

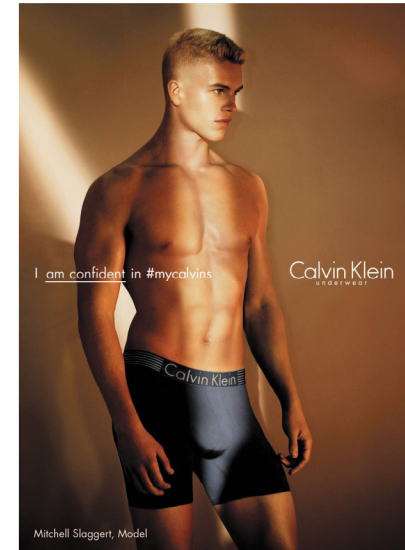
Mitchell Slaggert

Mitchell Slaggert: A Country Boy Becomes the Face of Calvin Klein Underwear

On his first trip to New York, the newbie model recalls meeting Kendall Jenner and getting scouted by Jennifer Lawrence's agent.



February 9, 2016 12:56 PM | by [Emilia Petrarca](#)



When model Mitchell Slaggert showed up on set in England last month to shoot the latest Calvin Klein underwear campaign, he met a young model who seemed familiar. “She was a name I knew, but not a face,” he said. The young model was Kendall Jenner. When asked to explain how he didn’t recognize one of the most famous women in the world, Slaggert bashfully stammered, “Well, I don’t watch her show.”

Slaggert can be excused for this and other lapses in his knowledge of celebrity culture, like not knowing the meaning of “Versace” (he’d only heard the name in a song by Migos) or GQ, a magazine he didn’t know existed until he appeared in its pages. The 21-year-old is fresh off the boat from little-town Fayetteville, Georgia, and he’s about to hit the big time. In short order, the strapping young hunk went from interviewing for a job at the Department of Homeland Security to posing with Jenner to be the face of Calvin Klein Underwear.

“The good Lord has a plan. It just wasn’t meant for me,” he said on a recent afternoon.

“And now I’m in New York hanging out in the World Trade Center!”

The model was in Lower Manhattan for a shoot and was basking in his newfound notoriety. The day before he had been the hit of Calvin Klein’s presentation during New York Fashion Week: Men’s. Shirtless in nothing but tight gold metallic pants, he had gamely posed in the tableaux designer Italo Zuccheli conceived for the occasion as editors and other fashion groupies strained to take his picture.

“I get a lot of DM’s on Instagram. Some of these girls...” he said, incredulous. “They’re crazy.”

Growing up in Georgia, Slaggert wanted to join the U.S. Marines. But a car accident when he was seven left him with one kidney and he couldn’t enlist. He was this close to joining Homeland Security – its job interview was much more stressful than any

