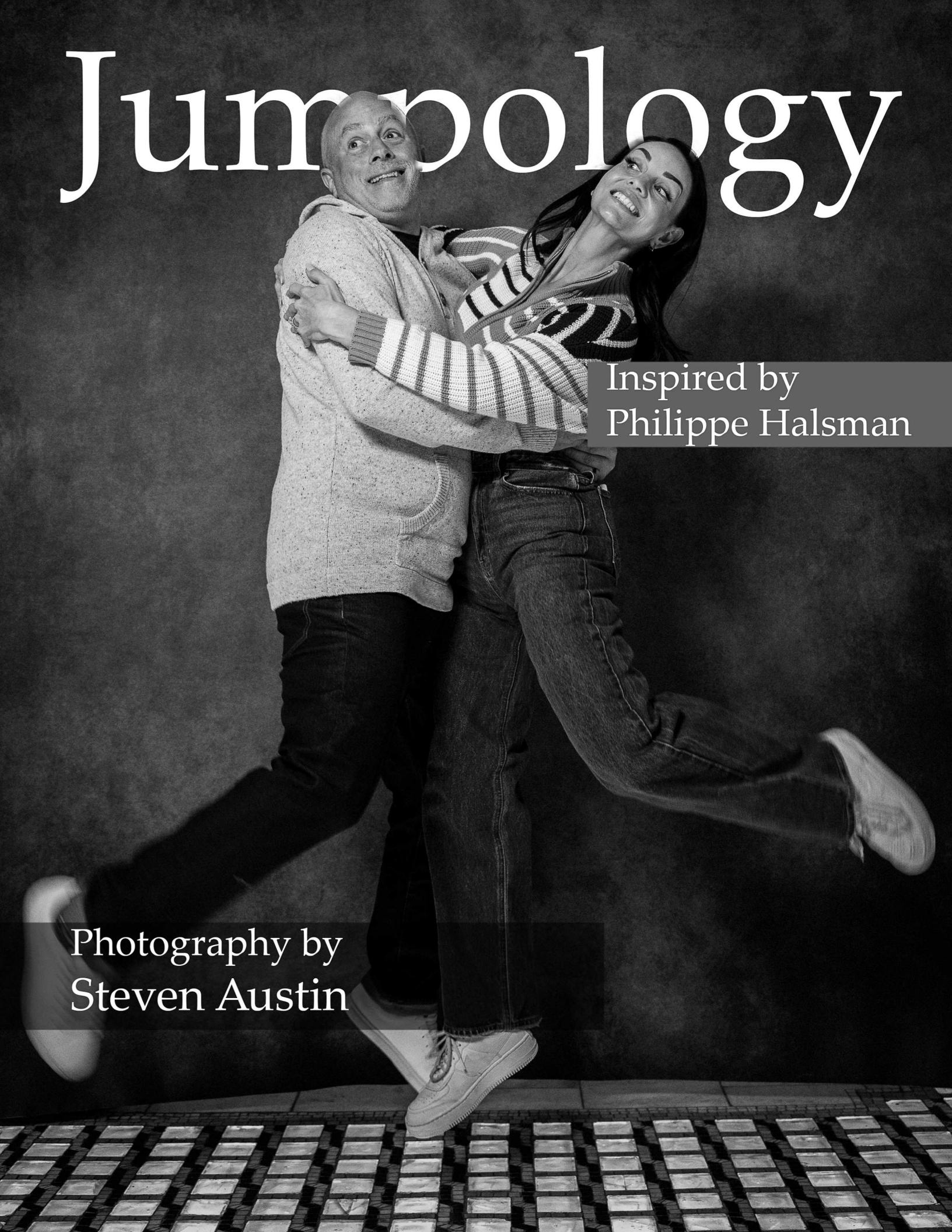


# Jumpology



Inspired by  
Philippe Halsman

Photography by  
Steven Austin



## Dali Atomicus: Surrealism in Motion

Few images encapsulate surrealism as vividly as Dali Atomicus (1948) by Philippe Halsman. A collaboration with Salvador Dalí, the photograph defies gravity, capturing motion, chaos, and artistic rebellion. Before digital manipulation, Dali Atomicus was a technical triumph, executed entirely in-camera. The image embodies Halsman's photographic innovation and Dalí's fascination with atomic physics, making it an enduring symbol of surrealist experimentation.

