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Alfred Hitchcock's purpose, he said, was "purely sinister." And so is that of Gus Van Sant, who, with his remake of Hitchcock's 1960 classic, *Psycho*, has had cineasts asking "How dare he?" for months. *Psycho* is the sacred cow of horror movies, so Van Sant—who cast Vince Vaughn as Norman Bates and Anne Heche as Marion Crane—has lately been in full supplication mode. Earlier this year, Van Sant summoned the spirit of Hitchcock at an impromptu séance—and also summoned the original screenwriter, Joseph Stefano, to give the 39-year-old script a few modern tweaks. Van Sant re-recorded the 1960 score; followed Hitchcock's shooting schedule; and, for his colorized, virtually shot-by-shot "resurrection," even rebuilt the Bates Motel.

As if that weren't enough postmodernism, Van Sant and cinematographer Christopher Doyle now present—alongside the original publicity stills which inspired them—their take on the remake, which opens this month. Reuniting the cast on one viciously hot day in August, Van Sant called for loud funk music, dancing, and a certain Batesian schizophrenia from the actors. When Vaughn submerged himself, fully dressed, in a tub filled with fake blood, it was no surprise to executive producer Dany Wolf, who notes that "Vince is very sharp, very witty, and totally out of his mind."

Still, the question—Why bother?—remains. "If you're going to do a remake, you might as well keep to the integrity of the original piece," says Van Sant. "Otherwise, you're just borrowing from the story." Indeed, Van Sant shrugged when the words "hipper" and "younger" were tossed around, and was puzzled by producer Brian Grazer's suggestion that he go "sexier." "There's a trend in Hollywood to make everything you touch 'sexier,'" says Van Sant. "To me, 'sexy' was to redo it."

But if these photographs are any indication, it appears Van Sant never quite got off the singularly twisted personal track that led to *Drugstore Cowboy* and *My Own Private Idaho*. "As soon as I started watching the sequences, I got so sucked in that I forgot that this was old dialogue," says Stefano. And while old-school *Psycho* fans may be appalled, there's one person who matters a little more, Heche thinks: "Every day on set I imagined Hitchcock giggling and rolling around in the clouds." —EVGENIA PERETZ

LEFT: TUXEDO BY DONNA KARAN; SHIRT BY GIORGIO ARMANI
TOP RIGHT: PHOTOGRAPH BY JEANLOUP SIEFF FOR DETAILS, SEE CREDITS PAGE

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