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A woman with dark hair, wearing a voluminous, light pink, off-the-shoulder gown, is framed within a white, rounded rectangular shape that resembles a camera lens. She is posed with one hand near her face and the other near her waist. The background is a deep blue sky filled with numerous pink cherry blossoms in various stages of bloom, some in sharp focus and others blurred.

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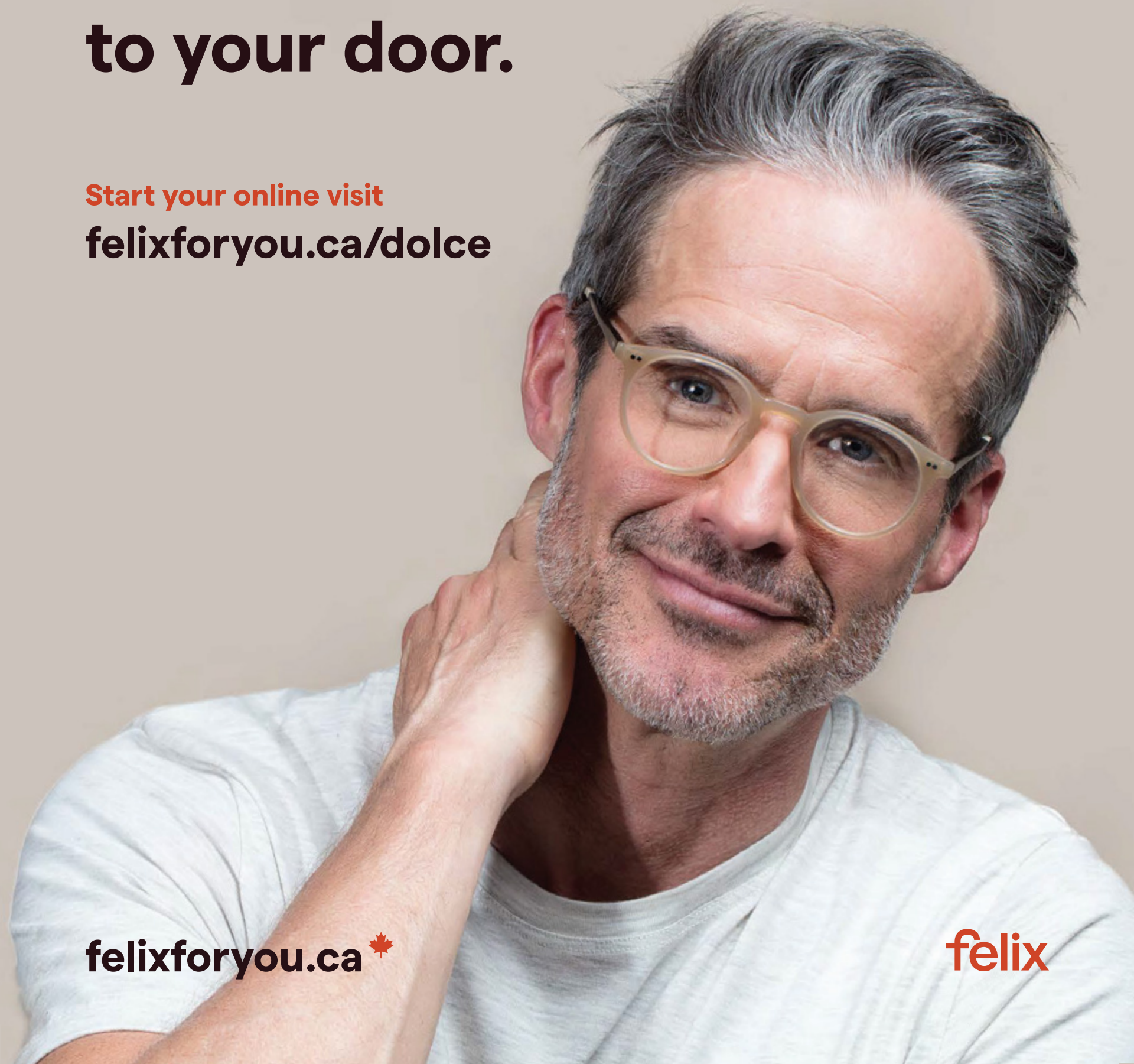


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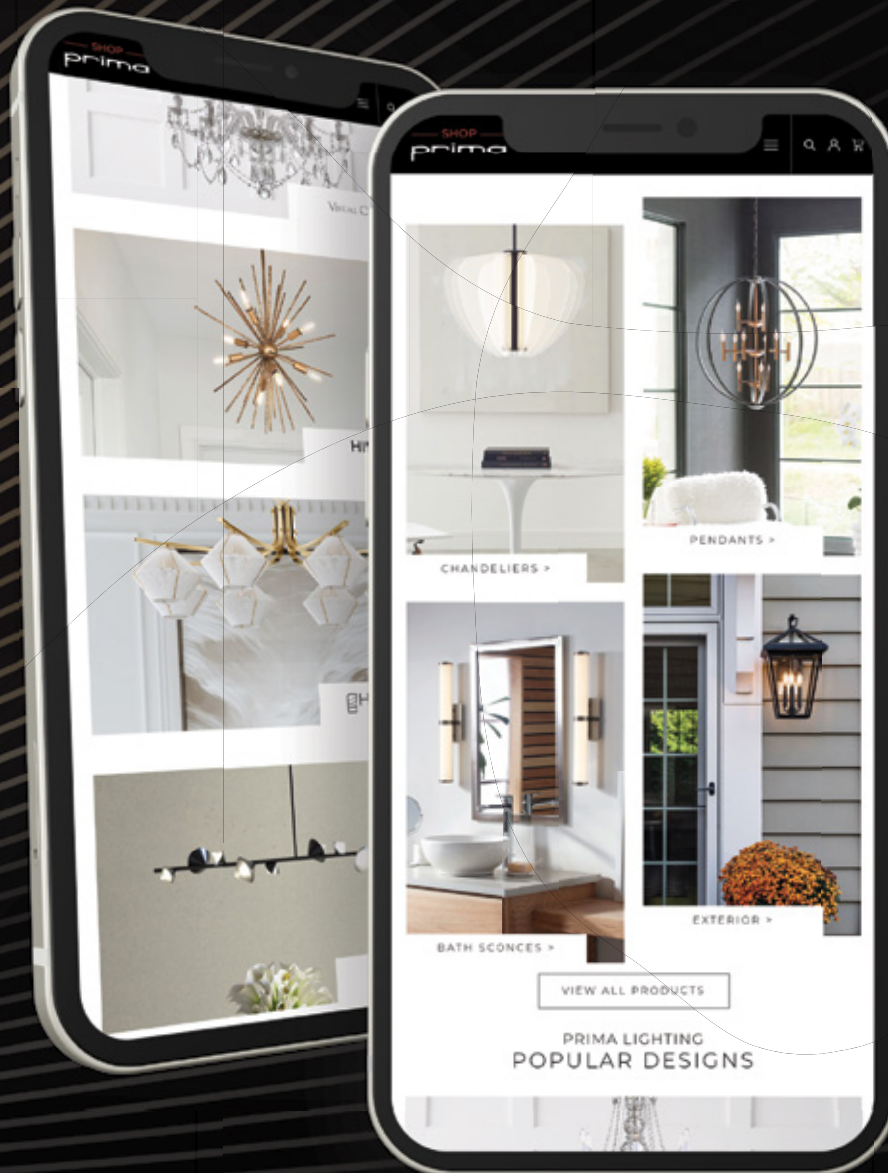
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Fernando Zerillo
Co-Founder/Creative Director

Michelle Zerillo-Sosa
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As we embark on this new year, it is important for us to recognize and be grateful for what we achieved last year, as well as envision and set the goals we want to accomplish in 2022. As a part of this, it is important that we take a moment to reflect on the words we use with the people with whom we interact. Words are powerful tools that can shape the direction of our life. In fact, using uplifting and positive words can impact the way we look at our life and our relationships with others.

If it's a personal change you are looking for, then look no further than this new edition of *Dolce*, where you will meet an array of sharp visionaries whose abilities to overcome their personal challenges in life have made them the superb people they are today.

That is, individuals who have dared to defy the challenges and formidable situations in their life and have gone on to defeat the odds.

These include people such as the Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire, a celebrated advocate for human rights whose lifetime of service, care and compassion for others has earned him an induction into this year's Canada's Walk of Fame. When asked what he was most grateful for, Dallaire said "falling in love . . . because that literally saved my life. I would argue that love is the strongest instrument to work through PTSD, as well as moral and psychological injuries."

In this issue, you will read about people such as Dr. Ajay Virmani, who personifies the immigrant success story. Responsible for building Canada's largest overnight cargo airline, Virmani attributes his success in life to having a clear vision, one that is as crystal clear as the windows he used to clean as a window washer for the 56-storey TD Bank Tower in downtown Toronto.

We've also included stories on Canadians such as Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, who is being

"Failures are made only by those who fail to dare, not by those who dare to fail"

— Lester B. Pearson

inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame for his accomplishments on and off the football field. Studying medicine, as well as playing football for Montreal's McGill University, in 2014 Duvernay-Tardif was drafted by the National Football League's Kansas City Chiefs — only the fourth medical school graduate to play in the NFL at that time. As the starting right guard, he went on to help the Chiefs win the Super Bowl in February 2020, ending a 50-year championship drought. A month later, the pandemic hit. Duvernay-Tardif did not hesitate to join a new team — one that was fighting not an opponent on the field, but, rather, the invisible threat that is COVID-19. Duvernay-Tardif was later named the recipient of the Muhammad Ali Sports Humanitarian Award for his decision to opt out of the NFL season and, instead, stay home and fight the pandemic.

We spoke to Canada's leading criminal lawyer, Marie Henein, about her unapologetic statement that "life isn't built on dreams — it must be taken by force." Her "no excuses" attitude has helped her reach the pinnacle of an otherwise male-dominated profession. In her new memoir, *Nothing But the Truth*, Henein writes about who she is and how significantly the most important people in her life have affected her.

We all know that laughter heals the soul. And,

God knows, we could all use some humour in our lives right now. As such, what better way to embrace the mirth than to meet, in our issue, the man whose life (according to his daughter) centres on making people laugh. Meet Sebastian Maniscalco, the king of observational comedy, who gleans most of his comedy process from everyday life experiences, such as taking his son to soccer practice or going to the grocery store.

Maniscalco describes himself as a storyteller, whose proudest moment — selling out New York's Madison Square Garden — was the pinnacle of his dream, which is to make a career out of making people laugh. As a parent, he believes that we need to create a bit of adversity for our kids, as well as make sure they grow up with good work ethics, something he did as a kid.

To seek every mechanical comfort in life may not always be good for us. Dan Buettner, multiple *New York Times*-bestselling author and National Geographic Fellow, shared with us the keys to unlocking a longer life expectancy. You will be surprised to learn that people in the Blue Zones often live to be 100 years old if they walk, bike and eat beans. They are often also more likable and engage in more of the things that make life's journey more enjoyable.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Dolce* and that you discover the kinds of positive and motivating accomplishments that will inspire you.

We dare you to take the chances that will make this year a most positive one for you and your family.

Michelle Zerillo-Sosa

Michelle Zerillo-Sosa
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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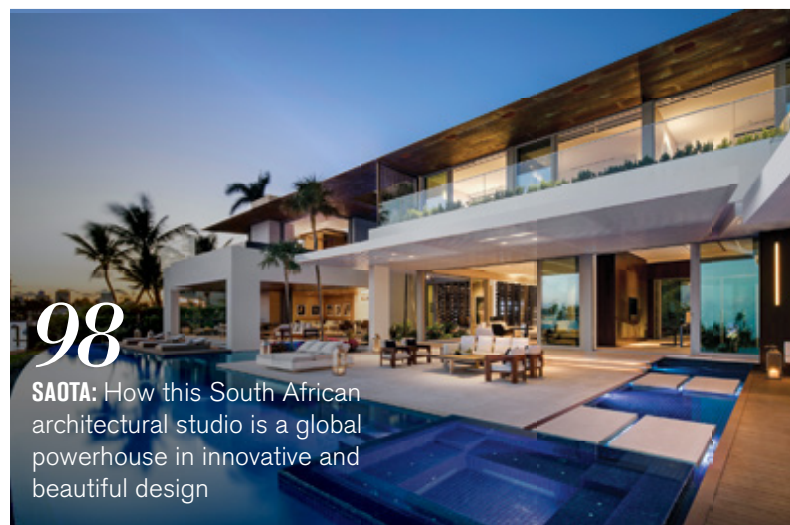
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From its 1879 opening in Picton to its newly restored grandeur, The Royal Hotel supplies the perfect setting for the Prince Edward County experience



THE HISTORIC ROYAL HOTEL REOPENS IN BEAUTIFUL PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Exquisite cuisine and modern amenities in a historical setting
make The Royal a preferred destination

WRITTEN BY RICK MULLER

Following an extensive and loving restoration, The Royal Hotel in picturesque Prince Edward County has reopened on Main Street in Picton, Ont., on the shores of Lake Ontario. The Royal Hotel is certain to attract discerning guests who will admire its historical significance and beautiful guest rooms, which are complemented by fine dining emphasizing locally grown produce.

Originally built in 1879 to coincide with the arrival of the railroad bringing guests from Toronto and Montreal to enjoy the beauty and splendour of the idyllic countryside, the hotel fell into disrepair before being purchased by the Sorbara family in 2013. The family's mandate was to return the hotel to its former position as a primary destination for hospitality and comfort in Prince Edward County.

"My family has been fortunate to be a part of Prince Edward County for many years, and we are thrilled to bring back this iconic piece of Prince Edward County's history," says Greg Sorbara. "We see it as an important investment in our community and our province. Our community has

shared many remarkable stories about personal connections to The Royal. Now, we are ready to welcome both new and returning guests for years to come."

The restored hotel honours the deep roots of the building, as evidenced by the painstaking, brick-by-brick restoration of the historically designated Main Street facade. The reimagined Royal Hotel, by architects Giannone Petricone Associates, now offers 28 beautiful guest rooms in the main building with five guest suites in the ancillary Royal Annex space, manufactured by Unique Store Fixtures, who also manufactured the doors, closets, feature ceiling wood and stairs, as well as the kitchens and bathroom sinks.

The restoration is a fusion of old and new while balancing historical touches with a modern and comforting environment and the latest amenities. Guest room windows on the facade have been custom matched to replicate the original design as much as possible, with each type of room named after an Ontario heritage apple variety as a nod to the region's many historical orchards.

The Royal Hotel contains an on-site bakery, hotel bar, spa and sauna, as well as conference and meeting spaces. The dining room, under the direction of Executive Chef Albert Ponzo, offers a combination of French- and Italian-inspired cuisine with ingredients sourced from the Sorbara family's organic farm, Edwin County Farms, as well as many of Prince Edward County's acclaimed locally grown producers.

Heading outdoors, guests get a resort-like experience with dining in The Garden, or groups can book The Harvest Table, a semi-private space nestled beneath a fireside pergola. A special custom-tiled pool and lounge area complete the outdoor space and will be the centrepiece of the Grand Reopening scheduled for May of this year.

The Royal Hotel, in Picton, brings together the historical significance of a grand hotel with modern conveniences and fine dining in enhancing any visit to beautiful Prince Edward County.

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STATE OF THE ART



In 2016, Hirschowitz's philanthropic work was recognized by then-president Barack Obama, who awarded her the President's Volunteer Service Award for her efforts supporting UNICEF's Tap Project

GALERIE PERRIE: EXPANDING THE WORLD OF ART COLLECTING

Los Angeles-native Gabé Hirschowitz founded Galerie Perrie, an online art gallery featuring a professionally curated collection of artwork and exclusive décor from around the globe. Ideal for both seasoned art collectors and curious art lovers, Galerie Perrie gives everyone access to collecting some of the most cutting-edge work today

WRITTEN BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

Mementos have the power to help us relive our fondest memories. One of Gabé Hirschowitz's fondest memories is the period of time after she first moved from Los Angeles to New York, which she memorialized in the name of her virtual art gallery, Galerie Perrie. "I lived on Perry in The Village when I originally moved to New York. It reminded me of a really magical neighbourhood and chapter of my life, and so I love the connection there. I love the name Perry and changed the "y" to an "ie" and made it my own."

With an eye for emerging artists and a passion for the arts, Hirschowitz decided to launch her online art gallery in the middle of the pandemic. "We were all home more than ever. I had a lot of people reaching out to me about people wanting to change their environment at home, collect art and really beautify their environment. I thought, *Well, what better time to create a highly curated online gallery — quality over quantity gallery — for people to shop for art online? I would love to be able to go to a really great web page and buy high-quality contemporary emerging art, knowing that an art professional had vetted it and curated it.*" In addition to undergoing a rigorous certification of its provenance and value to the private collector, each season, the featured works rotate on a quarterly basis, allowing for a constant renewal of quality, contemporary art, photography and sculpture works by emerging and established artists.

As the founder of UNICEF's groundbreaking Next Generation Art Party and former acquisitions committees manager at The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles (MOCA), Hirschowitz has a long history of supporting the arts and has a deep connection to giving back.

Her commitment to the arts and philanthropic endeavours is reflected in Galerie Perrie's DNA, with a portion of this season's sales from the online gallery benefitting the life-saving work of Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services. As co-founder of the Young Leadership Board of Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services in Los Angeles, Hirschowitz is a strong advocate for keeping art curriculums alive in the daily life of children's education.

"The No. 1 thing cut from a low-budget curriculum would be an art program. A portion of the collection goes to Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services, and I'm on the young board there. I take the children to the Getty. I do an art program with them every now and then. They often have a hard life, and they're not keen on you coming in and teaching them art, but then, at the end of the hour and a half, they're completely different people. They're happy, they're loud, they're playing with each other, they're hugging me. That would be why I believe in keeping art alive."

Dolce spoke with the gallery owner from her home in New York on the connection between art and philanthropy, trends in the art world and her definition of art.

Q: Can you speak on why you believe there is such a strong connection between art and philanthropy?

A: Often, when people are buying art, if they know that a portion will go to anyone in need, they're more likely to hopefully not only love the art and collecting the art, but also know that a portion of it will be going to helping another human being. What better way than to give back by supporting an emerging creative and supporting a child in need?

I think there's just a general spiritual connection

between the two. I think a big part of collecting art is that people like to connect artwork very deeply. I know a lot, with my private clientele, before they buy an artwork, they like to know the meaning behind it and what it took to make it and if there's any spiritual connection there. I think, often, people who are deeply involved in philanthropy, I think they are very kind people, giving back; they feel a lot, and they are deep, and maybe the connection there makes them merge.

Q: What is your relationship like with the artists whose work you work with, and is there one in particular whom you gravitate toward?

A: I love them all. I hand-picked everything, I love everything, I would hang everything on my own. They're all very different people and very talented. I think the commonality would be that I love people who are very dedicated to their craft. They would be doing what they're doing creatively, whether or not they are being paid for it. They were born to be creative. And I love working with people like that. To me, that would feel very true to who they are, true to their creative ability, and they're not doing it to be well-known or to make a lot of money. They're doing it because they can't imagine doing anything other than what they're doing in their life, and that, to me, would be a true creative. I really try to make sure to get to know people before taking them on. I have to like their work, and they are talented. They're all very different in their own way. We have people all over the world who are working with us now, and they're all my favourite.

Q: You've always been quite keen on giving back. Did this come from the way that you were taught as a child growing up, or is it something that you

“

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EXPERIENCING
IT WITH A
REALIZATION
OF THE ARTIST'S
DEEPEST SELF**

”

noticed was important from the outside world, as you got older?

A: I grew up in a very loving, warm, fortunate environment. My mom and dad are South African. My dad grew up in Johannesburg. My mom grew up in Cape Town, and then my whole maternal side of my family all live Sydney, near Bondi Beach, and I was actually born there. We moved to Los Angeles when I was four years old. So, I don't know if it had to do with my upbringing or travelling the world at a young age and seeing how people live all over the world, then coming home and feeling really grateful for my life and then growing up and wanting to give back. Children are incredible, and they are pure, and, particularly, I'm such an advocate for keeping an art curriculum alive in their daily life.

Q: What is your definition of art?

A: Art is how the soul communicates. It excites those experiencing it with a realization of the artist's deepest self. As Henri Matisse said, "Creativity takes courage," but the courage to be vulnerable. When emotion overrules thought, innovation takes place. It is from this place that truly remarkable art is born.

Q: What is your favourite way to spend free time?

A: I love hosting intimate dinner parties for family and friends, doing everything from decorating a beautiful table with flowers and candles to baking the dessert. I also enjoy travelling to both new and familiar places and always feel recharged when I'm around nature, especially water.

Q: Do you see a trend happening in terms of what art people like?

A: I think people like true self-expression and self-reflection in art. People really love learning the deeper meaning behind the artwork and connecting with it, and, when they find out that they've connected with a creative who's genuinely showing how they're feeling with the world and



In addition to recently founding GaleriePerrie.com, Hirschowitz has also continued to combine her passion for art with philanthropy, co-founding the Young Leadership Board of Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services in Los Angeles and founding the COLLECT ART + DO GOOD™ organization, which has benefited Stand Up To Cancer, Make-A-Wish Foundation and other worthy causes

everything going on around the world, people really like that genuine connection. Art allows people to show what they're feeling without directly telling it, speaking it or writing it, and there's something really beautiful about that genuine, pure communication through art that people might be too shy to communicate directly — both collector and creative. If anything, a trend that I'm picking up on would be genuine self-expression, and I think that is really powerful. Eli Broad said it best: "I like the fact that art reflects what's happening in the world, how artists see the world." I couldn't agree with that more. Pure, honest and genuine self-expression definitely excites me. Artists create true social and emotional connections that remind us why we're here. Creativity and vulnerability

bring people closer together, and it's something that I sincerely value and support.

Q: What does *la dolce vita* mean to you?

A: Living with love and clarity around the people whom you love and who make you feel your best every day. And also, being able to fulfill your passion in life. Waking up every morning and loving what you do.

galerieperrie.com
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This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

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BEAUTY FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Dr. Jennifer Pearlman shares the five Ps that define her approach at PearlMD Rejuvenation, a world-renowned medical clinic, and what inspired her to build a new model of medicine to meet the needs of aging women



At PearlMD Rejuvenation, located in Toronto, Dr. Pearlman blends the evidence-based science of Western medicine with a holistic approach to help patients optimize hormones, health and beauty, and achieve "Ageless Vitality"

As far back as she remembers, Dr. Jennifer Pearlman always had an eye for beauty. She taught herself to sketch female faces as a young girl using Veronica from Archie Comics as her muse. She has refined her artistry over the years with her love of math and science to practise medicine as an acclaimed expert in the field of cosmetic medicine helping her patients to look and feel their best.

However, her approach to beauty is more than skin deep. Her pursuit of a career in holistic medicine was also born from early childhood experiences. "As a young girl, one of the most prescient events was when my father, who at the time was a very fit young man in his 30s, had a massive heart attack and almost died," she shares. It was soon revealed that her father's heart disease was linked to genetic risks, which required treatment with diet and lifestyle intervention and eventually life-saving medical technology. However, years later as a medical student, she was surprised to find a void in the training that shaped budding doctors on nutritional and lifestyle treatment.

As she embarked into practice, she cultivated further her own unique approach to integrate holistic health with science-based medicine. She believed firmly in two tenets. First, that health is more than the absence of illness. And second, that aging well is a choice.

Over the past two decades, her approach and deep expertise and experience in women's health

have been interwoven at PearlMD Rejuvenation, a concierge and holistic women's health practice she founded to help patients age well from the inside out.

She defines the PearlMD approach by five Ps. "We deliver *precision* medicine driven by an individual's unique biomarkers in a highly *personalized* way catered to their lifestyle and preferences," she says. "We take a *proactive* approach that's *preventative* and founded on *partnerships*. We educate, enlighten, advocate and empower women to make changes with the best in lifestyle- and science-based medicine."

To help her patients achieve "Ageless Vitality," an idea she coined years ago, Dr. Pearlman and her team at PearlMD curate bespoke integrative health plans shaped by one's genetic, hormonal, nutritional and metabolic health markers. With the best cosmetic medical treatments, technologies and techniques, Dr. Pearlman helps her patients refresh to their best with customized cosmetic care for skin, face and body.

Wrinkle-relaxing treatments, like Dysport, can be used to achieve a more youthful glow. Facial sculpting with treatments like Restylane can enhance the cheeks and contour the jawline, and biostimulant treatments with a skin booster, like Sculptra, can turn back the hands of time on aging skin.

In constant pursuit of the best and safest treatments and technologies, Dr. Pearlman has even developed her own line of medical-grade

skin care and food-based health supplements, which she prescribes to her patients as part of the highly personalized care.

The high-calibre care at PearlMD is guided by Dr. Pearlman's extensive experience and expertise. She is a recognized expert in women's health and menopause, certified by the North American Menopause Society (NAMS), a fellow and faculty in Functional, Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine (FAARM) and is board-certified in Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine (ABAARM).

As international faculty, she is an invited speaker at prestigious medical meetings around the world, and as part of this global network, Dr. Pearlman ensures she is up-to-date on the best medicine, latest trends and most advanced treatments. "I'm honoured and excited to be the global ambassador for the largest group of cosmetic doctors in the world, the Aesthetic Multispecialty Society (AMS)," Dr. Pearlman explains.

