

Arts & Life

People magazine crowns first openly gay Sexiest Man Alive, 'Wicked' heartthrob Jonathan Bailey

By **AMANDA DRONZEK**
Staff Writer

People magazine finally got it right.

The 2025 Sexiest Man Alive is actually sexy. He's a tantalizing triple-threat who can act, sing and dance through life on the big screen — it's freaking Jonathan Bailey.

The 37-year-old English actor is the first openly gay man to be named Sexiest Man Alive, probably for those slutty little reading glasses he wore in "Jurassic World: Rebirth" (2025).

On Nov. 4, the magazine published an article announcing that Bailey received the esteemed honor, titled, "Jonathan Bailey Is the Sexiest Man Alive 2025! (We Know, We Nailed It)."

Don't get ahead of yourself, People. You hit the nail on the head with Chris Evans in 2022, but who the hell thought that people wanted to get into Blake Shelton's pants in 2017?

It stings to know Bailey will one day devote himself to a man, rather than a 20-year-old female college student. But alas, life is more painless for the brainless, so I'll continue to fawn and fantasize.

Bailey is on a hot streak in Hollywood, most notably for playing Prince Fiyero in Jon M. Chu's "Wicked" (2024) and "Wicked: For Good," which releases on Nov. 21.

His rendition of Fiyero is nothing short of fantastical. Bailey is a vision with a stunning voice and a perfect boyish attitude to encapsulate a

wonderfully depressing character who embodies the phrase, "ignorance is bliss."

In both the Broadway and movie versions, Fiyero enrolls in Shiz University — yes, he's supposed to be in college; yes, Bailey is pushing 40.

Fiyero is quickly thrust into a love triangle between main characters Glinda (Ariana Grande) and Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo), ultimately choosing to be with Elphaba despite her being deemed "The Wicked Witch of the West."

At the conclusion of "Wicked," Elphaba saves Fiyero's life by turning him into the Scarecrow, who is actually a different version of the character known from "The Wizard of Oz."

However, Bailey's rise to becoming a household name began in 2020 when Netflix released Shonda Rhimes' "Bridgerton," a series based on Julia Quinn's Regency romance novels. The critically acclaimed adaptation is famous for its steamy tales of the opulent Bridgerton children finding suitable partners. Season 4 is set to release on Jan. 29, 2026, with Bailey reprising his role as Anthony Bridgerton.

I'll admit, I've only seen parts of "Bridgerton" — specifically Season 2. And if you've watched the show, you know exactly why.

It was a Bailey sex-fest.

Anthony is a goddamn yeamer. And if any girl says she doesn't want her man to beg and plead for her to fold, I fear she's lying. He might be

gay in real life, but Bailey knows his way around untying a corset. After all, Kate Sharma (Simone Ashley) is the object of his desire.

In 2024, Bailey earned a 2024 Critics' Choice Television Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Movie/Miniseries for his work in Showtime's "Fellow Travelers," a thriller following two closeted gay men's relationship spanning from the Lavender Scare to the AIDS epidemic.

Bailey played political staffer Tim Laughlin alongside costar Matt Bomer as his lover, Hawkins Fuller.

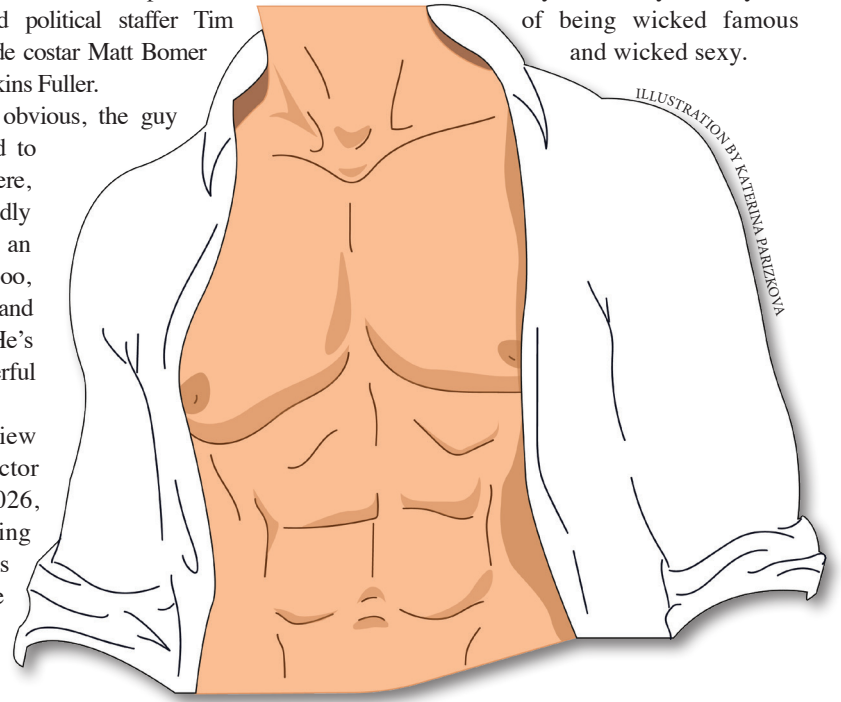
To state the obvious, the guy is on a roll. And to the men out there, Bailey is allegedly single, has an adorable cockapoo, named Benson and loves Legos. He's also just a wonderful person. Sigh.

