

Burberry London
jacket. J. Crew shirt.
Paul Smith jeans at
Barneys New York.
Rag & Bone tie.
Vintage belt.

MAN OF STYLE

PAUL RUDD

Life has been busy for the amiable actor, who last year experienced *Grace* on Broadway, showed us *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, dropped by *Parks and Recreation*, and capped it all off with *This Is 40* (he's actually 43). In this month's film *ADMISSION*, Paul Rudd stars with Tina Fey in a dramedy about accepting your past. So, does the candid Rudd have any skeletons in his closet? Yep—and they're wearing gold lamé pants

BY MEGAN DEEM PHOTOGRAPHED BY KAI Z FENG
STYLED BY PAUL STURA

Paul Smith jacket at Barneys New York. Inhabit sweater at Barneys New York. Barneys New York Co-Op T-shirt. Jeans, his own.

When a notoriously private star such as Julia Roberts rushes to share an anecdote about you, you must be a pretty likable guy—and in person, Paul Rudd is exactly that. But the actor hates the L-word, especially when it’s used to describe the characters he has played. “I respond better to ‘well-intentioned’ and ‘relatable,’” Rudd says with a boyish grin. “We all do things that might be likable or unlikable, but in truth we just want to handle situations the best way we can with positive results.”

Admission seems like a departure for you, not the hoot-a-minute you expect when hearing the words “Tina Fey and Paul Rudd movie.” It’s not really a big comedy. It’s a smaller story, and it’s dramatic. I think [director] Paul Weitz tends to make movies like that—ones that could be thought of as serious stories but with funny moments. I liked that this wasn’t straight-on comedy and that I wasn’t a child, like some of the other characters I’ve played.

How is your onscreen wardrobe as John, single dad, different from the one you wear as the real-life father of two young ones [Jack and Darby]? My real-life wardrobe is startlingly similar to the ones in the films I’ve been in—due to the fact that many times I’ve just taken the shirts after we’ve wrapped! These Simon Miller jeans are from *Wanderlust*. I discovered John Varvatos desert boots in *I Love You, Man*. I wore a dark brown pair in the movie, but I bought these light suede ones after the fact because I just really like these shoes. I purchased a Paul Smith winter coat from a photo shoot. The sweater I have on today is Inhabit. Nowadays I don’t get into labels that much, but I cared about fashion *a bunch* when I was younger.

How so? In eighth grade I wore a tie to class *every day*. And it was not a school requirement. I never owned a pair of

jeans, and I took such pride in that. I grew my hair super-long in high school. No guys had long hair, but I was way into INXS and was trying to copy what Michael Hutchence was styling.

Is this love of fancy dress because your parents were British? When you said “tie,” it made me think “cravat.” I had one! I just gravitated toward being independent. I always felt like a bit of an outsider, so I embraced the difference I felt on the inside and projected it in the way I dressed. When *Pretty in Pink* came out, other students said I reminded them of Duckie. I took it as such a compliment. I went in thinking, They all really dig the way I look; I can pull this sh— off. One time I even wore my mom’s gold lamé pants to school.

You know I’ve always wondered, what sort of shoes go with gold lamé pants? I chose a half-shoe, half-sandaly kind of thing, like what Dave Gahan from Depeche Mode wore in the “Master and Servant” video. They were my favorite band. I remember going to my cousin’s bar mitzvah in Canada when I was about 15. I think it was winter, and everybody was in dark pinstripe suits. I’m in a white suit with black pinstripes, sleeves pushed up, pink tie, pink socks. And I had a pair of gray shoes that were kind of like fashionable bowling shoes. I remember I was super-psyched because Lionel Richie wore a similar pair on the back of his *Can’t Slow Down* album.

On the topic of brilliant outfits, there’s a video circulating online of you in a bright canary jacket, DJing a bat mitzvah. Were you surprised when it appeared? No, surprised it took so long. That jacket was part of a whole yellow tuxedo. It was amazing. I was supposed to wear a normal tux, but I thought that was stale and stiff. I was 21 or 22. I thought, No man, I have this hilarious yellow tuxedo in my closet, and I’m going to wear it with shorts and Doc Martens, like the Red Hot Chili Peppers!

WHAT WOMEN SAY

Tell Us One Thing We Don’t Know About Paul

TINA FEY

CO-STAR, *ADMISSION*

“He has wooden teeth. But they’re really, really good, expensive ones, so you can hardly tell.”

JULIA ROBERTS

CO-STAR, *THREE DAYS OF RAIN*

“His daughter, Darby, is named after me! That’s not totally accurate [Darby is her character in *The Pelican Brief*], but I know it will make Paul laugh, and I love to make Paul laugh.”

ALICIA SILVERSTONE

CO-STAR, *CLUELESS*

“He’s an amazing photographer. When we were filming, he took a beautiful picture of one of the great loves of my life—my dog and best friend, Sampson. It’s one of the most soulful photos.”

It's been said that Judd Apatow insists you go "Fat Rudd" for films. Is that true?

Every time I work with him. I have to gain anywhere from 15 to 20 pounds over my normal weight, just enough to get a jowl. He also makes me grow my hair long. His whole thing is that he wants me to look older.

I can understand why. I recently watched *Clueless* again, nearly 20 years after it was released, and I feel as though I'm sitting across from *Dorian Gray*. What's your secret?

Here it is, as you can see from the giant plate of bacon I'm eating. Well, the thing is, I *have* aged. I see pictures of me from *Clueless*, and I'm a kid. But I am a big believer in sunscreen. I'm not one for tanning. I used to be, back when I was rocking the Depeche Mode look. Honestly, I wear sunscreen not to prevent wrinkles but because I don't want to get skin cancer.

We asked your co-stars to tell us the most surprising thing about you. How would you answer that question? My love of karaoke.

Do you have a favorite song? Well, to have just one makes you an occasional karaoke singer. I'm way past that.

Meaning ... a karaoke setup at home? Oh, yeah, I have that. But in New York there are a lot of karaoke bars where you can rent private rooms. I have a couple of buddies—male friends that are die-hard karaoke enthusiasts like myself—and we get a private room and sing, just a group of dudes. By the way, Bobby Cannavale—big karaoke enthusiast—and I have gone in the middle of the day by ourselves.

And we're very serious when we say, Here's the rule: You've got to sing a song you've never sung before. Joe Lo Truglio is someone else who might join. Pete Dinklage is a friend of mine, and his brother Jonathan, a crazy-good karaoke performer, makes his living as a virtuoso violinist. Sometimes he'll bring his violin and play along.

In *This Is 40*, you turn to Leslie Mann, who plays your spouse, and say, "Everyone thinks I'm so nice, but I'm really such an asshole." Did that come from the script or from real life? I'm not going to say [laughs]. My wife [Julie Yaeger] took extra pleasure with that line, like, Thank God you said that. ■



Shipley & Halmos blazer and pants at Barneys New York. Barneys New York Co-Op shirt. Thom Browne New York tie. Brooks Brothers pocket square.

COSTUME *Drama*

Rudd comments on some of his more outrageous getups



ANCHORMAN

"Probably one of the greatest wardrobes I've ever been able to wear. That's my real hair, and why it's long now—I'm growing it for the next *Anchorman*."



ROLE MODELS

"This was easy because I just had to dress like Paul Stanley [from Kiss]. He always seemed to go for giant scoopy cuts, and he had a hairy chest."



OUR IDIOT BROTHER

"The beard is mine. When I'm between jobs, I like having a big bushy beard that I can see when I look down. I know it's not very appealing to most people."