The title Dali Atomicus references Dalí's *Leda Atomica*, visible in the background. Dalí, fascinated by atomic theory, sought to suspend traditional laws of stability. Halsman, a pioneer in portraiture, staged the shot meticulously. Dalí leaped while assistants threw water and three live cats into the air. Furniture and props were suspended with invisible wires, reinforcing the illusion of weightlessness. Halsman insisted on 28 attempts before achieving the perfect composition.

Beyond its technical brilliance, Dali Atomicus embodies surrealist ideals. It subverts static portraiture, capturing energy and spontaneity. The airborne elements reflect Dalí's obsession with the subconscious, while Halsman's Jumpology philosophy—a belief that jumping reveals true personality—elevates the image beyond traditional photography.

One of the most iconic 20th-century photographs, Dali Atomicus continues to influence art, fashion, and contemporary portraiture. In a digital era, its raw authenticity reminds us that true creativity stems from vision, patience, and commitment to experimentation. Decades later, the image still defies gravity and expectation with every viewing.



## Jumpology: The Art of Capturing Motion

Coined by Philippe Halsman, Jumpology is a photographic technique that captures subjects mid-air, revealing spontaneity, energy, and personality. Developed in the 1950s, it became Halsman's signature style, challenging traditional portraiture by infusing movement into static images. His belief was simple: asking people to jump stripped away pretense, exposing their true nature in a fraction of a second.

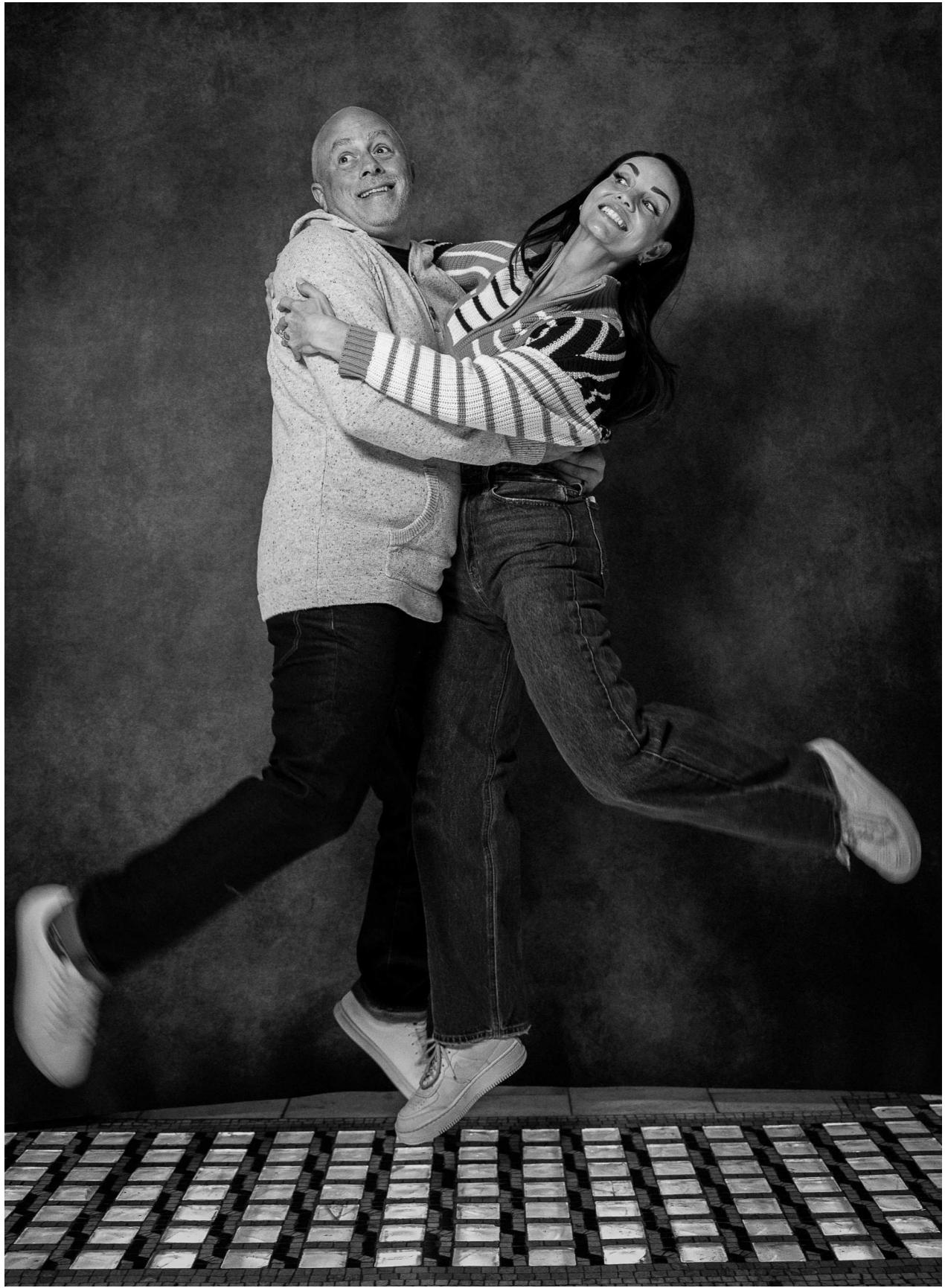
Halsman's approach involved encouraging his subjects—often celebrities, artists, and politicians—to leap into the air while he captured their expressions and movements. His fast shutter speeds froze motion, producing dynamic compositions. Subjects like Marilyn Monroe, Richard Nixon, and Salvador Dalí participated, each jump reflecting their personality. Dalí's *Dali Atomicus* remains one of the most famous Jumpology images, blending surrealist elements with kinetic energy.

