

LEFAIR

SUMMER 2017

magazine

WEEKEND
WANDERLUST
5 SUMMER
GETAWAYS

+

LA HOT
SPOTS
*for a night out
on the town*

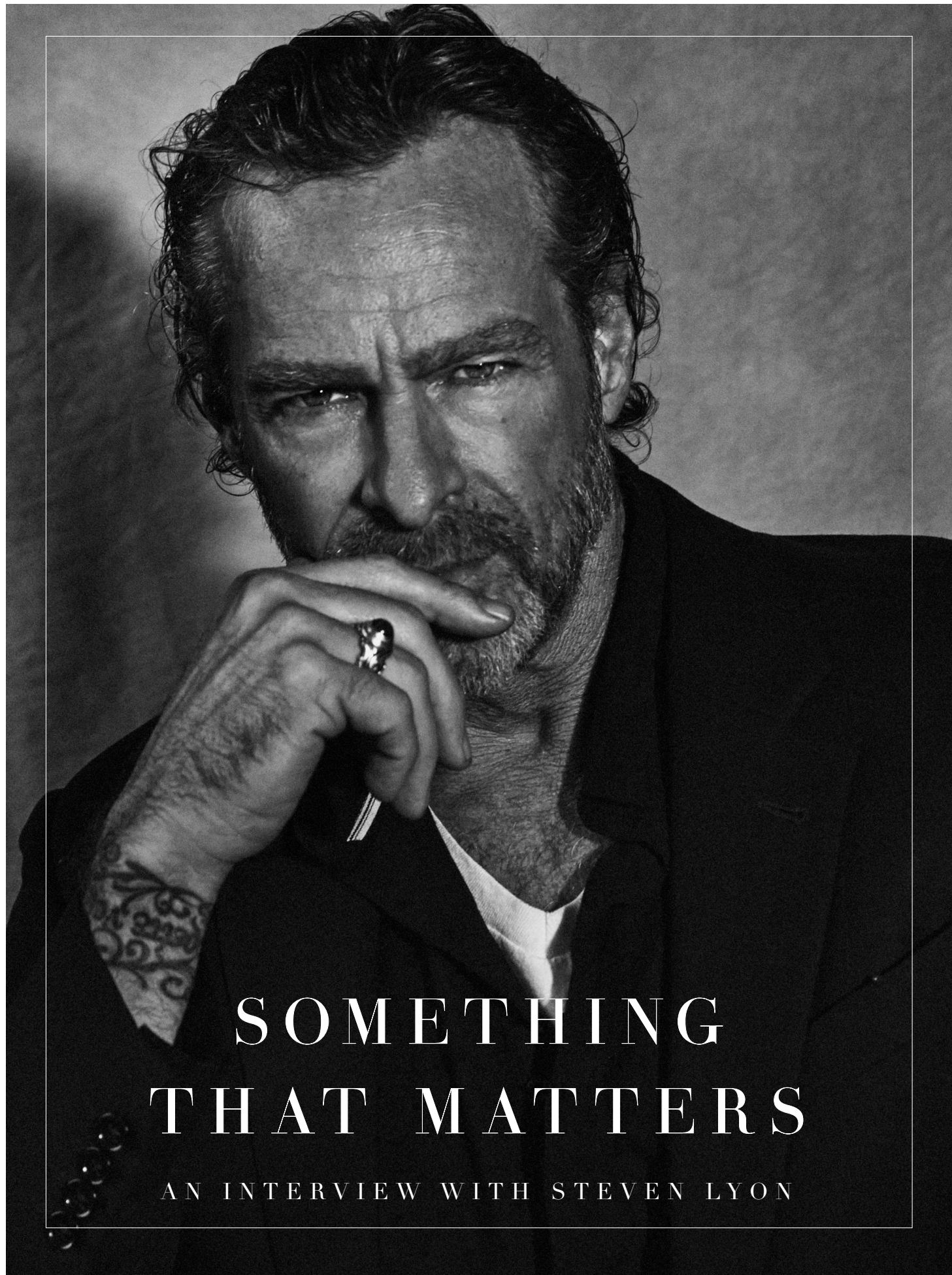
LINDSEY
STIRLING'S
RISE TO SUCCESS

OFF THE
DEEP END
*Dive into Summer
SWIMWEAR*

DON
BENJAMIN
*model, musician
and tattoo icon*

CHRISTINA
MILLIAN

*singer, songwriter,
mother, superhuman*



SOMETHING THAT MATTERS

AN INTERVIEW WITH STEVEN LYON

Writer Katharina Kowalewski @katharinaishere

When you meet Steven Lyon, the male model turned fashion photographer and documentary filmmaker, you know he is unusual. His work