With a thriving business and a packed schedule, it's easy to think Dr. Pearlman is all work and no play, but that's not the case. She is a wife and busy mom of two boys and balances their full schedules with hers. "The sweet life for me is carving out time, no matter where you are or what you do, for self-care. The fulfillment of doing what you love on a daily basis is like placing little investments to carry you on to the sweet life."

pearlrejuvenation.com
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■ stone tile

Glamorous, even when you're not.

Eddy R. A. Burello, FCPA, FCA, MBA, is a Business Advisor and Partner with MNP in Toronto. Burello draws on 36 years of experience in public accounting, working with private company entrepreneurs in the areas of corporate and personal tax

SPONSORED CONTENT



KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

'Shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves in three generations' is a well-known adage that refers to the declining wealth across a family's generations. MNP's Business Advisor and Partner Eddy Burello explains how he's working to stop that happening

When we start speaking with Eddy Burello, who draws on more than 30 years of experience in public accounting to provide a suite of services custom-designed to meet the ever-changing, complex needs of private enterprises and Canadian families, the personal commitment to his work is clear.

"When strategies get implemented successfully, and the outcome is beneficial from a family's perspective, there's a great sense of satisfaction," Burello says. "I've always found that, especially in the private environment, a lot of family and private businesses are thankful because they don't have the necessary resources internally."

As a Canadian-born and -raised firm, MNP is the country's leading national accounting, tax and business consulting firm. Though it started in a small city in Manitoba, MNP's head office is in Calgary with a growth that means it now has locations in both large cities and smaller communities across Canada.

Its Family Office ensures families are prepared both now and long into the future. It's home to advisors like Burello, who empower entrepreneurs to make the right decisions when it comes to allocating wealth and assets, investing and creating charitable foundations and providing a consolidated view of a family's wealth so they can better align it with their current and future goals.

The office also eases the huge administration

burden that comes with income tax and financial reporting and acts as a key communicator for families as they make pivotal decisions.

"As businesses grow and accumulate wealth, and family members become part of the business, different dynamics evolve," Burello continues. "It's about addressing the evolution of that family

“

WE BUILD A PERSONAL
LEVEL OF TRUST. THERE'S
A LEVEL OF INTIMACY,
AND THAT PROVES TO BE
SUCCESSFUL

”

business and providing different outcomes, solutions and strategies.”

With every scenario being different (and some more sensitive than others), Burello understands the complexity that comes with his role. What's vital for him is fostering an environment that encourages conversation.

"What's important is having a process where we can engage with people," he says. "That level varies. Some families will invite their children, others are

more secretive. There's no one right way. It's about how you customize to a circumstance to outline a successful outcome." As Burello says, "We build a personal level of trust. There's a level of intimacy, and that proves to be successful."

Another key facet that Burello and the Family Office helps family businesses with is philanthropy. "Many families we work with have an obligation to give back to the communities that helped them survive and secure their families," Burello says. "It's also a way of ensuring sustainability. If the community grows and is healthy, it ensures future businesses will also grow."

With three decades of experience in advising private companies and shareholders in a range of domestic and international tax issues, Burello is a seasoned veteran. As well as holding a Master of Business Administration degree from York University, he is a designated Chartered Professional Accountant, qualified as a Chartered Accountant, ranking fourth in Ontario for his marks. He also spends his time on various not-for-profit boards and speaks at industry events.

But, for Burello, success is simply about being able to help. "If I'm measuring it from a client perspective, success is about knowing that I've had a positive impact on helping them reach their potential, while building a strong relationship along the way."

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FOREST HILL PRIVATE RESIDENCES: AN UNMATCHED LUXURY LIFESTYLE IN THE HEART OF TORONTO'S FOREST HILL

To complement this, interior design firm U31 has incorporated exceptional luxury design elements into all suites, such as custom-designed Cameo kitchens and modern engineered hardwood flooring. The firm has also integrated a host of high-end finishes that can be seen within the grand lobby and amenity rooms

WRITTEN BY RICK MULLER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

Part of the allure of major global cities is that, despite their explosive growth, they still retain revered residential neighbourhoods of old-world charm and character, seemingly untouched by modern mayhem while offering private enclaves of luxury living in the heart of a great metropolis. Toronto's Forest Hill is just such a neighbourhood, and Forest Hill Private Residences condominium will be a welcomed addition for those aspiring to move there, or for long-time residents seeking to remain in the area by downsizing into a maintenance-free luxury lifestyle.

"Amenities make the difference at Forest Hill Private Residences," says Zev Mandelbaum, founder and president of Atree Developments, the developer behind this nine-storey boutique condominium, whose family has been in the development business for 70 years. "Most luxury buildings have very few amenities, as they're selling the finishings or location, so I thought if I was living in an opulent hotel, I'd want those amenities near me and lots of them. So, we put more amenities in Forest Hill Private Residences than probably any other luxury building in Toronto."

Those amenities include a pool room with

15-foot ceilings, a steam room, both dry and wet saunas, a full fitness area with modern cardio and weight training equipment, an outdoor tranquility area, an outdoor barbecue, and a party room with a full catering kitchen and an exclusive collection of world-class wines. The residence also includes a fully furnished and landscaped outdoor terrace providing a retreat in which to enjoy a view of the treetop canopy of surrounding Forest Hill, with the impressive Toronto skyline in the distance and the stately turrets of nearby Casa Loma in the foreground. Careful thought and consideration by Atree were put into every aspect of this luxury living environment.

"We even have two entrances and two lobbies," says Mandelbaum. "We have a primary lobby with a double-height ceiling, which is actually a lounge with 24-hour coffee and tea services, and then we have a separate service lobby so all the 'noise' goes through the service lobby. Here, it's like living in a five-star hotel with the feeling of being home at the same time."

Residences are offered in one-, two- and three-bedrooms layouts (all with den options) featuring multiple floorplans and priced from \$1.8 million to \$6 million-plus. The suites feature 10-foot-high ceilings, ample natural light, a full Miele appliance

Zev Mandelbaum of Atree Developments is seen in the Presentation Centre of the luxury boutique residence in midtown Toronto

package and expansive terraces with gas lines. To complement this, interior designer U31 has incorporated exceptional luxury design, such as custom-designed Cameo kitchens and modern engineered hardwood flooring.

Forest Hill Private Residences were designed by Graziani + Corazza Architects, with interiors by U31, two of Toronto's most acclaimed architects and designers. With its elegant and modern exterior of limestone and granite, the building fits in completely with its historical surroundings. "It's a timeless and beautiful design with architectural symmetry in a tremendous location," says Mandelbaum. "I call it a beautiful rose within a beautiful bouquet. I've worked with Graziani + Corazza and U31 for years. When you're trying to paint your dream, what better way than to work





The nine-storey residences include a full catering kitchen with a collection of world-class wines and an outdoor terrace with views over downtown Toronto



RENDERINGS COURTESY OF FOREST HILL PRIVATE RESIDENCES

with a team that really understands what that is. It's been a perfect collaboration."

The luxury at Forest Hill Private Residences does not stop at its appearance or finishings, but in its services offered for residents. Altree is working with The Forest Hill Group in providing the on-site delivery of a curated, luxury concierge, bespoke security, and upscale valet services. A market leader in providing luxury services, The Forest Hill Group can handle almost any personal request to ensure that from the moment they arrive at the private grand porte cochère, residents can focus on that most important commodity — personal time.

Forest Hill Private Residences is located at 2 Forest Hill Rd., at the corner of St. Clair Avenue West, just steps from Forest Hill Village, a treasured collection of boutiques, shops and galleries, with

restaurant staff who remember your drink order and a barbershop that recently marked its 90th anniversary. It is this consistency in a changing world that makes the neighbourhood so beloved and cherished by its residents, many of whom have lived their entire lives in the area and sent their children to the many nearby prestigious private schools.

For this reason, the sales success of Forest Hill Private Residences to date has been driven by current Forest Hill homeowners who wish to stay in the area and are attracted by the luxury, amenities and carefree personal services the condominium offers when they make the decision to downsize.

"It's been a lot of people who are looking for that boutique, idyllic, quiet home in a beautifully

landscaped and manicured setting," says Mandelbaum. "The majority of people who have purchased have been recommended by friends. I would estimate that 60 to 70 per cent of the residents know each other, and there will be a strong sense of community in the building."

The pandemic has been an unexpected time forced upon us all to re-evaluate how we live. For those choosing to stay, thrive and surround themselves with the many benefits of urban living, yet seeking the sanctuary of a luxury environment, Forest Hill Private Residences appears to strike the ideal balance and provide the ultimate residential solution.

foresthillresidences.com
@altreedevelop

SPONSORED CONTENT

Since founding Condoville in 2017, Gogna has brought data, market intelligence and advanced analytics to better understand the real estate industry

SHAMINDER GOGNA: BRINGING INTELLIGENCE AND SOLUTIONS MAKE REAL ESTATE OWNERSHIP POSSIBLE

In the sometimes-confusing and always-volatile world of real estate, more leading builders and developers are turning to Condoville Real Estate and its group of companies for clear advice, intelligence and trusted counsel

PHOTO BY CARLOS A. PINTO

During the pandemic, we have all been inundated by data. All our screens have been a seemingly non-stop barrage of charts and graphs as we follow numbers, trends and try to learn from science. The importance of data has never been clearer and it has been guiding policies and actions for nearly two years.

This focus on what we can learn from data is teaching us that this can translate beyond just the health-care and science fields to other industries. Real estate intelligence-gathering and data analysis are highly specialized skills, and the ability to obtain that information, understand its hidden meanings and clearly communicate those findings are rare attributes to set up any company for success. Attributes Condoville Marketing possesses in abundance and uses as its competitive advantage during the most volatile real estate market in history.

“Information is integral to what we do, and we possess information that is generally not out there,” says Shaminder Gogna, founder and president of Condoville in a recent interview with *Dolce*. “The project analysis is the biggest thing, and insight and market intelligence are key. As a result of our intelligence and data analysis, we initially were providing information for pre-construction buyers, but then we realized we were now able to help builders and developers because we had buyers for their projects.”

Having the insight to identify emerging real estate markets before they hit the front pages is perhaps Condoville’s biggest asset and one it shares in developing strategic partnerships with landowners, developers and builders. Its services also include consulting with regards to the building or community mix, pricing, design, branding and creating a memorable customer experience.

“We can understand where a specific market is going because we’re always speaking with people who want to buy in the area,” says Gogna. “Buyers of a project tell us what they want in homes, bedroom and bathroom mixes, specific amenities, so we have our ear on the ground, and that information and intelligence are very valuable to builders and developers.”

An ideal illustration is the Niagara Region, Ont., and Condoville’s role as the exclusive sales company for the new Riverwalk Niagara, a boutique luxury condominium of 51 residences priced from the mid-\$600s, making it affordable living compared to the Greater Toronto Area, and with expanded GO Train service from Niagara, only 90 minutes from downtown Toronto.

“Governments are investing heavily in this area, including a new quarter-billion-dollar hospital, and there is a tremendous livability standard in the area,” says Gogna. “Niagara is

dramatically undervalued and will significantly increase in value in the next five years. Niagara is a new market, and we’re creating opportunities for landowners, investors and developers. We’re market driven and what we’re building, the market wants.”

This type of marketing intelligence is what is making Condoville one of the emerging leaders in providing innovative real estate solutions just five years after its founding, and it fits with Condoville’s vision to bridge the gap for a generation who doesn’t think they can afford real estate.

“Our vision is to help people move forward in the market, and by developing specific sites, we’re offering a pathway to real estate ownership,” says Gogna. “It’s all about designing suitable solutions to purchasers’ requirements across generations between baby boomers and Gen Zs.”

Gogna’s dynamic leadership and business acumen are a far cry from his days as a young child, where it is safe to say that his goals were a tad underwhelming. “When I was a young child, my goal was to be a teenager,” laughs Gogna. With degrees from Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Toronto, Gogna started in a brokerage setting as the sales manager of more than 100 sales professionals. After working in his family business for a decade, Gogna founded Condoville Real Estate as a group of companies that streamline the process and operations required to sell master-planned communities and/or low- to mid-rise buildings, also applying his considerable skills when designing, marketing or selling sites.

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In working on behalf of its clients, Condoville’s upfront work includes a comprehensive Project Verification Plan. It consists of three elements, including a Feasibility Study, using Condoville’s extensive knowledge and understanding of planning policies and regulations, and the technical and financial realities of the land development process. It then moves to the Site Concept and Design phase, which aims to maximize density based on regulatory city requirements, while keeping in mind market absorption rates, resulting in an understanding of product types, unit mix planning and profit potential. Finally, there is an overall Project Analysis, whereby clients gain access to the Condoville team of professionals to ensure accuracy on all documentation and contract management. These deliverables include items such as construction budgets and site plans.

It is a thorough process, but an example of the market intelligence and data analysis Condoville Real Estate brings to its clients on every project. The result is a product that works for a marketplace, to the benefit of not only the developer or builder, but also the end-user. Gogna’s goals did change as he grew up and his innovative processes, experience and noble aspirations have made Condoville a success.

“I knew I was going to be in business and leave a mark, but how?” recalls Gogna. “If we’re able to provide transparency for real estate solutions, that’s how we leave a mark. If we can make an impact by creating living solutions for people in their market, then real estate ownership is a possibility.”

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WORLD CITIZEN

Actor Russell Hornsby is one of Hollywood's hottest stars and leading men, but the role he enjoys playing the most is his own

WRITTEN BY RICK MULLER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

There are few professions on Earth as volatile as acting. On the surface it may appear glamorous, but it can be tough, brutal, lonely and soul-crushing at the same time. One moment you can be feted as the King of Hollywood, the next you're filling the 3 a.m. slot on a local telethon in Biloxi. Sustained longevity in the craft takes a range of abilities, awareness and a passionate dedication to its artistic nature — attributes that Russell Hornsby has in abundance.

The 47-year-old actor was born in San Francisco and raised in Oakland with his younger brother and is amongst the leading pack of the next generation of American actors with his starring role in the new hit drama series *BMF* (a.k.a. *Black Mafia Family*) from executive producer Curtis (50 Cent) Jackson. Hornsby brings his considerable talents and observations on life to his role in the series, which debuted as the No. 1 premiere on the Starz app this year.

"I consider myself a world citizen and an observer of people and I've been that way my entire life," says Hornsby in a recent interview with *Dolce*. "What happens for me as an actor is when I meet certain people, I take their essence and spirit and file it away. When I met an old man who was a sanitation worker, and he talked about his trash route, I listened to the way he talked, his tone, observed his body language. So, when I read a script, images waft over me and I start to hear voices, of how somebody is going to talk or walk, hard-working men who work with their hands. That created a different type of man than today's man. I'm not always a thinking person, but I'm a feeling person and I carry myself with empathy for everyone I meet. So, when I get roles as everyday hard-working people, it's me trying to honour them and their level of dignity and integrity as the backbone of this country."

Having attended an all-boys catholic school in Berkeley, California, Hornsby is candid about

why he entered the acting profession. It was not part of some grand vision or plan or guiding inner calling, but to meet girls. "It was on a dare that I auditioned for the school play when I was 16, as it was that cliché that there would be plenty of girls there from a sister's school, and that was very enticing," recalls Hornsby. "And I literally got bitten by the bug. That flare to be in front of people felt like I was at home."

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Married and now the father of two children, Hornsby has been one of Hollywood's busiest leading men for more than two decades, recently turning in award-winning performances in films including *The Hate U Give*, *Creed II*, *Fences* and starring on the NBC fantasy drama *Grimm* for six seasons and on the Netflix crime drama *Seven Seconds* opposite Regina King. Hornsby was recently cast to play the well-known boxing promoter Don King in the Hulu series *Iron Mike*, and up next is the film *CHASE* opposite Gerard Butler and a recurring role in the hit Netflix series *Lost in Space*.

Though previously named as one of *Variety* magazine's "10 Actors to Watch," what shaped Hornsby's career and life the most were his early acting days on stage in August Wilson's

Jitney, with other cast members 20 years his senior.

"I was only 24 years old at the time and I like to call those years my 'master's in life,'" says Hornsby. "It was because of those beautiful people who had lived already, who had faced the world head-on and had been knocked down to some degree, but who had gotten back up to tell the story. They were able to say to me the stuff out here is real and it's hard, but you will have the opportunity to make something happen for yourself if you commit to it."

While his passion for his craft is evident, it is Hornsby's intellect, informed by his many years of observing life and people, that is most impressive, especially his insights on community and culture, shaped by his years immersed in both.

"Community brings and helps develop culture, as it brings a better understanding of culture in where you came from and what you are willing to represent as you go forth," observes Hornsby. "When we were kids, we all came from a certain community that helps develop us and grow, and in that you're creating culture, and culture dictates and impresses upon you how you're going to see the world, how we think and what we're going to be perceived as. So, you take that nucleus of what we got as a child and you take that community with you, along with that culture, to another community, which is going to be a part of a different culture, and these mesh together and develop you in a different way. So, it is important you know how to identify community, not just people. My wife and I look at our kids now to figure out what culture and community they will be a part of to ensure they will make a positive impact on society."

Actor, society leader and world citizen are three impressive credits to any name, and Russell Hornsby is making a positive impact on the screen and off, just when we need it the most.

@@russoulhornsby

One of Hollywood's
busiest leading men for
two decades, Hornsby is
set to play Don King in
the upcoming *Iron Mike*



PHOTO BY BENJO ARVAS

Braverman is the co-founder and CEO of Eco Wave Power

FOR INNA BRAVERMAN, PASSION IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST RENEWABLE ENERGY

PHOTO COURTESY OF INNA BRAVERMAN

The co-founder and CEO of Eco Wave Power talks about renewable energy and how 1986's Chernobyl disaster led to her founding her company 24 years later

WRITTEN BY JOSH WALKER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

Two weeks after Inna Braverman was born in the Ukraine, she had a respiratory arrest. It was a result of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor explosion and the severe pollution that filled the air in the following days.

While Braverman doesn't remember the experience first-hand — how her mother, a nurse, resuscitated her, or how the ambulance arrived to save her life — hearing the stories over the years and immigrating to a small town in Israel at the age of four set something in motion.

"I got a second chance at life, so grew up feeling like I had a sense of purpose," Braverman says. "I remember thinking, *What could I do when I grow up that will really make a difference?*"

She chose to study political science, thinking that a career as a political leader would enable her to find an answer. But, when she graduated and realized no one was waiting to hire someone with a major in political science, she fell into the world she's in now.

"I started working at a renewable energy firm as an English-Hebrew translator," she continues. "That's where I discovered the world of renewable energy: wind and solar, which were already commercialized, and wave energy, which everybody believed in, but no one was making happen. So I said, 'I can do it.'"

Founded in Tel Aviv, Israel, Eco Wave Power is what Braverman spends her days working on. It's a solution that works with floaters, attached to structures like piers, jetties or breakwaters, moving with the motion of the waves to produce clean, renewable energy.

Being attached to existing structures instead of placed out at sea means they don't disrupt any ecological balance. And, because they automatically rise and remain above water level when a storm hits, they're also cost-effective and more reliable than other solutions.

It's an impressive process, and one you might think would come from someone who has a background in something like engineering. For

Braverman, however, lacking that experience was a plus. As she says, "When you're not too locked into something, you think more outside the box."

The company has a grid-connected power station in Gibraltar that's been operational since 2016 and is currently constructing its second power station in Israel. Braverman herself has also been named on Medium.com's "100 Makers and Mavericks" list alongside Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk, and she has delivered three

“
**WE'RE IN AN
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ENVIRONMENT**
”

TEDx Talks about her experience as a female entrepreneur.

For her, it doesn't matter whether someone has studied in the field or what their background is. All Braverman wants to do with Eco Wave Power is bring passionate people together. "One of my favourite sayings is, 'Passion is the greatest renewable energy source.' That's really key in my company culture."

As well as being contacted by governments and ports, Braverman says Eco Wave Power has been approached by private owners of marinas, homes that have jetties next to their property and PhD students looking to write about the technology. "We're in an era where everyone cares about the environment," she says. "Ten years ago, it wasn't as high on the agenda."

It's not all been smooth sailing, though. Alongside coming up with a solution to fight the way the world approaches energy, Braverman has had to fight as a female entrepreneur. "Being an entrepreneur's hard, but being a female entrepreneur adds an additional layer of difficulty," she shares. She recounts a story when, aged 24, she entered a conference room excited to present the company's technology. Instead of presuming she was an entrepreneur, attendees started placing orders for water or espresso, thinking she was someone's assistant.

"Many people tell us women are too weak or unable to do something," Braverman continues. "We shouldn't listen to that. If we step down, our daughters will step down, and we'll have a negative chain of events."

Looking ahead, Braverman's hopes for the future are bright. She believes, in order to have a completely environmentally friendly, clean world, we need to bring all renewable energy sources together. "Sometimes the world gets stuck, and we implement one or two sources and stop because it's working. That's something I'd love to see a shift in — where we implement as much renewable energy as possible from all sources."

She also hopes the statistics will begin to tip more in the balance of renewable energy's favour. "Right now, only 18 per cent of the world's energy is generated by renewable energy, which isn't a lot," she continues. "According to the forecasts, we'll have about 30 per cent by the year 2023. According to other research, wave energy is expected to produce at least 10 per cent of Europe's electricity by 2050. So, the outlook is positive."

Above all, she urges everybody to do what they can. "If you can put plastic bottles in the right recycling bin, that's a help. If you're an innovator or investor, invent something to change the world. If you're an investor and can invest in something to make the world a better place, do that. Everybody should do their part."

@ecowavepower

LIVE TO BE 1100

Imagine that you had the keys to unlock a longer life expectancy. Thankfully, Dan Buettner, multiple *New York Times* bestselling author and National Geographic Fellow, is handing them to you by virtue of his research into “Blue Zones” — the five places in the world where an unusually high number of people have reached an advanced age. So, what are a few of the keys to people in Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; Nicoya, Costa Rica; Ikaria, Greece; and Loma Linda, Calif., living longer? More movement and beans. “It’s thinking about how to inconvenience your life a little bit and not trying to seek every mechanical comfort ... I think the most important ingredient in the longevity diet is beans. They’re cheap and they’re full of protein, fibre and folates,” says Buettner

WRITTEN BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

PHOTO BY ANDREW MAYOVSKY



“
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100-YEAR-OLDS, ONE OF THE BIGGEST
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“WHAT? LIKEABLE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE
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”

“ Young people think they’re going to live forever. Until you develop your first wrinkle or first back pain or start to squint your eyes is when you even start thinking about your own mortality and then longevity starts getting more interesting for people,” says Buettner.

Age isn’t *just a number* in the world of the Blue Zones. In Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; Nicoya, Costa Rica; Ikaria, Greece; and Loma Linda, Calif., age is the proof in the pudding that a longer and healthier life can be unlocked through changes in lifestyle. While exploring the world to find where people live the longest, Buettner found that there are nine common characteristics throughout each zone, by befriending locals in every Blue Zone,

observing and joining in with their daily routines and discussing their approaches to life, food and aging.

Buettner translates his experience in these places and decodes what makes these particular zones breed life longevity, health and a prosperous life. For example, in Ikaria, he discovers a town that has extremely low rates of dementia and Alzheimer’s, which suggest that most cases are avoidable. “People are eating a whole-food, plant-based diet, people are moving all the time, keeping their minds engaged, avoiding toxins and air pollution, especially. These people are avoiding Alzheimer’s at these extraordinary rates. I know Alzheimer’s scientists who assert that up to 80 per cent of Alzheimer’s is avoidable by just doing the right things.”

In his latest book, a companion book to the No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Blue Zones Kitchen*, Buettner offers a four-week guide and a year-long sustainability program to jump-start your journey to better health and happiness, less stress and a longer life. “The important thing to realize about Blue Zones is that we found the same things that help you make it to 100 are also the same things that make the journey enjoyable. People who are really interested in living a long time, they are enjoying the journey, and that’s just as important. Some people aren’t dying to live to 100. It’s an interconnected, interlaced formula.”

Q: For those who don’t know about the Blue Zones, what are they and what makes them special?

A: Twenty per cent of how long we live is genes,



In his new book, Buettner shares his favourite recipe: a minestrone made by the longest-living family in the history of the world, who ate minestrone every day

PHOTO BY GIAN LUCA COLLA

and 80 per cent is something else, then we can actually find places where people are achieving the outcomes we want — that is, living a long time without disease — then, they must be doing something. Our project set out to find the areas in the world where people live the longest. We found them in Ikaria, Greece; Okinawa, Japan; Ogliastra Region, Sardinia; Loma Linda, Calif.; and the Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica. Once we found those places, then we went about using established methodology to find the common denominators. In the places where people live a long time, what are they all doing? That was the topic of my first book: *The Blue Zones, 9 Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest*. It turns out, they all have the same nine characteristics.

Q: Were you always fascinated with the topic of longevity and health?

A: No. I did read the 1974 *National Geographic* article by Alexander Leaf about places where people live a long time, and I was impressed by it, but I'm more of an explorer. I'm not a health guru. My chosen profession/purpose is solving mysteries that illuminate the human experience. The Blue Zones work was an extension of that.

Q: What fascinates you most about the Blue Zones, other than the nine characteristics they have in common?

A: I'm generally interested in people, and people who are around 100 years old have lots of great stories. It's wonderful to be able to make a career out of learning the stories of people who live in exotic places and have so much wisdom. I was able to apply their wisdom in my own life.

Q: On top of everything, you hold three Guinness World Records in distance cycling. What do you love about cycling?

A: Well, I think driving places is largely transportation, and bicycling is travel, so you have a really strong connection to your surroundings. You get physical activity, you can wave at your friends, it's good for the environment, it doesn't burn fossil fuels and carbon in the atmosphere, so they're so many benefits. A healthier America will ride on a bicycle while eating beans.

