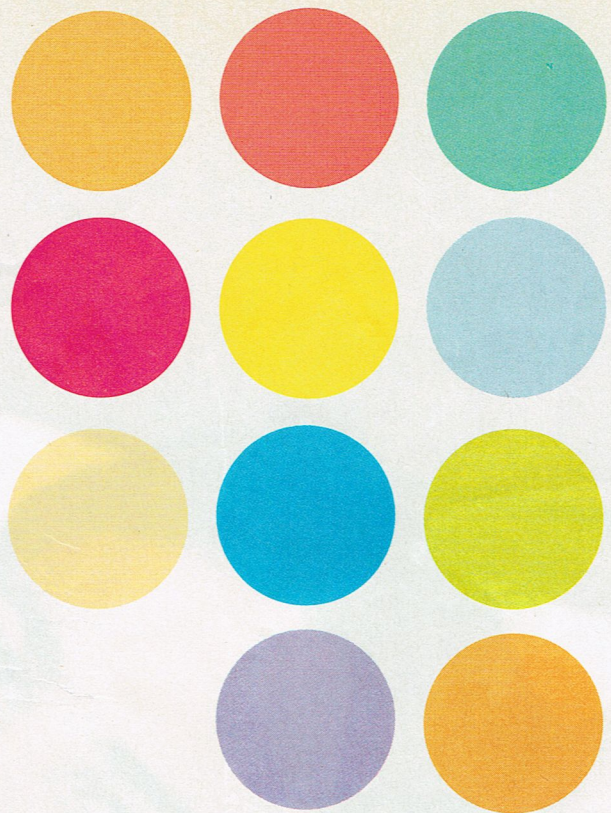


# ▶▶ paul walker



We got him to strip down and bare everything... about himself, naughty girl!  
By Lauren Brown

**Paul Walker is not your** typical movie star. Sure, with his twinkling blue eyes and tousled dirty-blond hair, he was perfectly cast as the token "cute guy" in a string of teen movies, like *She's All That*, *Varsity Blues*, and *The Skulls*. Then suddenly, Paul grew up in his role as an undercover cop in 2001's surprise hit *The Fast and the Furious*. After the film raked in \$144 million at the box office, Paul became one of the most sought-after leading men in Hollywood. But if you met him on the street, this Glendale, California, native wouldn't expect star treatment. Paul, 29, even gave us his cell phone number so we could call him directly if we had more questions (don't even *think* about asking us for it!). The fact is, Paul is more comfortable on a surfboard than on the red carpet. He'd rather hang out with his childhood friends or go camping with his 4-year-old daughter, Meadow, than hit the scene with the rest of young Hollywood. And he's so wary of stardom that he recently turned down the high-profile role of Superman. "I didn't want to wear that badge on my chest until the day I die," he explains. So as you count down the days till June 6, when the highly anticipated sequel *2 Fast 2 Furious* hits theaters, take time to get to know the *real* guy behind the boyish grin. Because he's not quite what you'd expect....

**CosmoGIRL!: In *2 Fast 2 Furious*, you were actually the one driving during those dangerous racing scenes! How did you prepare yourself for that?**

**Paul Walker:** That, to me, is the easiest stuff. The extremes are easy. I think the sitting down and just having dialogue and casual conversation is the hardest stuff to do. But the extremes? I *know* what it feels like to come racing around the corner at 90 miles an hour, sliding the car sideways. I *know* what gear I'm hitting it in when I'm coming around the corner and where I need to downshift. So to me, that's fun stuff. I like to think my driving sequences are a lot more believable because I do know how to do that.

**CG!: So you're a risk taker! What is it that you love about putting yourself in danger?**

**PW:** I think it's one of those things where there's that fine line, and you're trying to find the balance of being in control—but you're really *not* in control. The way I explain it is, you know that feeling when you've come close to getting in a car accident? Your heart's pounding because you *just* evaded it! It's that moment of being fearful and then realizing everything's okay, with your heart racing a mile a minute. It's like, "I'm definitely alive now." I *love* that.