is sexy, raw, and somehow timeless. You never know if a picture was taken yesterday or ten years ago. What he shoots is not trend-based, but has lasting value. He has a different perspective on beauty and even life itself. He took a break from fashion photography and focused on a documentary in Africa where he documented the brutal treatment of rhinos. For LEFAIR, he shot Amanda Crew in the desert and met with Katharina Kowalewski to speak about what really matters to him in life.

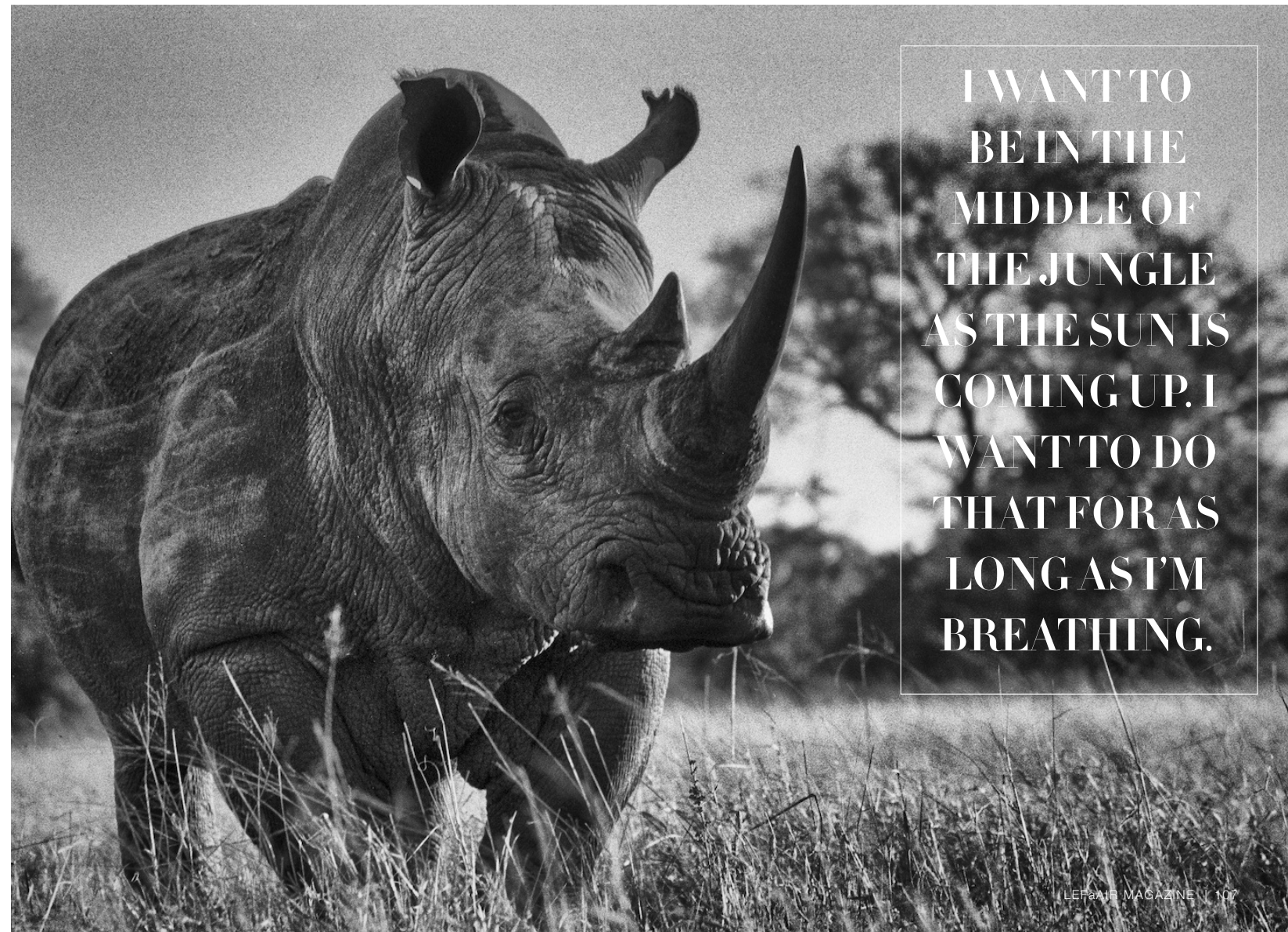
KK: Tell me about your film, *Something That Matters*.