Q: Can you share one of the stories that has affected you?

A: I recognize that among most 100-year-olds, one of the biggest predictors of making it to 100 is being likeable. And you might say, "What? Likeable? I thought you were supposed to eat more vegetables." But, it turns out that likeable people get better care and have better social connectivity, and part of that is being interesting, as well as *interested*. Part of it is being generous. These are things that perhaps I didn't do such a good job at in my earlier years, and now I'm much better at it.

Q: Your new book, *The Blue Zones Challenge: A Four Week Plan For a Longer, Better Life*, what is your favourite recipe in the book?

A: It's a minestrone. Made by the family of nine siblings, whose collective age is 840 years. They're the longest-living family in the history of the world. They ate the same minestrone every day. It has three beans, garden vegetables, olive oil, red pepper, oregano and extra-virgin olive oil. I eat it almost every day.

Q: What are some of the top ingredients used that are proven to help live a long life?

A: Whole grains, which include corn, rice and wheat. Greens, beans. I think the most important ingredient in the longevity diet is beans. They're cheap and they're full of protein and fibre and folates, and then the best snack food is nuts.

Eating a handful of nuts every day is probably worth two years of life expectancy.

Q: Other than food/good nutrition, what are some of the key factors that help us live longer?

A: Having a strong sense of purpose is worth about eight years of life expectancy. Belonging to a faith, taking time every day to do a prayer meditation, taking naps. Living in a place where it's easy to walk. Fewer than 15 per cent of Americans get enough exercise. We buy a gym membership and we think we're going to go and we don't — or we don't go enough. In Blue Zones, nobody is really exercising, but they're walking to a friend's house or walking to work or they have a garden out back. They're doing housework by hand or garden work by hand, so it's thinking about how to "deconvenience" your life a little bit and not trying to seek every mechanical comfort.

Q: Can you speak on this quote: "Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper"? How does this play into how one should plan meals throughout the day and how it ties into the Blue Zones?

A: In general, they're eating all their calories in about a 16-hour window, so I actually think the best way to eat is a huge late breakfast and then a late-afternoon meal, and that's it. Thinking about eating at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. That's probably the best pattern, and if that doesn't work for you, a huge breakfast, a medium-sized lunch and a little or no dinner. I realize that's hard to do, but, for weight loss and longevity, that's really the best way to go.

Q: Can you tell us about how most cases of Alzheimer's and dementia cases are avoidable, and what you saw on the Greek island of Ikaria?

A: To your point, it is avoidable. A team from The University of Athens interviewed about 97 per cent of everybody over the age of 65 in Ikaria, and found almost no dementia. Two or three very mild cases, which shows us that it's avoidable. These are people with genetic diversity, and they're making it to these very old ages and staying sharp until the very end, which, in my mind, reaffirms that we can do it. The things we know work. People don't believe this because we live in a kind of meat- and processed-food-obsessed culture, and it's really not our fault; it's just that that's the food that's available, but it's very clear that people are eating a whole-food, plant-based diet.

Q: What does *la dolce vita*/the sweet life mean to you?

A: Remaining healthy, pursuing your purpose and living with pleasure and satisfaction to 100.

www.bluezones.com
 @bluezones

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Doconomy co-founders
Wikström (left) and Pihl



THE SWEDISH START-UP RESHAPING THE WAY WE SHOP

Doconomy co-founder Mathias Wikström is working toward a world where products display their carbon footprint in the same way food labels display calories

WRITTEN BY JOSH WALKER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

If Mathias Wikström had to summarize the intention of his start-up Doconomy, he'd do so with one word: educational. "We want everyone to understand what's going on, so they can make their own decisions," he says.

Founded in 2018 with Johan Pihl, Doconomy is dedicated to developing digital tools that drive positive environmental change. "I can't remember

when I decided to set up this company with Johan," Wikström explains. "It was a natural state of things. In honour of ambition we had to do it, and I'm still tied to the ride."

Since its beginnings, Doconomy has worked on a number of solutions. It has its non-plastic, biodegradable DO credit card, which tracks CO2 emissions generated from our transactions before displaying them in an app. It has its Lifestyle

Calculator, which is a quick, easy-to-use tool that helps individuals discover the impact they're having on the environment.

Its most recent is the 2030 Calculator, which uses data from more than 300 impact factors, so both brands and manufacturers can highlight their transparency and environmental commitment by accessing calculations of a product's carbon footprint.



Doconomy's 2030 calculator is a digital tool simplifying the process of calculating a product's carbon footprint

Because Doconomy deals with finances and other personal data, Wikström makes sure every side of the business leads with morality. “When you’re getting into the pockets of someone and something like personal finance, that’s close to people’s hearts. You need to provide them with the best datasets that have integrity, aren’t corrupt and respect their privacy,” he says. “I think those are the core values that drive us in our everyday world.”

In the future, Wikström has visions of these innovations shaping the way we view our shopping baskets. In the same way a receipt will list the financial cost of the items we purchase, Doconomy will allow us to have a breakdown of their environmental cost, too.

“What we’re seeing is a new generation of brand-savvy consumers wanting to know,” Wikström continues. “Now, more than ever, it’s about how your consumption resonates with your personal integrity. You don’t want to run around with a brand who’s putting the world on fire.”

When it comes to driving meaningful change, Wikström understands it goes beyond the innovation of tech to the nuances, like the framing of language. “We need language around this that’s easy and digestible, that doesn’t build walls and constructs academic silos where only the super-educated can understand what’s going on. We want to make this part of popular culture and everyday life. If you’re standing there at the checkout with bags and kids screaming, you’re

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 ”

still going to be able to understand the sustainable impact of your choices.”

It’s this same attention to detail that fuels a brand culture at Doconomy that Wikström describes as “a blend of curiosity, integrity and fearlessness.”

Another facet they lean into is collaboration, forming alliances with organizations like Ålandsbanken, Mastercard and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). “It’s based on this idea



of collaboration and the idea we want to work with science and academia,” Wikström says. “We thought the UNFCCC was a good starting point for these conversations and we struck gold. They’re super-engaged, committed and collaborative.”

Discussing what he’d like to see in the next 10 years, Wikström says, “I would like to see signals that people understand the urgency, and I’d like to see positive effects of changes made in regards to emissions. I think it’s important for people to understand it can be done and it will bring hope to every community. If we address the problem together, we can make an impactful change.”

doconomy.com
 @doconomy

ANGELO VERARDI: AN ENTREPRENEUR LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Before Angelo Verardi founded his company, AV Mechanical, one thing was certain: the plumbing industry was in need of a shakeup

“By the time I was close to receiving my plumbing licence I was disenchanted with the trade,” Verardi shares. “I felt that the industry as a whole lacked integrity, as there was no value put on the quality of the work or on the people who did the work, whether it came to their personal lives, time or pay.”

After a string of jobs in the trade that resulted in unpaid overtime, a lack of support and poor company culture, Verardi didn't just realize there was a problem with the way the sector did business, but that it was in desperate need of change. After some deliberation, Verardi decided to take a leap of faith and launch a business that set out to readjust the status quo and align profit with purpose. The result? AV Mechanical.

“I ended up quitting my job, proposing to my wife and deciding I was going to go on my own all in the same month. I had no experience in the office, no contacts or guarantee of contracts. I just knew how to work hard. I got my licence in January and was incorporated a month later.”

Take a look at AV Mechanical now and you'll see the risk has paid off. As well as offering a suite of professional services to commercial, industrial and custom home-design projects across the Greater Toronto Area and surrounding areas, it's worked on high-profile projects with brands like Toyota and McDonald's.

Having recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of high-quality work for a growing portfolio of loyal clients, the company is planning an expansion to the United States. For Verardi, the key to long-lasting relationships is quality. “People who know the industry and want that peace of mind understand and respect quality,” he notes.

Much of this comes from his approach to people. First, with his employees. Given the experiences he's had and the hardships he faced in the industry, Verardi goes out of his way to ensure the culture at AV Mechanical stands above the rest. In addition to its incredible roster of clients, AV Mechanical

Angelo Verardi is the founder and president of AV Mechanical

was named one of Canada's Healthy Workplace Month Great Employers in 2020 and is on the *Globe and Mail's* ranking of Canada's Top Growing Companies in 2021.

“The way I want to succeed is by seeing others succeed,” Verardi notes. “I'm empowering people to be the best version of themselves and, as a

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decision maker, ensuring they're compensated for how much they commit. I want to show my staff how big a part of the company they are. The more I empower them, the more they empower others, and the more we grow collectively.”

The fact he's a family man also has an impact on the success of his company and speaks to the qualities that have led Verardi to where he is today.

“My wife, Cristina, whom I have been with since I was 16, has always been my biggest supporter. She is fearless, talented and has been a large part behind many of our business-related decisions.” Verardi continues, “She has also spearheaded our social media, which has helped catapult AV Mechanical into the commercial sector and prove our legitimacy.” Two years after the business launched, Anthony Verardi, Angelo's brother, wanted to make a change in his career and ended up becoming AV Mechanical's first employee. “Having family by my side, including a close childhood friend, has proved monumental in the growth of AV Mechanical. Having people that you can trust is priceless. Working with family can be difficult but also presents a wonderful challenge to build something special that can provide opportunities to everyone involved.”

As a father to two sons, Verardi feels the way he runs his business says a lot about how he is as a father. “I'm a father before anything,” he says. “I want to be a great example to them, which is why that culture is so important to me. If I can't be an amazing father, nothing else matters. All the money in the world isn't a good example to them. Doing the right thing when I'm trusted to make the right decision is.”

avmechanical.com
@f@avmechanical



Crurated founder Alfonso de Gaetano (left) and chief strategy officer Christy Erickson are wine aficionados par excellence and are combining their passion with new technology to benefit wine lovers the world over

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID FRITZ GOEPFINGER

THE GRAPES OF PASSION

Crurated, a new membership for the wine community, marries new technology with rare collectibles

WRITTEN BY RICK MULLER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

The scenario plays out at dinner parties the world over: the host brings to the table the wine they've chosen to serve with the main course, pours the glasses and sets this featured vintage on the table, then the dining begins. There may be a comment on the wine and how it so ideally complements the food, but, for the most part, the conversation moves along to the topic du jour. But, it seems, there is always the one couple who picks up the wine and closely examines the bottle, perhaps even entering some notes into their phones. Behold the wine connoisseurs.

Those eager to learn more about wine acquire rare vintages from the masters, adding to their

collections and indulging in their passions for the care, dedication and skill required to grow and appreciate great wine.

It is for these connoisseurs that Crurated was created.

A welcoming online portal for tastemakers, Crurated, launched in May 2021, is a new membership-based wine community, giving wine lovers the opportunity to buy and bid on bottles hand-selected from the cellars of some of the most coveted producers in the world. Collectors and enthusiasts of all levels can come together to celebrate their passion and learn more about their favourite wines and regions through digital content and exclusive in-person wine experiences

to connect them with the people behind the bottles they love.

Crurated is the brainchild of former professional Italian footballer Alfonso De Gaetano. When his career ended by injury, he entered the field of consulting and has spent the past decade at Google, where he is currently Director of Google Global Partnerships in Emerging Markets. It was in his professional business life where he discovered his passion for wine.

"In 2014, I went home to Italy over Christmas, and my good friend was a wine connoisseur. And he opened three bottles of fine wine, and it was a shocking experience — different than anything I'd tasted before," says De Gaetano, in a



De Gaetano has introduced a rare marriage of technology with the centuries-old tradition of winemaking in that every bottle features blockchain technology that tracks wine from the moment it leaves the domaine's doors

recent interview with *Dolce*. “It was an incredible experience, and I started to go to some special places and meet producers and see the cellars. This triggered my idea to only work straight with producers and get the bottles directly from them. My friend is very knowledgeable, and, in fact, is now joining our team.”

While investigating his new passion brought pleasure to his palate, it also brought a level of frustration because of some of the roadblocks De Gaetano encountered.

“When I get into something, I really go in-depth and read lots of books about different regions and was starting to build my cellar with wines from Europe and joining different clubs,” says De Gaetano. “But, I became really frustrated about the experience as someone who was just getting into wine, and Crurated came out of that frustration ... frustration in not being able to access the best wines in the world. You could buy them, but never from producers and only in secondary markets at high prices, and producers weren’t able to access the new generation of wine lovers. And, where do you keep your bottles if you move or change careers, as moving wine affects its quality?”

Crurated brings a team of specialists to provide personalized services and authentic experiences, while the company’s seamless logistics services guarantee quality and provenance, thanks to secure storage. Crurated now offers three membership tiers with different monthly fees: Connoisseur, with curated mixed-case discovery and offers from top winemakers around the world; Collector, with unlimited storage, offers access to rare bottles and invitation-only events; and the top tier is Ambassador level, which includes all the other advantages, as well as first priority in lot allocations and exclusive events with producers.

Its selections of bottles are unparalleled in that they are all hand-picked from the cellars directly from the producers, giving members the chance – and access – to purchase young and library vintages from sought-after wineries. Members also receive



“ TRUST IS AT THE CORE OF WHAT WE DO, AND WITH BLOCKCHAIN, WE CAN BRING MORE TRUST TO OUR OFFERINGS

complimentary storage at Crurated’s professional, temperature- and humidity-controlled warehouse in Burgundy, France, guaranteeing that wines will arrive in the best condition when ready to serve.

Given his knowledge of technology from his current career at Google, De Gaetano has introduced a rare marriage of technology with the centuries-old tradition of winemaking in that every bottle features blockchain technology that tracks wine from the moment it leaves the domaine’s doors. This allows members to simply

tap their phone on the bottle label for all the information, authenticity and history of the bottle, knowing that it came straight from the producer, with all its tracked movements, in a month, a year, or 10 years, when it is opened. This information may now dominate the conversation of any dinner party through the addition of technology to rare collectibles — a potential glimpse into the future.

“Trust is at the core of what we do,” says De Gaetano. “And with blockchain, we can bring more trust to our offerings and our industry around the world. If others follow our lead, perhaps in 20 years, we’ll have fewer fake bottles, and this would benefit everyone, including clients and producers, in the system.”

There has never been a wine lover who hasn’t picked up a bottle and imagined themselves part of the process: the planting, the tending of the vines and grapes under the warmth of the sun, the harvesting, the barrelling and fermenting, and, finally, the release of the nectar when absolutely ready. Crurated puts members in the vineyards with the masters, first in line to savour the care, passion and dedication that goes into every bottle of the world’s finest wines.

crurated.com

@cruratedofficial

THE SKY REALLY IS THE LIMIT

When Judy Cameron's mom told her she could grow up to do anything she wanted, she believed her. So, at just 23 years old, Cameron became the first female pilot hired by Air Canada. She's had an amazing 37-year career, logging more than 23,000 hours in planes, such as the Lockheed 1011, DC-3 and the Airbus 320, and she is the first female captain in Canada of the Boeing 777 (her favourite). Her mom, the wind beneath her own wings, was Cameron's first passenger in a small plane — and always her biggest fan

WRITTEN BY DONNA PARIS | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

A little encouragement goes a long way. "My mom brought me up to think I could be anything I wanted to be," says Judy Cameron. That's not a big deal now, because girls hear it all the time, but in the '50s and '60s when Cameron was a child, it wasn't the norm, especially as the daughter of a single mom. So, when Cameron came home and said she wanted to be a pilot, her mom was all in.

It wasn't a straight flight path for Cameron, though. "It was a total fluke," she says. She had no science background and she wasn't interested in aviation until after her first year of university, where she had enrolled in an arts program. That summer, she was hired to interview pilots for Transport Canada, and one of them offered to take her for a flight. He started showing off. "He did all sorts of things you don't do on a first flight," she says. "We did some aerobatics, shall we say, like watching a pencil float from the front of the airplane to the back," she says. "I remember just hanging onto the seat and screaming in delight," she laughs.

Cameron came off the plane and wanted to know how one becomes a pilot. When she found out how expensive it was and that the best way

would be to have someone else pay you to do it, she wanted to make it happen. In a few weeks, she applied to the aviation program at Selkirk College in Castlegar, B.C., and was accepted. In fact, Cameron rode her motorcycle for eight hours to check out the school, which probably impressed the program director, she adds, who also had a motorcycle (she had to sell her bike to help pay for school, but her mom was proud to be Cameron's first passenger in a small plane).

Cameron had to move fast. She didn't have the prerequisites or any of the background normally required. She had to study Grade 12 math at summer school just to get into the college. And that's one thing she tells young people now. "If you're not 100 per cent sure you have a burning desire to do something, you should always leave your options open."

Cameron was the only girl in the program, and she felt like a bit of an outsider. "I was an oddity, plus it was quite competitive," she adds. The program started with about 30 students, and 20 of them graduated. "I didn't have a Plan B — I didn't think of any other option," she says.

In 1978, Air Canada hired Judy Cameron as its first female pilot. She felt as if she had won the lottery. But remember, this was the late '70s.

Flight attendants would say there was a lot of reaction when passengers realized the pilot was a female. Still, most of the comments were positive, she adds, especially the ones from older women, comments like "Good for you, girl."

During her 40-year career, Cameron has logged more than 23,000 hours in planes like the DC-3, Twin Otter, DC-9, Boeing 767 and Boeing 777, flying to most major Canadian and American cities and to exotic locations, like Beijing, Hong Kong, Tel Aviv, London, Rome and Madrid. It sounds so glam, but it wasn't always easy. When her marriage ended in divorce, her kids were three and eight years old. "It was hard because I was a single mom for quite a period of time," she says. Her mom helped, and Cameron also points out that since she had a good income, she was able to afford decent child care. And like so many working moms, Cameron worked around schedules, so she could be around for holidays and important events in her children's lives. "Instead of doing the fun overseas flying or the three-day layover somewhere exciting, I would just do [daily] turnarounds," she says. "Once the children were older, it was fantastic to start travelling and going to places overseas."

Cameron is happily retired now. Still, she misses

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IT WAS A LOT OF FUN, BECAUSE YOU'D BE FLYING WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE EVERY FLIGHT

”

parts of the job: the takeoffs, the landings and the people. “It was a lot of fun, because you’d be flying with different people every flight,” she says. “And I miss going to those destinations and having a prepaid hotel waiting for me.”

Her life is different now, but she walks in her mom’s footsteps, inspiring other women to do whatever they want. She volunteers with the Northern Lights Aero Foundation, which encourages women in aviation and aerospace with an annual award event that is the “Oscars” for Canadian women in aviation. In fact, it was the Ninety-Nines (an organization of women pilots founded in 1929, who elected Amelia Earhart as its first president) who started the foundation. About six years ago, Cameron received one of the organization’s greatest honours: she was awarded the Elsie MacGill Northern Lights Award in the Flight Operations category and was chosen by the Ninety-Nines to be on its Canadian postage stamp in 2016. “I had some fun mailing Christmas cards that year,” she says. As well, to honour Cameron and help the next generation of women, Air Canada offers a scholarship in her name, which will continue for another three years.

Now, Cameron gets to spend time doing the things she enjoys. “Through COVID-19, I kept my sanity by cycling or hiking with a small group of women,” she says. Her mom, now 97, was living with Cameron and her husband, also a retired pilot, for the first 14 months of the pandemic (she is back at her residence now). She likes to listen to her one daughter (Kristy), a radio host, and she enjoys taking her other daughter’s (Carolyn), yoga classes once a week via Zoom. And, through her husband, she has eight grandchildren, so it’s a pretty full life.

Asked what *la dolce vita* means to her, Cameron doesn’t hesitate. “I guess it would be flying a Triple Seven [Boeing 777] to Rome, sitting on a patio, enjoying amazing pizza and gelato with good company — perhaps if I brought one of my daughters or my husband,” she laughs.

northernlightsaerofoundation.com



As Air Canada's first female pilot, Cameron is happily retired now, but still feels right at home in a hangar

A number of Shvo's projects are located on New York City's famous Fifth Avenue



PHOTO BY ANSEL CEYLAN

MICHAEL SHVO: A BIG BELIEVER IN FIFTH AVENUE

The real estate developer discusses his new project on Fifth Avenue, luxury travel after a pandemic and the importance of focusing on what you do better than anybody else

WRITTEN BY **JOSH WALKER** | INTERVIEW BY **ESTELLE ZENTIL**

Shvo is the founder, chairman and CEO of SHVO

RENDERINGS BY DBOX FOR SHVO



685 Fifth Ave. is New York City's first turnkey residential property

When we spoke with Michael Shvo, he'd just finished developing New York City's first turnkey residential property. Situated at 685 Fifth Ave., the Mandarin Oriental Residences Fifth Avenue have been designed to present buyers with an opportunity to own a five-star hotel serviced space on one of the world's most famous streets.

The 20-storey address is also one with history. Originally built in 1928, when it was known as the Dorothy Gray Building, it has a reputation for being the previous headquarters of fashion house Gucci.

"The property itself is geared towards pied-à-terre buyers," Shvo says. "People who want to have a hotel suite in New York. People who want the hotel amenities and all the luxuries of the Mandarin Oriental services without the hotel guests, which I believe is the next evolution of travel. In the luxury world, people will want to own their own hotel room, instead of staying in somebody else's."

For Shvo, who has been leading the development process with a team of world-renowned design experts, the success of a project comes down to the strength of four things: real estate, location, partners and ideas. When you see what 685 Fifth Ave. has to offer, you'll see it ticks every box.

"I'm a big believer in Fifth Avenue," Shvo says. "One of the greatest amenities New York City has to offer is Central Park. When you walk out of your apartment and can be in the park in three minutes, it's a priceless experience."

With sales for the properties about to start, Shvo shares that the wait-list is already long and gives a sense of those looking for the city's appeal, whether they're local or international travellers. "If you come to New York City and buy a pied-à-terre, you want to buy it where you can walk out and be in front of Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Dior, the MoMA, and five minutes away from Broadway shows," he continues.

"The city has so many great things to offer. Having all of that at your fingertips, as well as the Mandarin Oriental concierge service to facilitate it

all, is the experience people are buying here for," he says.

Whether it's the Molteni kitchens, Miele appliances, chevron oak floors and custom upholstery, or the fact it comes with amenities like housekeeping, personal training, pet walking and personal shopping, every detail has been considered.

Shvo talks of how all his development projects start with months of strategizing what the best product will be for that specific customer. With the Mandarin Oriental Residences Fifth Avenue being turnkey, that's emphasized even further. "We care about the details, design and creating an experience that doesn't exist anywhere else. When we can develop something that nobody else does, that's true success."

He also says it's a concept propelled by the pandemic. "It solidified the idea and my vision for this project," he shares. "After the pandemic, it's even more noticeable that luxury travellers want privacy and their own space. These are things we might not have thought about two years ago, but



Shvo's portfolio spans 4.5 million square feet with a value of US\$8 billion

now the idea of having your own hotel suite is more attractive.”

The project comes on the back of a continuous stream of Shvo success stories that combine to form a portfolio that spans 4.5 million square feet with a value of US\$8 billion. In 2019, his company acquired 711 Fifth Ave. and continues to operate the 354,000 square feet of office and retail space.

Farther afield, he worked on the South Seas in Miami, a hotel known as a staple in the Miami jazz age. In Beverly Hills, he's currently working on Mandarin Oriental Residences, set to open in 2022.

Through it all, Shvo says the thread that ties it together is care. “We care about our partners, customers and people who live in our buildings. That’s why we create these environments,” he says.

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**IN THE LUXURY
WORLD, PEOPLE
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OWN HOTEL
ROOM, INSTEAD
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SOMEBODY ELSE’S**

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It’s not always about the work, though, and Shvo knows what he likes to do to unwind. He says he’s a “sun and beach person” and that his favourite restaurants are DANIEL in New York and Plénitude in Paris. He’s also a family man. When asked how he would define *la dolce vita*, he says that “it’s an evolution. It depends on the phase of my life. Today, it’s 6:30 in the morning with my kids.”

And his advice to other property developers? “I’ve said the same thing for 20 years: focus on what you know how to do better than anybody else, where you have a true competitive advantage. Don’t try to be everything for everybody. Try to be the right thing for the right person in the right place at the right time.”

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MARIE HENEIN: “LIFE ISN’T BUILT ON DREAMS — IT MUST BE TAKEN BY FORCE”

She is widely considered Canada’s leading criminal defence lawyer. We sat down with Henein to learn more about how she unapologetically owns it all — legal and otherwise

WRITTEN BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

What is the psychology behind a woman’s choice of lipstick? Does a light pink signify a bubbly, outgoing personality? Does a shade of dark red belong to a seductive vixen? I thought back to these questions, which perhaps we’ve all carefully examined and debated with friends at one time or another, as I walked into the penthouse at the Hazelton Hotel in Toronto and caught the outline of a set of lips on a coffee cup by the sink. These lips wore a deep, exquisite midnight plum — moody, edgy, dark. These lips belong to Marie Henein.

Henein is widely considered Canada’s leading criminal defence lawyer. This recognition is an accolade that represents not just a technical mastery of the law and a broad advocacy skill set, but also an exceptional level of toughness and determination. This is perhaps especially true for a woman who has reached the pinnacle of an otherwise male-dominated profession, and there is no question that Henein is not one to ever take “No” for an answer. Exhibit A: her Arabic tattoo, which translates to “Life isn’t built on dreams — it must be taken by force.”

