



WALL ST SPECIAL GEKKO'S BACK

Two decades after Gordon Gekko declared “greed is good”, Michael Douglas returns to the role that defined a decade. Wall Street II opens this September and we can't wait. So here, in a 10-page special, the Hollywood icon talks about cash, the crash and his libido. Plus, director Oliver Stone reveals his secrets and we revisit the girls, gadgets and gear of the Eighties

Words by Nev Pierce
Photographs by Platon

THE RITZ IN PARIS is all you would expect it to be: plush, flush and painfully refined. Recession? Forget it. In this place, greed is still good. The PR presents you with a dapper, grey scarf, bearing discreet branding: “Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps”. You are ushered into a suite on the fourth floor, to await an award-winning actor/producer returning to his iconic role as a vicious, money-grabbing bastard.

Michael Douglas earned his own fortune, and an Oscar, at 31, for producing *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*. He has, he says, something of the “shark” in him — a facet fully exploited in the spite, power and aggression of his ruthless corporate raider in Oliver Stone's original 1987 film *Wall Street*. If Gordon Gekko had lunch — he doesn't, of course, it's for wimps — you would be it.

Douglas, though, may be Hollywood royalty, but he doesn't lord it. He arrives dressed down, clothes dark, comfortable, nondescript. He looks lived-in, his mug a little grizzled. He is 65 now, and age reveals more of his father — the legendary Kirk, the mighty Spartacus — in a face previously closer to the tender features of his mother, Diana. He is reminiscent of the rumpled professor he played in *Wonder*

Boys — a sharp mind melded with a hippy sensibility — rather than the greedy and insatiable Gekko.

Still, the character's return is timely. Gekko defined yuppie excess and ambition just before the stock-market crash of 1987. Now he's back — after a stint in prison for insider trading — to make sense of the current financial insanity. As Gekko tells Charlie Sheen in the original: “It's all about bucks, kid. The rest is conversation.”

ESQUIRE What brings you to Paris?

MICHAEL DOUGLAS Yesterday, my old buddy Danny DeVito got a lifetime achievement award in Germany, so I went to surprise him — which is hard to do. I actually pulled it off. Also, I work a lot on nuclear disarmament, and there's an organisation, Global Zero, having a conference here, working out our timeline to eliminate nuclear weapons.

ESQ Any thoughts on the Chilcot Inquiry?

MD I thought it was a complete crock of

shit. But that's me, personally. There were a lot of reasons [for the UK joining the US invasion of Iraq]. Not least of which is we're two of the strongest allies in the world.

Right now, we've got so much else to do besides tying up another commission to Monday morning quarterback what happened eight years ago.

ESQ True, there's not much to be done about it. But millions of us marched against it at the time. Didn't you think Blair's behaviour was pretty despicable?

MD Uh-huh. I understand. It was not popular by any means and it's painful. Myself, I marched against the Vietnam war. But I don't quite see what a review achieves at this particular time.

ESQ You've been in a lot of timely movies — *The China Syndrome*, *Wall Street*, *Traffic*. Does that come from the amount of current affairs you consume?

MD I think so. Just reading a lot and thinking about what's happening. I never do it consciously, in terms of a message picture. God forbid. My responsibility is two hours of entertainment — but if I can get a little something else in there then so much the better.



Wall Street In Numbers
\$43,848,100
Amount it grossed at
the US box office

Wall Street In Numbers
\$8.5 billion
Gordon Gekko's
net worth, according
to the Forbes
Fictional 15

SUIT BY RALPH LAUREN.
SHIRT BY CANALI. TIE BY
THOMAS PINK

FASHION: WENDELL BROWN
FASHION ASSISTANT:
LAUREN CIACCIA

ESQ What was your first reaction when you were asked to play Gordon Gekko again?

MD "Hmm..." I've only done a sequel once, with *The Jewel Of The Nile*. But you can hardly call this a sequel, and as so much of the time, back in 86/87, was personified by Gekko, I was interested if he could be part of exploring what's going on this time.

