





To prepare for his role as Dr. Victor Von Doom in *Fantastic Four*, Julian McMahon watched a week's worth of horror flicks. Nothing, however, could prepare the *Nip/Tuck* star for his harshest critic, his 5-year-old daughter, Madison. "Here I am doing these intense scenes where I'm killing [the hero] Reed Richards, and the director would call, 'Cut!' and my little daughter would start laughing and say, 'Daddy, you're so funny.'" That's when the 37-year-old actor realized he needed to strip his performance down to something simpler—because simplicity is often the key to effectiveness.

The same rule applies to creating a stylish look. Every guy who consistently projects a leading man's confidence has a few items—dark suit, V-neck sweater, leather jacket—that he builds his wardrobe around. You may already own them, or you might fill in the pieces season by season. But like McMahon's minimalist acting, these garments will always look great without making you seem as if you're trying too hard.

AMY LEVIN-EPSTEIN

*Clothing by
Michael Kors*

*Opposite:
Clothing by
Ralph Lauren
Black Label*