

FACES OF EVIL

MALICE.

MALEVOLENCE.

MALICIOUSNESS.

THE FORCE
OF NATURE THAT GIVES RISE TO

WICKEDNESS AND SIN TAKES

MANY FORMS. IN WWE, 'EVIL' MOST
DEFINITELY COMES IN DIFFERENT SHAPES
AND SIZES, FROM THE CLASSICAL

ANATHEMA THAT IS
THE BIG RED MONSTER,
KANE TO THE PETITE,

UNASSUMING, TYPHOID
MARY-TYPE ENMITY

THAT IS AJ. THROUGH THIS SYMBOLIC
SET OF SUPERSTARS AND DIVAS,

WWE MAGAZINE CONFRONTS
EVIL HEAD ON, STARES IT IN THE EYE
AND DARES NOT LOOK AWAY!

BY JOHN MIHALY SET DESIGN BY BENTALLON.COM PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIUS BUGGE



KANE

Forged in the fires of Hell, The Devil's Favorite Demon has haunted the Superstar and Divas of the WWE locker room for nearly two decades. Whether he's wearing a mask—or even two, nowadays—or none at all, Kane is equally terrifying to all those he encounters. But what makes him so frightening are the brief glimpses of humanity we do see beneath whatever face he chooses to show us. For, if he were truly a monster, then we would have no connection to him, no true sense of pity for his pain. He is, however, the Frankenstein's monster of WWE, only without the fear of fire.



DANIEL BRYAN

Have you ever heard the saying, "Nice guys finish last?" Daniel Bryan certainly did. His WWE career skyrocketed from mid-card to main event once he ditched the pretenses of his Indie wrestling roots and broke his word by cashing in his Money In The Bank contract on a vulnerable opponent. On his way to the top, The American Dragon learned to spread his wings and spit fire from his mouth, adding a potent verbal arsenal to his already impressive array of in-ring moves. But how long will it be until he truly snaps or, even worse, snaps someone else in one of his many submissions?



AJ

Sometimes a whole lot of evil comes wrapped up in a very small package and, more often than not, that package is usually dressed up in a bright, shiny bow. But whether attired in punky plaid or pleated pant suits, deadly little AJ has come a long way since her demure debut on NXT. Members of the WWE Universe have, quite literally, watched her grow up before their very eyes. However, what she's grown into is something very dark and somewhat disturbing. Playing the role of the confused innocent, this so-called damsel in distress has been able to twist the wills of several of the men on this very list to her own uses. She has been able to impress the right people, who have seen fit to put her into a position of near-absolute power. But it's that look on her face that has us frightened for the future of WWE.



CODY RHODES

We've always referred to this second-generation Superstar as "The American Nightmare," a warped take on the nickname his father earned as "The American Dream." So what kind of evil inhabits Cody Rhodes, the offspring of one of the most beloved, fan-favorite Superstars of all time? His evil is that of privilege—specifically, privilege run amok. It's not wrong that Cody was offered opportunities in life due to his last name or his lineage. He certainly hasn't been "handed" anything during his tenure as a WWE Superstar. Yet he chooses to walk in darkness, often cloaked by a mask (in the past), or with a hood (as he does at present). He fails to embrace the WWE Universe quite simply because he feels he doesn't have to. After all, this is the same man who managed to turn on his own tag team to win the World Tag Titles from himself with a brand-new partner.



TENSAI

With Japanese characters that state, "Beware," "Be Afraid" and "Destruction is Coming," evil is quite literally written all over the face of Tensai. This human-wrecking ball wears these words not as a mask to hide his identity, or even as a warning for those who would dare cross his path, but as a symbol of his relationship with that evil and his role as a harbinger of destruction. That disturbing relationship was formed in the dojos and arenas of the Far East, where this warrior was first cast out of WWE and forced to walk his dark path where annihilation is always sure to follow. It's not Tensai's fault, however, that he is evil. A natural disaster isn't evil; it's merely an avatar for the Earth's rage. Tensai is a force. There's no way to reason with him. It's best to heed the warning signs when he approaches—and pray the storm passes.



