

# SIMON & JONNNY'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

**Simon Doonan** (author, fashion expert and Barneys New York's creative ambassador-at-large) and his husband, Jonathan Adler (eponymous housewares-brand owner), are hands-down Shelter Island's most fun and fabulous couple. And did we mention funny? Here, Doonan dishes all the stylish dirt.

## YENTAS, SHOWGIRLS AND SHOCKING THE RABBI

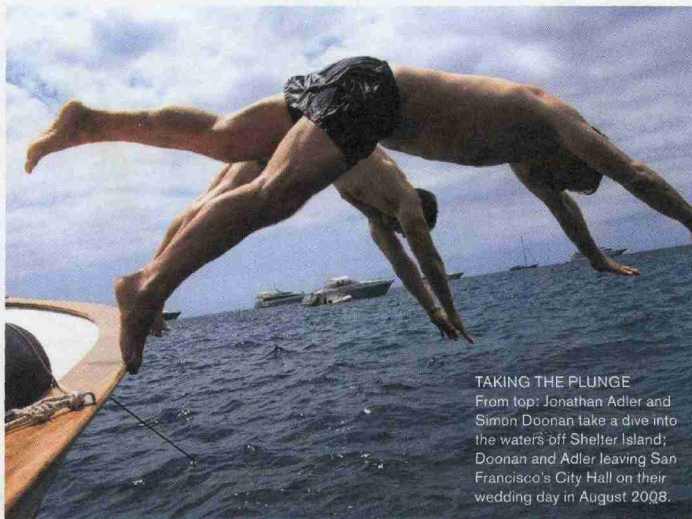
Jonny and I met on a blind date. We were both a couple of duds. A yenta introduced us—a mutual friend who said, "You guys would get on," and encouraged us to meet.

I knew Jonathan was "the one" when we went to see *Showgirls* and kind of clung to each other and laughed at all the same bits. That movie's brilliant—it's one of the great pieces of camp. I once met Kyle MacLachlan, Liz Berkley and Gina Gershon and asked them, "Did you have any sense of where it was going?" And they said, "No, we were all deadly serious about it." That's probably why it's so great.

In '08, Jonny and I were married by a rabbi in San Francisco who had officiated lots of gay weddings; he was very sweet. Jonny kind of freaked him out, though, because the rabbi walked in and I shook his hand, then Jonny said, "Is it all right if I roll him"—meaning me—"in a napkin and stomp on him?" And the rabbi looked kind of horrified.

Jonny really is hilarious—he continually makes me laugh. He called me a "toxic dwarf" once, which I think is very amusing. Two guys can say stuff like that to each other, especially if they're sort of *Bill and Ted*-ish, like us.

In general, although I'm a Baby Boomer and he's a Gen

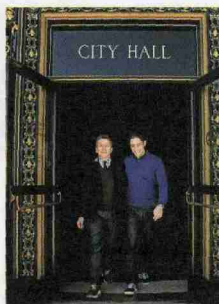


**TAKING THE PLUNGE**  
From top: Jonathan Adler and Simon Doonan take a dive into the waters off Shelter Island; Doonan and Adler leaving San Francisco's City Hall on their wedding day in August 2008.

X-er, the differences between us aren't as profound as you might think. For example, our college experiences were very similar because it was still pre-technology. I think if Johnny were a millennial, that would be very different... also, in that case, I'd probably be arrested.

## SWELTER SHELTER

We met in 1994, and the following year we did a house share on Shelter Island with some of my Barneys colleagues, and ended up finding our little A-frame house. I love visiting the Hamptons, but it's always nice to get back on that ferry. Mostly we stay on the



island. We're very feral, so it suits us much better.

Entertaining-wise, we're not planning anything big for July 4th. I love red, white and blue and all that patriotic *jabz*, but after so many decades of

being in window display, I might have gotten that out of my system—I don't have that impulse to decorate anymore. I'll put a couple of tiki torches out in the backyard, and that's the extent of it.

Jonny's sister uses our old house out here, so on July 4th we'll have her family over and do idiotic things in the swimming pool—I told you we were like Bill and Ted. Then we'll watch some really gruesome TV, like *Lockup* or *The First 48*. We love a good crime show.

## JUST A COUPLE OF DEADBEATS

In addition to watching our favorite crime series,

we'll occasionally binge-watch shows—the last one was *The Wire*—or sports. I follow British soccer, and Jonny's a big Philly Eagles fan and basketball buff, so there's always one sport or other on the TV. I know—it's very butch.

We also both read *The New York Times* cover to cover. The obituaries are so fantastic, we usually read them to each other. You discover all these people you didn't know about—I've found so many great authors that way. Yes, it's a little morbid, but we're all going to die, so just get used to it, you know?

Actually, Jonny and I have our own sort of book club. He's an avid, very fast reader (he keeps telling me I need to go to the Evelyn Wood Institute for speed-reading), so I tend to get my book recommendations from him. The last was Jonathan Miles' *Want Not*, which was very good. We read on our Nooks—which, of course, are in Jonathan Adler-designed holders.

And our house is on the water, so we paddleboard and kayak, and run the Shelter Island 10K every year. My time keeps getting slower while Jonny's keeps getting faster, which is kind of aggravating. Eventually his will start to slow down.

I'll probably be in a wheelchair by then.

