



FROM LEFT: A *Nutcracker* ballerina (page 86);  
Tony Blair (page 54); Bradley Cooper (page 44).



JANUARY 2015 No. 633

## FEATURES

- 44 **HIS ELEPHANT, HIS WAY** *By BUZZ BISSINGER*  
Whether in *Silver Linings Playbook*, *American Hustle*, or the current Broadway revival of *The Elephant Man*, **Bradley Cooper** has always been willing to take risks. But this month's *American Sniper* finds him far outside his comfort zone. Photographs by Sam Jones.
- 50 **BELLES ON WHEELS** Spotlight on *Broad City*'s **Abbi Jacobson** and **Ilana Glazer**, as they ride into Season Two. *By Nell Scovell.* Photograph by Gavin Bond.
- 52 **THE WORDS OF WAR** Spotlight on six veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan who've turned combat into literature. *By Lea Carpenter.* Photograph by Jonas Fredwall Karlsson.
- 54 **THE WHICH BLAIR PROJECT** *By SARAH ELLIS*  
How did one of the most popular prime ministers in British history become one of its most despised public figures, with his lucrative consulting deals overshadowing his philanthropic efforts? **Tony Blair** defends the choices he's made. Photograph by Jonathan Becker.
- 60 **WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS ... COMES TO BROADWAY** Spotlight on Broadway's *Honeymoon in Vegas*. *By Bruce Handy.* Photograph by Ruven Afanador.
- 62 **SOMETHING ABOUT ELLIE** *By CURTIS SITTENFELDER*  
After winning over audiences in ensemble and supporting roles (*The Office*, *Bridesmaids*, etc.), **Ellie Kemper** is starring in a show—co-created by Tina Fey—of her own. Photograph by Claiborne Swanson Frank.
- 66 **ANGELA'S ASSETS** *By MAUREEN ORTH*  
German chancellor **Angela Merkel** has wielded greater power on the global stage than any of her male predecessors. Yet, as her country achieves new prominence, the woman known as "Mutti" is still an enigma.
- 72 **AN AFFAIR OF THE ART** Spotlight on **Glenn Allen Sims** and **Linda Celeste Sims**, whose pas de deux shines at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. *By Wayne Lawson.* Photograph by Bjorn Iooss.
- 74 **THE UNMANAGEABLES** *By SARAH ELLISON*  
When **Pierre Omidyar**, eBay billionaire, got the media bug, he enlisted journalistic mavericks, including Glenn Greenwald and Laura Poitras (with their Snowden-document trove). The result has made headlines—if not the kind Omidyar wanted. Photo illustration by Sean McCabe.
- 78 **PRETTY IN PYNCHON** Spotlight on **Sasha Pieterse**, getting big-screen time in *Inherent Vice*. *By Krista Smith.* Photograph by Rene & Radka.





# VANITY FAIR

January 2015  
By Wayne Lawson

Spotlight

Alvin Ailey dancers—  
and husband and  
wife—Linda Celeste Sims  
and Glenn Allen Sims,  
at the Ailey Studios,  
New York City.

ALL CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR  
BY BOTTEGA VENETA.

## An AFFAIR of the ART

Come Christmas, New York dance-lovers have three traditional choices: the Rockettes, George Balanchine's *Nutcracker*, or Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. About 70 percent of the Ailey programs include *Revelations*, the late choreographer's gospel masterpiece, of which a high point is "Fix Me, Jesus," the pas de deux danced most frequently by Glenn Allen Sims and his wife, Linda Celeste Sims. Linda, a New Yorker, joined the 32-member company in 1996; Glenn, from New Jersey, started a year later, and they were married in 2001, on January 5, Ailey's birthday. They have performed "Fix Me, Jesus" nearly 2,000 times, and they have been cast in some 130 of the troupe's 250 other ballets—as a couple in about 40 of those. Among *Us*, the *Va* work choreographed by Judith Jamison, that giantess among dancers—who took over the company after Ailey's death, in 1989, and was succeeded, in 2011, by Robert Battle—contains a stunning duet for the Simses. (In November, President Obama announced a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom for Ailey.) Ailey dancers rehearse and perform 43 weeks a year, and they have toured 71 countries. Asked how the Simses stay fresh in pieces they do so often, Linda says, "Alvin's work is elegant but also down to earth, so it's endlessly fulfilling. You are constantly exploring every part of yourself." Glenn adds, "Every new work allows you to be self-investigating. Every night I get to wear four different hats. That allows me to be a chameleon." Is "Fix Me, Jesus" their favorite work? "No, I'd put Alvin's *Night Creature* and *The River* first," says Linda. Glenn chooses *Festa Barocca*, created by Mauro Bigonzetti, with a wonderful section in it for them. The couple's one great regret: not to have known Alvin Ailey in person.

—WAYNE LAWSON