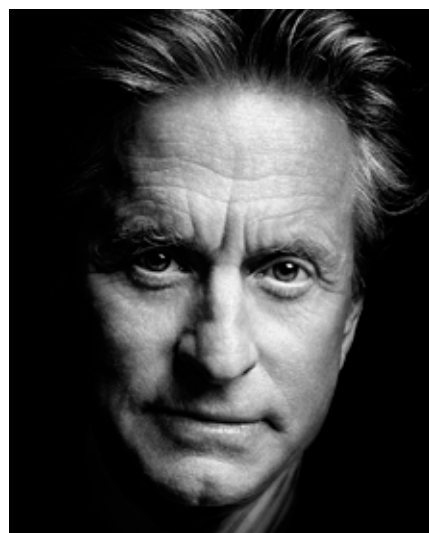
ESQ When you won the Best Actor Oscar, you thanked Oliver Stone for having the courage to cast you. He's not easy to work with, though, is he?

MD He pushes you. God bless him, but he pushes you. And as a result, be it James Woods in *Salvador* or Charlie Sheen in *Platoon* or Tom Cruise in *Born On The Fourth Of July*, they've given their best performances with Oliver. And he does that not as a touchy-feely patriarch figure. He does that, like you're in Vietnam [Stone is a veteran]: "Are you in the trenches with me or not?" I remember, on the second week of shooting *Wall Street*, he came in and asked if I was doing drugs, "because you look like you've never acted before". Basically he wanted just a little more edge, more anger out of Gekko, and he was not afraid to be the director that I was pointing my venom at.

ESQ How was it getting back into character?

MD It was difficult, only in the sense that you worry the audience will be like, "Ah! I can't wait to see Gordon!" but he's a lot more vulnerable. In the first one, he's at the top of his game, he's got some of the best lines you've ever heard — "You need a friend, get a dog", "Lunch is for wimps"

Obama is a great orator, but he's got to get a bit of Bill Clinton in there — the human touch



The Wisdom Of Gordon Gekko

"It's all about bucks, kid. The rest is conversation"

— and now he's coming out of jail after eight years, he's lost all his money, his son has committed suicide, and his daughter is not talking to him. He's written *Swimming With The Sharks*, and lectures at business schools. That's how he earns his living, basically foreseeing the current financial disaster. We've got some twists and moves in this picture, but it was a little harder.

ESQ Would you say the biggest difference between the '87 and '08 crashes is that then greed was individual, whereas now it's institutionalised?

MD Banks is the big one. Banks had a whole different role back then. And the amounts we're talking about are just so many times more. But that's a good point about it being institutionalised.

ESQ How do you think Obama's doing?

MD It's great to be looking and listening to a man I can believe in and understand, whereas before I felt I was on another planet, towards the end, with Bush. I was embarrassed to travel the world. Obama is a great orator, but he's got to get a little bit of Bill Clinton in there, a little more of a human touch. It still remains to be seen whether they gave too much of a clean bailout to Wall Street. It's so hard to know, but a bailout on every dollar? Shouldn't it be 50 cents on your dollar?

Platoon had made Oliver Stone hot property in Hollywood. A critical and commercial success, it grossed \$136m, and in 1987 won four Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. Stone didn't hang around to bask in his glory, instead taking advantage of his new power to do whatever he wanted — which was to return to his New York roots and explore an idea that had been festering in his brain since 1981.

Back then, Stone had a friend on Wall Street who was working 18-hour days, making millions. "This guy," says Stone, "was the NYC version of what was going down in Miami, where people were hyper-consuming." The director had covered the cocaine epidemic a few years earlier in his *Scarface* script, but the amount shooting up the noses of 25-year-old "lunatic" millionaires on Wall Street fascinated him. His friend started to make mistakes until it

WALL STREET: THE BACK STORY BY ALEX GODFREY

Wall Street In Numbers
\$17,680,000
 The film's budget, although Stone completed it \$2m under

there. And I met some other guys, but I can't tell you I've become an expert or completely understand these CEOs, CMOs, credit default swaps and how it all worked.