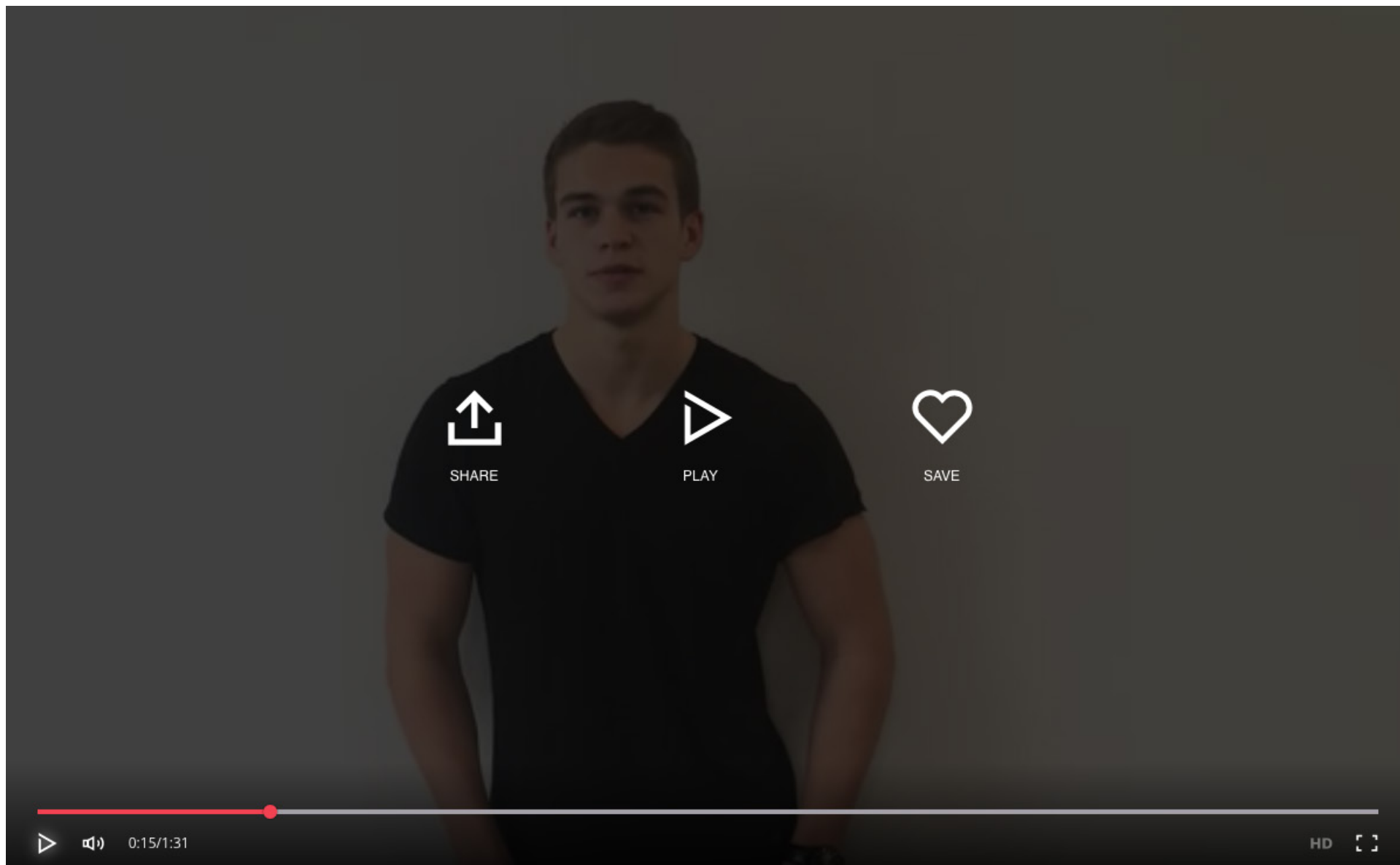
modeling casting call, he said – when he was spotted walking around downtown Wilmington, North Carolina, where he was studying mechanical engineering at the University of North Carolina.

“I was leaving class and this guy chased me down and tapped me on the shoulder,” Slaggert recalled. The guy happened to be the man who discovered Jennifer Lawrence. “He asked me if I wanted to model and it sounded too good to be true. Usually it is, but I got lucky.” The trip to New York for the Calvin presentation was the first to city and he felt overwhelmed by the sights and the crowds. The cold weather also forced him to buy a hat and scarf, but his girlfriend does the rest of his shopping. On his visit downtown, he wore Doc Martens she bought him, slim-cut jeans, and a Calvin Klein v-neck, plus a leather bomber jacket his dad bought him from Amazon Prime. Left to his own devices, though, Slaggert would be dressed in a duck hunting cap, boots, and his beloved “grandpa jeans” from Levi’s.

To fit into Calvin Klein’s tight pants, he had to lose ten pounds. “I can’t just lift weights, otherwise I’ll bulk up,” he said of his new fitness routine. “You need to be slim to fit in these clothes.”

As Slaggert walked out of the World Trade Center in his tight jeans, he stopped to look at some Steven Klein portraits of Kate Moss flanking the walls. “Do you know who this is?” I asked. Slaggert scratched his head.

“Nope.”

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Calvin Klein Underwear Model Mitchell Slaggert Is Dressed by His Girlfriend

21-year-old Calvin Klein underwear model Mitchell Slaggert pays a visit to the W magazine office and opens up about his first visit to New York for fashion week.

Like 1

FASHION > MODELS

Nothing Gets Between This Model and His Calvins, Except Maybe Kendall Jenner

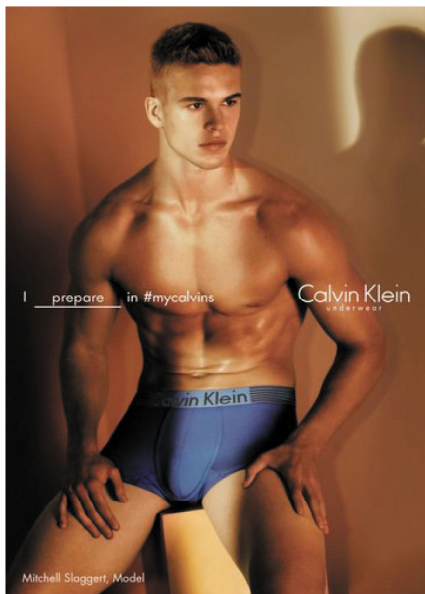
FEBRUARY 17, 2016 6:09 PM
by JANELLE OKWODU