It’s this “no excuses” attitude that compelled Henein to branch out and start her own firm after working with her former partner and mentor, Edward Greenspan. “In an industry that is very male-dominated, criminal law, in particular, and criminal defence work, it was very important for me that a female was on the letterhead. I wanted to know whether or not I would be able to make it out on my own, to be honest. It just got to the point where [I thought], *I just have to try; I just have to know if I’ve got the chops or not.* That was really what was important to me; it was that I wanted to be first chair, not second chair, I wanted to be the first name on the letterhead. I wanted to see if I could do this and I wanted to do it, because, in part, the industry doesn’t necessarily welcome females and certainly [not] females in leadership roles. I didn’t know if I was going to succeed or fail. I was just going to give it a shot.”

Despite any public criticism she may receive, Henein does not feel victimized, unless, of course, it’s as a self-described “fashion victim.” “My mother was obsessed with fashion, my grandmother was a seamstress and my family had a clothing store. My uncle, who moved to New York, was obsessed, so when I’d go to New York, that’s what we would do. We’d come up with all sorts of things together, including vintage Trash and Vaudeville in the East Village. I’ve always loved it. I think it’s creative and fun; I find it uplifting. It can be profoundly artistic.

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THIS IS YOUR
FIRST CASE, BUT
NOT MINE
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I’ve always found it to be a beautiful thing and a thing that brings me joy.”

One can’t help but conclude that Henein doesn’t have any issue standing apart from the crowd. In staid courtrooms across Ontario, her wardrobe, which she describes as “a little gothy, a little punky, edgier than traditional,” announces her presence before her oral submissions do.

Notwithstanding her outward image, in speaking with her and reading her latest memoir, *Nothing But the Truth*, it’s clear that Henein is multilayered, multifaceted and has a wide array of interests and influences that make her who she is. As she explains, the scrutiny that comes with being a high-profile criminal defence lawyer comes with its challenges. “It can be exhausting and it is exhausting, for sure, mentally draining and challenging, and all of those things. I’m not saying there aren’t days where you’re at your wit’s end. I don’t want people to think, *Oh, she’s got it all together.* That’s not true. I struggle as much as anybody else, but I think I just try to bring perspective to myself. *What is my*

struggle? My struggle pales in comparison to people who are really having a tough time managing work and managing their family life. Think of the devastation COVID-19 had on so many women, so many racialized women, who did not have the ability to easily work from home.”

It’s that same humility — in addition to her tenacity and skill — that has contributed to her professional success. “If you walk into the courtroom thinking you’re the smartest person in the room, that’s a really good way to fail. You should assume actually that everyone is as smart, or smarter, than you and that you’re not going to pull the wool over anybody’s eyes.”

Although interactions with the criminal justice system can be challenging, they also represent an opportunity for beautiful examples of the human spirit. As Henein explains, “The thing that you cannot miss when you’re in a courtroom, particularly in criminal law, is a great deal of tragedy, a great deal of distress and a great deal of very raw emotion. But, in the course of that, you see some incredible people rise above it and be profoundly strong and gracious, and that is true of families of victims and accused people. Sometimes, you are so impressed with the ability of people to overcome and to just be so gracious and so decent. There are many of those moments.”

At the end of our interview, I asked Henein to sign my copy of *Nothing But the Truth*. The book’s cover — which depicts Henein in her signature look, with metallic, pointed-toe heels included — is pure Henein. Her parting message to me? “Thank you for a fab experience and making me look so glam.” In other words, moody, edgy and dark on the outside, but on the inside? Never judge a book by its cover — especially Henein’s.

Q: You just came out with your new memoir, *Nothing But the Truth*. Can you share a bit about the process of writing this memoir?

A: The structure of it revealed itself. When you’re writing about yourself, I’d begin a chapter thinking I was writing about this aspect of myself and I was

Henein recently came out with her memoir, *Nothing But the Truth*, weaving her personal story with her strongly held views on society's most pressing issues





Both in and out of the courtroom, Henein brings fashion to life with her striking style. She calls herself a "fashion victim," and is admittedly a big fan of all things that glitter

writing about a person in my life, so it became really clear to me that one or two chapters into it, that if I were going to share who I was, the only way that was going to happen was for me to share people in my life who impacted so significantly who I am. It sort of unfolded in a bit of an organic way that every time I started writing about *A*, I would end up writing about this whole other area. And it was always that, for me to articulate certain things about myself, I needed to tell you about important people in my life.

Q: What are some of the key lessons you learned growing up as an immigrant from a tight-knit Egyptian-Lebanese family?

A: That your family and your relationships are extremely important. I certainly learned hard work; you couldn't miss it. You came and you worked, and my dad did relentlessly. The lesson was that you don't waste opportunities, that you have an obligation to your family and to the people around you to do your best and really work hard. We certainly weren't coddled as kids. You had to go and do what you had to do. I think the other theme that's evident throughout is that that sense of being an outsider kind of stays with you throughout your life, and that because of the experience and coming to a country that you just don't have roots in, that you have to develop those roots.

Q: Can you speak on the general stereotype of a criminal lawyer, and why it's often false?

A: Certainly, lawyers are not what you see on TV. It is much more methodical and much more forensic and much more professional. I mean, you go to school, you go through years and years of university, you article, which is to say, you are learning something, you are actually learning a skill set, and that skill set is pretty wide. Lawyers, crown attorneys, defence lawyers, the whole gamut bring a lot to the table, but a lot of it is your legal knowledge. Often I say to clients, "This is your first case, but not mine," [and] that's the difference. That's the point, that you're bringing to it your experience, your understanding of the law, your understanding of all of your prior experiences.

I don't think it's as reactive as people think. That you just sort of sit there, you go into court, shoot off a cross-examination in 10 minutes, you sit down and that's it. Someone confesses on the stand. That's really not the work. It is much more methodical, much more detailed than that.

Q: Has there ever been a time where you felt discouraged about the human spirit due to the work that you do, and people and scenarios you encounter?

A: When I am doing my job, I really have to check those emotions. It would not be true to say that you're ultimately not impacted. I remember I

was working on an inquiry that dealt with pretty specific pathology and shaken baby syndrome, and that arises in murder cases and things like that. I was involved in that committee and I would come home and I would be, for days, in the worst mood, and it took me about a month to understand that this is the residual, because I try to segregate it so much in my mind: *This is my job, and I just must be in a bad mood today.* And it took a while for me to go, "I get what's happening." The thing is that when you are doing your job, I can't be sitting there thinking, *Oh, this is the worst expression of humanity, or this is really dampening the human spirit; this is us at our worst.* It's not helpful to what my job is. I have to check all that, I have to not make it a personal thing. And you do that. That does not mean that there is no price that you pay on a personal level or that you don't carry it with you; in all sorts of ways it comes out. We all deal with it differently, but you have to not bring that into a courtroom or into a meeting with your client or into any of it, because that doesn't help — it really doesn't help. That doesn't mean that when you're doing a case, you don't understand the humanity of it. These are people; it is often extremely tragic. That's not lost on me — the humanity of all of it is not lost on me. I don't think that you have to lose the humanity of what's happening or not be aware of it, but you do have to check your own personal reactions and judgments you do when you're doing your job. Then, you walk out and you're in a very bad mood for a couple days. And then you figure out that's what was happening.

Q: They say that psychologists need psychologists. Do criminal lawyers need psychologists?

A: We do. And many of us have them, and you work through it together often. Sometimes, it's particularly difficult, and we often talk about sort of downloading it onto your colleagues. You talk a lot about something, and often it's just that you need to pass it off a little bit. You need to share it and you're going to share it with people who understand exactly what it is and what's going on and ethically that you're allowed to talk to them about it. It is often with your colleagues who really understand what this is and to whom you will speak and who will buck you up and push you through or will give you perspective that you sometimes need. You know, we're not robots, and you try to sometimes get that perspective from your friends.

Q: Is there anything you're scared or intimidated by?

A: Oh sure; I'm scared of a number of things. You're scared of your own mortality, that's for sure, and you worry about your kids, but I don't think that it's the thing that I worry most about. I don't think about what's going to frighten me and I think generally if it's going to frighten me, I'd like to try it and get over the fear. I don't love that emotion of being afraid to do something. I can live

with trying something and failing at it, but I don't like that zone; that's not a comfortable zone for me to be afraid of something.

Q: What do you think are the biggest shortcomings of the Canadian justice system?

A: I think the greatest shortcoming is the way we've dealt with Indigenous Canadians, racialized Canadians. That's true in the United States, as well; the over-incarceration is shocking. We have not done an adequate job or good job of remediating what has been hundreds of years in the making. It is a very significant problem the way that the justice system acts with racialized members of the community; it is something that needs to be corrected.

Q: What is the biggest misconception about being a criminal lawyer?

A: The biggest misconception is that when we represent somebody, that we're advocating for the crime or the conduct, and people conflate their lawyer with their client. Again, I understand that, it's just not understanding what our role is. I think another misconception that comes from TV is that we're just hired guns, and we'll say whatever someone wants us to say. We are hired professionals, we go through a lot of training, a lot of university to do what we're doing, we're bound by ethics, as well. And I don't think people really understand what we can do and what we can't do, because we get so much of our information from TV.

Q: Do you have any regrets in life?

A: The only things I regret are the things I did not do, chances that I didn't take and probably on a personal level, I regret perhaps not being more patient and more empathetic. And I think that's something that I always have to check and that I struggle with. And so, I think if I look back, those would be the moments where I think there are times where that's where I should've been, instead of my go-to toughen-up moves, stiff upper lip.

Q: What is your definition of success?

A: The feeling that your time here has not been a waste, that you've done something or left something behind, whether it's your work or the relationships; the fact that you showed up matters somehow.

Q: What does *la dolce vita* mean to you?

A: Strong relationships and spending time with the people who are meaningful to you, having great conversations over a glass of wine, hopefully, in Tuscany.

hhlip.ca

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

VINCENZO GUZZO

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Vision, drive, passion and just a hint of chutzpah mean entrepreneurial success for *Dragons' Den* star Vincenzo Guzzo

WRITTEN BY RICK MULLER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

From a small boy who thought he was Superman, to a man who actually is, the life story of *Dragons' Den* star Vincenzo Guzzo, the Canadian son of Italian immigrants, is one of curiosity, intellect, perseverance, caring, passion and kindness, along with the triumphs and tragedies that have shaped this successful entrepreneur, entertainment mogul and philanthropist.

"On a recent episode of *Dragons' Den*, they asked me what the dumbest thing is I've ever done," says Guzzo in a recent revealing and candid interview with *Dolce*. "I was four years old at the top of the stairs in the stairwell of an apartment building in Montreal. I decided to play Superman and I jumped and I hit the bottom stair, lost my balance and crashed through a glass door, cutting the ligaments in my right arm. So, in 1974, as a result, I was the first ligament reattachment surgery in Canada. After that, I lived a very protected life, and for my parents, I was the centre of their universe."

Young Vincenzo was an only child due to the tragedy of his parents losing four other children in infancy due to a rare medical condition. "Every Christmas I only wished I could have a brother," recalls Guzzo. "So, I made up that sibling relationship in my mind. Today, I don't understand when my five kids don't get along, and they tell me I'm delusional because they say that's how real siblings interact. And I don't understand that because my sibling relationship was make-believe."

Guzzo's parents emigrated in 1967, and he recalls growing up in Montreal he was always classified as "the Italian." "In a way, that protected our heritage, as we were always reminded we were Italian," says Guzzo. "So, I actually learned Italian. I can speak and read it, though I'm not very good at writing it, as I'm dyslexic. It's funny because Montreal Italians like to make fun of other Italians in Canada, because we either spoke English or Italian — we didn't mix the two like in Toronto, where they might speak Italian and throw in a few words of English."

Describing himself as both an introvert and

extrovert (but leaving out the fact he is also affable, engaging, enthusiastic, expressive, an unbridled optimist, and storyteller par excellence), today, Guzzo is the president and CEO of Cinémas Guzzo, the largest independent operator in Quebec and the third-largest movie exhibitor in Canada. He also owns Groupe Guzzo Construction Inc., a successful general contracting outlets in Quebec, as well as Giulietta, a fine-dining Italian pizzeria, with currently two locations and a third one expected to open this spring. But, like so many entrepreneurs, Guzzo's path has held many twists and turns along the way to the success he enjoys today.

That path led him to business school and then law school, but he always paid close attention to the family business, which was owning independent movie theatres in Quebec, a business his family began in 1974. In the entertainment business, what is popular sells, and Cinémas Guzzo was having a hard time landing first-run movies from the big studios in Hollywood, which preferred to show movies in the big movie chains, rather than the smaller independent theatres.

"I saw growing up the anxiety, stress and worry this problem had on my father and mother, and I didn't want to do that. I wanted to be a litigation lawyer in New York and be my own boss with some stability," says Guzzo. "But, when I got my law degree, my father sat me down and said if I wasn't going to take over the family business, they'd probably have to sell. So, we agreed I'd give the family business a shot for six to 12 months before I went to New York. And after three months, I realized there was more arguing and litigation to be had in this business with the L.A. studios, and I started to really like the industry."

In 1998, Guzzo put his skills as a litigator and his effective negotiating capabilities to good use when he sued the biggest movie competitor in Canada to gain equal opportunity for "the little guy" to show first-run releases. He won the case, and by showing the biggest and latest movies, allowing the business to soar.

Ever the opportunist and innovative thinker,

Guzzo realized that in order to expand the family movie theatre chain, they had to build more, and contractors would be their biggest expense. Guzzo thought a way to bring those costs down was to build the theatres themselves, bringing the contracting in-house, so he went and got his general contractor's licence. Today, Groupe Guzzo Construction Inc. builds all its theatres, and owns some real estate in which they are located. The chain now has a total of 145 screens, nine of which are IMAX with 10 more locations set to open over the next three years.

Then came the pandemic and with it the lockdowns. Unlike in other businesses severely affected, like the restaurant industry, "curbside pickup" in the movie theatre business is, to its detriment, online streaming. Statistics Canada shows the movie theatre industry's operating revenue in 2020 dropped by 70.6 per cent, compared with 2018. A monetary solution had to be found to combat dark theatres. Here, once again, Guzzo showed his creative side and entrepreneurial ingenuity.

Before the pandemic, Guzzo had again expanded his operations in 2019 by opening his Italian pizzerias, Giulietta, which allowed him to now pivot to direct-to-consumers selling through LoveFoodToGo.com and eventually through Cinémas Guzzo locations, as restrictions are lifted. He also entered the retail food space with Good Pantry, Giulietta@Home and Mr. Sunshine popcorn, a natural fit from the theatre business, which will be available in major grocery stores such as Costco, Metro and Sobeys.

Guzzo's *Dragons' Den* platform has allowed him to go on speaking tours to universities, and it was through this experience that he gained insight into the ups and downs of his own "entrepreneur experience," an experience he found somewhat contrary to what is often portrayed in the media, or in business schools and business books.

"Speaking the truth to students about entrepreneurial careers allowed me to do an almost-therapeutic analysis of my entrepreneurial journey, as it forced me to do an introspective

look at what I went through,” he recalls. “There’s two things I take away from my journey that were unforeseeable. Firstly, you can’t be everything to everybody; you have to fail at something, so choose what you want to fail at. Secondly, not everyone will understand your entrepreneurial journey because they’re not living it, and whether you like it or not, you will become an introvert, as you won’t always want to share your anxieties or worry with others. Ultimately, what happens over time is that you end up being somewhat alone, having less and less people you can share stuff with, because very few people understand the journey you are on.”

This is very intelligent, insightful and careful thought coming from a person who, as a four-year-old kid, decided to jump off the top of a stairwell wearing a cape and misjudged the non-existent wind.

True to their nature, Guzzo and his wife, Maria, are renowned philanthropists, donating to many hospitals and establishing the Guzzo Family Foundation in 2007, which is aggressively investing in cancer nanotechnology research at Montreal’s Jewish General Hospital and McGill University, contributing to image departments and advocating mental health.

“At first, we wanted to give to children because of losing my four brothers and sisters, but we decided that was too personal and wanted instead to focus on the greater community,” says Guzzo. “That’s when the mental health aspect crept in, because when you are told you have cancer, that’s a lot of stress and anxiety. And we wanted to point out it’s OK to talk about that. We’re all fighting something and we need to talk about it. And when we give to hospitals, we give to the Imaging Department, because that’s the funnel of the whole medical system, because without imaging results, they can’t diagnose treatment. And when we’re donating for new imaging machines, we insist the old ones be kept operational, so, therefore, we’ll have twice as many results coming out.”

Guzzo’s contributions have been internationally recognized, as he is the recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, was knighted by the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic and is a distinguished member of the Order of Malta.

When asked how he describes *la dolce vita*, or the sweet life, without hesitation, and in his true character, Guzzo replies, “To have the privilege to do what I want, when I want, how I want, without hurting anyone in the process.”

Vincenzo Guzzo has indeed lived a life as fast as a speeding bullet and more powerful than a locomotive, but he has also used that speed and that power to influence, create, donate and effect positive change where and when it has been needed most — the very definition of a superhero.

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@lordguzzo

Wearing his trademark yellow, Guzzo is the son of Italian immigrants and today cuts a dashing figure of success in business and celebrity

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**YOU CAN’T BE
EVERYTHING TO
EVERYBODY; YOU
HAVE TO FAIL AT
SOMETHING**
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CLIO: INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

Toronto's new private membership club brings society leaders together to engage, inspire and excel in all walks of life

WRITTEN BY **RICK MULLER**
INTERVIEWS BY **ESTELLE ZENTIL**

Respected veterans of Toronto's entertainment and hospitality scenes have banded together to form a club to entertain with exclusive programming

(From left to right) Domenic Oppedisano, Charles Khabouth, Fernando Mammoliti, Danny Soberano (Not pictured)

Whether it was a hideaway made from couch cushions or a tree fort with a *No Girls Allowed* sign (with a backward 'S,' of course), some form of "club" has been with us all our lives. Be it the tennis club, golf club, ski club, fitness, wine or book club, or even the Gentlemen's Club from Victorian England, clubs have been places for people with similar interests to gather, exchange thoughts and ideas, and inspire one another. In some magical way, clubs become motivators by which to improve ourselves when we're surrounded with like-minded individuals.

Such is the inspiration of excellence behind Clio, a new private members club located in downtown Toronto's trendy King Street West neighbourhood, meticulously curated to foster meaningful connections and fuel new and innovative ideas and pursuits.

Clio is the coming together of four veterans of Toronto's hospitality and entertainment industries — Charles Khabouth, Fernando Mammoliti, Danny Soberano and Domenic Oppedisano — who have known and respected one another's accomplishments in their chosen fields for decades. According to Khabouth, a well-known "experience impresario" who founded INK Entertainment and built the ultra-luxurious Bisha Hotel and Residences, the idea for Clio grew organically out of everyday conversations.

"Fernando and I have been friends for 30 years, and I always thought Toronto was lacking in private clubs," says Khabouth, in a recent interview with *Dolce*. "I had something specific in mind that Fernando enjoyed, and we both thought it was a good idea to move forward, and we made it happen. I wanted a lifestyle property that definitely revolves around the arts and music and fashion, and is more open to everybody's interpretation of a great lifestyle and great experiences. For me, it's not about who you are, but how you live your life, and, at Clio, we are about offering a great experience for people, an experience of being part of a group that enjoys the finer things in life, great service, attention to details, fine food and exclusive programming. The whole idea is to feel special by being a part of Clio, and that you belong to a group of people who enjoy similar things in life."

The physical space of Clio is within the inspired architecture of a bygone garment factory, with exposed brick and ornate woodwork celebrating the days of thoughtful design and masterful craftsmanship. With the feeling of a leisure-oriented "atelier," Clio contains a vibrant bar, restaurant, a contemporary art gallery featuring some pieces from Khabouth's private collection, a cinema, a rooftop terrace, private lounges, and event and workspaces featuring state-of-the-art technology.

"We've created a very special atmosphere

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FOR ME, IT'S NOT ABOUT WHO YOU ARE, BUT HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE, AND, AT CLIO, WE ARE ABOUT OFFERING A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR PEOPLE

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— Charles Khabouth

within a spectacular space," says Mammoliti. "We have wonderful and incredible food, one of the nicest rooftop lounges in the city, and our event space on the second floor is perfect for a business event or small wedding. I wanted it to be a place where people just want to go and want to be members. The bar is great, and we have quiet spaces, as well. Clio can be a lot of different things to a lot of different people, and we can evolve to meet people's needs."

To enhance the private-membership experience, Clio offers an exciting calendar of events and programs throughout the year, including art tours, movie screenings, fashion shows, as well as workshops and panels designed to be thought-provoking and inspiring. Members also receive personalized bespoke concierge services providing exclusive opportunities and experiences, such as tickets to "sold-out" shows and events, premium seating and other VIP advantages.

In addition to these benefits, Clio members also receive access to a list of more than 30 international clubs around the world through Sonato Alliance, including CORE:NYC, The Britely in Hollywood, AllBright Mayfair Members' Club and The Court in London and 1880 in Singapore.

Being a hub of inspiration where ideas are born and nurtured and a gathering spot for connection is more important now than ever. "We want our members to feel inspired and to feel connected," says Oppedisano. "Because of what the last one and a half years has been like, connection to people and communities has never been more important, as well as a

passion — that's what I want people to feel in our space. It speaks for itself when you experience the food, the amenities ... it's all about the experience, and it's hard not to be inspired in every sense of the word. Things seem to slow down here, people check their phones less and, instead, fully engage with the people they're with, and that's pretty critical these days."

"We have an incredible offering of things that other places do not, including our art galleries and VIP services that we curate," says Soberano. "We wanted to bring this dream to reality by offering something different and the next step beyond nightclubs and restaurants and events by bringing it all together and offering it to our following, and Toronto needed it in a big way. My favourite thing about the club is that it has different spaces that make you feel differently. The club evolves as you step from floor to floor, and I like that transition as it brings out different emotions in people."

One of the focal points is the fourth-floor restaurant with its vibrant hues and velvet accents. It is under the expert culinary guidance of chef Michael Parubocki, who, like the international business and life experiences of Clio's four partners, found his menu's inspiration internationally, making his restaurant a go-to destination for urban tastemakers.

"The menu is a globally inspired approach, and we're trying to make sure we touch each region," says Parubocki. "We've got a really diverse group of cooks in the kitchen, and we're always enjoying different flavours. Our members dine with us regularly, so we want to always be introducing new dishes. Our members can also enjoy some off-the-menu items, so we're always experimenting with different flavours and having fun with our dishes."

Clio is a new experience for Toronto, with possible expansion plans into the United States, and one that reflects the goals and aspirations of its creators in sharing and offering innovative lifestyles for its members. "The four partners all add value, and this will develop into other things and evolve into a lot more things that nobody expected," says Soberano. "Charles and I always take a totally different approach, which is, 'What is the city looking for before they know themselves?' We try to bring spaces and events to the city. They may not know they want it, but they know it when we bring it, and that's how you stay ahead of the game."

Clio's members are united by the strength of their differences and their shared passion for new ideas, innovation, excitement and excellence. Using just three words to describe Clio, Khabouth chooses "comfortable, sexy and friendly." Then, he adds, "It's a very happy place." Couldn't we all use a little "happy" these days?

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MAISON MESSIKA: JEWELRY NOT MEANT TO BE KEPT IN THE SAFE

Jewelry heiress Valérie Messika shares the story behind Maison Messika's newest collection in collaboration with Kate Moss, the secrets of a French woman and her eternal connection to diamonds

WRITTEN BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

Growing up, Valérie Messika didn't play with dolls. Instead, as the daughter of world-renowned diamantaire André Messika, she was drawn to something a bit different. "I used to play with diamonds. I trained my eyes to look at the details. When you're a kid and your father gives you a magnifying glass to look at the clarity and the colour and the details inside a stone, it teaches you that everything is in the details."

As fate would have it, and continuing in her father's legacy, Valérie founded Maison Messika in 2005, a high jewelry line defined by delicate materials that highlight women's bodies. As Valérie explains, "The diamond was already a creation of God, which, by cutting, is made into something so beautiful. My goal was to put it on the skin, like a tattoo, to make a tribute to the femininity and the style of the woman."

Her most recent muse and face of the brand? Kate Moss. "Kate was my muse in my mind until the moment I launched the brand, because she embodies a femininity that I'm a big fan of. She's very effortlessly beautiful and stylish. I love her beauty and all the values of the femininity that she embodies."

The most recent milestone for the brand was its Messika's High Jewelry fashion show in the lush gardens of the Ritz Paris hotel, a star-studded event with guests from Anna Wintour to Christian Louboutin. "It was a big moment. I chose the Ritz hotel because Kate is super-loyal

to the Ritz. It's like a home for her. We decided to do it in the garden, because the garden is like a big box of jewelry. It's super-, super-delicate, and, for me, to put diamonds that are more affordable, high jewelry in an outdoor garden fashion show,

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**BEAUTY IS THE
RADIANCE OF
THE SOUL. IF
YOU HAVE A
BEAUTIFUL SOUL,
YOU RADIATE
BEAUTY**
”

was such a cool message and corresponded so well to the brand."

When designing the collection, both Messika and Moss always kept the relationship between the jewelry, the woman and the piece of fashion she's wearing at the heart of the brand, as well as the brand's ethos of designing modern diamond creations for everyday wear. "My jewelry is not

meant to be kept in the safe. Messika jewelry is about wearing for many occasions," says Valérie.

On one occasion, Beyoncé studded a Messika choker decorated with a 17-carat pear diamond at the 54th annual Super Bowl. Known for her pear-shaped jewels, Valérie explains why the shape of the diamond has a lot of meaning and reflects her outlook on life: "I love the melancholy nature of it. I'm a little bit of a melancholic person, not in a bad way, but in a good way. I love to remember the past, even if I look forward to the future. The pear shape is like a tear, it's very romantic, but at the same time there is a point which is strong. It's not round, it's not a circle, it's not infinite. The pear shape has an end with the point, but the point is very edgy, compared to the round shape. I love the two opposites."