ESQ You didn't play the markets yourself?

MD Oh, yeah. Sure. I played. Years ago, through the tech booms, I definitely did it. In terms of venture capitals, until the Nineties, when that got all whacked. I lost 35 to 40 per cent of my net worth on the '08 crash. Didn't do anything; just watched it go →



"IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE MOST POPULAR PERSON WHO GETS THE JOB DONE": CIGARS, SCOTCH, STOCKS AND SCORCHING ONE LINERS ARE ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR MICHAEL DOUGLAS AS GEKKO, IN 1987'S WALL STREET

WALL ST THE BACK STORY

Director Oliver Stone reveals the real-life players behind his razor sharp critique of unbridled greed

It all started with Oliver Stone's dad. Lou Stone was a broker on Wall Street from 1931 right until the day he died in 1985, pausing only to serve his country during WWII. "He died with his boots on," says Stone Jr. "He was a man who really believed in the American way, in capitalism and in the power of capital to allow for research and development." These values were passed down from father to son, who saw Wall Street as a chance to defend capitalism ("which has its good side"), while attacking those who are in it for the wrong reasons.

down, saw it come back up. At the end of last year I took a whole bunch out. That's enough! Shia [LaBeouf, co-star], who has no background in this, as an LA kid, came to New York early on the picture, really immersed himself. He took \$20,000 and in six weeks he was up to \$380,000. I don't know how he ended up, but he did alright.

Wall Street In Numbers
\$1,000,000
 Michael Douglas's fee
 (Charlie Sheen got \$650,000)

[Eric Douglas, who died of an accidental overdose of alcohol and prescription drugs]. Cameron is definitely paying the price for his... [sighs]. So, it's terribly sad and a difficult situation but anybody who has family or friends who have been involved in substance abuse knows what a nightmare situation it is and how much pain it causes.

ESQ Gekko is kind of a father figure to Shia's character, and family is a theme in your films. Is that a by-product of doing contemporary thrillers?
MD I think it's because my entire career is contemporary movies. I've done one Second World War picture, *Shining Through...* which is probably the reason I didn't do another period picture. Other than the one with my family — my father, my mother, my son — which was a conscious effort. No, I just think it goes with the territory.
ESQ In that movie, *It Runs In The Family*, your son Cameron plays a drug dealer. In real life, he's pleaded guilty to dealing cocaine and crystal meth. Was that situation out of the blue?
MD Um... It's ongoing, right now. He's not been sentenced yet. But substance abuse has been a big problem in different areas of our family. I lost a brother five years ago

ESQ When you went to rehab, it was kind of trivialised...
MD Right. My sex addiction!
ESQ In reality it was booze, but addiction isn't often discussed openly. Why?
MD I think for a long time it was the stigma attached to people — particularly in the UK. We tend to go into psychiatry much more than the UK does. You know, it's usually,

I'm not leading with my libido quite as strongly, which comes with age and happiness