There are certain casting coups that can define a model's career, but aligning with the right brand at the exact right moment is certainly one that has the power to transform a model into a household name—or, at the very least, pique the interest of fashion's insiders. Landing a spot in Calvin Klein's underwear ads is the kind of accomplishment that tends to lead to opportunities beyond fashion. Models-turned-actors Jamie Dornan, Antonio Sabáto, Jr., and Travis Fimmel all got a career boost by stripping down for Calvin, and even celebrities like Mark Wahlberg and Justin Bieber have benefited from the exposure.

And this season brings us the latest hunk to take up the mantle of Calvin Klein guy: Mitchell Slaggert, a clean-cut Georgia boy who has been making waves in the modeling industry since being scouted early last year. Slaggert was attracting attention even before his Calvin gig, racking up work with photography icons like Mert Alas and Marcus Piggott, but his new role raises his profile considerably. "It's an honor!" he told us via email. "Only great things can come from this. It's



Photo: Photograph by Billy Farrell Agency



Photographed by Tyrone Lebon / Calvin Klein

such an iconic brand and has launched many careers; I'm blessed to take part in something so special."

Posing for David Sims alongside Kendall Jenner while wearing nothing but a pair of briefs is a daunting prospect for most, but for Slaggert it was simply another day at the office, and one made easier by Jenner's affable personality. "Kendall was very sweet and easy to work with," Slaggert says. "I was jet-lagged and wasn't very chatty initially, but she was easy to talk to and always had a smile on her face." And though his already buff physique would seem ready for the challenge of modeling with nothing between him and his Calvins, dedicated athlete Slaggert put in extra hours at the gym, just to take things "a step further." "I doubled my cardio routines before touching weights, and by adding a clean, healthy diet into the mix, I managed to get myself both physically and mentally fit," he says.

Given the history of Calvin models transitioning into acting, one has to wonder if Slaggert has his sights set on Hollywood. "Well, I'm not done with modeling just yet, but acting is definitely next on the horizon," says Slaggert. He's just been cast as the lead in a new film by Daniel Peddle, the casting agent and director who initially introduced Slaggert to the fashion industry and who also happens to have discovered Jennifer Lawrence. Those are no small shoes to fill, but don't expect Slaggert to develop an outsized ego anytime soon. "That's one of the great things about where I come from," he says. "My friends, my family, and my girlfriend have helped me to stay rooted and take all of this in stride. No need to ride your high horse around town!"

New York Welcomes Calvin Klein's New Underwear Hunk and YouTube's Tyler Oakley

By MATTHEW SCHNEIER FEB. 5, 2016

Occasionally, and especially when one's own gym visits have receded into the distant past, one finds oneself face-to-navel with greatness.

In this case, the man on the plinth in the rose-gold metallic-leather pants, topless save for a gold amulet on a chain around his neck — this being, naturally, a presentation of what Calvin Klein was calling “formalwear” — was Mitchell Slaggert of Fayetteville, Ga. Mr. Slaggert, 21, is the new face (and chiseled body) of Calvin Klein Collection and Calvin Klein Underwear.

He is recently enough removed from the American South that he peppers his conversation with “sir.” He was scouted, he said, some seven months ago, while walking to his car, and his dreams of working for the Department of Homeland Security were paused in favor of a spot on the Calvin Klein runway in Milan.

In the months since, Mr. Slaggert has appeared in magazines (including the German edition of GQ Style and the Italian edition of Vogue), on more runways and in the ad campaign for DSquared2.

But his Calvin Klein underwear campaign — for a new line called Iron Strength — may well be his biggest coup. He is preceded in this pants-dropping endeavor by the likes of Justin Bieber, Mark Wahlberg, Jamie Dornan and Kellan Lutz. In an email, Melisa Goldie, Calvin Klein's chief marketing officer, praised Mr. Slaggert's “raw masculinity” and “sense of athleticism.” In the flesh, a gee-whiz ingenuousness was just as much in evidence.

How does he like modeling in his underwear?

“It took some getting used to,” he said. “But I asked my sister, and she said: ‘You have to. It's iconic.’”

In the coming weeks, Mr. Slaggert will appear in the Iron Strength campaign, tussling with another up-and-coming young model: Kendall Jenner.