We spoke with Valérie from her office in Paris, conversing in both English and French on her definition of beauty, why it's important for her to give back and how she takes her coffee: "avec une tartine." Oh, so à la French.

Q: Can you expand on your creative process and how you start conceptualizing a piece of your jewelry?

A: It's very organic and very spontaneous. My creative process is not when I'm seated at the office; it's always outside when I'm on my motorcycle or sometimes when I'm running or spending time with my girls, reading magazines or watching the cinema. I'm surrounded by inspiration, and everything surrounding me is a

Maison Messika was
founded in Paris in 2005
by Valérie Messika,
daughter of diamantaire
André Messika





Messika finds inspiration for her jewelry designs from everywhere. "I'm surrounded by inspiration, and everything surrounding me is a source of inspiration"

PHOTO BY MICHEL FIGUET



Kate Moss, André Messika and Valérie Messika pictured at a High Fashion Dinner at the Ritz Paris

PHOTO BY RACHID BELLAK

Cardi B wearing a stunning Messika necklace while attending the Kate Moss High Jewelry Fashion Show as part of Paris Fashion Week Womenswear Spring Summer 2022 at the Ritz Paris



PHOTO BY GETTY IMAGES ENTERTAINMENT

source of inspiration. Take women, for example. I love to see different ages, different styles, in the streets, the way they move. I love art; I love to go to galleries. It can come from architecture or when I'm watching at a fashion show. It's like my brain is like a computer. I have eyes; I catch everything surrounding me. And, at the end, it's like "Zzzzzz," and I adapt in my own world, because Messika is its own world and own DNA. And so, I'm always adapting the core value and DNA of the brand.

Q: What has been one of the most memorable pieces you've owned/created thus far?

A: I have a tennis bracelet from my grandmother. It's very flexible and made up of a fabric of diamonds. Also, Elizabeth Taylor, she's so iconic, and she used to have an amazing pear-shaped necklace. And so, I definitely fell in love with the pear shape through her. The last memorable piece is a pinky ring from my mother. For Messika, for me, the piece that is iconic is "the move." It's the collection where the diamonds are moving; they create sounds when they move with you.

Q: What do you love about Kate's femininity?

A: The femininity that I love is that she's super-stylish but effortless – it's never too much. She never has too much makeup. Sometimes, if you have jewelry, makeup, clothes, everything – you look stuffed up. You have to be balanced. And, for me, her femininity is about that. It seems like she just "woke up like this." Whatever she does, she keeps going. And so, it's a kind of empowered femininity with an effortless mood and stylish attitude.

Q: Many international jewelry brands have expanded their product range to accessories, bags, fragrances. Would you consider diversifying Messika?

A: I would love to. I don't know exactly when, but I'm sure I'm going to diversify Messika through fragrance, glasses or watches. My imagination is without limits, but at the moment I'd like to keep going on with my main business. But, for sure, I will diversify the brand.

Q: Can you speak on some of the causes that you're passionate about? Why is it important for you to give back?

A: When you're as lucky a person as I am, you can't forget to give back. I'm close to children because I'm a mom of two girls, so I try to support [children] as much as I can. For example, we donate to an association called "Toutes à l'école" for their education, because I strongly believe that women today can have more freedom if they have access to education. Also, I support Natalia Vodianova's organization (the Naked Heart Foundation). She is a friend of mine. She is supportive of children who have disabilities. I have a brother who has disabilities, and so, for me, it's very important to



Models Cindy Bruna and Taylor Hill walk the runway for Messika by Kate Moss Fashion Show

support those kinds of people and associations, because my brother makes me who I am today. I support Necker Hospital, which does research for the kids who have a disease, but for which they haven't found a diagnosis. The Necker Hospital is a very strong and important hospital for the kids, and I try to support by contributing to pay for a machine that can help give a diagnosis to the parents of the children who have the disease, because it's already a way to recover if they can also put a name to the disease.

Q: What is your definition of beauty?

A: Beauty is the radiance of the soul. If you have a beautiful soul, you radiate beauty. And even people who are perhaps less plastically pretty, if they have a beautiful soul and energy that they embody, they shine. So, beauty is a judgment that is subjective and often it comes through people's energies.

Q: How do you take your coffee?

A: I sit with my daughters at the table, while they eat their cereal, and I have my coffee with a tartine.

Q: What is the greatest gift you have ever received?

A: My children. I do not know if we can say that it is a gift, but, in fact, I had a hard time having them, and so, for me, they're my gift.

Q: What are your favourite restaurants?

A: I like Hôtel Costes, because I have my go-tos. There's an Italian atmosphere; it's in a garden. I love the Japanese restaurant Alléno; it's Michelin-starred. There's an Italian restaurant that I love on Rue Saint-Honoré called Giusé.

Q: What are the "French" beauty secrets?

A: Knowing how to prepare without appearing to

be too prepared. Effortless. That means we have a pair of heeled shoes, but we don't necessarily pair them with a dress, but with jeans, instead. If we do Botox, we do it, but it doesn't show. It's not obvious.

Q: What does *la dolce vita* mean to you?

A: *La dolce vita* is the mix of art de vivre with food. Dolce vita is about food, wine, because I love wine. It's enjoying time with your family and friends, and living your professional life like a passion, because you're lucky enough to have work that is your passion; you don't feel like you're working. For me, that's *la dolce vita*.

www.messika.com
 @messikajewelry

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

MEET THE PARISIANS WHO LEFT THE CAPITAL FOR A CASTLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

After stumbling across and then purchasing an 1830s Bordeaux castle, Anne and Jean-Pierre Boghossian discuss what it took to renovate the building, the thrill of furniture and filling its cellar with treasures

WRITTEN BY **AMANDINE BERTHON**

Former Parisians, Anne and her husband, Jean-Pierre, decided to leave the capital in 2001 to raise their children in the countryside. “Jean-Pierre is a wine merchant, and I am originally from the southwest. We, therefore, naturally sought to settle in the Bordeaux region,” explains the designer. It was the start of Internet advertising. We were lucky enough to quickly stumble upon this property, which we came to visit on a beautiful April day. It’s hard not to fall under the spell of the castle and its magnificent land surrounded by vineyards!”

The castle, built in the 1830s, reflects the hybrid style in vogue at that time, half classical half Gothic. The bunch of grapes carved above the door alludes to the job of the sponsor, a boatman who brought wine from Cahors, France. “We liked that the history of the building connected with Jean-Pierre’s work. The facade on the garden side has a much simpler appearance and suggests a future expansion,” explains the owner. After having belonged to the same family for 150 years, the house was abandoned when the couple acquired it. The condition was deplorable. “The 1999 storm tore off part of the roof. It was raining inside the house. Many of the features, such as

RENOVATION



The designer (left) of Ananbô wallpapers opens the doors of her neoclassical castle near Bordeaux to us. In her studio, overlooking the vineyards, Boghossian imagines her beautiful hand-painted wall decorations



PHOTOS BY GAP INTERIORS/JULIEN FERNANDEZ | STYLING BY AMANDINE ET JULES

Surrounded by large gardens, the castle of the creator of Ananbô was built around 1830 in the Bordeaux vineyards. Its elegant architecture is characteristic of the neoclassical style in vogue at the time



In the garden behind the castle, a pleasant swimming pool is set up facing the vineyards. Sun loungers, IKEA. Wicker garden sofa and parasol, Maisons du Monde. Cushions, Harmony



The owner's desk is lined with Ananbô "Les Acacias" wallpaper (Landscapes engraving collection). Its black-and-white pattern harmonizes perfectly with contemporary furniture. Sofa, Ampm. Cushions, Pomax. Wardrobe, IKEA. Carpet, Westwing



The bedroom of Méliné, Anne's daughter and collaborator, is decorated in feminine shades of pink-beige and adorned with the pretty wallpaper, "Le Jardin de Portobello" (Ananbô). Romantic velvet bench, mottled. Bedside lamps, Ampm. Wrought-iron bedside table, Maisons du Monde. Cushions, Table Side





The living room has the charm of a winter garden with its plants and large French windows opening onto the gardens. The original floor, too damaged to be preserved, has been replaced by a black-and-white checkerboard. The furniture, with its elegant lines, harmonizes with the chic and timeless décor. Velvet sofa, Ampm. Linen sofa, Chehoma. Cushions, Harmony. Coffee table, Jacques Perrier. Wicker chair, IKEA. Consoles and pedestal, personal creation. Black-and-white carpet, Westwing

fireplaces and woodwork, had been looted,” recalls the owner. “Add to that the work done in the 1970s — everything had to be redone.”

Two years of renovations were necessary to make the castle habitable. The first task consisted of ridding the building of water. To rebuild the original roof, the owners called on the family business that has been in charge of the roof for a hundred years. “The roofers were a big help, because they know the area well. They were able to guide us through the restoration,” explains Anne. “The works were complicated, especially since we lived in the castle with our two young children at the time. The final touch was the fitting out of the swimming pool in 2004. It was our reward.” The spaces have been preserved as well as the original elements still in place: the parquet upstairs, the ceiling mouldings and the beautiful old wooden doors, just stripped. All other coverings have been changed, as well as the joinery on the ground floor. “We chose black metal doors to add a more contemporary touch. On the ground, we added

checkerboard. I have always adored black and white; it’s chic and timeless,” confesses Anne. “I need to live in a refined environment to create.”

With its sober and elegant lines, the furniture matches the décor. It frequently varies according to the mood of the designer. “I like change. The furniture is transient in my house! As I renew them regularly, I never buy high-value pieces. On the other hand, I am in love with my objects, mostly brought back from Asia or gifted to me by my children. I will never part with them. These are my treasures. The cellar is full of them. I take them out whenever I want. There are two that do not leave my office: one a doorstep brought back from Korea and the other a black crystal Buddha from Baccarat.” Globetrotters, Anne and her husband share a common passion for Asia. Travel is a constant source of inspiration. “The Banks of the Nile,” “Borneo,” “Shandapur” — the wallpapers that Anne has been creating since 2008 — represent landscapes animated by picturesque and poetic scenes, inspired by the

tradition of panoramas. Hand painted, they are now digitally reproduced in a printing house in the region to respond to the dazzling success of the brand. “This made it possible to democratize the product and meet growing demands. I’m very lucky; it’s an incredible adventure that my daughter Méliné joined this year, after studying fine arts. She is completely involved in our family business and takes care of the showroom that we have just opened in Paris.”

Facing the vineyard, in her workshop located in the former cellar of the estate, the designer escapes to imagine her decorations evoking a nostalgic vision of the Asia of yesteryear.

“Ananbô is the creative culmination of all these Asian images accumulated in me for years. As a child, I already dreamed of Asia. I imagined the landscapes over there without ever having seen any photos. I don’t know where it comes from. Maybe I was Asian in a previous life,” adds the designer, laughing.

www.ananbo.com

Aside from his work on camera, McCall works closely with the conservation group Sea Shepherd and is a huge supporter of the elephant rescue centre PAWS, in Northern California



ROSS MCCALL:

“I BELIEVE THAT ALL LEVELS OF CREATIVITY COME FROM A HIGHER SOURCE”

Sitting in the lobby of the Soho Hotel in London before heading out to a screening, Ross McCall spoke with *Dolce* to share his latest film, *About Us*, his love for football (some call it “soccer” — McCall calls it an “obsession”), his directorial debut and the drama teacher he’ll never forget

WRITTEN BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

PHOTO BY RAINER HOSCH

With past roles in *Band of Brothers* and *White Collar*, actor Ross McCall is clearly a man of action. But if you didn't think McCall had a romantic bone in his body, think again. His latest project, *About Us* — a film he wrote, produced and stars in — shows a much softer side to him. "I've also been told by people who've read the script that if they didn't pay attention to the title page and just read the script, which sometimes happens, they thought a woman had written it, which I take absolutely with a great pat on my back."

The screenplay, which is meant to deliver a healing message about troubled relationships, depicts a layered view on love and loss. "I would really love people to feel hopeful — and I mean that in just the way that the world is right now. The reaction people have when they come out of this movie is one of silence. People come out and they've had a very emotional journey; they're drained, they've been crying — male and female. They all come out wanting to tell their loved ones they love them. That's my message: it's just hope and that cheesy little thing we call 'love.'"

Q: Seeing as your latest project, *About Us*, explores the complex nature of love, can you tell me about some of the first loves you've experienced in your life?

A: I mean, even though the film is about the relationship between a couple, and a couple essentially going through a breakup, the themes and the tones of the film really are about love of everybody, and that can be your parents, to your pets, to whatever. I guess my first loves really were animals, funny enough. As a kid, I always wanted to be a vet and so I spend a lot of time rescuing dogs now, and that's sort of been an eye-opener for me and that would be the earliest memory I have of love.

And, of course, I grew up in a really loving family. I left home really early, which explains so much. I was on tour when I was 11 years old. That was before cellphones (I'm aging myself here), and where you could call your parents from a pay phone on a Sunday. I had a really tight-knit family threshold, and I guess they didn't really understand the entertainment business, either, because it was new to everybody. I was just away a lot. I have aching fondness of love. Usually, my earlier memories of that were about missing people, and I guess that parlays into my next love, which is sport.

I'm a big football fan. You guys call it "soccer," some would call it an "obsession" or an "obsessive love," but I literally have too many soccer shirts than a grown man should have. I have a secret drawer — actually, it's not even a secret door — it's open for everybody to see.

Q: Can you share a bit about what went into writing

***About Us*? How long did it take, and from where did you draw your inspiration?**

A: I don't know where you land spiritually, but I'm a reasonably spiritual person and I believe that all levels of creativity come from a higher source. Whether you're a good lawyer or a good bartender or a good writer, whatever it is, if it comes from a genius place, it comes from something that's bigger than us. And, so, I had an idea about a movie. I knew I wanted to keep it small, I knew I wanted to shoot it in Europe and I wanted it to be a two-hander: I just wanted

“
**I THINK
EVERYBODY
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AND I THINK IF
THERE'S A WAY
OF SHOWING IT
THAT MAKES YOU
APPRECIATE IT
EVEN MORE.
I THINK THAT'S
THE BEAUTY**
”

two people in the movie. That then turned into three, but I do believe that once I was in the zone, words and sentences that I've never constructed before were coming onto the page. It's got a real spiritual feel about the film, not in a biblical way, just in a real way. People relate to it. If you've ever been in love or if you've ever been heartbroken or if you've ever suffered loss of a relationship, you tend to sort of thank God or ask for guidance — or whatever it is — during those times. And this film has an essence of that. It has an essence of letting go, it has an essence of living in the moment and enjoying every moment. The film came from that. Once I knew what the beginning, middle and end was, it was a pretty quick process. I wrote it quicker than any of my other scripts: from concept to shooting, a good year and a half.

Q: The producer of your film, Peter Winther, says he had a strong emotional reaction after reading the script and cried for 45 minutes. Why do you think that men will be able to connect to this story?

What about it do you think resonates with them?

A: Anyone who watches my films or my TV shows, know I'm not the sweet, soft, romantic kind, and so I guess when they were getting the scripts, they probably thought it was another gangster movie. It's a very particular film; it really makes you recognize yourself and your partners and people in your life. I had a very big agent at CAA [Creative Artists Agency], and he read it and he put the script down just after lunch and he told his assistant not to forward any of his calls, and he drove to kiss his wife. He left the office to go do that once he read the script, and it's that kind of movie. I think everybody loves love and I think if there's a way of showing it that makes you appreciate it even more. I think that's the beauty.

Q: Can you tell me about your work with the conservation group Sea Shepherd, writing and directing the documentary *Grind of the Faroe Islands*, as well as your connection to the elephant rescue centre PAWS (Performing Animal Welfare Society), in Northern California?

A: PAWS is the elephant sanctuary in California and it's just an amazing place where they rescue elephants from circuses, zoos, all sorts. They use the army; the military will fly them on planes if they can to get them to Ed's place in Northern California. They get to roam free in hundreds of acres of land; it's stunning, it's so great. It's the ideal sanctuary; it's not a fake sanctuary. It's not a place that's open to the public; it's not a zoo. He literally rescues these animals and gives them the next 30 years of just roaming free and eating pumpkins whenever they want.

Sea Shepherd, they have a voice, and they want to protect the oceans. They want to stop the whale and dolphin slaughter that's going on around the world, and when they approached me, because I had shown some interest in them and said, "Well I don't just want to come and sign T-shirts; I would love to put my boots on the ground," and they said, "OK, what do you need?" I said, "I need a sound guy, a camera guy and a camera — let's go." And we went and made this documentary called *The Grind of the Faroe Islands*; it's on YouTube now. We made it a few years ago and it's only 22 minutes long, so it's really not a big commitment, but I sit on the fence and don't go bang a drum and start telling people how to live their lives, but I show you both sides. I show you what the Faroes think of it, and what it actually is, and you can sort of come to your own conclusion by the end of it.

Q: Can you tell us about some of your latest work?

A: Well, "Ire" is my next script after "About Love" and if "About Love" is about love, "Ire" is about self-hate, so it's about a completely different journey. It's about a prisoner in a London prison and his journey. I directed it, it's my directorial debut. I brought on the crew that I wanted. We

had most of the same crew that we had on our little film, they were the same crew that I had on my massive Apple TV show with Uma Thurman, so we had the best of the best. I mean, I had the grip from *Star Wars* — it was crazy. And it was blood, sweat and tears, and we made this beautiful film. There are similarities between *About Us* and “Ire”: long takes, very beautiful shots that tell a story that ultimately has a lot of heartbreak in it.

Q: What actors do you look up to most?

A: All the originals: the De Niro's, the Pacinos, the Chris Walkers. Jack Nicholson is probably my favourite actor. I loved all the bad boys, like Steve McQueen, the good boys, like Paul Newman. I think [Leonardo] DiCaprio is great. I think Brad Pitt is great. Tom Hardy is an old acquaintance of mine, and I think he smashes it. I just like good actors. Actresses: Marion Cotillard has always been a favourite, Michelle Williams, Cate Blanchett. I don't have anybody obscure; they're all the kind of people everyone would know.

Q: Have you had any mentors who have greatly affected your career/personal life?

A: There was a drama teacher at my school, and I was a little bit of a good-bad kid and always a little bit troublesome, but never dangerous. There was a year in particular, and my head wasn't in the education system. I was too set on writing, short

“...ONCE I WAS IN THE ZONE, WORDS AND SENTENCES THAT I'VE NEVER CONSTRUCTED BEFORE WERE COMING ONTO THE PAGE”

stories, doing plays, and I remember my drama teacher coming to me once and saying to me, “Look, in your performance of drama, you'll get an *A*, but you didn't do any of the course work.” The course work to me was boring, and she said, “Come see me after lunch every day, the last 15 minutes of your lunch break.” She'd put a pen and paper in my hand and she said, “Just write what I say.” I won't mention her name. God forbid she ever gets in trouble, but she got me through, because she really believed in me so much — I'll never forget her. And then I would say Tom Hanks has been a great friend and mentor. I can

email him, he'll always reply and he helped me get my green card, so he's a great guy.

Q: What's your favourite movie snack?

A: Probably Skittles or Maltesers.

Q: What's your all-time favourite movie?

A: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, but it's tied with *Cool Hand Luke*.

Q: What's your favourite love story?

A: I think Shakespeare wrote some wonderful love stories. Obviously, I'm going to be different. I think one of the greatest love stories is the song “Something” that George Harrison wrote and the Beatles sung. I think it's the greatest love song ever, so that would be the greatest love story.

Q: What do you admire most about people?

A: Courage, faith, respect and honesty.

Q: What does *la dolce vita*/the sweet life mean to you?

A: It means waking up happy, it means going to bed happy. And if you could have a little dash of sunshine and a little Aperol spritz mixed in there, it would be perfect.

@rcmccall

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

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TEXT BY **ESTELLE ZENTIL**

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AFTER A LONG
CANTER INTO THE
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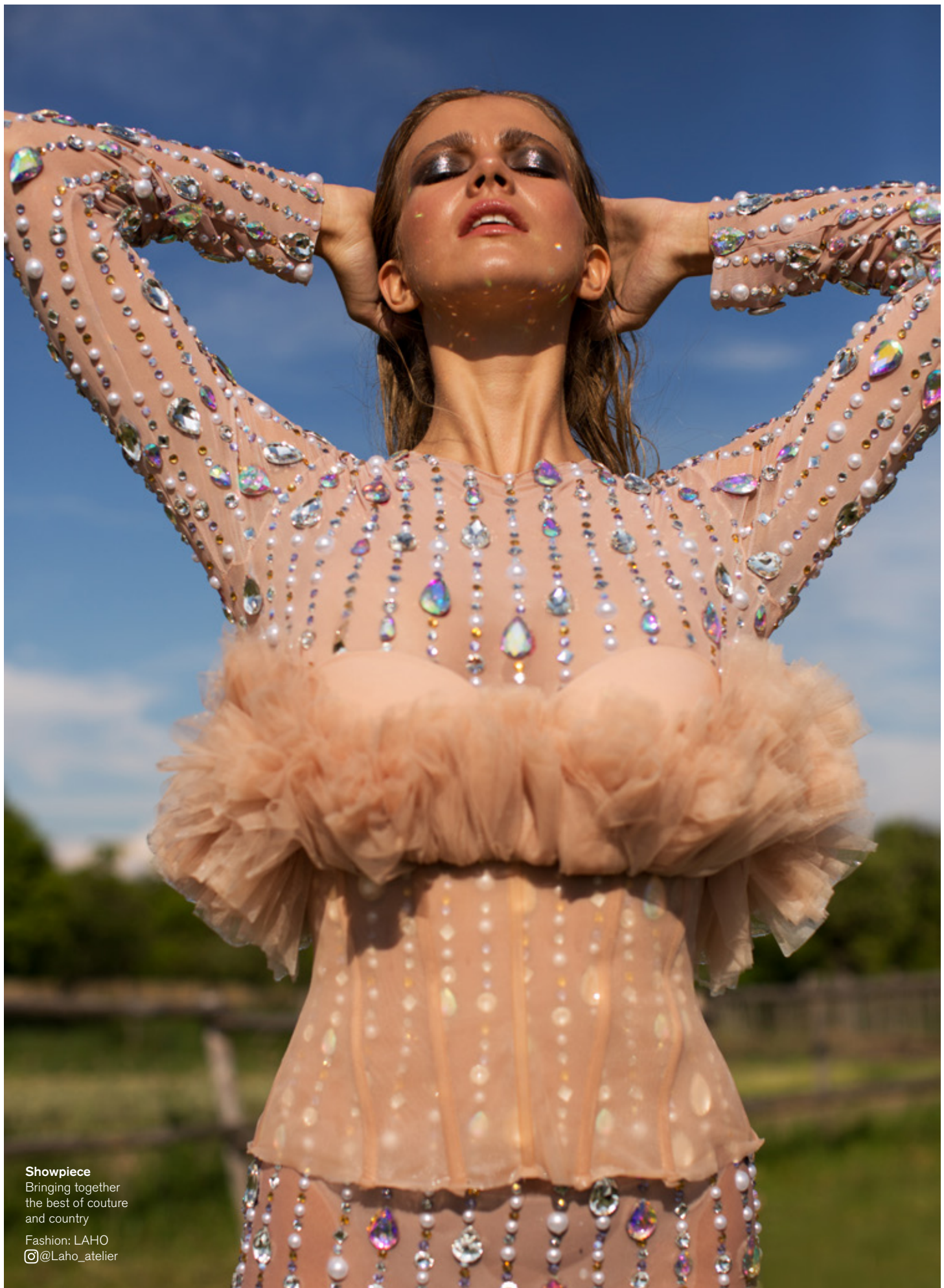


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QUINTESSENTIAL CUBA. Look Havana's Prado (Prado de Martí), where stands Old Havana and Centro Habana, and you will find the colors of Cuba splashed among the freshest and best-preserved buildings. These buildings look like never-endingly colorful buildings — each only a single story, raised in their case a half century ago. Welcome to Havana, Welcome to Cuba!

CUBA QUINTESSENTIAL. Centro, on the Prado de la Habana (Prado de Martí), the oldest La Habana and Centro Habana, a beautiful sea of colors of Cuba splashed among the freshest and best-preserved buildings. These buildings look like never-endingly colorful buildings. Each only a single story, raised in their case a half century ago. Welcome to Havana, Welcome to Cuba!



HAVANA CENTRAL. Centro Habana is the most authentic side of Havana, a working class neighborhood that's been mostly left to deteriorate. Here you can find buildings with a lot of character, and a less touristy atmosphere. This is where many of the photographers really have stayed for the rest of Havana.

LA HABANA CENTRO. Centro Habana is the most authentic side of Havana, a working class neighborhood that's been mostly left to deteriorate. Here you can find buildings with a lot of character, and a less touristy atmosphere. This is where many of the photographers really have stayed for the rest of Havana.



Vanishing Cuba is a visual record of 24 trips Chinnici took to Cuba

MICHAEL CHINNICI: “I WANT YOU TO BE MOVED BY AN IMAGE”

The American photographer discusses the stories behind his new book, *Vanishing Cuba*, the art of spontaneity and never settling for mediocrity

WRITTEN BY **JOSH WALKER** | INTERVIEW BY **ESTELLE ZENTIL**

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CHINNICI

Michael Chinnici is calling in from Miami. The “Reserve Edition” of his new book, *Vanishing Cuba*, is currently on display at Art Basel. “It’s one of the most inspiring places I could be,” he says. “The depth and breadth of creativity is wonderful.”

