do you want those two sets of images to interact?

"As incomplete fragments of a montage that always remains elusive as a whole. There are severe limitations to the veracity of any singular image. In terms of my mother, I see her subjectivity as stemming from the inability to reconcile the roles she is capable of performing. How does one resolve the fissures resulting from the simultaneous roles of mother, daughter, prodigy ballerina, pornographic actress, ageing glamorous woman, artist, and so on?"

*Your work *Personal Commissions* had you on the other side of the camera. What prompted this?*

"In one sense it was as simple as turning the camera on myself. I answered personal advertisements that women had placed proposing a kind of romantic exchange in return for economic benefit. Instead, I commissioned each of these women to direct a photograph of me however they desired to see me displayed. In this sense the images became a self-portrait of them, as seen through the effects of their lives,

their agency in directing me, and their original self-description, the personal ad, which served as the title of each work."

What's next?

"For my latest project, *Double Bind*, I arranged a trip to a remote country house alone with my recently remarried ex-wife, photographing her over the three nights of our stay. Two months later, my ex-wife returned to the same location, this time with her current husband. He also documented her for three days. There are roughly 1,000 images in total, present in their entirety within the project."

LEIGH LEDARE IS REPRESENTED BY PILAR CORRIAS GALLERY, W1. *DOUBLE BIND*, THE PHOTOBOOK, WILL BE PUBLISHED BY MICHELE DIDIER

www.micheledidier.com | www.pilarcorrias.com