

VANITY FAIR

Holiday Special!

50

YEARS OF

George Balanchine's

NUTCRACKER

BEHIND the SCENES
ONSTAGE and OFF

By LAURA JACOBS
p.86

TONY BLAIR'S

Questionable
Connections

By SARAH ELLISON p.54

CAN the INTERNET BILLIONAIRE CONTROL HIS FIREBRANDS?

By SARAH ELLISON p.74

A Clint Eastwood
War Drama ... and a High-Stakes
Broadway Gamble:

BRADLEY

COOPER HAS BALLS!

By BUZZ BISSINGER p.44 Photos by SAM JONES

ALL
LASIO
EX
APE!
"OFTEN THE TEST OF COURAGE
IS NOT TO DIE but TO LIVE."
-MITCHELL ALLEN

TODD S. PURDUM:
JAMES
PATTERSON
The Henry Ford
of Books
p.80

MAUREEN ORTH:
THE WORLD'S MOST
POWERFUL
LEADER
Isn't Obama or Putin—
IT'S ANGELA
MERKEL
p.66

JANUARY 2015

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PLUS:
JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ on the CHINESE CENTURY p.38
MICHAEL KINSLEY on REPUBLICAN REAGAN LOVE p.36
JAMES WOLCOTT on ELEVATOR-SCANDAL VIDEOS p.32



FROM LEFT: Sasha Pieterse (page 78); Pierre Omidyar (page 74);
Ellie Kemper (page 62).

FAIR



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- 80 THE HENRY FORD OF BOOKS**
By **TODD S. PURDUM** The planet's best-selling author since 2001, **James Patterson** pumps out books, has TV shows in the works, and champions causes with a laserlike focus and unerring instincts. When it comes to what he knows best, it's his way or the highway. Photographs by Gasper Tringale.
- 86 BALANCHINE'S CHRISTMAS MIRACLE**
By **LAURA JACOBS** Fifty years ago, George Balanchine's production of *The Nutcracker*, the ballet blockbuster that's become an American holiday tradition, was transplanted to its new home at New York City's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. It all began with the tree... Photographs by Henry Leutwyler.

FAIRGROUND

- 30 AROUND THE WORLD, ONE PARTY AT A TIME** Bottega Veneta and L.A.'s Hammer Museum celebrate "Gala in the Garden." Seth Meyers hosts the N.R.D.C.'s comedy night in N.Y.C.

COLUMNS

- 32 BEHIND CLOSING DOORS** *By* **JAMES WOLCOTT**
In the year of **Jay Z** and **Solange Knowles's** post-Met-gala meltdown and **Ray Rice's** assault on his fiancée (now wife), the usually ho-hum elevator ride has provided high drama.
- 36 THE IRONY AND THE ECSTASY**
By **MICHAEL KINSLEY** For G.O.P. presidential contenders, the apotheosis of **the Reagan era** is an article of faith. They should be appalled by the Gipper's actual record. Illustrations by Barry Blitt.
- 38 THE CHINESE CENTURY** *By* **JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ**
In 2014, **China overtook the U.S.** as the world's largest economy. The natural American reaction would be to "contain" China—and that, says a Nobel-laureate economist, would be a mistake.

ET CETERA

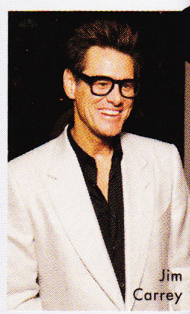
- 28 EDITOR'S LETTER**
ALL NUMBER ONES—SOME WITH BULLETS!
- 110 PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE** **DAVID BYRNE**

KEMPER PHOTOGRAPHED BY CLAIBORNE SWANSON; FRANK: DRESS BY FENDI; PIETERSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY RENE & RADKA; DRESS BY FENDI; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MCCABE (OMIDYAR); FOR CREDITS, TURN TO PAGE 76; FOR DETAILS, GO TO VF.COM/CREDITS

Fairground



Sia



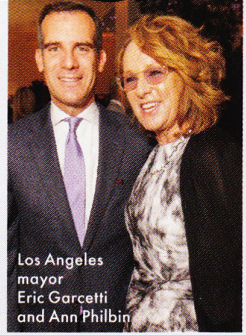
Jim Carrey



Joni Mitchell and Rita McBride



Marco Bizzarri



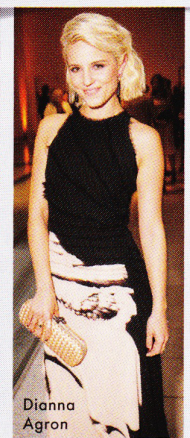
Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti and Ann Philbin



Elizabeth Banks and Tracee Ellis Ross



Rashida Jones and Kara Walker

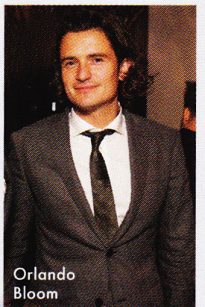


Dianna Agron

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER WINTERSTELER



Sam Taylor-Johnson



Orlando Bloom



Demi Moore, Tony Goldwyn, and Kate Bosworth



Mark Bradford

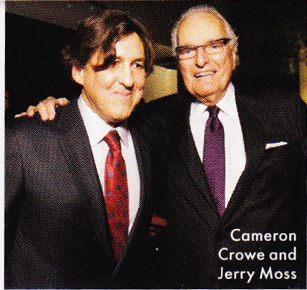
PATRONS OF THE ARTS
Musician Joni Mitchell and artist Mark Bradford were the honorees at the Hammer Museum's 12th annual "Gala in the Garden," in Los Angeles. The event, which supports the institution's nationally acclaimed exhibitions and free public programs, was generously supported by Bottega Veneta.



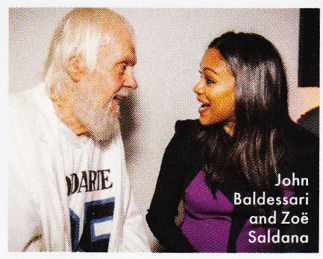
Julia Roberts, Rita Wilson, and Dana Delany



Will Ferrell and Jack Black



Cameron Crowe and Jerry Moss



John Baldessari and Zoë Saldana



Joni
Mitchell
and Rita
McBride