**CG!: That's a pretty intense way to live.**

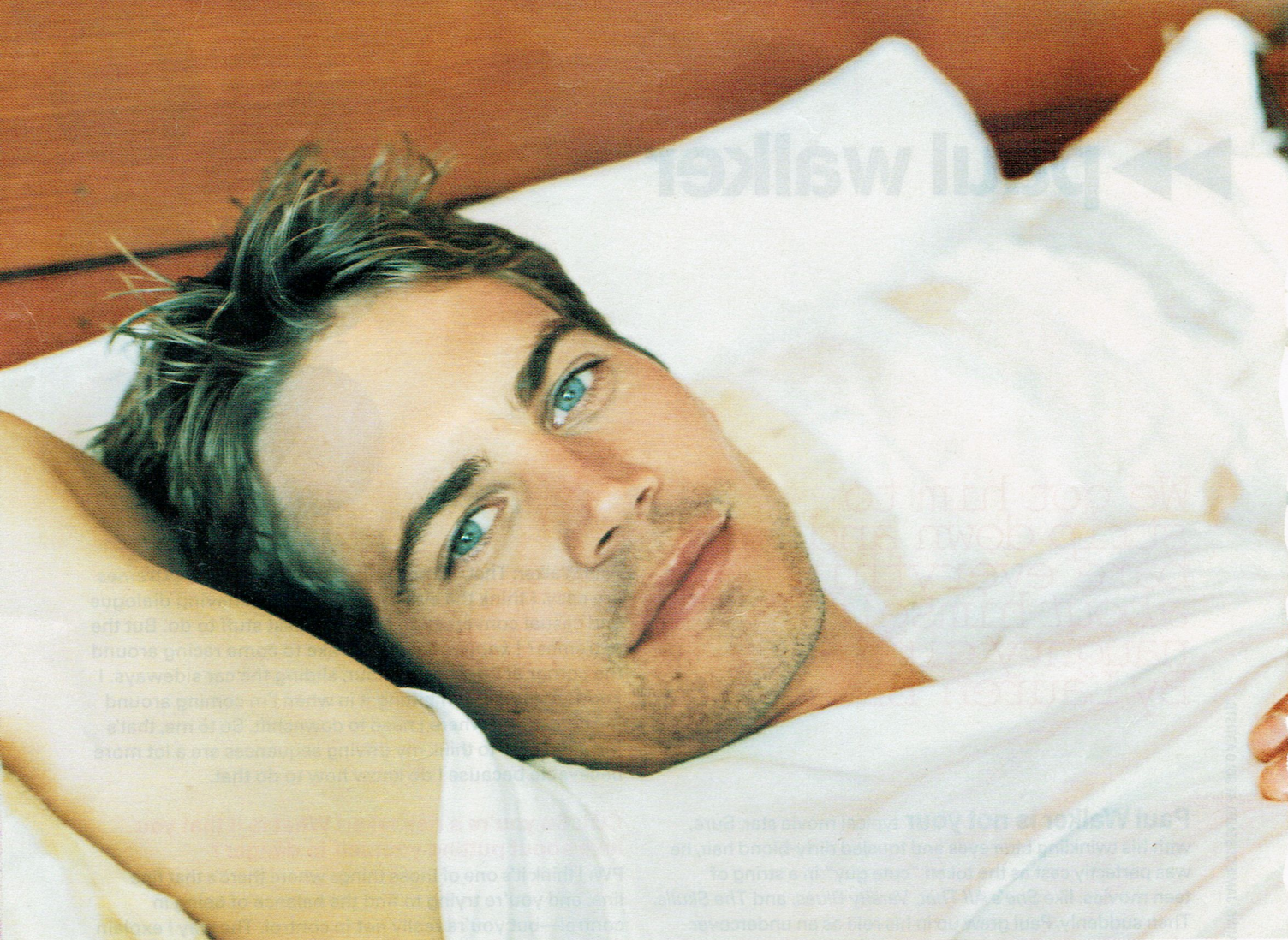
**PW:** My motto is, Go big or go home. I say that a lot. It used to be more in tune to sports, but now it's turning into everything, like relationships and friendships. You go big or you go home, in every facet. You know that James Taylor song? *Shower the people you love with love/ Show them the way that you feel....* I think that statement, the more I've gotten older, really applies to going big or going home. You could make a million movies and a ton of money, but you know what? If the people around you don't feel love and you're not feeling it in return, everything's pretty s\*\*\*\*\*, to be honest with you.

**CG!: So it's the simple things in life that matter?**

**PW:** I'm just a simple guy. I never had any aspirations of →



**appreciation attempt.** "I can't imagine being in the same profession as my girlfriend. We wouldn't want to *talk* to each other at the end of the day!"



doing anything like what I'm doing now. Just by chance, things found *me*. And I'm grateful that they did, because now I have the luxury of goofing off and going on trips. I go surfing or heliboarding. Or I go down to South America, Central America, all over the South Pacific. I love to travel.

**CGI:** Have you always been into the outdoors?

**PW:** It was one of those things that my mom instilled in me from the time I was young. She was always about going out and camping. I think that a lot of people, like my mom, always dreamt of living in a house in the country, but she and my father probably never had the means to do it. But she opted for a camper, so from the time I was 2 years old, we'd make a road trip all up and down the California coast and camp out at the state beaches and parks.

**CGI:** It sounds like you had a really great upbringing. Is it important to you that the girls you date are into the outdoors too?

**PW:** I don't think it would work out if they weren't. I didn't

realize how important that was to me until recently. I used to be okay with the contrast and being with someone who wasn't as into the outdoors as me. But I'm definitely rough around the edges and like a complementary relationship.