Spanning more than 300 photographs, *Vanishing Cuba* is the result of 24 trips Chinnici took to Cuba to capture the country’s spirit and document everyday life, along with the changes currently afoot in terms of technology and modernization. “All cultures as we know them transition,” Chinnici notes. “So, when I say ‘vanishing,’ I don’t mean it’s going away. I mean it’s a country that’s been lost in time for 60 years.”

With all but one of the shots taken in natural light, authenticity is important to Chinnici. Wanting to document the truth, he’ll spend time blending into the environment, so those around him feel comfortable with the camera, and simply take pictures of what he sees. “If there is decay, you can see it. If there is education, you can feel it. If there is fresh fruit, you’ll see how fresh the fruit is.”

The process of both writing and creating the images for the book saw Chinnici take thousands of photographs. In order to whittle those down to a final cut, he had to embark on an intense process of curation.

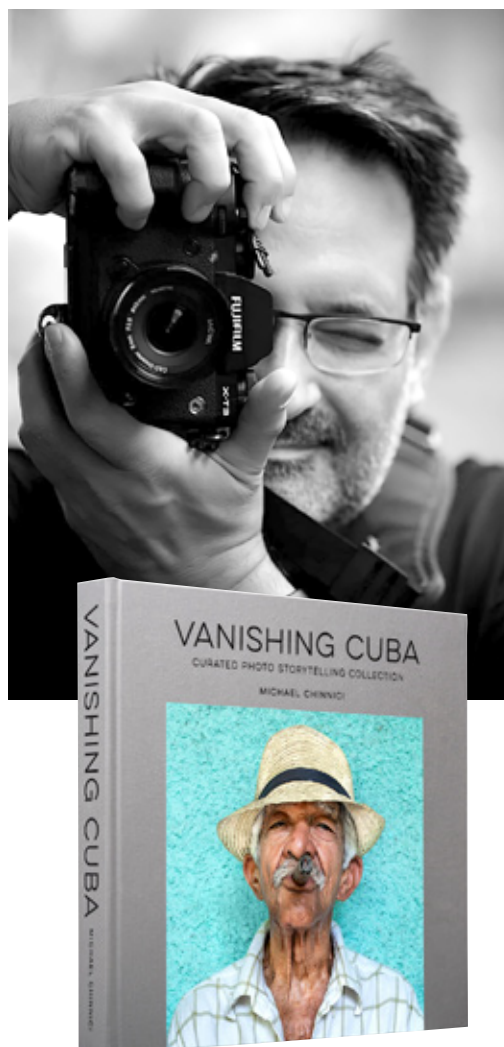
“Curating is an art,” he explains. “It comes down to the images that are most powerful and mean the most to you. I’m a visual storyteller — a travel documentary storyteller. When you’re putting a book together, you want to look at all the elements that go into that book.”

He also talks about something he describes simply as a “feeling,” of knowing whether he’s captured something special on a certain day. “It usually happens pretty instantly,” Chinnici shares. “I can go out for the entire day and without looking back on my images, say it’s been a great day and I’ve got a couple of great images, because I felt them when I took them.”

They say every picture paints a thousand words. When you speak with Chinnici, you understand the truth in that. He talks of a particular image he took in Trinidad in 2015.

“I came across an elderly gentleman climbing into a window. I started joking, saying a robbery was in progress,” Chinnici shares. “He answered, saying it was his house and had left his keys inside. I took his picture, and it’s in the book. Ever since, he’s invited me into his home. I learned about him, and every time I return to Trinidad, I check on him, and we have lunch and coffee.”

Vanishing Cuba is part of a wider series. He’s also working on *Vanishing India*, a project with a similar concept. “Going to India is like going to 40 countries at once. You’ve got 22 official languages, 121 languages spoken by 10,000 or more people. There are over 19,000 native tongues. In 25,



Chinnici wants his images to be authentic and document the truth

“
THE MORE YOU
PHOTOGRAPH,
THE MORE YOU
FIND YOU WANT
TO GO DEEPER
THAN JUST
DOCUMENTING
SOMETHING

maybe 50, years, all the rural stuff will disappear. It won’t have the diversity it has in the way it has now. It will vanish.”

Chinnici’s passion for photography and image-making started young. As someone who loves technology, he talks about being enthralled by the idea of capturing something on camera and watching it develop in the darkroom. “It was wild, like watching a magician,” he says.

His mother, an artist, warned him against taking the same path, saying, “You’ll starve in a loft in Soho, N.Y.” But after a 30-year career in advertising and marketing (all while pursuing photography as a hobby), he wanted to get back to pursuing photography seriously. So, 12 years ago, Chinnici founded Photo Workshop Adventures, a company offering highly curated small-group guided photography tours in more than 50 countries that bring together his love for travel, culture, cuisine and design — all through the lens of taking photos.

As well as his projects in Cuba and India, Chinnici has just returned from Oaxaca, Mexico, where he was documenting their celebrations of the Day of the Dead.

“The more you photograph, the more you find you want to go deeper than just documenting something,” he says. “You look for creativity. Photography, for me, has evolved to where

I’m looking to capture emotion, authenticity. Photographing someone in a location, whether it’s Cuba, Turkey, Mexico, is not about photographing where I am or something that’s beautiful. That’s important, but you also have to evoke emotion. I want you to be moved by an image, whatever shape or form that might be.”

As part of that, he talks about the magic of spontaneity. In the same way he happened upon the man climbing into his window in Trinidad, Chinnici talks of stumbling upon a woman in Oaxaca who owned a marigold field, and he asked if he could shoot there.

“Next thing we know, we’re at her home, she’s bringing in all these family members and then, two days later, we spent two afternoons photographing the family preparing for all the Day of the Dead celebrations. They cooked for us, and we drank with them. The spontaneity was priceless.”

For all the people he’s met and places he’s spent time in, it’s authenticity and commitment to his work that stand true. When asked what advice he would impart to his four children, Michael Chinnici says, “Be yourself. Be true to yourself. Love and be loved and don’t ever succumb to mediocrity, because that is the death of creativity.”

www.michaelchinnici.com

@michaelchinnici

WONDROUS WILSON

Vancouver native Garfield Wilson, who stars as Henry in the new musical comedy series, *Schmigadoon!*, shares the difference between performing onstage versus onscreen, starring in Netflix's movie series *Ivy & Bean*, and advocating for the BLM movement

WRITTEN BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

Although experts debate the science supporting graphology — the psychological analysis of handwriting — one thing is completely clear: A sixth-grader who practises his signature every day is destined for a career on the big screen. As Garfield Wilson explains, “I got in trouble so many times for practising my autograph, and now people say, ‘That’s a really cool signature,’ and I say, ‘Yeah, I’ve been doing it my whole life.’”

We recently sat down with Wilson to learn more about the man behind the cool signature, including life lessons, the importance of the BLM movement and his exciting new projects.

On success in the industry

There’s success in failure. There’s really invaluable life lessons that happen along the way, and, if you have the belief in yourself or evolution and growing confidence that you have the talent to do this, or the desire and the passion to do this, you get a little bit lucky and you have certain successes along the way, that actually begins to mould how you occupy space.

Denzel Washington says that he was a 20-year overnight sensation, but through that 20 years, 10 years, whatever it takes for you to get there, you are settled into who you want to be as an artist, as opposed to lightning striking. *Boom*. You have fame and fortune, and you have no idea how to deal with this. You have no growing pains; you’re just thrust into this. It does happen, and then you think that, if you’ve been thrust into this exposure from nothing, when those artists do have that rocket-ship success story and they were met with failure

afterward, those are some hard growing pains in the public eye.

On Black Lives Matter

North America was — and still is — founded on deep grooves of systemic racism, where people of colour are marginalized or not given the same opportunities or not viewed in the same ways. I’m still dealing with that on the roles that I book. Even on set, there are questions about my character because I’m a black actor or because I’m black: “Should he be wearing these clothes? Should he be saying these things and should he be in this environment?” Whereas my white counterparts, my white co-actors aren’t asked those questions.

I think that how I approach things, and it’s difficult to navigate because it’s very emotional, and people have a visceral reaction to it, is education. A lot of what has happened in our history, people don’t know. How people are brought up as children and what they are indoctrinated to is not the truth. So, if you know what has happened in Canada as far as First Nations people and residential schools and all the atrocities and evils that happened through the Government of Canada, then you’re like, “Oh my God.” If you know what has happened through Jim Crow, through slavery, systemic racism, in terms of housing and bank loans and what was available to African Americans, as far as opportunities and pay, and just looking at voting rights, and all those different things that are still prevalent today, you’re like, “Oh My God.” And then, on top of that, looking at what it means to have white privilege and understanding what that is.

During the George Floyd tragedy and everything that came after that, I really did a deep dive into how we came to be in this society and what it means to be Black, a person of colour, or, to that end, a person of colour who’s in the LGBTQ2S+ community. In regard to that, what does that mean to you if you are white? What is your privilege? What is your life experience like, and what does it mean to be white in this society? And, if you’re oblivious to that, or if you’re ignorant to that, then you have no idea how to make change ... Black people have been screaming at the top of their lungs, fists in the air — it’s going to be white people who have the privilege to say, “Hey, that’s not cool!” That’s when change happens.

Upcoming projects

I’ll be wrapping up a Netflix movie series called *Ivy & Bean*. It’s based on a children’s book by Annie Barrows. I play David, who is Bean’s dad, and the little actress Jidya Jewett, she plays my daughter, Nancy, who’s Bean’s older sister. Marci T. House plays Charlotte, my wife. I’ve never had so much chemistry with an actress. Keslee Blalock who plays Ivy is just unbelievable, and I will just say that Madison Skye Validum plays Bean. It’s her first movie series, and this little girl — she’s seven years old, just turned eight — she’s like a little Michael Jackson for actors. She is phenomenal. I’ve seen so much talent, so many raw talents, so much skill, so much professionalism from her that sometimes you struggle with adult actors. She’s *that* unbelievable.

I just finished a really big-budget feature film for four months, and I wish I could tell you more, but

I cannot. It's the biggest project I've ever been on. It's an iconic tale that everybody knows — adults and children, and everybody in between. It's a beloved story. The cast on this is believable, and that's just scratching the surface of what that cast is and what that production is.

Energy on stage

If you're three, four, five years old and you get put into ice hockey skates and you get thrown onto the ice, that's like walking for you. That goes the same with dancing. You look at these professional dancers. You look at what they do, and it looks so easy. For me, growing up, I'm watching Michael Jackson, James Brown and all these people dance, and the music is one, two, three, four. When I did *Dream Girls*, it was five, six, seven, eight. I'm like, "What? Can you do that one more time? Is it on the six or the seven?" Connecting your body to that language and then conveying the emotion through your body once you get it is really liberating, because you're connecting not only deep in your soul to what you're trying to convey to the audience, but you're also connected from the feet up, and everything is working in this artistic expression. It's the closest you'll get to flying ... It's amazing when you can actually put aside everything and open your mind and let that energy flow. I've done performances with a band and been on stage and you just lose track of where you are, and there's an energy flow, and there's nothing else that compares to it, other than describing it as magical. Onstage singing, I've never been that close to flying in my life; it's been unbelievable. I always try to get back to that.

Onstage versus onscreen

If you go on stage in the theatre, nobody yells, "Cut." If you drop something on stage, you better learn how to pick it up or not drop it at all. The emotionality that you bring to every performance, every take, being with those all-star actors, the writer, Cinco Paul, Lorne Michaels, Barry Sonnenfeld and the entire cast. There are moments where I was on set [of *Schmigadoon!*], and we're doing a scene and we've got Alan Cumming, Fred Armisen, Kristin Chenoweth, Dove Cameron, Keegan-Michael Key and Cecily Strong, the list goes on and on. It was the first time in a very long time where I was like, "This is magic happening right before my eyes." And sometimes, you're so lost in the moment.

What does *la dolce vita* mean to you?

To have a beautiful home where my kids can come and go as they please with my soon-to-be wife. We have this beautiful synergy between us and our children, our family. And, by doing what I love the most, which is creating and being an artist.

📷 @garfieldawilson

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.



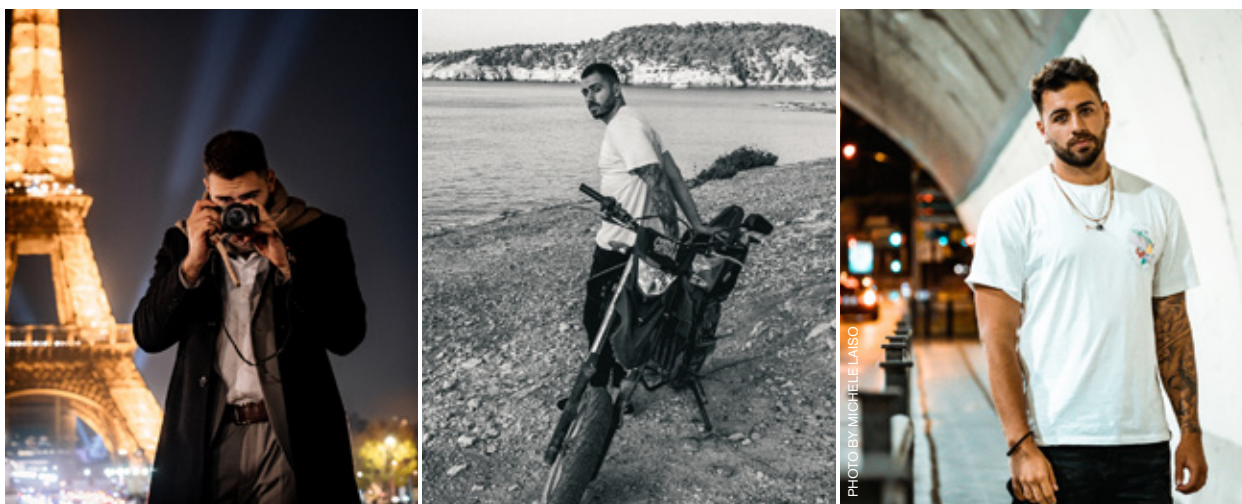
Not only is Wilson a talent onstage and onscreen, but he is also no stranger to the gym and owns a fitness company on the side as an entrepreneurial endeavour

DANILO GIORGIANNI: ONE OF THE MOST TRENDING PERSONALITIES ON TIKTOK, HE'S JUST RIDING THE ROLLER COASTER CALLED LIFE

SOCIAL MEDIA

For Danilo Giorgianni, what started out as playing basketball professionally in Germany turned out to be simply a door to more opportunities. He was brave enough to keep going when he was unhappy and now he has carved out a niche for himself on social media

WRITTEN BY DONNA PARIS | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL



A social media sensation, Giorgianni is not just a good-looking guy. With 3.7 million followers on TikTok, Giorgianni is a luxury lifestyle influencer, YouTuber, travel vlogger, model and TikTok star — and he's well-known for his beautiful Instagram photos from such amazing places as Paris, Spain and Dubai

Who knows where life will take you? For Danilo Giorgianni, who was born in Italy, it started as a move to Germany to play basketball. But, his best move was just to pivot and to be open to opportunities. And, what a ride it has been for Giorgianni. He has carved out a niche for himself on social media just by being his authentic self. “I think I’m an intelligent creator,” he says. “I need to be myself. I like to talk. I like to dance. I like to take pictures — all these things are Danilo Giorgianni.”

Giorgianni is now based in Spain. When he was 17 years old, he moved to Germany with his parents, who immigrated for employment. As an up-and-coming athlete, he had an opportunity to play basketball on a professional level in Germany. Unfortunately, his contract was not renewed. But, he had no idea that this would actually be the start of something good. By chance, an agency representative spotted him on the street and then he started modelling. “It was a bit strange for me, because first I was playing basketball in the gym every day and then, in a few months, I started modelling and doing a lot of different photo shoots,” he says.

He was enjoying his life but, well, he got a little tired of modelling and he started working part time at an exclusive clothing store, too. Germany wasn’t easy for Giorgianni, though: he was alone quite a bit and found it hard to communicate because he did not speak German. Everything changed when he went to Malaga, Spain, for a vacation. “I think this city gives me a lot of energy, a lot of positive vibes,” he says. When he got home, he told his parents he was unhappy in Germany. They told him straight to follow his own path — he was young, and it was his life and he could make what he wanted of it.

Perhaps because of his Italian roots and culture, Giorgianni felt at home in Malaga. He started working for a popular club owned by an Italian,

who was quite charmed by Giorgianni and gave him a job when Giorgianni told him simply, “I need to work because I don’t have any money.”

He started doing some public relations for the club, chatting up potential customers to get people inside. On his first day on the job, the club broke a record. “It’s because I love to talk to people,” he says. “And, in Malaga, a lot of them are Italian,” he laughs. He grew the business, and finally the

“
I’M A DREAMER;
I’M A GUY WHO
DREAMS A LOT.
AND, I WANT
PEOPLE TO KNOW
THIS ABOUT ME

owner asked him if he wanted to manage their social media, too, which he was happy to do. Then, Giorgianni pivoted again. He was finding it hard to work nights all the time. “I went to work for Zara, because I needed a normal job,” he says.

Life was going along swimmingly, but then came the lockdowns because of the pandemic. And, just like the rest of the world, Giorgianni started watching TikTok videos and started posting a few dance videos, too, which garnered him followers and earned him some money that he quickly spent on a new computer and professional camera. He didn’t have many followers, but he kept going. Now, he’s one of the most trending personalities on TikTok. And, when his Instagram account ended up with technical issues, he created

a new one, where he posted only quality photos and content from places like Dubai, Paris, Sicily, Italy, Milan, Ibiza, Spain and Malaga, and his social media just began to grow. “I know how to make something that people like,” he says.

Recently, Giorgianni was in Dubai (his favourite place) to collaborate with two of the most important hotels in the world. He had been to Paris previously; he stayed at the Imperial Suite in the Ritz Hotel, where Princess Diana stayed before her death.

What’s up for Giorgianni in the future? More travel content. “I think that travel is a very powerful word for many people,” he says. To that end, he has a new YouTube channel where he and his girlfriend, Maria, are posting more and more travel content. “I want to show people the entire world,” he adds. Right now, he is most excited about new ventures, including creating content strategies for other companies that are reaching out to him to do collaborations for their own social media.

Giorgianni reaps inspiration from many places, but he does offer some insight into how he views life. “We have only one life,” he says. And, when he’s gone, he wants his family to think of him as a dreamer, because that is really what he is. “I’m a dreamer; I’m a guy who dreams a lot. And, I want people to know this about me,” he adds. And, he has tremendous vision. “I don’t know the brand [yet], but I know that one day I will make a collaboration with the best in the world, because I am working toward this day already.”

One thing is for sure: Giorgianni says he knows how lucky he is to have his parents as his heroes. They left everything behind in Italy to move to Germany for better opportunities and to give him and his sister a better life, he adds. “If I am here and if I am intelligent, a good photographer and a nice person, it is because of these two people who gave me this moment in life. I’m here for my father and for my mother,” he says.

@danigiorgianni

OBJECTS of

The stylish staples and lavish luxuries to tide you over as we start the countdown to summer

PRODUCED BY MICHELLE ZERILLO-SOSA | TEXT BY JOSH WALKER



1. The Goodtime Hotel
Club Faune Voyages
www.club-faune.com

2. Circle | Peter Triantos
petertriantos.com

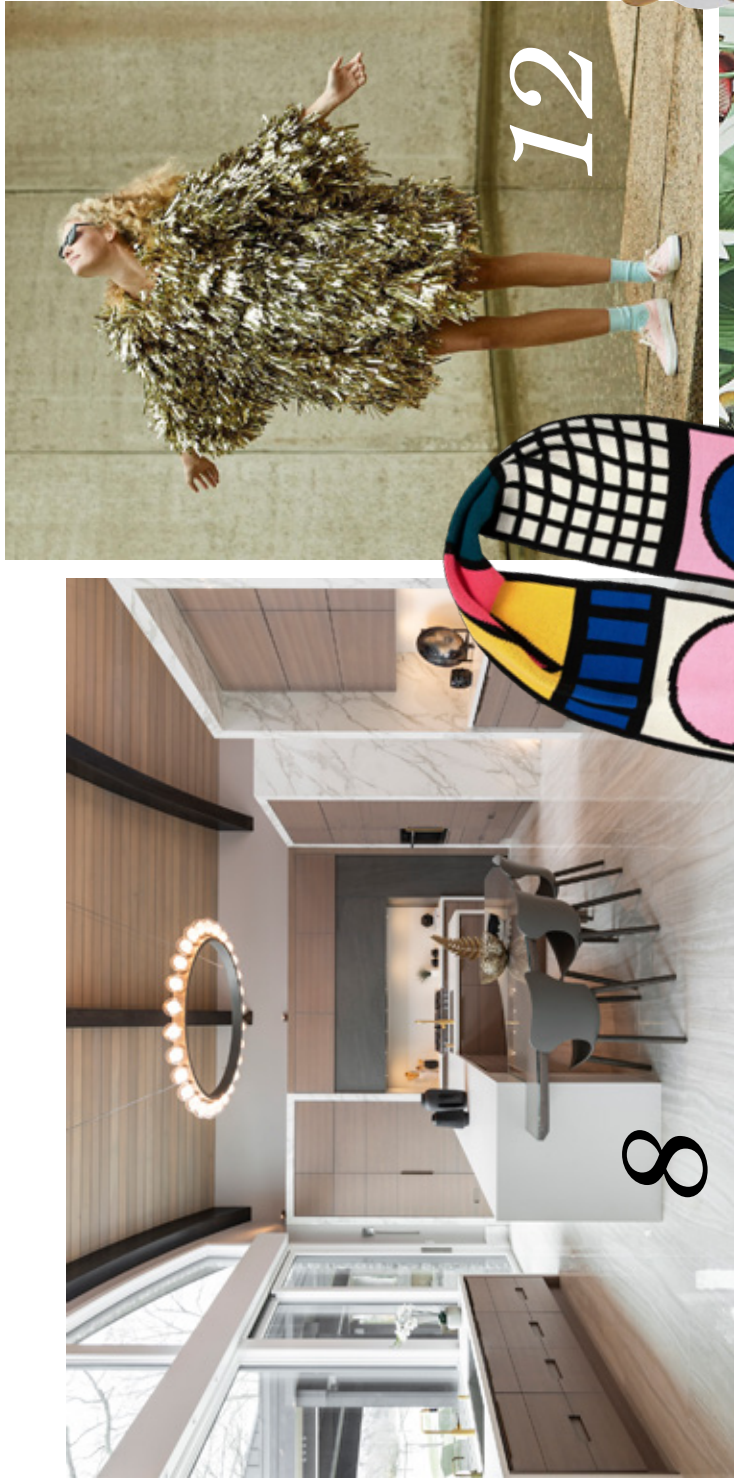
3. Dead Sexy Ceramic Candle
Tokyo Milk
de-rose-designs-floral-boutique.myshopify.com

4. Eye Brooch | Celeste Mogador
www.celeste-mogador.com

5. Doves London Blue Topaz Pendant | Doron Paloma
www.damianjewellers.com

6. Bianchi Aria Rim Campagnolo Centaur | La Bicicletta
labicicletta.com

7. G-Timeless Steel Snake Bracelet Watch | Gucci
www.holtrenfrew.com



8

- 8. Custom-Built Kitchen
Cameo Kitchens
www.cameokitchens.com
- 9. Memphis Scarf | Riley Grae
www.rileygrae.com
- 10. MOULIN | Zilli Home
zillihome.com
- 11. Acuario White | Wallpaper
From The 70s
www.wallpaperfromthe70s.com

9

- 12. Golden Fleece | Rachel Burke
shoprachelburke.com
- 13. Leather and Walnut Table Tennis
Paddles | Tiffany & Co
www.tiffany.com
- 14. Lazy Susan Vide Poche | L'OBJET
www.simons.ca
- 15. Piedmont Vase | Arteriors Home
shop.primalighting.ca



12



11



13



14



15



10

DESIRE

Few comedians achieve Maniscalco's success. The last few years of his career include selling out arena shows, releasing a bestselling memoir called, *Stay Hungry* and landing a role in *Green Book*, which won Best Picture at the Academy Awards



NO- BODY DOES THIS...

WE COULD ALL USE A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR THESE DAYS, SO
WHO BETTER TO TURN TO THAN THE KING OF OBSERVATIONAL
COMEDY, SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO

WRITTEN BY **CEZAR GREIF** | INTERVIEW BY **ESTELLE ZENTIL**

Have you ever heard of Uncle Luigi? If you're not familiar with him, stand-up comedian Sebastian Maniscalco will make it his mission to make sure you know all about him, from the seating chart at his fifth wedding to how he can negotiate a deal on anything. Yes, Maniscalco's could be described as "old-school" comedy, but his reliance on family situations and physical comedy might be the sort of things that transcend trends and fads. The total command of his body language he displays to illustrate his jokes may very well be the best in the business. His rise during the last five years has been remarkable. He has released five comedy specials. He is fifth-highest earning comedian in America, earning an average of \$26 million a year. He regularly sells out arenas. Jerry Seinfeld is a friend and admirer.

Maniscalco will be the first to say that comedy can't be learned, it must be earned. It took him nearly 20 years to develop his "Can you believe this?" style of humour. "You don't become a bodybuilder the first day you start lifting weights," he explains. "Same thing with comedy. You gotta flesh out your joke, your bit. You add and subtract. You see what works."

