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Bloomberg Businessweek

September 2 - September 8, 2013

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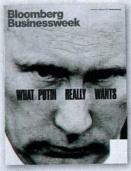
How the cover gets made



 "We need a Putin cover that promises a little intrigue."
 "Which bit of this image of a half-naked world leader on a horse don't you find intriguing?"



*Remember the time he played the piano and sang?



3 "Ugh. Like every single Putin magazine cover ever done."



 "This wraps in all of his friends as well as his unique sensibility."
 "Which is disturbingly similar to ours."