“Come on, get on with it. Stiff upper lip!” And, yeah, it's cost a lot of money. And when I say substance abuse, I certainly include alcohol, which has done probably a whole hell of a lot more damage than drugs.
ESQ In this film Gekko has been forced through a period of assessment. Is that something you've gone through?
MD Yeah. I would say definitely around the time I married Catherine [Zeta-Jones]. I started making some conscious decisions and prioritising. As little children entered the equation — with a bride, an actress, 25 years younger, in her prime — the important part became them and my work with disarmament; then my career. I think that's probably the best advice Kirk has ever given me: “It's your spouse.” We all love our kids, but truth be told, they're gone before you know it, you know? And you're left with your partner. Sometimes we make more of an effort with strangers and we take for granted the people closest to us.
ESQ Cameron was born in 1978, then Dylan in 2000 and Carys in 2003. How did fatherhood change you each time?
MD Well, first time out I was consumed in a career, with a wife [Diandra Douglas, née Luker] who was extremely young and — just because she had lost her parents at a relatively early age — had no real training as a mother. That's not an attack against her; it just wasn't part of her thing. And I was working my ass off. Cameron certainly suffered. This time around I'm not making that mistake. I'm trying to be an integral part, particularly in these early ages, where you still have that unequivocal love from kids. There are no value judgements made. It's just a wonderful, wonderful feeling.
ESQ What's an average day like for you?
MD I get up at six, get the kids up, get them breakfast, get them off to school. Then I read the papers and go to the gym. Catherine's starring on Broadway, in Stephen Sondheim's show *A Little Night Music*, and by the time I get back she's up, so I spend some time with her. Then I do some work. Most of my work is done in the morning — I'm sort of downhill, afternoons. I can take a little nap if I want to. Kids come back home around three. Right now, I'm fantasising about some little trips to get away. I've seen quite enough of my kids. Like, “Jeez, you guys are cute, but you're getting on my nerves!” [Laughs] I'm going to do a little part in this Steven Soderbergh picture, *Knockout*. He's a great mind. He's got some great female Bruce Lee [mixed martial arts fighter Gina Carano] to star. I said, “Send me some film of this girl.” Supposedly she's some very attractive killer.



CHARLIE SHEEN AND OLIVER STONE ON SET

me and said, ‘I went to Wall Street because of that movie,’” says Stone of fans who care little for the end of the film, where morality comes into play. Michael Douglas has had drunken stockbrokers say the same to him: “Remember, I was the villain,” he tells them. They don't care. Gordon Gekko, it seems, was more powerful than his own movie.

“blew up in his face” and he lost it all, forcing him to “reassess the value of life”.
 Lou Stone, conversely, had made more money for his clients than himself on Wall Street. He also used to “bemoan the lack of a good business movie” to his son, irked that his type was generally lampooned on screen. With all this in mind, Stone and screenwriter Stanley Weiser set about writing *Wall Street* (originally titled *Greed*), splitting Lou Stone (to whom the film is dedicated to) into the two characters who mentor Charlie Sheen's Bud Fox: his union-leader father, and the older stockbroker Lou Mannheim, who attempts to teach Bud some business ethics. “He represents my father, who always said Wall Street can do a lot of good,” says Stone. “It is not simply a function of making money.”
 Ironically, a lot of viewers didn't get the central message of the film. “I can't tell you how many young people have come up to

ALTERNATIVE GEKKOS

STONE KNEW THAT Douglas, as a producer, had the financial acumen to possess the “reptilian consciousness” he wanted in Gekko: “He knew the score, he knew the deals.” Still, before Douglas was cast, the director approached two other A-listers

Wall Street In Numbers
\$685,000
 Stone's fee as director
 (he got another \$45,000 as co-writer)



Richard Gere
 The actor passed having seen an early script. “To this day,” says Stone, “every time I see Mr Gere, he remarks on the fork in the woods, because he feels he should have done that film, and if he had his career would have gone in different directions, which is very honest of him.”



Warren Beatty
 “I spent a couple of days in a heady talk with him,” says Stone, “but as usual with Warren, it's more about the intellect than the actual pragmatism of doing something. So after many hours talking to him, it didn't work.”



And the Bud Fox that never was. Shortly after Stone had offered the role of Bud Fox to Charlie Sheen, he got a call from Tom Cruise, who had just become a superstar by way of *Top Gun*, and wanted the role. “I was faced with a dilemma,” says Stone. “Tom Cruise was a bigger actor, but I had given my word to Charlie.” Stone and Cruise vowed to work together in the future, and just two years later they did, on *Born On The Fourth Of July*.

The Wisdom Of Gordon Gekko

“Lunch? You gotta be kidding. Lunch is for wimps”

THE REAL GORDON GEKKOS

“Gordon Gekko was written in the spirit of fun and craziness — with the boring bits taken out,” says Oliver Stone. Gekko is an extreme, hyper-real figure, inspired by many Wall Street players, including these notable characters.