After going to college and getting a degree in communication studies, he moved to Los Angeles in 1998. Maniscalco performed at open mics in bars and bowling alleys, while working as a waiter for seven years. Like Uncle Luigi would probably say, "If you don't win, work harder." While running to gigs at the famed Comedy Store, home to legends like Robin Williams and David Letterman, his persistence paid off: then-massive comic Andrew Dice Clay saw him onstage one night and took a young Maniscalco on the road with him. Soon after, Vince Vaughn enlisted him for his "Wild West Comedy Show." From there, things started to snowball. One of the reasons for Maniscalco's upward climb is that he's not content to rest in his little section of the industry and likes to challenge himself. His hosting gig at the MTV Video Music Awards in 2019 was seen as a feat of bravery: he made jokes about millennials in front of an audience full of them. But that's Maniscalco in a nutshell: he's not going to change what he does for you; he'll do the same routine no matter who's listening. His developing acting career includes roles in *Green Book* and *The Irishman*. In 2018, he published his bestselling memoir, *Stay Hungry*. We couldn't pass up the chance to sit down with Sebastian to find out what makes him laugh.

Q: How do you think your family's Sicilian background informed your life growing up in Illinois?

A: My father was born and raised in Sicily and came to the United States when he was 15 years old. My mother was born and raised in Chicago, and so I had an interesting dynamic growing up

where my father kind of brought this old-school, Old-World mentality to the United States and kind of kept that. Then, I also had a mother who was born and raised in the United States and was obviously more Americanized than my father.

You know, most immigrants, especially in the Italian community, they would either own a restaurant, or they're in construction and they do certain things career-wise, and it's just odd that I have a straight hairdresser father... I had an immigrant father and a native mother who grew up in the United States. And that was kind of odd, too, because a lot of the friends whom I had growing up, they had both immigrant parents from the old country. We didn't live in our basement; we didn't have plastic on our furniture. We went on vacations a lot; we went out to dinner a lot. And

"IF YOU DON'T HAVE FAMILY, TO ME, YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING"

that wasn't the case for some of my friends who had Italian parents from the old country, where they stayed at home, they made all their meals at home, they didn't really go on vacations. I felt like I had the best of both worlds when it came to that.

Q: Do you believe that comedy is ultimately just observing the commonplace aspects of everyday life? What is your personal definition of comedy?

A: Comedy has a lot of different sources. Mine tends to come from everyday life and relatability. Some comedians sit at their desk and write funny jokes and come up with scenarios. I typically like to draw from real-life situations. A lot of people are like, "Oh, the pandemic must've given you a lot of material." And it didn't really give me a lot of material, because I wasn't out doing a lot of things. I was inside. I have to live my life, I have to go on ski trips, or I have to go to soccer practice with my son to draw from those experiences. If I'm just stagnant, I feel it's not the best as far as drawing comedy. I feel like you have to be out in the world and doing things that other people do that are relatable. I've always loved that type of comedy. I'll watch a comedian and go, "Oh my God, I do that" or "That's so funny, because my father's like that." I feel like comedy is about relationships, about familiarity, and that's kind of where I like to play.

Q: Other than comedy, you obviously are known for your love for food. What was it like filming *Well Done*?


A: My passion for food, I think, stems from

my childhood. My grandmother, my mother, obviously, being really really good cooks and experiencing different foods at such a young age and then subsequently meeting my wife and her enjoying food and wine. We got married in Napa, Calif. Her family introduced me to a whole world of wine, and I just thought food always brought people together. And I got that from my family when we sat down at the dinner table. It was kind of a conduit to all of us coming together. As an adult, I enjoyed having people at the house, either cooking or partying and hospitality. I'm really big on hospitality. I used to work at the Four Seasons Hotel, which actually started in Canada, in Toronto, and I worked there for seven years in Beverly Hills, Calif. I really got a bird's-eye view on high-end food, high-end wine, how to decant a


bottle of wine. I was exposed to a lot of these things I would never have been exposed to growing up. You know, we didn't have the money to stay at the Four Seasons growing up, and so I got a really good education on anticipating people's needs. That's what I like. When my father comes to visit, I like to get his favourite bread or nice cured meats or cheeses. I like seeing people get happy with food.

The *Well Done* show basically stemmed from the pandemic. I was helping my buddy who's a chef, and he's also a guy who provides a lot of product to restaurants. And he was kind of struggling, so we did a dinner, a virtual dinner over Zoom, where he prepared the food, and I was the comedic part of the supper. It was called "Sunday Supper." And I was like, "Wow, I really enjoy this. This is nice." And I was like, "How do we make a TV show out of it?" I was interested in a lot of aspects of food. Like, "How do you make sushi?" to these crafted cocktails now. It's not just a cranberry vodka anymore — it's seven or eight different ingredients. How do you source all the ingredients to make cocktails? I was interested in all these different things in the food space. So, we took 13 of my favourite things that I wanted to learn more about and made a TV show about it. It was good. I had fun doing it. It's something I would've never done before, but I think it was a good way of marrying my two passions of comedy and culinary arts.

Q: In 2018, you made your feature film debut, as Johnny Venere, in the Academy Award-winning film *Green Book*, and in November 2019, you appeared



Maniscalco is known for his distinctive, physical style, because he's not just telling a joke, but showing it, too



Maniscalco has sold-out arena shows, including the United Center in his hometown of Chicago, Boston's TD Garden, The Forum in L.A. and New York's Madison Square Garden

**“
MY COMEDY KIND OF PARALLELS
MY LIFE AND WHAT STAGE I AM IN
MY LIFE...”**

in Martin Scorsese's *The Irishman* playing "Crazy" Joe Gallo alongside Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci and Al Pacino. What was that like?

A: In those two movies, I have small parts in those movies, so the time required on set wasn't long. It was maybe five to seven days. In both of those movies, I'm working with arguably some of the finest actors of our time. I couldn't have planned working with De Niro, Pesci and Mahershala Ali, and it just doesn't happen, even for actors who do this full time. Even *they* don't get these opportunities, and I get back-to-back movies working with some of the best. I had a lot of anxiety, because that's something I don't do on a day-to-day basis, and so there was a lot of doubt. "Can I do this? Am I good enough? Can I pull this off?"

I just did a movie that I co-wrote and it basically centres around my real life. It's a love story between a father and son, and it's loosely based on my life. The father is played by De Niro, and that was six weeks of shooting in Alabama, where I was in practically every scene. It was a comedy. And the difference is, in stand-up, obviously, you do something onstage and people laugh. In a movie, no one's laughing, because you're shooting a movie. For me, it was an adjustment because the whole validation of what I'm doing onstage is to hear people laugh. But with a movie, when you don't get the laugh, at least for me, I was like, "Is this funny? Is this working?" That was a big adjustment for me. And the amount of time, 12 to 13 hours a day on set, there's a lot of adjustments and lighting, and so it's a lot of repetition. And for me, I like excitement, and the movie business is not exciting – it's not stand-up, I'll tell you that.

I guess someone said that 90 per cent of the movie business is not glamour, but the 10 per cent that is so above and beyond that that's why people keep coming back . . . I like acting, but I wouldn't do it full time. My true passion is stand-up comedy.

Q: You're known for your "nostalgia" type of humour. That being said, what is a topic that you feel you could work on comedically time and time again and never get tired of?

A: Probably personal family experiences. Anything with my father tends to be very fruitful when it comes to comedy. My wife is a good place for me to live when it comes to stand-up. Now that my kids are growing up, four and a half and two and a half, I'm going into a lot of scenarios and experiences that are new to me, like dropping them off at school, other parents, birthday parties. My comedy kind of parallels my life and what stage I am in my life and I've been talking a lot more about raising kids. I think the kid thing is definitely something I could dive into more in the future.

Q: Has cancel culture changed the way you work in any way? Do you feel you have to be more conservative?

A: No, it doesn't. As soon as I start not being who I am, then it's not funny anymore. So, if I have to edit myself because I think someone is going to get bent out of shape, then I may as well just not be doing comedy anymore. I think people lost their sense of humour along the way. I think the sensitivity has gotten way way out of hand. None of what I'm saying onstage is malicious or mean. I'm pointing out the obvious, making fun of my family, or what I see, but I'm also making fun of myself. If you can't have a good laugh about stuff like that, you shouldn't be watching stand-up comedy at all.

Q: What has been the proudest moment throughout your career thus far?

A: There are so many good things that have happened to me in the last six to seven years. It's hard to really pinpoint one. I mean, selling out four shows at Madison Square Garden is pretty monumental for me. It's something that I never really thought would happen. When I got into this business in 1998, all I wanted to do was make people laugh, and do it for a living. I didn't have a goal on my vision board to sell out arenas, or anything like that, it just kind of happened. But, for me, going to New York City I brought my father onstage, my mother, my sister. I actually brought my wife and daughter onstage in Toronto at the Air Canada Centre, and so I guess sharing the moments with the people I love are most important to me. I brought my four best friends from college with me onstage in Chicago, took a photo. So, I guess to have people very close to you in your life share your accomplishments, I think, really means a lot to me, rather than me doing it alone. It's no fun. Sharing is the proudest thing I get to do, but Madison Square Garden is the pinnacle for me.

Q: What are some of the lessons you hope to teach your children? How has having children shaped your work comedically?

A: Well, it's a different environment than when I grew up. I grew up working middle class. I had jobs. I had my own lawn-cutting service when I was 12 years old. I was cutting lawns with another kid in the neighbourhood. I always worked really hard, and now, you have to kind of create adversity for your kids because they're living in a world where we're not hungry. We're living a very nice life, so you have to be mindful as a parent to not over-give or make it too easy for them. They have to grow up with some type of work ethic, and so that's my biggest fear.

I take it very seriously that my kids have a sense of, or understanding, that this life that we're living is not a life that a lot of people have and that we're very fortunate to be where we're at, *but* that you make your own bed. You know, nobody gave me anything that I have. I worked really really hard for it. And so I just want to transfer that, like

my father transferred it to me, I want to transfer that into them. I want my kids to be a lot more successful than I am, but I'm not going to give it to them. They're going to have to work for it.

Q: In 2016, you and your wife set up Tag You're It! Foundation to give back to causes that you're passionate about, including U.S. veterans, Alzheimer's disease and children's education. Can you speak on why it's important for you to give back and your philanthropic work?

A: There are three things we like to give to: Alzheimer's research is one, because my grandfather had Alzheimer's and it took a toll, not only on him, but also our family. Children, ever since I've had kids. We gave to Children's Hospital last year here in Los Angeles, and another one is veterans. My father was in the army, and I have a strong affinity to the military, and so those are the three main things. But we give to other organizations, especially during COVID. We gave to an organization that provides food for those struggling during COVID.

When you reach a certain level of success and you make a certain amount of money, you want to give back and do your part and solve some of the world's problems, or help in some way, shape or form. Charity, for me, was ingrained as a young kid. We used to adopt a family every year during Christmas. My mother would say, "Hey, there's this family. We're putting together a basket of toys and pants and socks." And that showed me that, even though we live in a middle-class family, there are people out there struggling and need help. My wife's family is also big on charity and they do a huge charity event in Naples, Florida, every year for the kids in the south of Florida. It's always been around me, and I always want to do my part.

Q: Who makes you laugh the most?

A: My friend George. He's probably the funniest guy I've ever met or known. He's a buddy I went to college with. He lives in Chicago. We talk pretty much every day, and he's a guy who has my funny bone. He's extremely, extremely funny.

Q: Which famous person in history would you want to spend the day with?

A: Frank Sinatra. Everything that he did was fascinating to me. Just a class act.

Q: What does *la dolce vita* mean to you?

A: Family. I guess that's the biggest thing in my life that really really brings me happiness. There's nothing better than having my family around me during the holidays, or a random Sunday. I think family, to me, is the best. If you don't have family, to me, you don't have anything.

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This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

DESIGN WITHOUT BORDERS

Acclaimed South African architectural studio SAOTA is a global powerhouse in innovative and beautiful design

WRITTEN BY RICK MULLER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

The ultimate compliment that can be paid to any musical performer is that they can “play any gig,” meaning whatever the concert, audience makeup, location or environment, they can own it. That same sentiment can be given to only a rare collection of global architectural firms, such as SAOTA, a South African design studio with a footprint around the world, having completed projects in 86 cities on six continents.

Founded in 1986 by Stefan Antoni and now with 200 employees and led by Antoni, Philip Olmesdahl, Greg Truen, Logen Gordon, Phillippe Fouché and Mark Bullivant, SAOTA is known to bring an innovative and dedicated approach to the design, documentation and execution of its modern-influenced projects globally, which has made it an internationally sought-after brand.

“We are always looking to create projects, environments and design experiences that are beautiful, memorable and exciting,” says Bullivant, one of SAOTA’s design principals, in a recent interview with *Dolce*. “There are many moving parts on any project, technical and people management among them, so it takes stamina to overcome them, but at the same time always remembering to put the design first. One of the most satisfying aspects is seeing what was at first a scribble or a drawing on a piece of paper spring to life.”

Though it designs boutique hotels, and commercial and mixed-use properties in Africa, North America, South America, the Middle East, Asia and Australia, SAOTA is perhaps best known for designing some of the most stunning and

innovative private residences in the world for its highly successful clientele, who expect, and can afford, only the best.

“One of the nicest and most interesting parts of our work at SAOTA is the calibre of our clients, as I’ve learned a lot from many of them,” says Bullivant. “Typically, they are very successful individuals, and that success is because they are detail-oriented people. Once they’ve got their first taste of design and realize how much fun and enjoyable the process is, it is a lot of fun. They have different thought processes and ways they communicate. It’s always interesting to see how these people organize their lives.”

Headquartered between the mountains and ocean in picturesque Cape Town, South Africa, SAOTA’s design philosophy is to marry its projects to their surrounding natural environment, both in positioning and layout, as well as the building materials selected and incorporated.

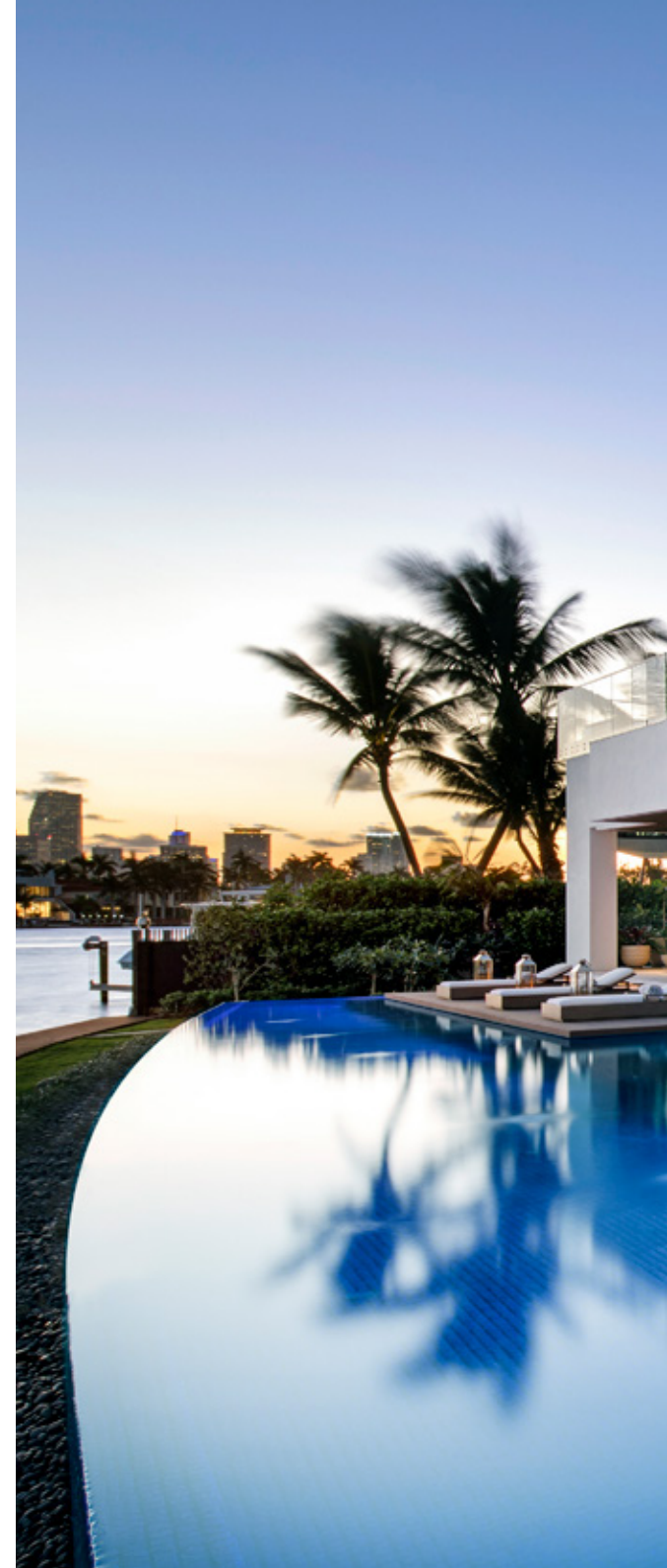
“Working internationally, that comes with many different environments and characteristics,” says Bullivant. “Working here in Cape Town, we have many diverse views and we try to use that, together with climate considerations, for any building, such as where is the sun, where do we need cover. That kind of approach to the design is consistent, no matter where we work.”

SAOTA is also focused on using the most current and sophisticated computer technology in its design process, both to understand the design and to communicate the design through 3D technology and virtual reality to its clients. Its focus on achieving maximum value has also led to

global invitations to design, build and create highly prestigious projects, many of which are some of the most beautiful and captivating private residences in the world.

One of those is Dilido, a Miami house on a pie-shaped lot on the southern tip of Di Lido Island with superb views of the islands, downtown and Miami Beach. The house spills out onto the longer waterfront elevation to evoke the experience of being on the deck of a superyacht. The harmonious merging of internal and external living spaces is a theme carried throughout the home’s design.

Also in Miami is Terracina, completed in 2018 on Golden Beach with a spectacular view up the Intercoastal Waterway. Defined through a rhythm



PHOTOS BY ADAM LETCH



The harmonious merging of internal and external living spaces is a theme carried throughout this home on Di Lido Island in Miami

of outdoor landscaped rooms in true SAOTA style, the openness transcends to private spaces through perforated screens and large, covered outdoor spaces.

The Lake Huron house on the shores of the Great Lake in Ontario was a challenge in design, because the four distinct seasons of its location had to be addressed. “We try to design so all of our projects have distinct differences in materiality,” recalls Bullivant of the home completed in 2019. “Lake Huron is a completely different type of environment and can be quite brutal because the four seasons in Canada can be quite intense. This led us to using materials that could withstand those conditions, along with a cladding

system with a series of stacked and overlapped rectangle forms.”

In the much warmer climate of Los Angeles is Stradella, a private residence completed in 2017 that ideally marries the indoor/outdoor environmental design philosophy of SAOTA. The design includes generous outdoor living areas with slender canopies accented by delicate screens to animate the living areas, tied together by an elegant palette.

But perhaps SAOTA’s most famous design is Hillside house, a private residence high in the Hollywood Hills. It has achieved worldwide attention for two reasons: it was featured on the Netflix realty TV series *Selling Sunset*, and in 2019

it sold for an astounding US\$35.5 million.

At 20,000 square feet, Hillside is the largest home ever built in the Hollywood Hills. This glass-encrusted, three-level hillside jewel has become a stylish and sophisticated sanctuary looking down on all pretenders as a standard above for architectural innovation, luxury and design.

The home’s features are as impressive as its appearance. They include a 12-foot interior waterfall, a 10-car garage and a walk-in dressing room off the master bedroom that was imported from Lake Como in Italy. Because, if you can build a home and sell it for US\$35.5 million, you can import dressing rooms from Italy, thank you very much.

Large covered outdoor spaces define Terracina on Golden Island in Miami with outdoor landscaped rooms offering views up the Intercoastal Waterway



With specific materials selected to address the four distinct seasons of the area, Lake Huron house ideally fits its natural landscape





Generous outdoor living areas are featured at Stradella in Los Angeles, with slender canopies and delicate screens affording views of the L.A. Basin



Featured on realty TV with forever views from the Hollywood Hills, Hillside's statement of luxury is reflected in its US\$35.5-million selling price

The five-bedroom, nine-bathroom home features stunning 270-degree views of Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles from every room. Because this is Hollywood, of course there is an interesting backstory to the project, as Bullivant recalls.

"Hillside has been fascinating," he says. "At the onset of the project it wasn't meant to be sold. We were dealing with a very engaged and very committed client who was very involved in the design. It turned out as good as we expected, which is a fundamental aspect of our projects being a success. At some point along the way, Hollywood, being Hollywood, somebody approached the clients that they were doing a realty TV show and could they use the project, and it just all sort of blew up into this massive thing where the billboard promoting the realty show on Sunset Boulevard had a rendering of the house. It was a fun project and a feather in our cap that they got that price when it sold."

Released in December 2021, *Light Space Life: Houses by SAOTA* is the first monograph book from the studio. The hardcover will be

a beautiful collection of 23 recent residential projects undertaken by SAOTA from around the world, with a particular focus on projects it has completed in Africa. Illustrated with stunning colour photography, the book features a foreword by SAOTA's client Reni Folawiyo, founder of West African fashion label Alara. The book celebrates 35 years of innovative residential design from Lagos to Los Angeles, including houses from the dramatic South African coast, where the SAOTA story began. The photos illustrate how SAOTA designs in wildly beautiful natural settings and how its design philosophy is based upon the relationship between its projects and its site. For fans of design, no doubt the book will be a beautiful addition to any coffee table.

As for the future of architecture, specifically residential architecture, Bullivant feels the lessons for tomorrow have been provided for us by today's reality in the world.

"What we've all experienced over the last nearly two years is really the importance of one's space and making it as kind of comfortable as possible," observes Bullivant. "It has also

shown us our space has to be a little bit more all-encompassing, as a lot of people have been working from home. I think in that respect, homes are becoming a little more multi-purpose, and those factors have become significantly more important than they were before. I also think sustainability has become more important, and hopefully we can begin to introduce these new technologies that are coming on board. A lot of these new technologies have had some resistance from some of the local building codes, but as you see these becoming a little more commonplace, you'll be seeing more of that incorporated into our designs."

Architecture on six continents and in 86 cities and counting is really global in nature, and it takes an innate ability to adjust and adapt to the market and the environment you are working in. SAOTA is one of those rare firms that travels well, can "play any gig," and designs and delivers an astonishing array of outstanding products worldwide.

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CANADA'S WALK OF FAME: CELEBRATING AWESOME CANADIANS

The name says it all — it really is a walk of fame to honour Canadians and celebrate the next generation. It's evolved, however, to include amazing people on a national level, telling their stories and bringing attention to communities across the country. The biggest difference? "The emphasis is on the walk, not the fame," says Jeffrey Latimer, CEO of the organization

WRITTEN BY DONNA PARIS | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL



Canada's Walk of Fame 2021 inductees, from left: Ajay Virmani, Bruce Cockburn, Bret "Hitman" Hart, Damian Warner, Graham Greene, Salome Bey

If you're strolling along the sidewalk in downtown Toronto's Entertainment District, you'll notice the maple leaf-like stars, filled with names of Canadians who inspire others. It's an honour for inductees, of course, but it also inspires everyday people.

Canada's Walk of Fame, a not-for-profit organization established in 1998 by founders Bill Ballard, Dusty Cohl and Peter Soumalias, with Dianne Schwalm and in partnership with Gary Slaight, has evolved from a small gathering to unveil a star in the sidewalk to include a gala, events across the country and year-long programs and celebrations to reach as many Canadians as possible. "Yes, we are here to celebrate and inspire," says Jeffrey Latimer, CEO of the organization. "But, what's different is that we're doing it more nationally now, bringing more attention to communities where people grew up, telling more stories."

To that end, the Walk of Fame recently introduced "Hometown Star Event, presented by Cineplex," an additional celebration for those inductees whose hometowns are outside of Toronto. In the year following their induction,

inductees revisit their hometowns, where they are warmly welcomed through public events and greeted by locals, friends and family who all shared in their rise to success journey. Inductees are also presented with a cheque to the charity of their choice, as well as a monumental plaque to be permanently displayed in a location of special significance to them. The conversations with inductees have changed to focus more on their walk, says Latimer, and include stories to show their struggle and determination. They are asked questions like, "What are you doing with your platform?" and "What are you doing with your fame?" Health-care workers or astronauts, for instance, may not be as well-known, but they make tremendous contributions, he adds.

Everything is different now; it's not the '90s anymore. People have platforms, followers and audiences on social media. "Are they saying, 'Look at how famous I am' or are they saying, 'This is what's important to me,'" asks Latimer. "We need to care about mental health, we need to care about what they're doing to give to their country, to truly inspire, so that young people look at them as role models and say, 'Wow, they fell down so

many times and they got back up and now look at them."

This year's inductees (there are 200 to date) are represented in Five Pillars of Achievement: Arts & Entertainment; Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy; Humanitarianism; Science, Technology and Innovation; and Sports & Athletics. That's what makes Canada's Walk of Fame so powerful — great achievement in many different arenas, adds Latimer. This year's recipients include actor Keanu Reeves; retired Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire; Salome Bey (Canada's first lady of the blues); and Frederick Banting, Charles Best, John Macleod and James Collip, University of Toronto scientists who discovered insulin. Perhaps Reeves put it best when he talked about his profession, then talked about the scientists who discovered insulin, saving millions of lives, and what an honour it is to be inducted into the Walk of Fame the same year as them.