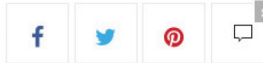
Mitchell Slaggert is the new face of Calvin Klein Underwear. Billy Farrell/BFA

INTERVIEWS

Mitchell Slaggert on the Big Screen

8/26/2016 by JONATHAN SHIA

25 Shares



All clothing – Calvin Klein Underwear.

Photographer – Arnaldo Anaya Lucca for Models.com | Stylist – Matthew Edelstein

Groomer – Paul Merritt (De Facto) | Model – Mitchell Slaggert | Photographer's assistant – JP Herrera

Digital technician – Patrick Klinc | Producer – Jazmin Alvarez | Location – The School House Pool, New York

Most models can tell you that getting discovered is a matter of being in the right place at the right time. For Mitchell Slaggert, a recent addition to our Hot List and a favorite of Versace, DSquared2, and Calvin Klein, a second earlier or later could have made all the difference. “I was walking to my car after class one day and Daniel Peddle and I crossed paths, then he chased me down and asked if I wanted to model,” Slaggert recalls, referring to the casting director who co-owns the casting company The Secret Gallery with partner Drew Dasent. “I was like, ok, this is too good to be true, thank you, no thank you. He gave me his card and he was like, ‘I’ll be expecting to hear from you.’”

Peddle adds that it was actually even more fortuitous than that, the result of a split-second decision that could just have easily gone the other way. “I didn’t actually see him very well and I only got a glimpse of him out of the corner of my eye and I was actually running late,” he recalls. “I got two blocks and it was literally like the universe tapped me on the shoulder and told me to go get that guy so I ran back. I just knew right away that this was one of those rare finds. When you scout as often as I do, you find a lot of cool people, but it’s not that often that you find someone that you get that special sense about.”



Peddle’s instincts, as they have so often before, turned out right. In the year since that fateful encounter, Slaggert was a Calvin Klein exclusive for his first season, has shot with Mert & Marcus and Boo George, and appeared in numerous campaigns for Calvin Klein, including David Sims’s famous Spring 2016 underwear ads along with Kendall Jenner and Julian Schnyder. Slaggert still hasn’t quite wrapped his head around how quickly his success has come. “Essentially I had no idea, I thought it was kind of the norm,” he laughs. “I almost wasn’t going to do the Calvin Klein Underwear campaign and then my sister was like, ‘You have to, it’s iconic,’ and I realized it was the same thing that Michael Jordan and Mark Wahlberg had done.”

His life has changed in many other ways as well. Born in Michigan and raised in Georgia, Slaggert had been studying mechanical engineering and was fresh from a job interview with the Department of Homeland Security when Peddle discovered him. Now he’s in a full-time acting course at the New York Film Academy and has two movie credits to his name, including the lead in Moss, Peddle’s new film written specifically for and in collaboration with him. “I was shocked and honored because I know Daniel has done this before and he’s very professional,” says Slaggert of being asked to be a part of the film. “I started training because I didn’t want to let him down and I wanted to make the most of this great opportunity.” Peddle’s instincts, as they have so often before, turned out right. In the year since that fateful encounter, Slaggert was a Calvin Klein exclusive for his first season, has shot with Mert & Marcus and Boo George, and appeared in numerous campaigns for Calvin Klein, including David Sims’s famous Spring 2016 underwear ads along with Kendall Jenner and Julian Schnyder. Slaggert still hasn’t quite wrapped his head around how quickly his success has come. “Essentially I had no idea, I thought it was kind of the norm,” he laughs. “I almost wasn’t going to do the Calvin Klein Underwear campaign and then my sister was like, ‘You have to, it’s iconic,’ and I realized it was the same thing that Michael Jordan and Mark Wahlberg had done.”

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Shot on an island off the coast of North Carolina earlier this summer, Moss follows the eponymous main character over the course of his eighteenth birthday as he deals with what Peddle, who has also directed several documentaries and one feature previously, calls "the shadow of his mother's death and his father's detachment." The role, Slaggert's first, required both emotional depth and physical strength, as he paddled across rivers and climbed trees, and allowed him to expand on a part of his own personality. "When I read the script, I mentally got myself back into an eighteen-year-old mind frame and went back to my roots growing up down in Georgia," Slaggert recalls. "If I'm out in the woods for a while just observing animals, I get really in tune with nature. It almost feels like my second home, my home away from home."

Now signed with WME, Slaggert has been going on auditions while continuing to study his craft, demonstrating a passion and determination to constantly improve himself even as his modeling career continues to take off. "I started taking some courses and then I started reading all these books, and they had great insight, but I learned by doing it," he says of acting. "You can hear and see so much, but if you don't actually start practicing it, it's not going anywhere."