SL: I have been working on it for some time now. It is a documentary about the rhino poaching crisis. It escalated to a place possibly beyond repair, but we still have to try. I undertook a 1,000 kilometer journey across Africa by foot with some incredible South African guides. We took almost four months to walk across Africa, and through that journey I discovered so many things about this crisis. That is what the movie is about. I

have been involved in the fashion industry for the past 25 years, but now I'm trying to make a difference in Africa — I have put my photography on hold to make this film. I had no idea it would take so long, but it really doesn't matter. I recently moved to LA and I think I will find people here to complete the project.

KK: You were first brought to Africa through your photography with fashion editorials?

SL: Yes, and I also like shooting wildlife. I love going on safari, I just bring a better camera than most people. I will always go back to Africa. The first time I had a lion or a elephant in front of my camera it was just so thrilling. I was hooked. When I go on these trips I tell my guides immediately be prepared to wake up at 3 o'clock in the morning. I want to be in the middle of the jungle as the sun is coming up. I want to do that for as long as I'm breathing. Just go in the bushes for three months and shoot wildlife. Africa is under my skin. There is something about it. It's just all these diverse cultures and such an eclectic group of people, but it's a little bit dangerous so you have to keep your wits about you. It's just so interesting to me and there are not many places in the world left like that.



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KK: From all the people and personalities that you have photographed, is there one special picture that you are especially proud of?

SL: I have not been photographing that much lately due to the film, but a recent tragedy reminded me of one special photo. I photographed legendary rock star, Chris Cornell in his Paris apartment.

It was a thrilling experience and I was very close with him and his family. I am proud of the picture, unfortunately now it has become very popular because of his death. I shot Chris a couple of times, in 2005 and 2006. We also started to socialize quite a bit. I would love to say now, let's do another session, but it is too late. He was the sweetest, kindest, coolest guy.

When I first met him, I saw his guitar lying around. I used to make music in little LA night clubs. Chris was sitting there and while we were getting to know each other, I asked him if I could play his guitar. "Here is a song I just wrote," I said. So

I was sitting there with Chris Cornell, performing my songs. And he called his friends and it really broke the ice.

I had the privilege to see him on stage. He had so many amazing songs and I saw him also in smaller intimate venues, cafés and at his house. I was at his wedding, he wrote a song for his wife. What happened was such a tragedy.

KK: You went from modeling to photography. How did that happen?

