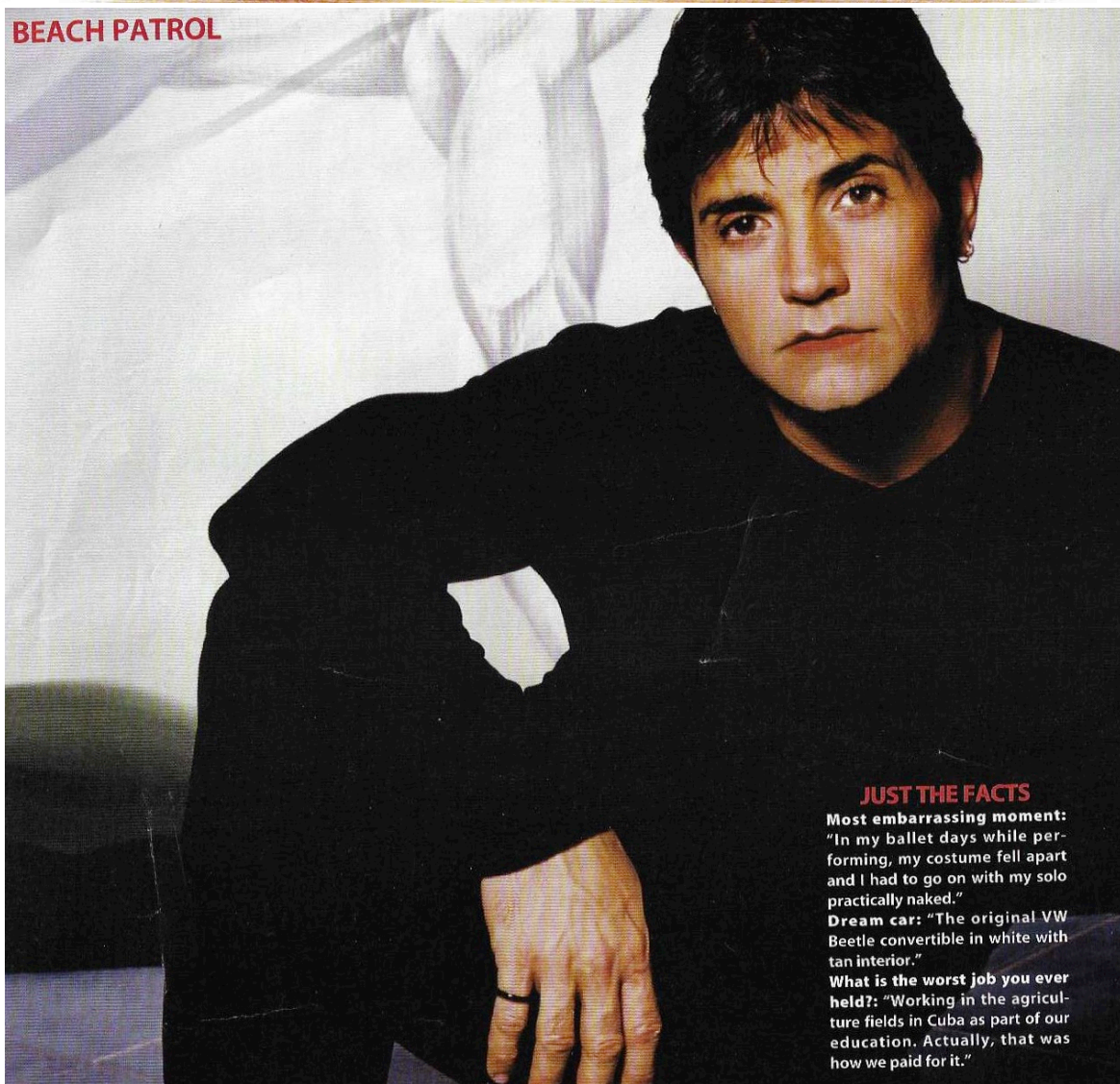


OCEAN DRIVE

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BEACH PATROL



JUST THE FACTS

Most embarrassing moment: "In my ballet days while performing, my costume fell apart and I had to go on with my solo practically naked."

Dream car: "The original VW Beetle convertible in white with tan interior."

What is the worst job you ever held?: "Working in the agriculture fields in Cuba as part of our education. Actually, that was how we paid for it."

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW MELICK

NOEL Launches "Flamingos on the Beach"

Noel was right-brained from birth: Raised by a painter-photographer father and dancer mother, the 44-year-old artist studied ballet in his native Cuba and toured internationally with Havana's renowned Alonso company before moving to America in 1980. Noel signed on with Ballet Concerto, Dance Miami, the Boston Ballet and New England Dinosaur Dance, but a knee injury and his love for set and costume design sparked his drive to pursue passion number two: "My paintings mix figurative realism with cubism, and the composition, colors, movement and feeling of my art have always fit in well with the modernist art deco movement."

Noel, whose commissions have included murals and paintings for the Ritz Plaza Hotel, Nemo Restaurant and Noble House Resorts, was chosen to kick off a temporary art installation for the City of Miami Beach's latest Art in Public Places program. The "Flamingos on the Beach" project begins this month and runs through October; Noel's artistically designed flamingos will be purchased by local business owners for \$2,000 a piece to show their support for local arts.

"Miami Beach has been growing in business, real estate, tourism and entertainment for years, but the arts have been left behind," he says. "It's time to take our own art scene to a new level and develop all the creative talent we have right here."

—S.B.