1 | Ivan Boesky

The arbitrageur (one who attempts to profit from price inefficiencies in the market) who inspired Gekko's “greed is good” speech when he said, “Greed is alright... I think greed is healthy.” He was busted for insider trading as Wall Street was being written.



2 | Carl Icahn

Since 1961, Icahn has taken positions on every company from Texaco to Marvel to Time Warner (and showed an interest in the takeover of Yahoo!). According to *Forbes* magazine, he has a net worth of \$9bn, and is in an eight-way tie for the 43rd richest man in the world.



3 | Asher Edelman

This shrewd investor took over computer company Datapoint in 1985. Gekko's suits, office furnishings and art were also inspired by Edelman, who is an avid art collector.



4 | Michael Milken

“The Junk Bond King”, viewed by critics as the epitome of Eighties Wall Street greed, has an estimated net worth of \$2.1bn. In 1990, he pleaded guilty to six securities and reporting felonies, but he is also a noted philanthropist with a huge influence on medical research.



5 | Dennis Levine

Levine was a major investment banker who, in 1986, was charged with insider trading by the then US attorney Rudy Giuliani. It was his arrest that led investigators to Boesky and Milken, and Levine himself to a two-year prison sentence.

GETTY/REX



HONEY MARKETS: FROM LEFT DARYL HANNAH IN THE 80S ORIGINAL; CAREY MULLIGAN IN THE SEQUEL; DARIEN BRIGHTENS UP BUD'S APARTMENT

WOMEN OF WALL STREET

IN THE ORIGINAL *Wall Street* the part of Darien Taylor, Bud Fox's new girlfriend (and Gekko's ex) "was not well developed". Michael Douglas later said Daryl Hannah's casting caused problems. Hannah wasn't happy playing the materialistic social climber, and Stone's tough approach to her performance upset her. While Douglas bagged an Oscar for his performance, Hannah won a Razzie for Worst Supporting Actress. In the new movie, Bafta-winning, Oscar-nominated Carey Mulligan plays Winnie, Gordon Gekko's estranged daughter and girlfriend of Shia LaBeouf's trader.

Wall Street In Numbers
\$103,000
 Value of the two full-page ads *Fortune* magazine gave the production in exchange for being featured in the film

DECOR: "THE DEMOLISHED LOOK"

When Bud Fox starts making megabucks, he gets himself a suitable new apartment and a suitable new trophy blonde (Daryl Hannah), who splashes \$300,000 on the interior design. Not that you'd know it: the walls are ripped apart, the wallpaper looks like it's in the process of being stripped, there's only half a table, and the chairs look like rough sheets of steel. Stone came up with this idea, which he calls "the demolished look", to lampoon some of the more ridiculous fashion tastes of the era. "It was just uncomfortable," he says. "I wanted to have this apartment look like a place where your baby would be impaled. No mother would allow a child under six years old in that apartment. I was making fun of the New York high life."

The Wisdom Of Gordon Gekko

"The point is, ladies and gentlemen, that greed — for lack of a better word — is good"

THE ART OF WAR

"I DON'T THROW darts at a board," says Gekko, sizing up Bud Fox early on in *Wall Street*. "I bet on sure things. Read Sun Tzu, *The Art Of War*: 'Every battle is won before it's ever fought.'" Oliver Stone calls *The Art Of War* "one of the greatest books of all time". Believed to have been written by the Chinese warrior around 500BC, the 82 chapters of Sun Tzu's military treatise gained prominence in the US in the Seventies after Henry Kissinger

publicly referred to it. The financial world pounced, and there are now many books applying its principles to business. Asher Edelman even taught a course at Columbia Business School called "Corporate Raiding — The Art Of War".

After spending time with traders for his research, Sheen saw for himself how Sun Tzu's strategies were being adopted by competitive business. "A lot of these guys on Wall Street consider themselves to be warriors," he told *Time* in 1987. "They say,



'I'm going off to war today,' and they're not kidding."

