

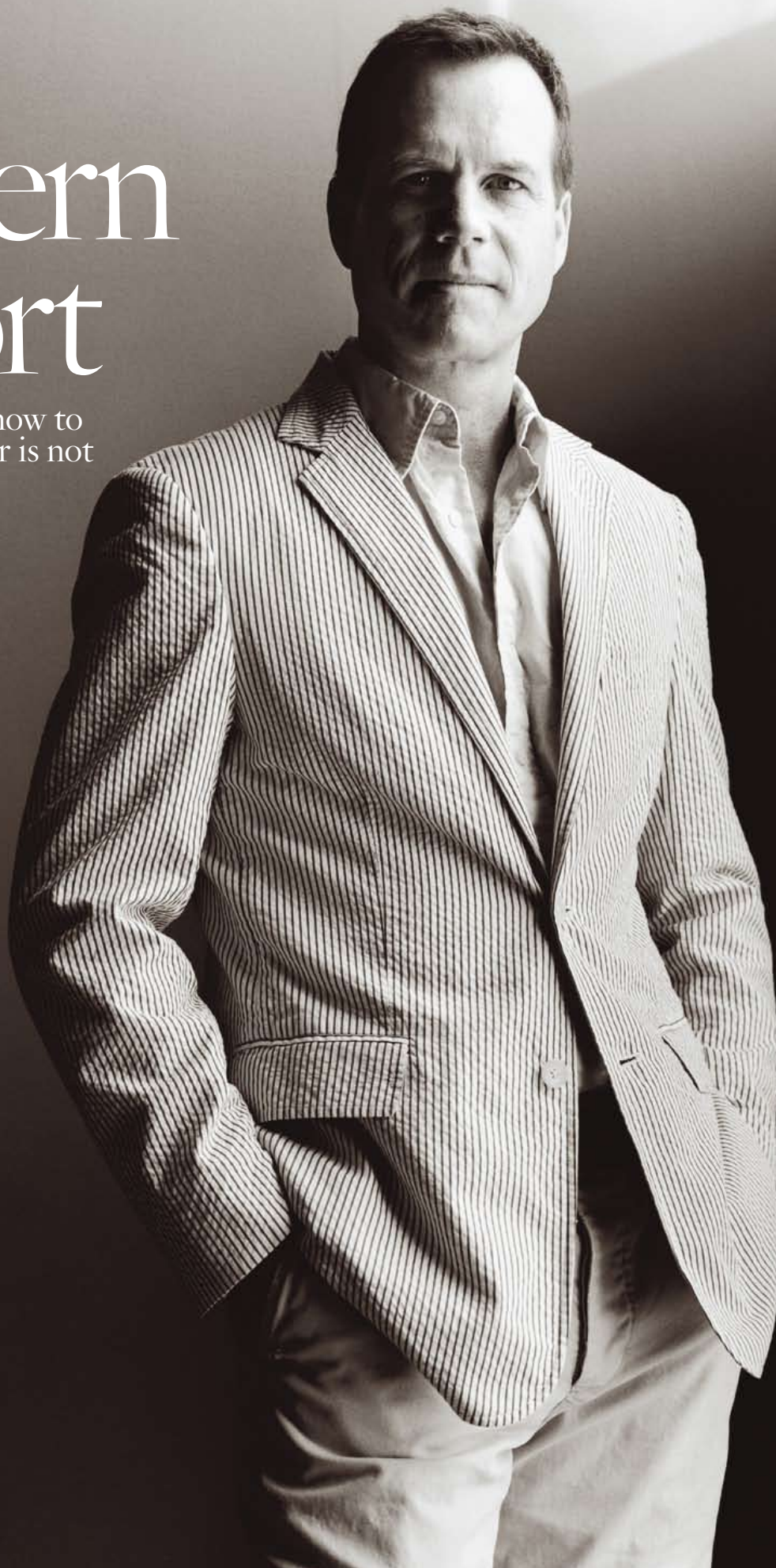
# Southern comfort

Let Bill Paxton show you how to look cool when the weather is not

BY JOHN MATHER  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
RICHARD PHIBBS