Full Tilt Boogie

Mitchell Slaggert charges into cinema

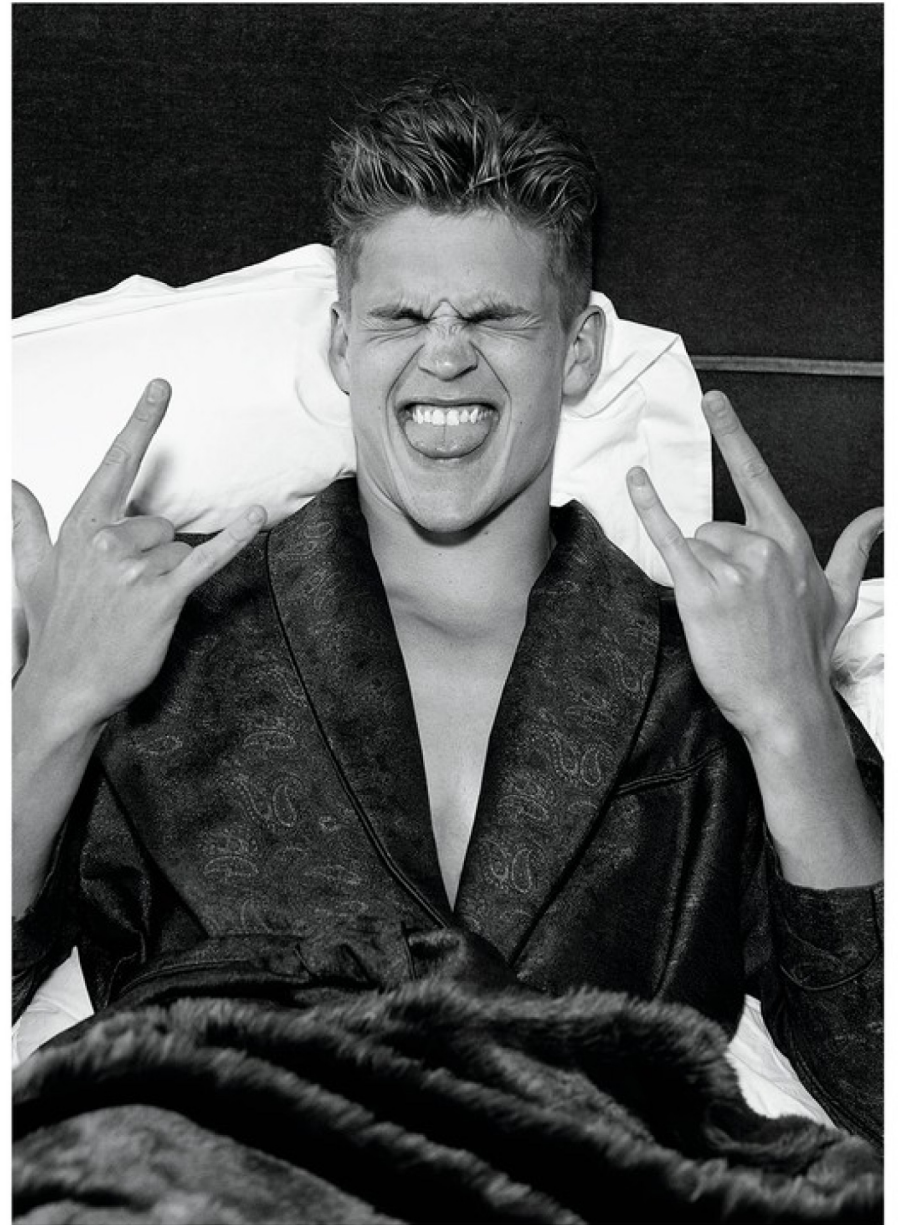
Photography by Randall Mesdon
Written by Chris Lee
Styling by Christian Stroble

She wore a black bra with matching cotton panties; he was in vermillion boxer briefs. When they met, he was upside down with jet lag and didn't quite catch her name. Their bodies fell into a series of intertwined poses requiring a kind of forced intimacy belying their total unfamiliarity with one another. Even when he finally discovered who she was, the dawning awareness of her superstardom meant almost nothing to Mitchell Slaggert — the new poster boy for Calvin Klein underwear who, until shortly before his first ad campaign photoshoot for the brand in London last year, had never given so much as a thought to modeling professionally.