WILLIAM REGAL

No Superstar embraces evil quite the way William Regal does. To call him a “Master Villain” is nothing short of the finest compliment that one could pay him. Sharply dressed and fitted with an even sharper tongue, Regal might be the most charming scoundrel in the WWE locker room. But make no mistake, there have been many times when this individual has been anything but gentlemanly. William Regal isn’t breaking bad, he was just born that way (naughty, in fact, as he likes to say). He’s the type to do a good deed just to throw you off his scent. He’s also the type to use a pair of knuckle-dusters simply because it’s just that more personal. And, if his battery of submission maneuvers doesn’t cause you enough pain, then his jokes most certainly will.



JACK SWAGGER

The All-American American has it all... and he knows it. Maybe it’s that toothy grin. Maybe it’s that side-part of blond hair. Maybe it’s that perfect image of the young man from small-town Oklahoma who was a home-state hero in two sports. Jack Swagger projects everything that is wholesome and ideal about the American spirit, yet somehow he manages to subvert it. He’s Captain America without the shield or the sense of self-sacrifice for the greater good. He is a man who’s never humbled, who, even in defeat after defeat, still raises his chin high above all others with a sense of greater greatness inside. Then again, with a name like Swagger, you have to expect some behavior like that. He was, after all, born into that very greatness.

JOHN LAURINAITIS

If *The Usual Suspects* taught us that, “The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world that he didn’t exist,” then we know for a fact that John Laurinaitis is not, in fact, the devil. But he comes pretty close. No greater evil encompassed the entirety of WWE (for the first half of 2012, at least) more than the self-aggrandizing propaganda machine that was known as “People Power.” It was WWE’s version of a pyramid scheme, a one-man campaign meant to bait and switch the “unsuspecting” members of the WWE Universe into thinking that they were being given exactly what they wanted every time they tuned into *Raw* or *SmackDown*.