In an interview with GQ, the actor stated that in 2026, he's stepping down from his busy schedule to focus on his charity, The Shameless

Fund, which raises money and awareness for the LGBTQ+ community.

There really was no competition for Sexiest Man Alive this year. Ignoring Bailey's soft brown eyes, his ever-so-slightly salt-and-peppered hair and his irresistible accent would have been a crime against humanity.

To put it in the words of Bostonians, Bailey has many more years of being wicked famous and wicked sexy.



Reflecting on the British Vogue article 'Is Having a Boyfriend Embarrassing Now?'

By **SOPHIE MURRAY**
Staff Writer

On Oct. 29, Journalist Chanté Joseph published an opinion article for British Vogue titled, "Is Having a Boyfriend Embarrassing Now?"

A few days after the article got published, having never read it before, I started noticing multiple TikTok videos saying things like, "Sorry, Vogue, but it's not embarrassing to have a boyfriend," or, "I have to disagree with Vogue, being openly in love is pretty cool." Curious and confused, I decided to look up the article myself.

I wasn't sure what to expect going in. Is it really a universal belief that having a boyfriend is now embarrassing? Why could this be? Being in a relationship and finding love and partnership is great, is it not?

But as I read it, I realized it wasn't quite what I expected it to be.

Joseph begins by reflecting on the 2010s, when sharing your relationship online was almost a status symbol. Couples' content was everywhere and women were being praised for being in relationships. It was aspirational to have a boyfriend to show off.

"Women were rewarded for their ability to find and keep a man, with elevated social status and praise," Joseph wrote. "It became even more suffocating when this could be leveraged on social media."

She describes how it felt as if everyone was once living in "boyfriend land," where life revolved around having and maintaining a relationship.

Now, though, the dynamic has shifted. People are posting less about their partners and audiences seem uninterested, even put off, by seeing influencers' boyfriends

showcased in their content.

Joseph refers to the "Delusional Diaries" podcast, fronted by two New York-based influencers, Halley Kate and Jaz, and their discussion on if having a boyfriend is lame now. One of the top comments on the podcast read, "Why does having a boyfriend feel Republican now?" "Boyfriends are out of style. They won't come back until they start acting right," read another.

Still, Joseph makes it clear that there is no shame in falling in love or actively trying to find love, but there's also nothing wrong with not wanting a relationship. Many women are reclaiming single life, turning what was once seen as a lonely or undesirable status into something empowering. Ultimately, the shift challenges the old idea that a woman needs a man to be happy or successful.

After reading and digesting the purpose of the article, it was clear that people criticizing it online either didn't read it or completely missed the point.

The article is not saying women shouldn't be in happy, healthy relationships. It's celebrating the fact that we now live in a world where a woman's worth isn't

defined by her relationship status.

This message really resonates with Generation Z and Millennials, whose lives look completely different than the generations before them. Our parents' generations, mostly Generation X, typically married young, often between the ages of 23 to 26. My parents, both Generation X, got married at the age of 24. Now, Millennials and Generation Z are often waiting longer to settle down, and many women are choosing to live alone or with friends rather than moving straight in with a male partner.

For a lot of women, that's groundbreaking. Many today are the first in their families to experience that kind of independence.

Not so long ago, women needed men to open bank accounts, to sign leases and to have any sort of mobility and flexibility in the world. That's no longer the case. Women today are independent and self-sufficient. They're not settling for relationships just to gain access to benefits they can now provide for themselves.

What Joseph is really saying is that with this newfound freedom and flexibility, women would rather

live full, satisfying lives on their own than with some guy just because she's required to follow a heteronormative script.

In 2025, the idea of being a "male-centric" woman, someone who shapes her identity around her boyfriend, feels outdated. Women have more opportunities and autonomy than ever before, so why should our entire personalities revolve around who we're dating?

That's why I was surprised by how many people online seemed angry instead of inspired. Even for women in relationships, this should feel empowering. It's exciting that we live in a time that generations of women before us could only dream about. One where being single isn't just a waiting room for a man to choose you, but a valid and joyful stage of life on its own.

It's wonderful to add a boyfriend into your life when feeling whole on your own beforehand, and finding love is something worth celebrating. But we can't keep romanticizing being male-centric when women have more independence and opportunity than ever before.

For the people criticizing this article online, it's important to realize Joseph isn't attacking love or relationships, but it's a reflection on how far women have come. It challenges us to think about what it means to be fulfilled, independent and self-defined in a world that once told us our value depended on being chosen.

Regardless of your relationship status, the real takeaway is that women finally have the freedom to decide what happiness looks like for themselves, and that is worth celebrating.