**CGI:** So tell us who's been going on these camping trips with you lately.

**PW:** I have a daughter, and it's important to me that she experiences those things and grows while doing all that. I think it may sometimes be overwhelming for her because of who her daddy is and what he does. I hope it never gets to [a bad] level, but there's a chance it will, and I just know that the only way to offset that would be to make the outdoors a key part of her life. Being out in nature is a big part of the reason why I am the way I am today.

**CGI:** Sounds like you take parenting very seriously. Were you ready to become a dad?

**PW:** I was really freaked out. The whole thought of being a dad was kind of scary to me. It's kind of like that Creed song



that says, *I don't know if I'm ready/To be the man I have to be.* Every day, you find yourself scratching your head, going, *Wow, am I really?* I guess I really am! I would imagine that even when I'm 40, and I'm looking at her, I'll still be going, *I'm a dad!* It's just pretty wild. I don't think it's anything you get fully used to, because I don't think anybody thinks that they're truly prepared for or ready for that.

**CG!: We know your daughter is still young—but do you worry about the day she brings a guy home?**

**PW:** It's so funny you asked that! A buddy of mine has a

location [for *2 Fast 2 Furious*] in Miami, I went out more because I was in Miami and had to take advantage, you know?

**CG!: We imagine that when you do go out, you probably have no trouble meeting girls, right?**

**PW:** You'd think with success and recognition I'd be more confident, but I'm more insecure now than I was back in the day. It just messes with your game. You want to know you still have it and hopefully an attractive person will find you charming. I'll think I'm doing well—until they drop the bomb and are like, "So how is it being an actor?" I'm just like, *Oh man!*

## Me and my buddies are all like brothers. So it's okay for us to say I love you or whatever. It's always cool.

daughter about the same age, and he recently said to me, "Man, I just don't know what I'm going to do—our daughters are both going to be fiery-red hot." And you know what? He's absolutely right. They're just knockouts. And he's like, "Man, she's only 5. I can only imagine what it will be like when she's 12 or 13."

**CG!: At least you have a few years to prepare yourself!**

**PW:** Well, then my friend said to me, "Can you do me a favor?" And he's like, "I want you to talk to her about the birds and the bees." And I was like, "Why *me*?"

**CG!: So funny! Do you think you could handle that?**

**PW:** Well, I really got to thinking, Man, how *would* I handle that? The first time my daughter comes home with little Johnny, and she wants me to meet him, you pray to God that Johnny shakes your hand and makes solid eye contact, you know? If he's looking away from you and staring at his feet when he's talking to you, he's probably getting a swift kick out the door on his ass. But if Johnny's a nice guy, you're somewhat relieved. Yet Johnny will probably be around for a while and going to drive-ins or whatever with my daughter. It's a scary thought.

**CG!: You seem so protective and nurturing. What do you think has made you that way?**

**PW:** I think knowing I was going to have a little girl. It was more of a gradual thing, but that was a pretty big moment.

**CG!: Do you think you'll ever want to get married and settle down some day?**

**PW:** Oh yeah, married one time and probably four kids total. I'll have another three kids, I'd imagine.

**CG!: Until then, are you out on the scene?**

**PW:** I'm pretty chill. I don't go out that much anymore. I'm more of a down-home guy. I just hang out with people I grew up with, go camping or have barbecues. When I was on

**CG!: Do you usually hang out with other actors?**

**PW:** No. I have very few friends that are in the industry. I live with five guys that I've grown up with. We stay up late and strum guitar, and we go surfing early in the morning. It's great because I've got playmates. We all have the same mission: to never grow up.

**CG!: It sounds like you're all very close.**

**PW:** Me and my buddies are all like brothers. So it's okay for us to say I love you or whatever. It's always cool. I think that comes from my dad. That's just the way he always was. My father is so the macho man, but when it comes to family and stuff, he's always like, "What's up? I love you, bro." I love him. He's cool.

**CG!: We heard that for a while you had no apartment and just crashed on friends' couches. How come?**

**PW:** I just get so antsy. I've never been able to stay still for very long. I've been so spoiled just having constant stimulus. I'm in a different city every few months, and I'm meeting new people all the time. I've just found that things have a tendency to get stale and boring if I'm situated in one place for too long. I like being able to just pack up and move on when I want. You've got these people spending \$5 million to \$6 million for these beach homes. I'm like, I'll just get in my camper, dude, and be like, *Know what? My house moves!*

**CG!: Do you ever think about leaving the glitz of Hollywood so you can maintain a low profile?**

**PW:** I've got a killer job, and I'm having a blast. I have the luxury to go on trips whenever I want and invite my friends who can't afford it. And God willing, I'll be able to do all of that till the day I die. I'll drag my honey and my four kids, my buddy, his wife and their kids. And we'll just go somewhere and tear it up.

**CG!: Well, let us know if there's room for us!** 8