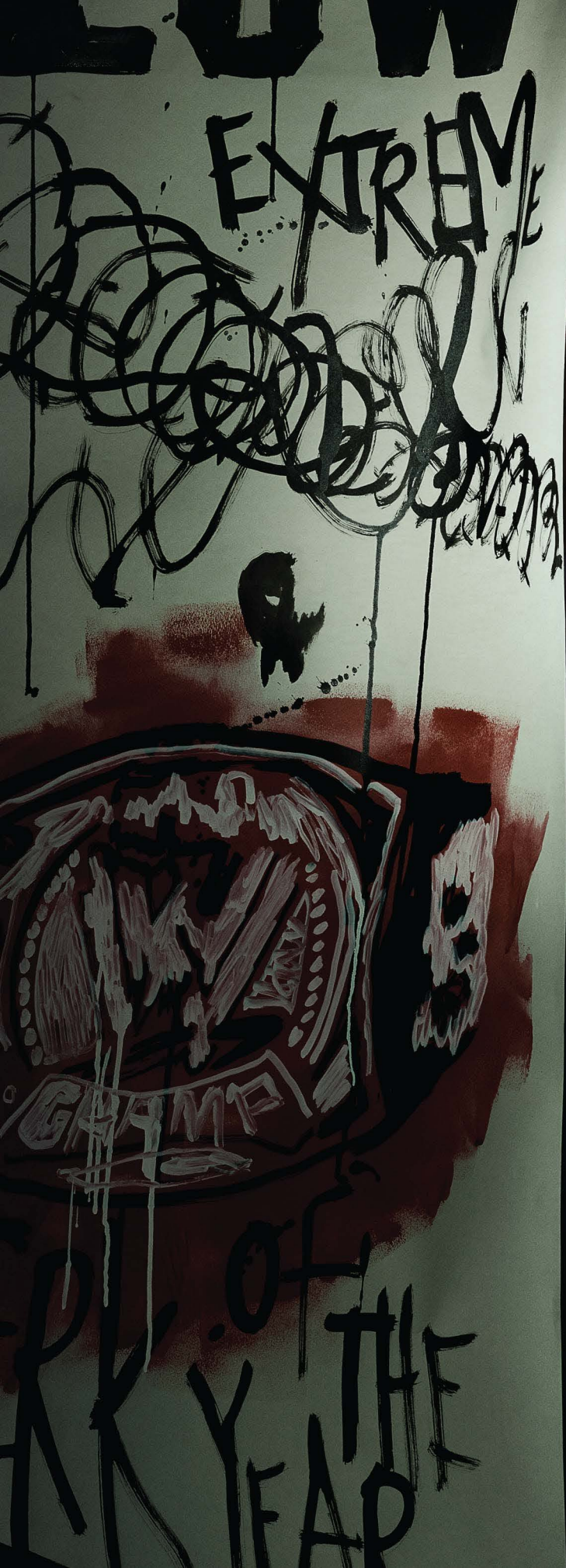
RICARDO RODRIGUEZ

Alberto Del Rio couldn’t be bothered to pose for his “portrait of evil,” so he sent his snivelling sycophant in his place. We’re not sure whether we should pity Ricardo for his misguided loyalty to the so-called “Essence of Excellence” or be truly frightened by the lengths that he will go to appease his “master.” Rodriguez is about as slick and slippery as the oil he combs through his hair—he’ll do anything that is asked of him. With no measure of self-respect, he will put his body, and his dignity, in harm’s way with absolutely no regard for his own well-being. He is a gremlin in human form, always up to no good and requiring you to constantly keep an eye on his skullduggery. And, while a tuxedo is meant to convey a sense of class and dignity for special events, Double-R generally ends up looking more like he was making up for not going to his senior prom.



VICKIE GUERRERO

Who would’ve thought that someone trying to be so polite (she’s always saying “Excuse me!” after all) would be one of the most reviled individuals in WWE during the start of the 21st century? The Vickie Guerrero that you see on television is a combination of each and every schoolteacher who has ever yelled at you or held you after class combined with each and every power-hungry corporate climber in your office. But you can deal with that—you’ve dealt with that kind of evil your entire life. With Vickie, it all comes down to that banshee-like shriek—ask Sheamus what a banshee is—which sounds like nails across a chalkboard every time she opens her mouth. And even when she’s on your side, she’s always looking for the next bigger or better thing to get her to the top of WWE. Watch out, Dolph Ziggler. That’s all we’re saying—you’ve been warned.



PAUL HEYMAN

Call him, "The stain that no dry cleaner can get out." Call him, "The cockroach that no boot can adequately eradicate." Call him, "The Voice of The Voiceless" or "The Handler of The Pain." Paul Heyman simply doesn't care about popular opinion, or what you might call him—he only cares about insinuating himself into the right place at the right time with the right Superstar. We all know that he's not to be trusted, that he's dangerous, and yet time and time again, he finds his way into the upper echelon of the roster to become a WWE power broker. He even has his own T-shirt! Here is a man who not only learns from his past mistakes, but capitalizes on them. He's the mouthpiece for a mindless monster like Brock Lesnar and the consigliere for the longest-reigning WWE Champion of the past 25 years. Paul Heyman is the WWE equivalent of a vampire, because once you invite him in, you might never be able to get rid of him.

FACES OF EVIL

CAN ONE DEFINE THAT WHICH IS GOOD WITHOUT THAT WHICH IS EVIL?

THE TWO LIVE IN A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP THAT UNIQUELY DEFINES THE OTHER'S EXISTENCE.

THEY ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN. HOWEVER, IN WWE, THE VALUE OF EVIL ALWAYS SEEMS TO TRADE A BIT HIGHER THAN THAT OF ITS MORE POSITIVE COUNTERPART.

EVIL IS SEEMINGLY AND SOMEWHAT IRONICALLY ALWAYS IN THE BLACK, FOREVER CONFINING THAT WHICH IS GOOD TO THE RED. IN THIS TERRIFYING SEQUEL—SEE WWE MAGAZINE, OCTOBER 2012—WE PRESENT TO YOU AN ENTIRELY NEW CAST OF MALICIOUS AND MALEVOLENT MALCONTENTS, IN ALL THEIR VARIED FORMS.

BE AFRAID...AGAIN!

WADE BARRETT

Wade Barrett has changed, dare we say, for the worse? Maybe it's his recently acquired beard, which adds a grizzled dimension to a once extremely clean-cut individual. Nothing says "bare-knuckle fighter" like some woodsman-inspired scruff. Nothing, that is, except for his new finisher, the Bull Hammer, which can strike from any direction at any moment in the ring. It's not as showy as The Wasteland was, but it certainly sends opponents to the same place...only that much quicker. However, the most frightening thing about this new Wade Barrett is his lone wolf nature. There's no longer a numbers game to be played with The Nexus or The Corre. It's one man, two fists and nothing else. And after dispatching Kofi Kingston for the Intercontinental Championship, that first, true "WrestleMania Moment" finally seems like a reality for this "Prince."