After Gekko's first showdown with his nemesis, Terence Stamp's Larry

Wildman (loosely based on James Goldsmith), Bud proves he's learning by quoting the book to Gekko: "All warfare is based on deception," he says. "If your enemy is superior, evade him. If angry, irritate him. If equally matched, fight. And if not, split. Re-evaluate." Soon, Bud steps up his game, obtaining information for Gekko by any means necessary.

GEKKO'S GADGETS

When Oliver Stone made *Wall Street*, the world was in the midst of a technological revolution. But which big-boy toys stuck around?

1 | INTERNET TOYS

Then "It's for my kid, Rudy," says Gekko at lunch, showing a TV device to Bud. "Three years old, he's an electronics freak. I tell you, we're going into a new age, pal." This, says Stone, was an early nod to web access. **Now** While the iPad has cornered the market for whimsical web browsing, telecoms companies are making big strides towards 4G wireless roaming.

2 | MOBILE PHONES

Then "Money never sleeps," says Gekko, coining a phrase (and a sequel title) as he calls Bud from his beach retreat. Only people like Gekko had mobiles in 1985. They were about the size of a loaf of bread. **Now** HTC has launched a tiny smartphone that doubles as a portable laptop modem. Google is developing a mobile that will translate 52 foreign languages in real time.

BELL DE JOUR: OUR PROGRESS IN MOBILE TELEPHONY IS NO SMALL FEAT



GEKKO'S GADGETS BY HENRY FARRAR-HOCKLEY AND ALEX GODFREY

3 | ROBOT WAITERS

Then At a party in Gekko's beach house in Westhampton, dishing out the drinks is something that looks like Metal Mickey channelling Liberace. Robot waiters, although they never exactly took off, keep threatening to integrate into society every so often (YouTube "Asimo Robot cafe"). **Now** We have robot waiters (Robo Cafe Waiter-bot), robot hoovers (the iRobot Roomba), even robot sex dolls (First Androids' "Andy"). The latter promises no STDs (presuming you don't share it).

Wall Street In Numbers
\$50,000
 Bud Fox's earnings at the start of the film, before he meets Gekko

4 | DOMESTIC TECH

Then Oliver Stone filled Bud Fox's trendy new apartment with toys such as pasta machines and sushi makers. "I asked my prop people to get the most advanced kitchen tech they could," Stone says. Because we all have Sushi makers in 2010. **Now** Maki-mats have been superseded by the apparatus of molecular gastronomy, be it a "caviar box" capable of manufacturing 96 perfectly spherical servings of sturgeon roe per second, or the now ubiquitous "sous vide" water bath — because Pot Noodle tastes that much better cooked under intense pressure in a vacuum-sealed bag.