Jumpology broke away from rigid portraiture, emphasizing authenticity and psychological depth. By jumping, subjects momentarily shed their controlled personas, revealing unguarded joy, playfulness, or confidence. The technique resonated with the mid-century cultural shift toward freedom and self-expression. Halsman's ability to extract genuine emotion through movement set a precedent for modern dynamic portraiture.

Halsman's Jumpology remains a lasting influence on contemporary photography, inspiring editorial, fashion, and commercial imagery. His technique transformed how motion is perceived in still photography, proving that movement can be just as revealing as a traditional portrait. Today, Jumpology continues to thrive, symbolizing the timeless connection between motion and emotion.



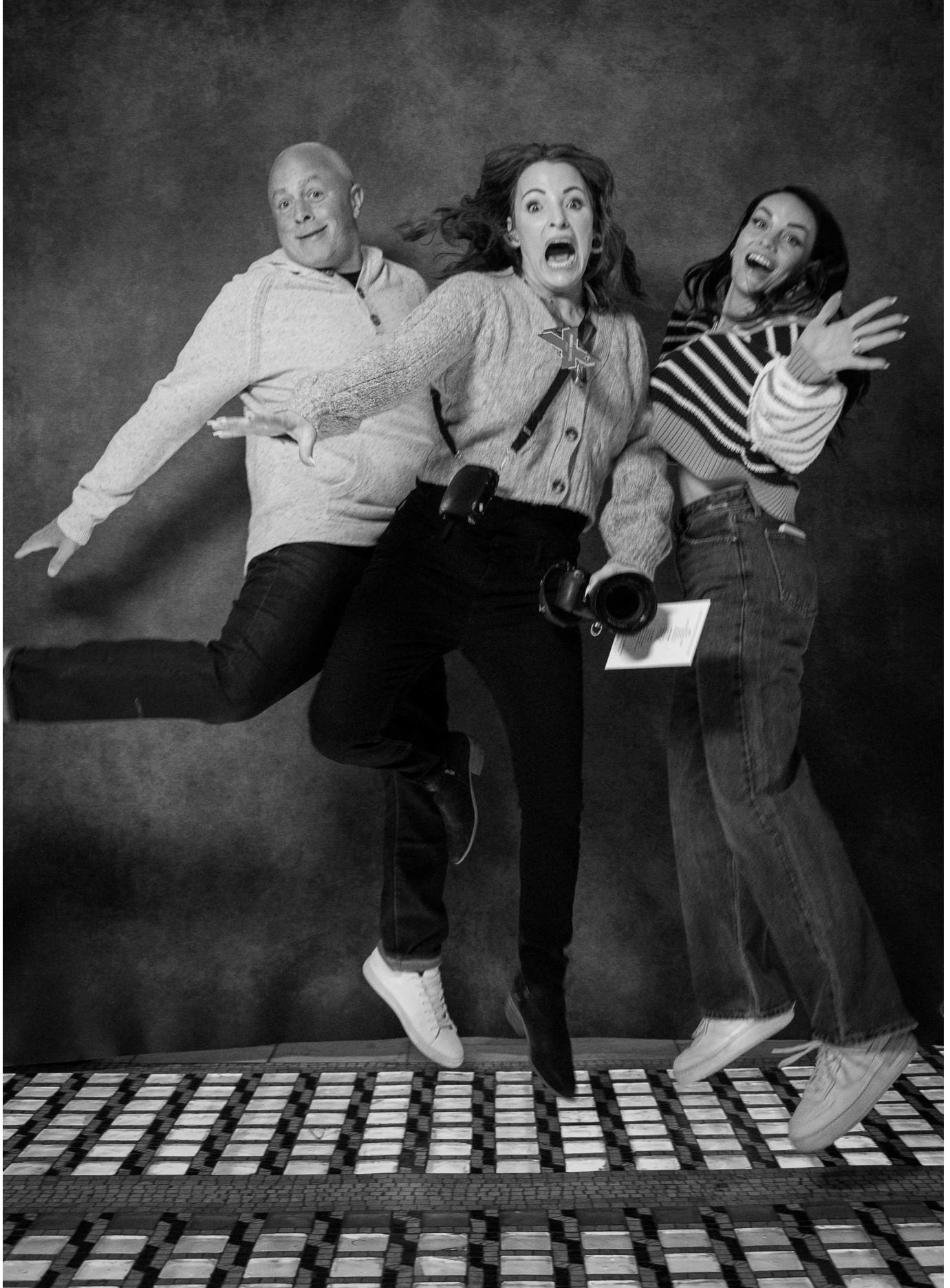
**Sal and Alissa Cincotta**



**Sal and Alissa Cincotta**



**Sal and Alissa Cincotta with Mariea Rummel**



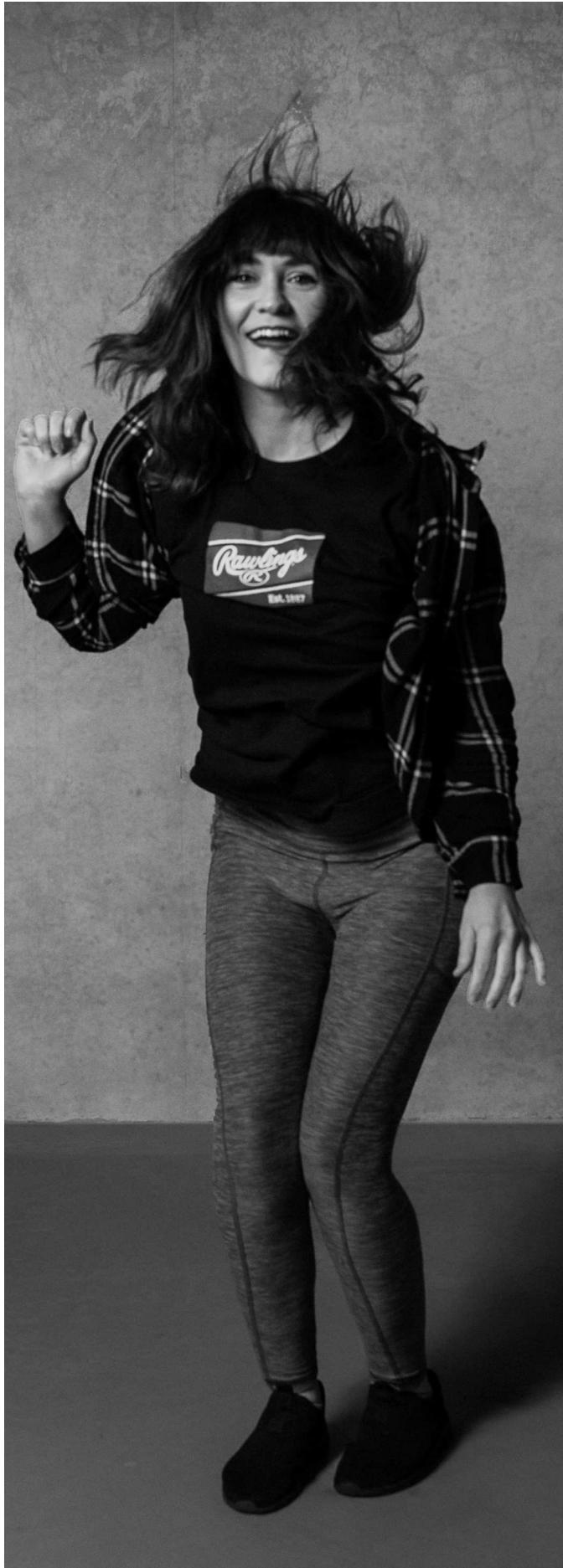
**Sal and Alissa Cincotta with Mariea Rummel**