DAMIEN SANDOW

Everyone had that one teacher in school who used the classroom as a personal forum to show off his or her perceived intelligence. Instead of being properly educated, you were just talked down to and meant to feel inferior. And, in the end, no one learned anything but resentment. Sound familiar? Unfortunately, Damien Sandow has a much bigger classroom in which to proselytize, along with a live microphone and what we can only imagine is the world's largest thesaurus. Sandow claims he's merely trying to educate the masses to make the world a better place, but we have to ask: better for whom? Sure, Sandow is as smart as they come, but his worldview is a parallax one. This so-called Intellectual Savior isn't looking to elevate members of the WWE Universe, he's merely seeking to raise himself above them.



EVE

As a Diva, Eve has certainly lived up to her biblical namesake. And we don't mean that she enjoys eating apples, spending time in gardens or maintains a passing interest in herpetology. We mean that wherever she goes, she often seems to cause the downfall of every man and woman with whom she crosses paths. Zack Ryder was the first to truly feel her wrath, and at *WrestleMania*, no less. Soon after she was promoted to the role of Executive Administrator, the People Power regime collapsed. And let's not forget the time Eve orchestrated a Tonya Harding-like attack on Kaitlyn. What makes Eve truly evil, though, is the fact that she's got it all (including a record-setting three reigns as Divas Champion) and yet she still seemingly wants more. While the WWE Universe might be free from her for now, the devastation she left in her wake will be felt for years to come. Bye, Eve!