By his own admission, he was more at home shooting a bolt-action rifle or a spearfishing gun than being shot by a camera. Yet here he was with this raven-haired, kohl-eyed gamine. "I was like, 'Wait, what's your name again?'" She said, "Kendall Jenner," the Georgia native recalls. "I knew the name but I didn't know the face — it's usually the opposite. I said, 'Oh, so you're famous as shit?'" She said, "I guess you could say that."

It's also fair to say, he never expected to wind up in the crosshairs of Hollywood as an up-and-coming actor — but more on that in a minute. Growing up in small-town Fayetteville (population: 15,945), Slaggert idolized Michael Jordan and the men and women of the armed forces. He aspired to join the Marine Corps, to serve out his patriotic duty to defend his country, not to walk the runway beneath fashion's brightest lights. "I was going to be the best soldier I could be," he says. "I was going to jump out of planes. I was going to go overseas and cut the

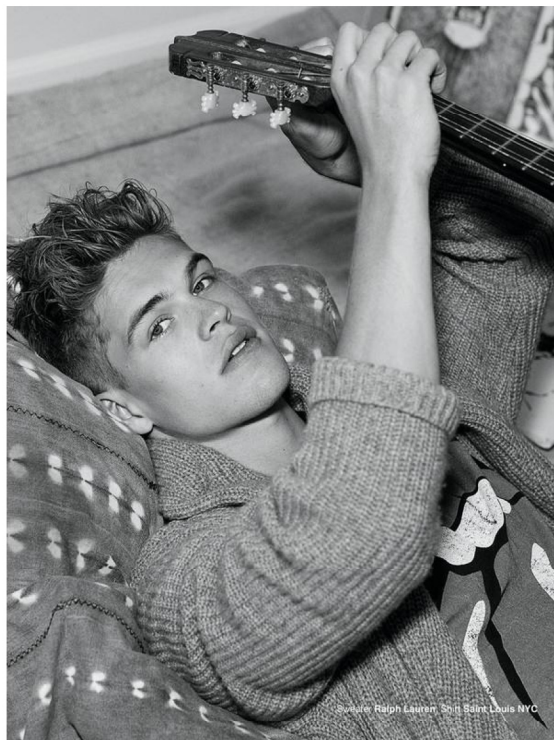
112 head off the snake."



Robe Turnbull & Asser



118 Coat Berluti, Shirt Saint Louis NYC, Pants Ami



Fate first intervened, however, by way of a childhood car accident that robbed Slaggert of one of his kidneys, ultimately snuffing out any chance of his military enlistment. Fate intervened a second time, albeit in a less surgically invasive way, in early 2016. The University of North Carolina mechanical engineering major was walking down a street in Wilmington when he was spotted by an influential New York casting agent named Daniel Peddle — the fashion world savant who “discovered Jennifer Lawrence,” as he introduced himself after chasing the student to his car. Did Mitchell want work in fashion?

Slaggert’s reply was a polite but resolute “thanks, but no thanks.” “It was a career I didn’t really want to pursue. I brushed it off. It sounded too good to be true.” The career goal by then, of course, was Homeland Security — specifically, a posting within the tactical response arm of the U.S. Border Patrol known as BORTAC — the agency’s version of the Navy SEALs. And Slaggert informed Peddle he was headed for Texas after graduation.

But there was just something about the agent’s air of complete certainty that gave him pause. “He goes, ‘Here’s my card. I’ll be expecting to hear from you.’ Expecting to hear from me? Who is this guy?” Slaggert says. Curiosity (as well as a quick Google search) compelled him to call back. Two weeks later, Slaggert found



himself signed to DNA Model Management in New York. Inside of a month, he was smoldering before the lens for and *Italian Vogue* and *GQ* — a magazine he’d never even heard of before booking the editorial. “I go to the modeling department and I was like, ‘Hey is this *GQ* magazine good?’” he remembers. “Everybody looked at me like, ‘You’re a buffoon.’”

This is the archetypal story of one of those lucky souls who finds himself plucked from obscurity, shaken from the quotidian day-to-day of another existence, placed atop the pecking order within a rarefied realm and contemplated anew by an admiring public. Although we should be clear to draw limits to the “country podunk done good” narrative surrounding Slaggert — both of his parents hold

masters degrees (his father in engineering, his mother in psychology), while his father is a high-ranking executive.