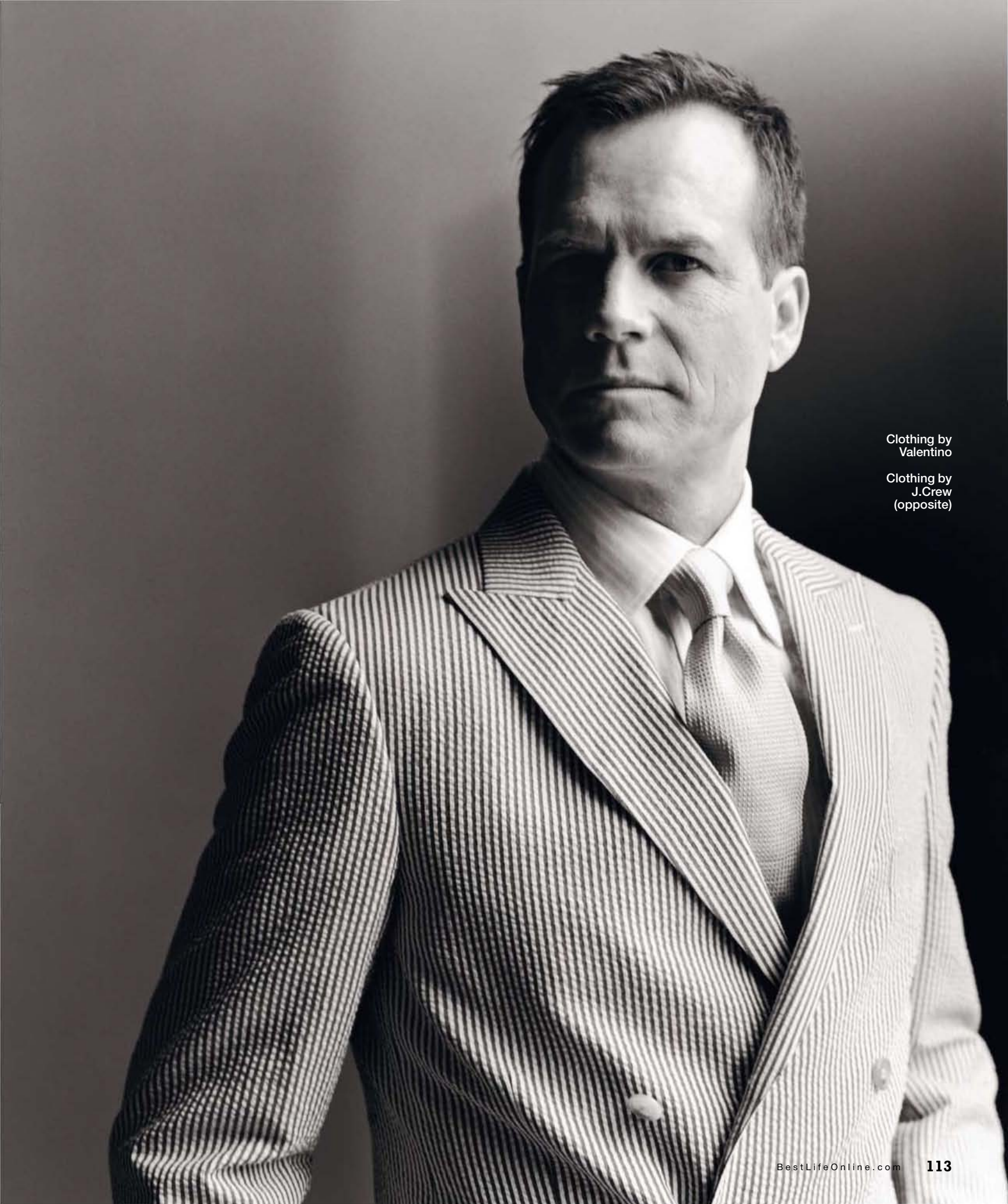
Polygamist Bill Henrickson may soon steal Tony Soprano's title as HBO's most unorthodox paterfamilias, but Bill Paxton insists the hero of *Big Love* is his most accessible role yet. "I don't think everyone can relate to being chased by a twister," says the 50-year-old father of two about his prior life as an action hero, "but everyone can relate to family." Everyone, that is, whose family includes three wives (played in the new series by Ginnifer Goodwin, Chloë Sevigny, and Jeanne Tripplehorn).

Paxton's more conventional upbringing took place outside Fort Worth, Texas, where in 1963 his father took 8-year-old Bill to see *Dr. No*. The elder Paxton was so taken with 007's suits that he tracked down Sean Connery's tailor, Anthony Sinclair, and persuaded him to make a yearly trip to Texas to fit him. "My dad had a lot of style, a lot of panache," Paxton says of his old man, who wore classic seersucker when making sales calls. This season, seersucker will be calling north of the Mason-Dixon Line, thanks to streamlined tailoring. Toss it into your bag for a trip: Its texture hides wrinkles, and you'll be thankful for the airy feel when you dance with your wife . . . or wives. AMY LEVIN-EPSTEIN



WHERE TO BUY? SEE PAGE 114





Clothing by  
Valentino

Clothing by  
J.Crew  
(opposite)