**Nikki Serenity**



**Nikki Serenity**



**Nikki Serenity**



**Nikki Serenity**



**Nikki Serenity**



**Steven Austin**



**Steven Austin**



**Steven Austin**



**Eric Burke**



**Eric Burke**



**Alan Hantz**



**Alan Hantz**



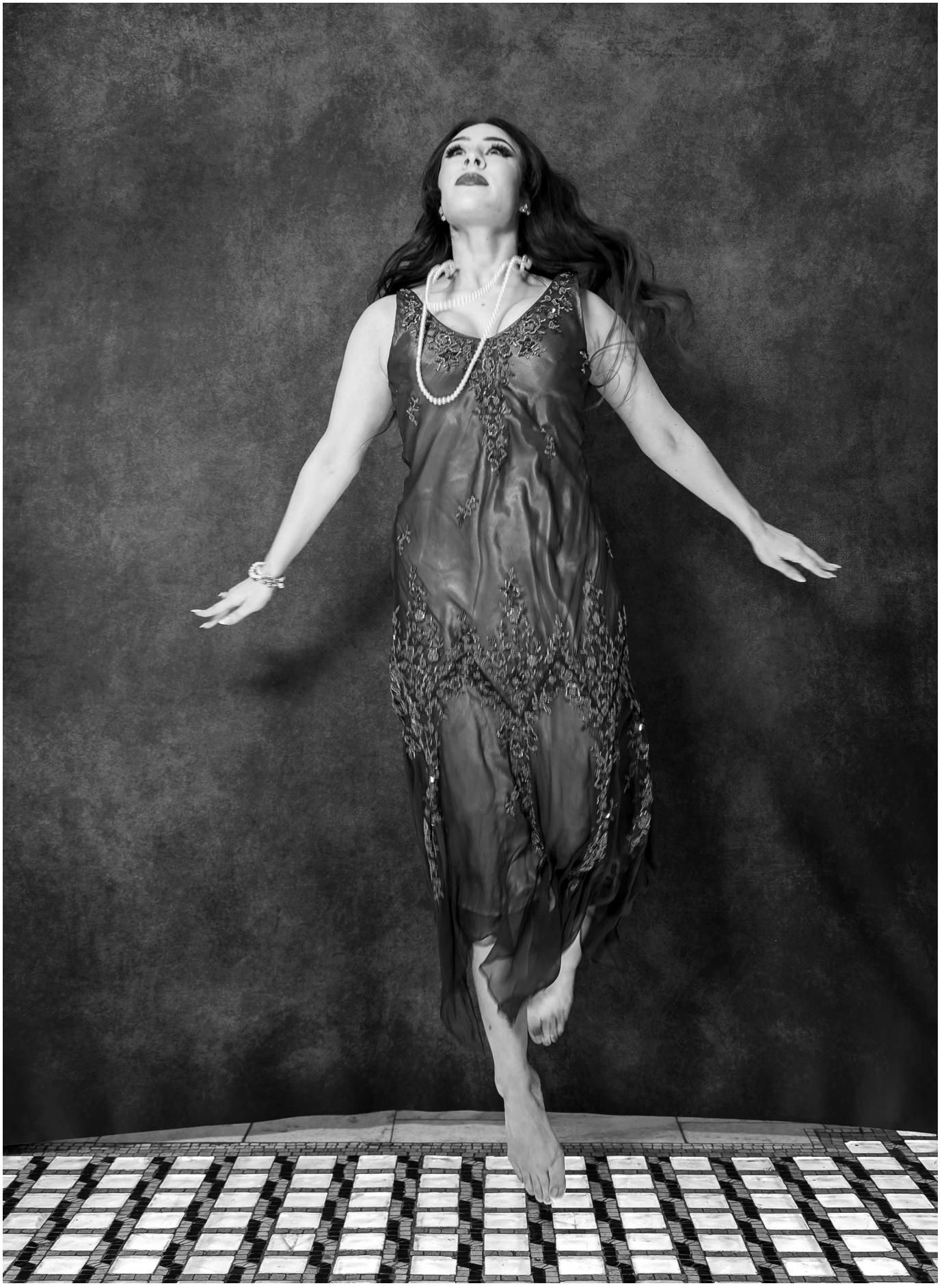
**Brad Campbell**



**Brad Campbell**



**Lucy Tobey**



**Lucy Tobey**



**Sydney Hendrickson**



**Sydney Hendrickson**



**Sydney Hendrickson & Emma Kay White**



**Emma Kay White**



**Syndney Hendrickson & Mariea Rummel**



**Mariea Rummel**



**Vanessa Joy**



**Madeline Jones**





Michael Baren





PHOTOGRAPH BY

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During my undergraduate studies, I remember learning that many of the great painters honed their skills by copying the old masters. This idea resonated with me deeply, but since I was not an artist at the time, I wasn't sure how to apply it to my own creative journey.

As I ventured into art photography, I became increasingly frustrated by my inability to produce truly original work. Every time I thought I had a unique idea, I would discover that it had already been done—and often done better. I recall one instance where I was particularly excited about what I believed to be an original concept: "Caging Your Shoulder Angel." I had my lovely model (Nikki Serenity) dressed as a devil holding a cage containing another version of herself dressed as an angel. I meticulously Photoshopped the angelic figure into the cage and was thrilled with the final image. I still love that photograph, but not long after, I saw an almost identical concept in a photo competition.

That moment, combined with what I had learned about emulating the masters, I gave up trying to be original. With photography now in its 200th year and of course painting 1000s of years old, we have to accept there is nothing new under the sun. I began to embrace the wisdom found in quotes like:

- "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."
- "Those who do not want to imitate anything, produce nothing."
- "Good artists copy, great artists steal."
- "The best way to learn is to copy. If you want to be a great writer, read great books. If you want to be a great painter, study the old masters."

At that point, I abandoned my obsession with originality and found immense joy in my photography. Now, I emulate, borrow from, and unapologetically draw inspiration from others.

This shift in mindset led to my "Remake Project," of which "Jumpology" is a part. In this series, I recreate some of the world's most iconic photographs. By studying and replicating the works of both past and contemporary master photographers, I have learned invaluable lessons about lighting, posing, and composition. And it is just so much fun! I have recreated or been inspired by the works of Robert Mapplethorpe, Salvador Dalí, Philippe Halsman, Helmut Newton, and Edward Weston. Of course, anyone familiar with my work at all will see the influence of Lindsay Adler.

Recently, I have also been exploring self-portraiture, paying tribute to influential figures such as Andy Warhol, Norman Rockwell, and even Oliver Hardy.

This project is a tribute to Philippe Halsman and his Jumpology series. Halsman believed that in the act of jumping, people shed their masks and reveal their true selves. My goal is to capture that moment of authenticity in my work.

I hope I was able to capture your natural essence through this project. Regardless, I sincerely appreciate you jumping for me—it was an absolute pleasure to shoot with you and later develop the images. Thank you for being part of this creative journey!



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