5 | HOME PCs

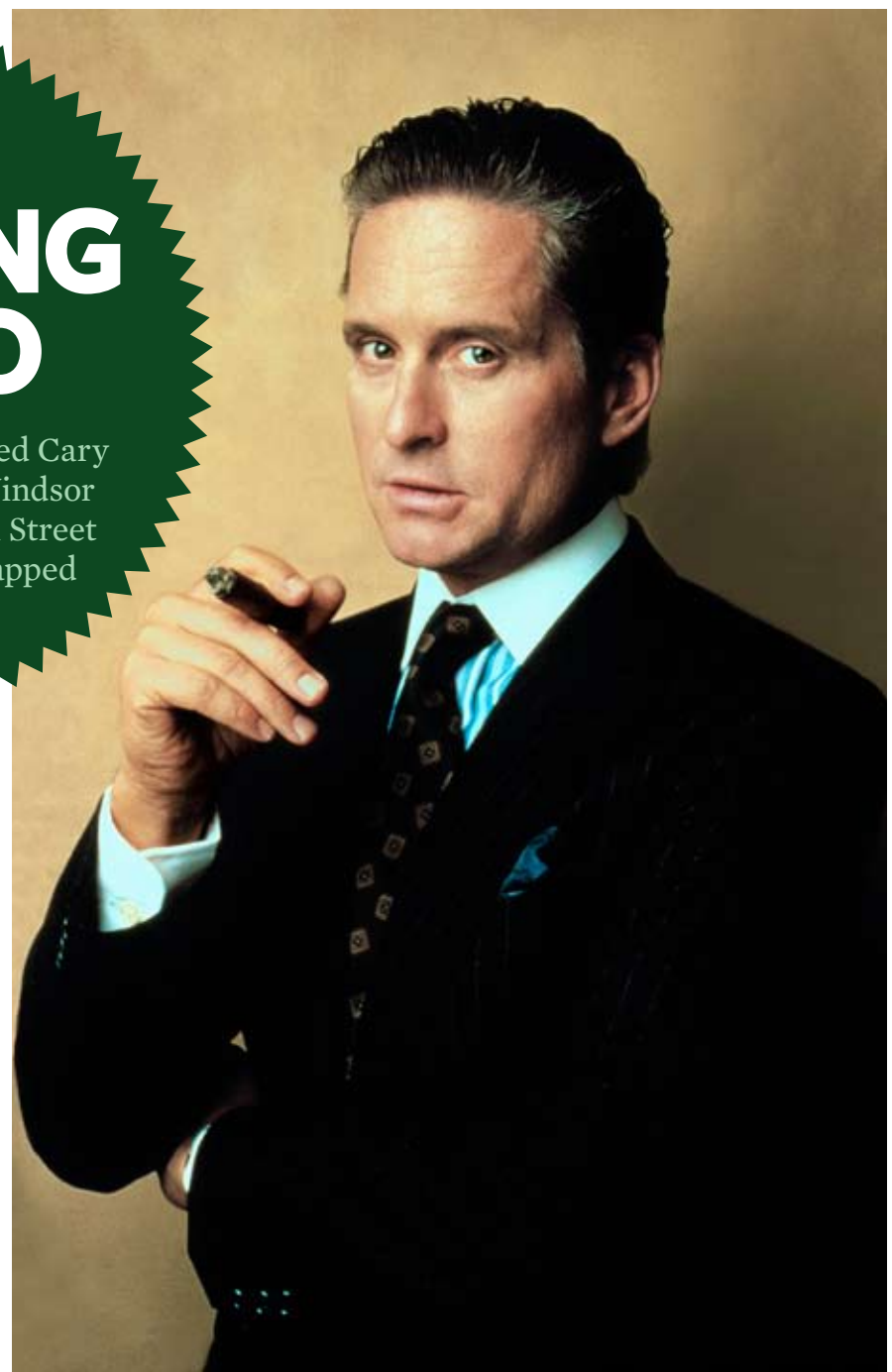
Then They may be basic in Wall Street, but they're there — "a preview of the next 10, 20 years," says Stone. "We see a lot of these computerisations today. In fact, the screens haven't changed that much." **Now** Microsoft's Surface technology has transformed the humble desk into a giant touchscreen computer that can be controlled by multiple users.

The Wisdom Of Gordon Gekko

"If you need a friend, get a dog"

DRESSING GEKKO

How Gordon Gekko injected Cary Grant and the Duke Of Windsor into the wardrobe of Wall Street — and why the traders lapped up his look



“ELEGANT FUCK-YOU clothing,” is how suit maker and style author Alan Flusser describes his brief for Gordon Gekko’s wardrobe in the original Wall Street. “That’s what the costume designer wanted. And that’s what we made.”

The costume designer in question, Ellen Mirojnick, who is also responsible for the wardrobe in Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps, turned to Flusser after researching what the sharks of Wall Street were wearing in the late Eighties: “Dressing people for the movie wasn’t how people actually looked on Wall Street [at that time],” she says. “People were very staid, there wasn’t any flair really.”

Mirojnick wanted something different for Gordon Gekko: “I thought that this villain needed to be seductive, especially to Bud Fox,” she says. “This was big money. He couldn’t look like the average guy. I wanted to make him the Cary Grant of Wall Street — an old-fashioned movie star; a modern, self-made man. He’s new money, he has Schnabels in his office. There’s a reference in the film: Michael says to Charlie, ‘Go to Morty Sills and get yourself a new suit.’ Morty Sills was the guy those older guys went to. I didn’t go to Morty Sills.”