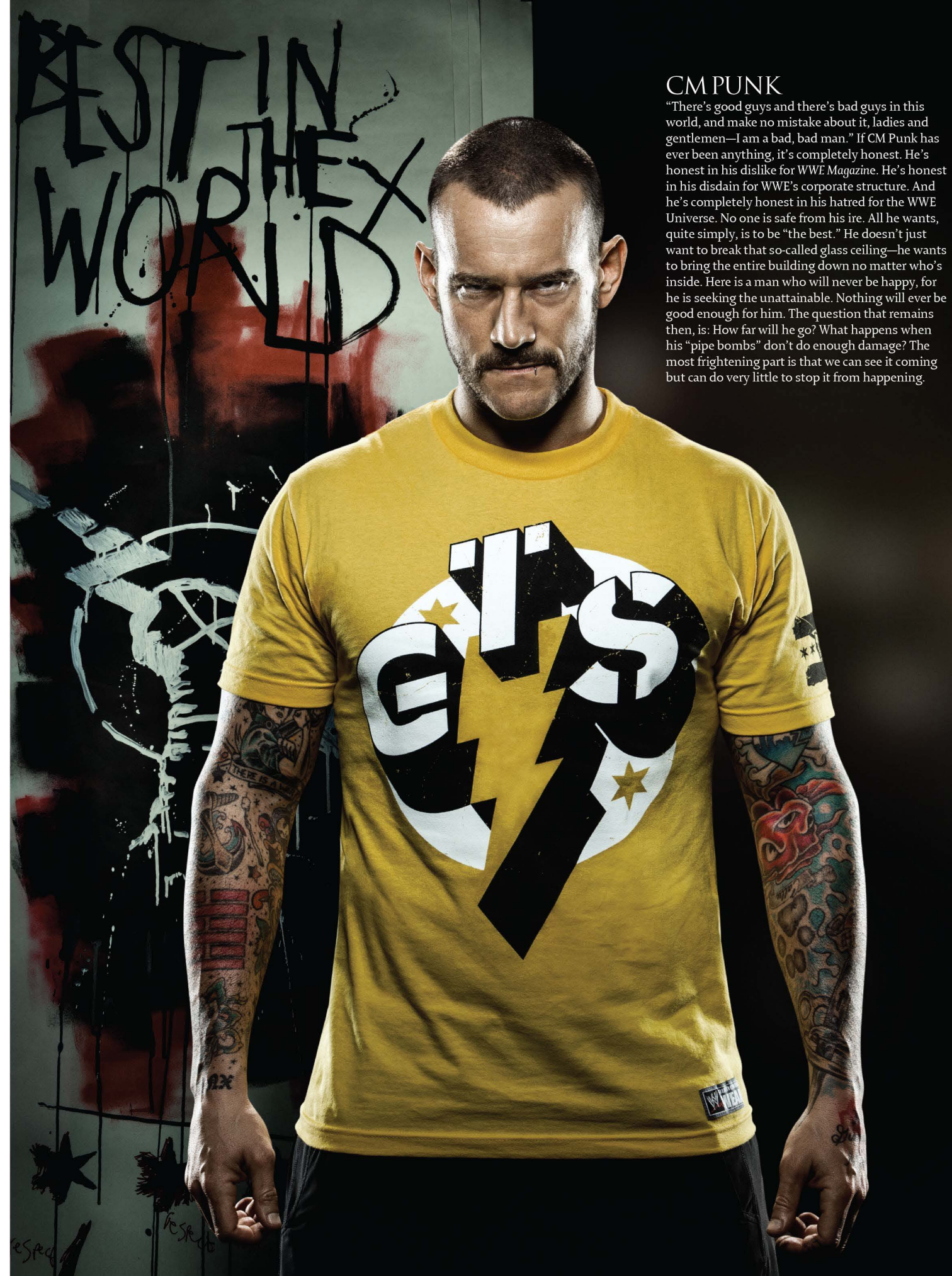
ANTONIO CESARO

While preparing for this shoot, Cesaro remarked, "You want to make me look like some sort of James Bond villain, don't you?" We're not quite sure if he was offended or enthralled by that prospect. Like any product of Switzerland, he boasts a clean and efficient design with no superfluous affectations. He is a classic—and classically evil—all the way down to his devastating finishing maneuver, known simply as the Neutralizer. World domination certainly seems to be on Cesaro's agenda. In a very short time, the so-called "Swiss Superman" has put himself on the map by targeting major world players such as John Cena and Sheamus.



BROCK LESNAR

A self-professed “war machine” and “ass kicker,” Brock Lesnar has never gone far enough to refer to himself as a monster. But we will. Everywhere he sets foot, pain and terror seem to follow in his wake. He’s an utterly frightening and intimidating individual. In a world in which fully inked sleeves are fairly commonplace and neck tattoos rarely get a second look, just take a moment to think about Lesnar’s body art. It’s unnerving—a demonic skull encompassing the entirety of his back; a brass-knuckled-dagger emblazoned across his sternum; and a severed hand grasping a hook atop the back of his shoulder. These truly are the marks of the beast. They are clear indicators that you should stay as far away from this man as possible. Brock simply enjoys hurting things with little (or no) reason other than some sort of sick primal instinct. Were it not for his handler, Paul Heyman, there might be no stopping Brock from bringing the pain over and over again.



CM PUNK

“There’s good guys and there’s bad guys in this world, and make no mistake about it, ladies and gentlemen—I am a bad, bad man.” If CM Punk has ever been anything, it’s completely honest. He’s honest in his dislike for WWE Magazine. He’s honest in his disdain for WWE’s corporate structure. And he’s completely honest in his hatred for the WWE Universe. No one is safe from his ire. All he wants, quite simply, is to be “the best.” He doesn’t just want to break that so-called glass ceiling—he wants to bring the entire building down no matter who’s inside. Here is a man who will never be happy, for he is seeking the unattainable. Nothing will ever be good enough for him. The question that remains then, is: How far will he go? What happens when his “pipe bombs” don’t do enough damage? The most frightening part is that we can see it coming but can do very little to stop it from happening.



3MB

The common bond shared by the “Faces of Evil” is that of intelligence. Even Brock Lesnar’s smart enough to know he needs Paul Heyman to vocalize his rage and base emotions. However haimless 3MB might appear, be warned, for they might be the most evil triumvirate ever to inhabit the WWE Universe. Between the three of them, they only seem to share one brain. That’s what makes them truly dangerous. They have no shame and no idea what hell they are about to wreak upon their foes. No one is telling them to “stop,” unless it’s another Superstar physically forcing them to end the incessant air-guitaring. Maybe it’s their appeal to the lowest common denominator by tapping into our primal need for music. But with their global appeal, there may be no stopping Slater, Mahal and McIntyre. The “Idiocracy” is about to take over—and we’re just willing spectators.

DAVID OTUNGA

Otunga is a prime example of a human being operating at maximum efficiency. He’s a Superstar, which puts him in an echelon above most mortals. But how many other Superstars do you know who have graduated from Harvard Law School, boast television and film experience (look for his star turn in the upcoming film, *The Call*, opposite Halle Berry), and pursue a passing interest in psychology and biochemistry all while maintaining a Superman-like physique under a Clark Kent-esque demeanor? David Otunga is everything we should strive to be in life... and he knows it! He knows very few can reach his level of excellence—and he’ll never let us forget that fact.