SL: I was a model in the 80s. I was very successful and it was super fun. I lived in Paris for 90% of my career. Then I dabbled a bit in acting back in America, but when I decided to be a photographer, I knew that Paris was the place to do it. That is where I knew people, where there is so much inspiring creativity and where you don't have all that censorship with your images like you do in America. I would have never become the photographer that I am if I had developed my craft in America. My work is very sensual and gritty. It's very erotic. It has a certain flair to it that is very European. ■



Rebecca Bruce
Top & Pants

Hot As Hell
Kimono

AMANDA CREW

crewsing into tech

Photographer and Videographer Steven Lyon @steven_lyon
Writer Katharina Kowalewski @katharinaishere
Wardrobe Stylist Randall Truitner @randian
Assistant Stylist Yvonne Reddy @yvonnereddy
Hair Artist Trace Henningsen @tracehenningsen
Makeup Artist Annie Ing @annieingmakeup
Assistant Denise Valencia

Known as Monica Hall from Silicon Valley or Felicia in Sex Drive, Amanda Crew is the kind of person you want to be friends with. The Canadian actress, photographer and now also tech investor is extremely down to earth, low maintenance and now lives in LA. Living in Silverlake, she has distanced herself from the Hollywood scene. What makes her special is her authenticity, generosity and positive attitude.

I met Amanda Crew for an exclusive interview at the LEFAIR Loft and chatted with her about tech, stepping out of her comfort zone and acting.

KK: You are being photographed today for the magazine, but you are also comfortable behind the lens?

AC: Yes, I like to do it for fun as a hobby for myself. I was dabbling with it a few years ago as I was frustrated as an actress. I wasn't working that much, so I was trying to find a creative outlet for myself. I was always drawn to photography, so I started picking up the camera.

I used to always define myself as an actress and my whole self-worth was attached to it. And I love acting but I don't have full control over my career. My career is in the hands of producers and networks. It got to a point where I didn't feel good about myself because I wasn't working all the time. So I was trying to find something outside of acting that I was passionate about that excited me, that made me feel creative and as if I was contributing something. That's where photography came in, but also, that's when I started investing in companies and exploring the tech world. All of that makes me feel like I am actually doing something and it has created a whole world outside of the acting.

KK: So it was a good thing that you had that frustrating phase?

AC: Yes, you always have to step outside of your comfort zone. If that never happened, I wouldn't have met all the wonderful women that have shaped the trajectory of my life. It really has boosted my confidence.

KK: You are doing so many things right now and are becoming a role model for other women. Can you tell us more about your adventures in tech?

AC: On Silicon Valley I am one of the few female characters, so there has been a lot of attention about me representing women in tech, but I didn't know anything about the tech industry. So I started to educate myself and meet some of these women and it has opened up a whole new world for me. I started investing in female run companies. There are so few that find investors, so I'm proud to say that I found two of them. It's something that I had no idea I would get into, but now I'm very passionate about it.

KK: How do people react when they see you in the tech world? Do they recognize you from the show?

AC: People definitely recognize me from the show and just call me Monica. I feel like I don't get recognized as much in LA , maybe because there are celebrities everywhere. When I'm up in San Francisco that's when I get recognized the most just because it's so tech heavy there.

KK: What are the companies you have invested in?

AC: I have invested in two female owned companies. One is called Network B and it's a women's network online, trying to create a one-stop-shop for of all your female-focused media. The other is called Randian and it's a tech media marketplace, so it's basically when you are streaming your TV shows you can shop all of the outfits that are on your screen. At the end of the show, you can look at each character and see their whole wardrobe and buy the outfits with whatever device you are streaming it on. I'm a customer. It's changing the way that we shop online. When I watch The Bachelor that's all I want to do.

KK: You are not watching The Bachelor!

AC: Did I just admit that? Big fan. Guilty pleasure.

KK: What are your future projects?

AC: In October we are going back with the 5th season and I have a couple projects coming out hopefully this year. And I actually started writing a feature film that I hope I get to direct, as I don't want to be in it. You can make me accountable for that. ■

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