Wall St In Numbers
\$20,000
 Amount invested on the market by both Charlie Sheen and Shia LaBeouf in order to get into character.



CONTRAST COLLAR, BRACES: EIGHTIES BRASH AT ITS BEST



THE SLICKBACK: STILL A STOCKMARKET STAPLE, FOR MEN OVER 40



DOUBLE-BREASTED: SUITS DARYL HANNAH, BACK IN VOGUE NOW

DRESSING GEKKO WORDS BY ALF TONG AND ALEX GODFREY | ALLSTAR | REX

Wall Street In Numbers
6
 Number of .45 Lugers ever manufactured, according to Gekko, who owns one of them

She went instead to Flusser, whose clothes had been mentioned in two important books about Wall Street — Barbarians At The Gate and Liar’s Poker — published in the Eighties. She wanted to know how a typical upper-echelon investment banker from First Boston and Goldman Sachs dressed.

“Alan was very helpful because his cuts weren’t exactly what I wanted, but it was as close to Thirties movie-star elegance as I could find at that time,” recalls Mirojnick. “What I did was Thirties elegance coupled with the Duke Of Windsor — somewhat Savile Row. It’s a crossbreed. I wanted to make [Gekko] go all out. And the clothes gave Michael the opportunity to become this suave, elegant guy who had this stylish veneer to hide his ruthlessness behind.”

Flusser remembers going to meet Michael Douglas at his apartment on

Central Park West. “I was wearing a double-breasted suit, horizontal-striped shirt with a pinned collar and suede shoes. He said, ‘I want to look like you.’”

In total, Mirojnick spent \$28,000 on Gekko’s clothes, including 11 suits (costing between \$975 and \$1,500 each), 24 Swiss and English cotton shirts and handmade silk ties. After the film wrapped, Douglas was given all the clothes to keep, although he didn’t take to strolling around in public dressed as Gekko — unlike the countless yuppies who were inspired by his look.

“It’s a style that says, ‘I’m so powerful and so rich, I can wear clothes this bold and unusual, and you still have to play ball with me,’” explains Flusser. “The obligatory uniform of a Master Of The Universe at that time was an Alan Flusser suit, Turnbull & Asser shirt, Hermès tie and Gucci shoes.”

“We had a generation of guys who really wanted to go and get it,” confirms Mirojnick of the influence Gekko had on the way Wall Street dressed. “They understood the power of how they appeared. At that time, men’s clothing in America was somewhat standard. It was pretty simple. So, it was great to see men taking chances, exploring, to see that they could charge it up a bit.”

The sequel looks different, however, as the sartorial landscape of Wall Street has changed in two decades: “The difference is, now everyone is an individual. There are some shirtmakers I deal with who told

me stories of these fellows who, in 2006 and 2007, would go in to order shirts and if there’s a stripe on the shirt, they don’t want anybody else to have that stripe. It doesn’t sound to me indulgent or egocentric, it sounds like individualism — taken to quite a peak. Everyone is in competition, everyone wants to outdo each other and everyone wants to have the best of the best.”



GEKKO’S GLASSES

WHO BETTER to supply glasses for Wall Street 2 than Moscot, revered New York optician and framemaker for the last 95 years? Both Michael Douglas and Frank Langella wear the company’s frames, but we think that Langella gets the pick of the bunch with these tortoiseshell Miltzen frames. The classic round shape is a subtle nod to the Eighties fashions that distinguished the first movie. Available at Liberty, WI (www.moscot.com)



The Wisdom Of Gordon Gekko
“What’s worth doing is worth doing for money”



THE OLDER, POST-PRISON GEKKO OPTS FOR EXPENSIVE BUT INCONSPICUOUS

Wall Street In Numbers
1
 Number of Academy Awards won by the film (Michael Douglas, Best Actor)