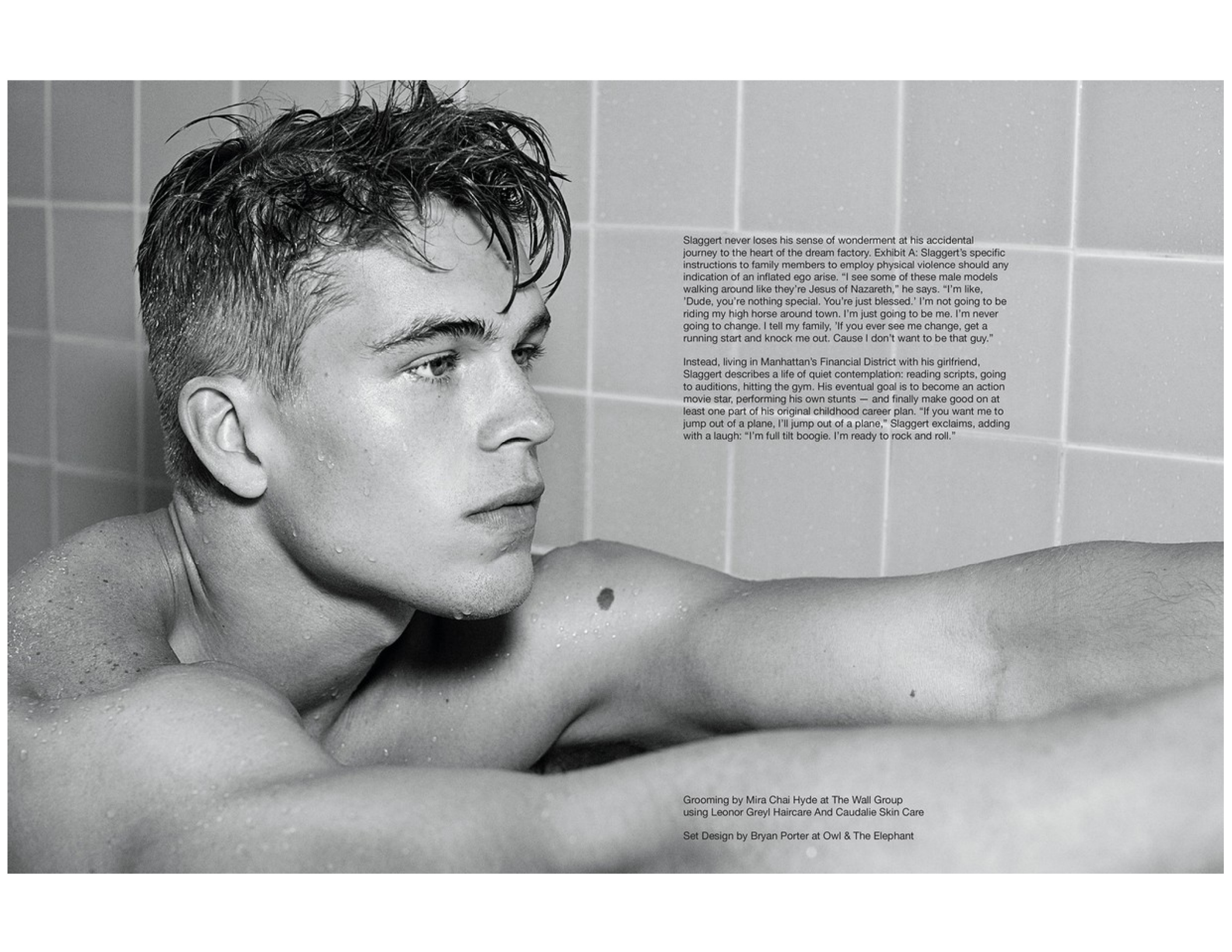
Now, not only is the blond-haired, blue-eyed 22-year-old the most forward face of Versace — which, prior to meeting Donatella Versace, Slaggert simply assumed was just a word repeated ad infinitum in that song by the rap group Migos — he’s landed representation by the powerhouse Hollywood talent agency William Morris Endeavor. And he’s begun turning up in films with a seemingly equal measure of aw-shucks effortlessness.

June marked the Los Angeles Film Festival premiere of his movie debut *Moss*, a backwoods coming-of-age odyssey that Peddle — who moonlights as a visual artist and feature filmmaker when not breaking in new modeling talent — wrote with a lead role specifically earmarked for Slaggert. Never mind the guy had never acted before. He plays a motherless teen surviving by his wits among the bayous and beaches of coastal North Carolina where he meets a mysterious yet alluring backpacker (Christine Marzano), then embarks on a psychedelic journey of self-discovery (psilocybin mushrooms are involved). “Mitchell was sort of the inspiration for the film,” Peddle explained at the festival. “We both grew up in a rural environment. And we tried to integrate that childhood experience into the film. Partly because this is the first film he’s ever done, we wanted it to be a project where he’s familiar with the terrain.”

Which was flattering. But more importantly, it allowed the nascent actor to stay within his comfort zone. “It was kind of tailored towards me,” Slaggert confirms. “I don’t mind being waist-deep in a freakin’ swamp. It felt like home.”

Less like home but more accessible to multiplex audiences is Slaggert’s co-starring turn in the July supernatural thriller *Wish Upon* — a project he describes as a mash-up of *Mean Girls* and *Final Destination* — in which he portrays the love interest to a high school girl in possession of an enchanted music box (that murders people or drives them insane in exchange for granting her wishes).





Slaggert never loses his sense of wonderment at his accidental journey to the heart of the dream factory. Exhibit A: Slaggert's specific instructions to family members to employ physical violence should any indication of an inflated ego arise. "I see some of these male models walking around like they're Jesus of Nazareth," he says. "I'm like, 'Dude, you're nothing special. You're just blessed.' I'm not going to be riding my high horse around town. I'm just going to be me. I'm never going to change. I tell my family, 'If you ever see me change, get a running start and knock me out. Cause I don't want to be that guy.'"

Instead, living in Manhattan's Financial District with his girlfriend, Slaggert describes a life of quiet contemplation: reading scripts, going to auditions, hitting the gym. His eventual goal is to become an action movie star, performing his own stunts — and finally make good on at least one part of his original childhood career plan. "If you want me to jump out of a plane, I'll jump out of a plane," Slaggert exclaims, adding with a laugh: "I'm full tilt boogie. I'm ready to rock and roll."

Grooming by Mira Chai Hyde at The Wall Group
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Set Design by Bryan Porter at Owl & The Elephant



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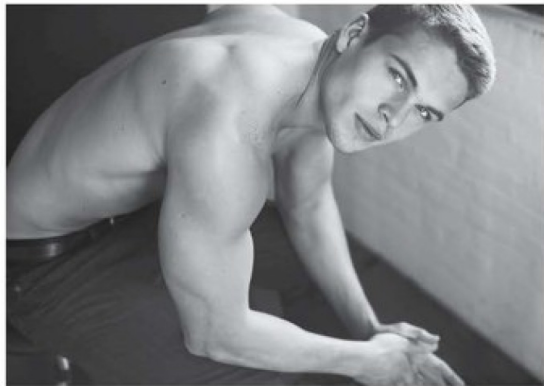


Photo by Hadar Pichon.

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Mitchell Slaggert - Model

Photo by David Sims, courtesy Calvin Klein.

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Calvin Klein Collection.
Photo courtesy the brand.

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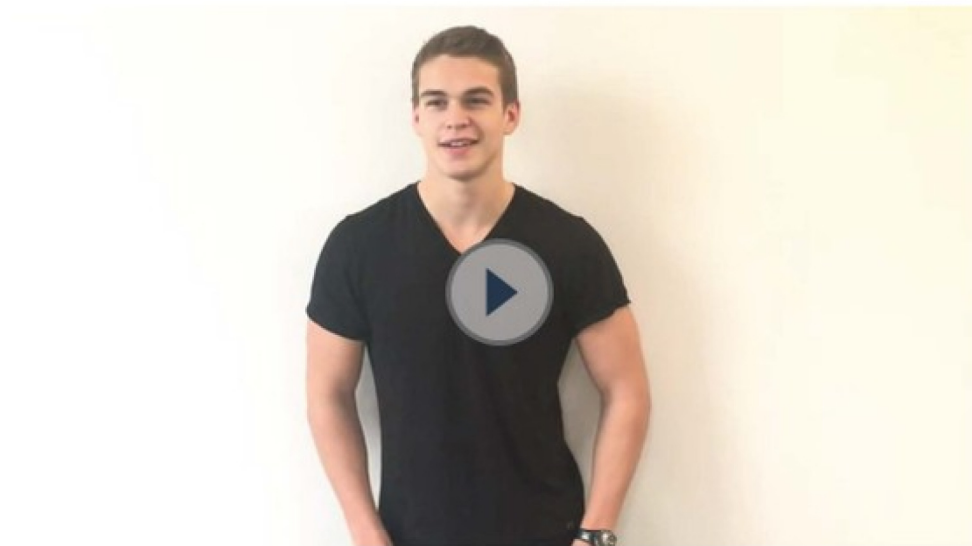
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Photo by Brad Pichon.

[View video interview below.](#)



“Moss” Trailer - 2017