The most difficult part of the job for the organization is deciding on the inductees from all of the nominations. One thing the organization does look for now is the impact that the nominee is making, locally and nationally, and

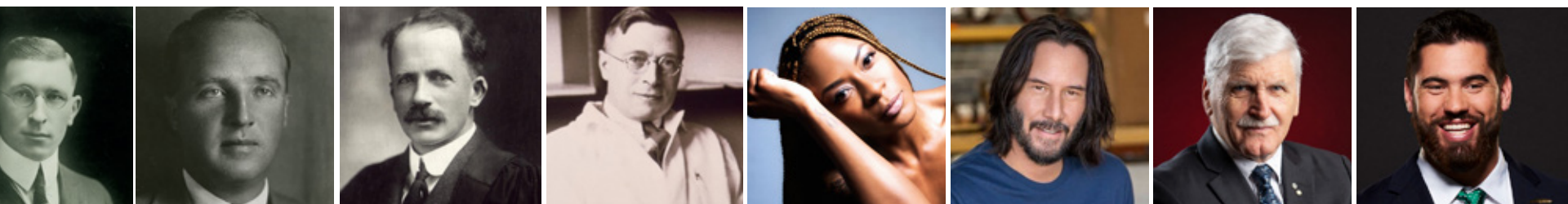
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**IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CANADA
TO SHINE A BRIGHTER LIGHT
ON EXTRAORDINARY CANADIAN
ACHIEVERS TO INSPIRE MORE
PEOPLE, MORE OFTEN**

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One of Canada's greatest champions —
Jeffrey Latimer, CEO of Canada's Walk of
Fame — never tires of celebrating Canadians



From left: Frederick Banting, Charles Best, John Macleod and James Collip, Jully Black, Keanu Reeves, Lt.-Gen. (retired), the Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire, the National Hero Honour recipient Laurent Duvernay-Tardif

even internationally. “I think the biggest part of it now when we induct someone is, ‘What is it that their induction is going to do to make Canada a better place?’” says Latimer. So, it’s not always obvious, he adds, but some inductions are about the betterment of the country, because the organization shines a light on them in the same way it does for a movie star.

This year, the organization introduced The National Hero Honour. It is presented to someone who has made outstanding contributions this year. “It can be anyone who represents what it is to truly be Canadian, [and] that’s what Laurent did,” says Latimer, who’s talking about Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, the first recipient of the award. A football player with the Kansas City Chiefs who was recently traded to the New York Jets, Duvernay-Tardif completed medical school in the off-seasons. At the start of the pandemic, he opted out of playing football to lend a hand working as an orderly at a long-term care facility in the Montreal area. That’s not all. A few years ago, he and his girlfriend, Florence Dubé-Moreau, co-founded the Laurent Duvernay-Tardif Foundation, dedicated to encouraging sports, arts and studies

for kids. “It’s all about balance. Don’t give up on your passions,” he tells youth when he speaks at schools.

Similarly, the Community Hero program, presented by MLSE and Scotiabank, honours an exceptional Canadian under 30 who positively influences the lives of others and makes a profound impact on their communities. This year’s recipient is Rabiah Dhaliwal, an award-winning youth mental health activist, humanitarian and community leader. Her experiences as a youth of colour living with depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder have deeply affected the way she navigates life. As a survivor of suicide, Dhaliwal is passionate about mental health reform. She is the founder and director of Voices For Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization that challenges the stigma around mental health.

What’s coming down the pipeline? Latimer feels strongly that the focus will shift to health care in the future. “I think our doctors are the biggest superstars in the world,” he says. “There are some doctors and researchers in this country — in Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and Montreal — who are the best in the world.” And, he adds, they

are as important as some of the great inductees in the performing arts categories.

There is no greater champion of our country than Latimer. He’s proud to represent such an organization as this one. And he’s proud of the team he works with. “I’m most proud that my team and I have created a very powerful movement . . . that it is important for Canada to shine a brighter light on extraordinary Canadian achievers to inspire more people, more often,” he says. “I feel like we are really making Canada’s Walk of Fame mean more to more people — and that’s good for Canada.”

Latimer tells just about anyone who will listen that Canada is an incredible country filled with remarkable people. “This club of inductees is small, and yet the [number of] extraordinary achievers in this country is massive,” he says. “What I’ve learned is that we should be inducting a hundred people a year. I’m very aware of how many amazing Canadians there are.”

Canadians can watch *CELEBRATING GREATNESS: CANADA’S WALK OF FAME 2021*, now streaming on Crave.

www.canadaswalkoffame.com
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After immigrating from India, Dr. Virmani was a pathfinder in founding and running Canada's first and most-awarded cargo airline

CLARITY OF VISION

Dr. Ajay Virmani personifies the immigrant success story in building Canada's largest overnight air cargo airline

WRITTEN BY RICK MULLER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

Having clear vision is a fundamental attribute for success in life and in business. Knowing where you've been, where you are, where you are going, what you are doing and maintaining a clear vision of your goals are common characteristics of many leading business executives and philanthropists.

Dr. Ajay Virmani, inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame as an entrepreneur and philanthropist,

knows a thing or two about clear vision, as, for a time, it was his job. Today, he is founder and chief executive officer of Cargojet, Canada's most-awarded cargo airline with more than 2,000 employees shipping more than 50 million pounds of essential materials and goods every week. It's a long way from how Dr. Virmani started his career — as a window washer.

Born in New Delhi, to a father who was in the military and a mother who was a teacher,

Dr. Virmani immigrated to Canada when he was just 18 years old and is quite candid as to why he left his homeland.

"People always ask why I came here," says Dr. Virmani in a recent interview with *Dolce*. "Obviously, we all come for a better life, but I always say that I ran away from India, because I was scared of the competition. It's not easy to compete with a billion people; it's much easier to be here and compete with 35 million people."

His first job was as a window washer at the 56-storey TD Bank Tower in downtown Toronto. Not willing to spend his days swinging on a scaffold 700 feet in the air, Dr. Virmani quickly returned to earth and took a series of odd jobs before joining Prudential Insurance to sell life insurance. "It was really important to me, as they taught me how to sell," says Dr. Virmani. "That gave me the language skills through conversations with the local people and blending in more. That was very instrumental for me, as it was a very communicative job and it sharpened me up for the times in this country."

Canada in those years was not always as welcoming to immigrants as it is today, and Dr. Virmani certainly recalls some life lessons from those years and the handicaps he had to overcome.

"The handicaps used to be some of the language skills, the accent, your colour, and not many others had those handicaps in those days. It's not like it is today," recalls Dr. Virmani. "So, you make up for it through extra effort, extra work, extra hours of work, taking on more jobs. That was an important life lesson for me in how you make yourself stand out in overcoming any perceived handicaps."

Dr. Virmani next joined a transport company, rising to the No. 2 position in the company in just nine years. He then founded a cargo company, growing it into the largest logistics supplier in Canada before selling it to Jim Crane, current owner of the Houston Astros. He invested in the former Canada 3000 airline in 2001, and just three

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THE BEST WAY TO PUT IT IS THAT PEOPLE TEND TO UNDERESTIMATE THEMSELVES, AND THEY HAVE TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR IDEAS

”

months later came the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which virtually grounded the airline industry. Dr. Virmani knew the shipping business and knew there was no national cargo airline in Canada, which led him to form Cargojet out of the ashes of Canada 3000.

Dr. Virmani's business model was once again based upon his clear vision. He knew companies like Purolator, UPS and DHL all competed with one another through the day in their coloured trucks, but he told them all, "What does it matter the colour of the plane, when you're shipping all your cargo from midnight to 5 a.m.?"

Today, Cargojet is a titan. In less than 20 years, Dr. Virmani has overseen its growth to where it is now — Canada's largest overnight air cargo airline, with a \$3-billion market cap. It flies to 16 Canadian cities each night, serves Latin America, Europe and Asia through scheduled service and has emerged as the largest enabler of next-day e-commerce in the country through its fleet of 34 Boeing aircraft.

Cargojet is continually recognized for its leadership and team excellence, winning numerous awards for innovation, corporate social responsibility and diversity, including Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies, the Air Cargo World Excellence Award and the Carrier of Choice Award by Shipper's Choice Awards for 19 consecutive years.

A married father of two children and one grandchildren, Dr. Virmani has been recognized as *The Globe and Mail's Report on Business* Top CEO "2020 Strategist of the Year" and Entrepreneur of the Year by both Royal Bank of Canada, and Ernst & Young. He earned his MBA from the City University of New York in 1985 and has been honoured with a doctor of laws from the University of Windsor.

Cargojet has never been more important to Canada than these past 20 months. Before the pandemic, none of us gave much thought to supply chain logistics or the daily movement of essential materials and goods. The pandemic exposed how

fragile that system really is, and Cargojet has been there to help every step of the way. It has flown more than 200 flights to China to retrieve essential personal protective equipment for Canada's front-line workers, having turned down at least \$80 million in business from American and international companies, so it could take care of Canada first. It also operates approximately 50 flights every day, delivering essential materials and goods to every corner of the country.

"Our main objective was to keep our employees safe and healthy," says Dr. Virmani. "It would only take one sick pilot to ground the entire airline, so we brought in special testing capabilities for our employees, PPE [personal protective equipment], nurses — it didn't matter what it cost. We also paid our employees super pay for months to address the hardship of coming to work during the lockdowns. We've never missed one flight during the pandemic."

With his decades of experience in the shipping and transportation business, few people anywhere understand the importance of supply chain management more than Dr. Virmani, and he is not shy about issuing a siren call to authorities about its critical importance.

"Invest in infrastructure, because the supply chain is going to be the biggest factor for human survival," urges Dr. Virmani. "If we don't have the infrastructure to support the supply chain, we are all doomed. We lack infrastructure in every part of the world, whether its highways, airports, freight terminals or seaports. We need to improve infrastructure to continue to offer and grow the supply chain, because that is the future."

If Cargojet's actions so far in the pandemic seem generous, its true to Dr. Virmani's nature, as he has been a long-time philanthropist through the Virmani Family Foundation and the Cargojet Foundation, which have supported numerous initiatives in health care and the arts. Cargojet Foundation recently committed \$2.5 million to health-care initiatives and social justice causes. Dr. Virmani was instrumental in launching

Toronto's University Health Network (UHN) Diwali Gala in 2011, which has since raised \$9.6 million for programs at UHN. Dr. Virmani has also generously supported Toronto's SickKids hospital and the Trillium Health Network as well as many women's shelter charities.

"We sponsor a number of research projects for the UHN related to COVID-19, so it's amazing to help some of those out," says Dr. Virmani. "I was also able to help out some smaller hospitals with PPE or pain-management clinics. Some of the causes we fund are sort of out of the box, as it goes to my philosophy that no one wants to fund these causes, but they all lessen the pain in people's lives, so that's our motivation."

Dr. Virmani is the quintessential immigrant success story and has some sage advice for other immigrants to succeed in life, as well as business.

"The best way to put it is that people tend to underestimate themselves, and they have to believe in themselves and their ideas," advises Dr. Virmani. "If they've got some unique ideas, it's good. I wouldn't start a business because everybody else is in that business; don't follow the crowd. If you've got an outstanding idea, if you've always dreamt about something, you've got to be stubborn about it as well. And if you don't have a unique offering, don't do it. Have ideas that are the best or the first or are different and believe in yourself. It's great to be a dreamer, but you've got to be a doer and a dreamer."

Dr. Ajay Virmani personifies being both a dreamer and a doer. With his clarity of vision, hard work and business acumen, he has risen to the top as an entrepreneur. With his beliefs, compassion, caring and dedication to many causes, Dr. Virmani has made an incredible difference in his adopted country in the field of philanthropy. Canada is fortunate for so many reasons he chose it to become his home, and his induction into Canada's Walk of Fame is well deserved.

🐦@ajayvirmani1

LESSONS THROUGH HUMANITY

Roméo A. Dallaire has spent a lifetime giving a voice to the voiceless as a tireless advocate for human rights

WRITTEN BY RICK MULLER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

Soldier, general, senator, author and humanitarian, Lt.-Gen., the Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire has fulfilled all those roles with honour and distinction, befitting his induction into Canada's Walk of Fame in recognition of his lifetime of service to others and, perhaps most importantly, his care and compassion for others as a celebrated advocate for human rights. His life is a lesson for us all.

Born into a military family where he remembers shining the brass buttons on his father's uniform as a child, Dallaire enrolled in the Canadian Army in 1964 and rose to the rank of lieutenant-general in 1998. In late 1993, Gen. Dallaire was appointed force commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, prior to and during the 1994 genocide. Here is where his advocacy for human rights faced its toughest test.

Gen. Dallaire provided the UN with information about the planned massacre, which ultimately took more than 800,000 lives in less than 100 days, yet permission to intervene was denied, and the UN withdrew its peacekeeping forces. However, Gen. Dallaire and a small group of military observers disobeyed the command to withdraw and remained in Rwanda to fulfil their ethical obligation to protect those who sought refuge with the UN forces.

He wrote his first book about what he witnessed during the Rwandan genocide, publishing *Shake Hands With the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda* in 2003. The book was later adapted for two films: a documentary and a feature film.

The courage and leadership Gen. Dallaire demonstrated in Rwanda won him many honours and the respect of people from around the globe, but the experience left him with post-traumatic stress disorder. His revelation paved the way for destigmatizing this potentially lethal operational stress injury among military veterans, as well as first-responders, and his passionate leadership on the issue culminated in the publication of his bestselling memoir, *Waiting for First Light: My Ongoing Battle With PTSD*.

Lt.-Gen. Dallaire is founder of the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security, a global partnership with the mission to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers and to seek

innovative ways to assist governments worldwide in this cause. He has brought this cause worldwide attention and in 2010 published his book *They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children: The Global Quest to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers*. Whether as military commander, humanitarian, senator or author, Roméo A. Dallaire works tirelessly to bring national and international attention to situations too-often ignored, whether they be the prevention of mass atrocities, the battle military veterans face with post-traumatic stress disorder or the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.

The true measure of a person is not by stature, but by deed and by their care and compassion. By that measure, through their passion for people and leadership in humanitarian efforts to benefit others, Lt.-Gen. Roméo A. Dallaire is a giant among people.

His character and his genuine humanity clearly came to the fore when he sat down for an interview with *Dolce*.

Q: As someone who's seen humanity fail right before their eyes, how have you found peace?

A: It's interesting because I'm now a member of an international commission on the principles of peace, of lasting peace. How do we establish that? Because we've seen many of the peace agreements over the years haven't survived — hundreds have fallen right back into their same mess, often because they're so ill-advised. And still, we're trying to figure out exactly how to handle these situations of insecurity in Europe.

As far as inner peace, that was only found about five years ago, when I fell in love with my current, and lovely, wife, who worked for 25 years as the executive director of a big family resource centre for military families. She had over 9,000 families, with troops coming back from Afghanistan and other missions, some in body bags, some injured. And she was in the midst of all that, and so there was a communion of our ambitions and of our beliefs and the work we were doing for the people we love in the army, then we discovered the love that we have for each other.

I've got to say also that nine pills a day does help and 20 odd years of therapy also helped. I was shown by my doctors that I was subtly and

sort of in a bit of a camouflage way, through the work ethic and the way I was living, committing suicide, and so love completely changed that around, totally. Now I'm just mad that I don't have enough years left.

Q: Your loyalty to the UN and the world was understandably tested during the time you were in Rwanda. What was the biggest learning lesson from that time?

A: I think that ultimately, the primary lesson to learn, in the greater scheme of governance and engagement by nations into complex and ambiguous scenarios that we face now, certainly from the security side, is that there is no room to blink. That is to say, there is no room to go in for a while and then if it gets too tough, leave. And there's certainly no room for the faint of heart, to be prepared to face some of the most morally destructive scenarios that human beings can do to others, even if there are many who have goodwill among that. In the end, the only way we will solve this future sense of security of humanity is by engaging with nations, by assisting them, by bringing peace and not imposing peace, or letting simply the political elites run away with the agenda and leave the individual citizens and their families trying to figure out what the hell happened.

Q: Can you speak on moral injury, a lesser-known type of trauma?

A: The research we're doing is twofold. One is that PTSD comes, more often than not, from ordinary activities or scenarios. It could be a car accident for anybody, and so there is an absolute need for an immediate response to that, to be able to help a person stabilize and come to grips with what they've gone through, and so it could be an ambush situation, or whatever.

The moral injury, however, is the second level, and that level comes from the fact that you have witnessed or been engaged in ethical and moral and legal dilemmas that go beyond any reference that you have from your societal values that you have been inculcated in you all your life, and so it is so offensive to you that it actually puts you in continuous self-doubt of whether or not you can return to a semblance of normality; that you've

been so affected by it, that you are in fact weakened before the onslaught of scenarios that might even bring this back. I think ultimately, the moral injury, it's so difficult to explain. I mean, if you're facing child soldiers, and the child soldiers are shooting at you and the people you're protecting, and you end up having to shoot children — how do you explain that to your family? How do you hold your own children after that? And so those are the depths that ultimately, if not treated, will become a growing cancer that will literally eat the insides of you with pain and angst and depression and inability to act reasonably, and so that side is deeper and longer lasting, and ultimately the best you can hope for is that you're able to control it.

Q: What is the best way people can help?

A: My book. That is to say, read my second book, *They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children*, because unless you become aware of what this is, you'll still live this sort of Hollywood-esque perspective of this little drummer boy walking with the big troops into battle. Well, child soldiers are essentially the fundamental mobilization base of all of these conflicts, every one of them that's out there. And if they only know how to fight, how to kill and how to destroy, they don't stay children, they become adults, and what you then create is generational wars. And so the wars simply perpetuate them because that's all they know, and that's all those kids who become adults know, and in the demographics of the countries in the developing world, when 50 per cent are 15 and younger, you've got a lot of history of engagement in conflict that's in your society that you have to overcome. Education, and just giving them a way of life, let alone discovering what love can be because they've never had it, they don't know what it is.

Q: What do you think 15-year-old Roméo would say to the Roméo of today?

A: It's been far more than what could ever have been imagined from a kid from the wrong side of the tracks.

Q: What are you most grateful for?

A: Falling in love. Because it's literally saved my life, and I would argue that the strongest instrument to work their way through PTSD and moral injuries and psychological injuries is love. There's nothing deeper than that. Nothing. I truly believe that humanity is out there to thrive and not to survive. So, if you start your day by thinking, *Will we survive this?* then you're already unable to think progressively beyond just surviving.

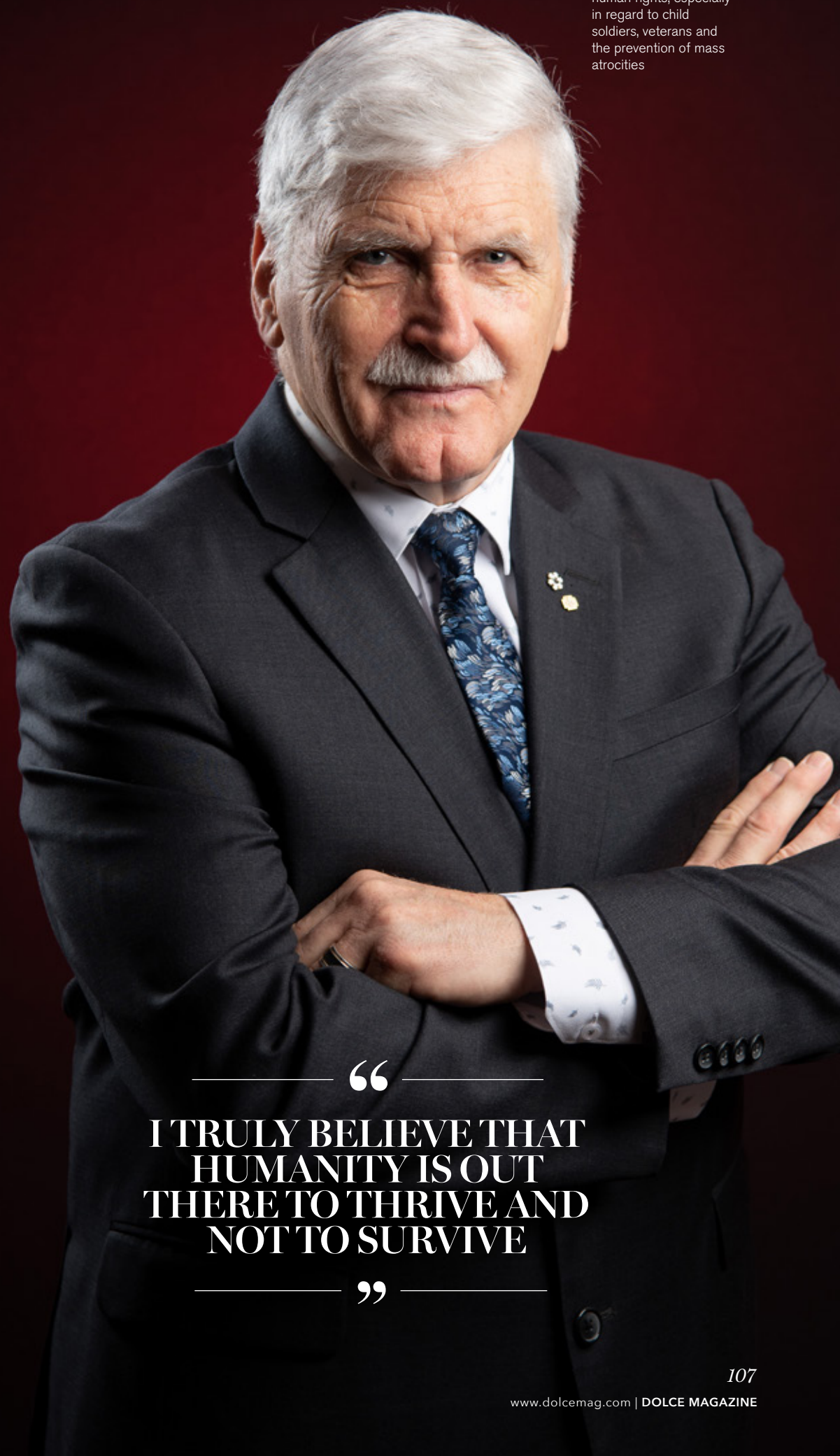
Q: What does *la dolce vita* mean to you?

A: Serenity. That's what's important.

dallaireinstitute.org

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Lt.-Gen. Dallaire is a celebrated advocate for human rights, especially in regard to child soldiers, veterans and the prevention of mass atrocities



“
I TRULY BELIEVE THAT
HUMANITY IS OUT
THERE TO THRIVE AND
NOT TO SURVIVE
”

Large in life both physically and by deed, Duvernay-Tardif is a role model we should all try to aspire to

HERO WORSHIP

Helping a long-term care facility endure the pandemic months after winning a Super Bowl is Laurent Duvernay-Tardif's story of caring and commitment

WRITTEN BY RICK MULLER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

PHOTO BY MARTIN GIRARD

“

BUT, IF I HADN'T DONE IT, I WOULD HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN MYSELF FOR THE NEXT 40 YEARS

”

What defines a “national hero”? Is it undertaking a personal initiative designed to benefit society for the greater good, such as 100-year-old Captain Tom Moore walking 100 lengths of his English garden to raise funds for the National Health Service at the start of the pandemic? Or perhaps it's Canada's Terry Fox, whose 1980 Marathon of Hope to raise funds for cancer research continues in his memory today and has raised more than \$750 million to date?

Or perhaps it is an athletic accomplishment that causes a nation to pound its chest with pride, such as Bobby Moore, who captained the English national football team to a home-soil World Cup championship in 1966 and whose statue guards the entrance to Wembley Stadium? Or is it Paul Henderson, who became a national hero overnight in Canada by scoring the winning goal with just 34 seconds remaining, as Canada defeated the Soviet Union 6-5 to win hockey's 1972 Summit Series?

Whatever the measurement, Laurent Duvernay-Tardif certainly fits the bill as perhaps a national hero who is defined not by what they accomplished or what they did, but by the content of their character. For here is a professional football player who just won the Super Bowl, yet chooses not to play the next season. Instead, as a medical professional, he chooses to stay home in Quebec and assist a long-term care facility get through those early and terrible days of the pandemic. Behold, a man to be inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame as its inaugural National Hero Honour. And there is no argument.

Duvernay-Tardif is being inducted for his

accomplishments on and off the football field. Studying medicine and playing football at McGill University in Montreal, he was drafted in 2014 by the National Football League's Kansas City Chiefs as only the fourth medical school graduate to play in the NFL. Later, as the starting right guard, he went on to help the Chiefs win the Super Bowl in February 2020, ending a 50-year championship drought.

About a month later, the pandemic hit. He did not hesitate to join a new team, fighting not an opponent on the field, but one which was invisible.

“Looking back on it, I was proud to say I was able to make that sacrifice,” says Duvernay-Tardif in an interview with *Dolce*. “The last year in the long-term care facility was tough, probably the hardest thing I've had to go through. When they shut the borders, I asked myself, *How can I help?* At the start, long-term care facilities were really hit badly by the first couple of waves of COVID-19, and I was part of a group that went back in there and helped. It was pretty chaotic, as we were all new people doing new things, trying to serve a really vulnerable patient population of elderly people. It was really challenging to constantly adapt to all these different rules.”

In July 2020, he announced he was opting out of the 2020 NFL season due to the pandemic, becoming the first NFL player to opt out of the upcoming season. Later that year, in recognition for his selfless actions to help others beyond himself, Duvernay-Tardif was named a co-recipient of *Sports Illustrated's* Sportsperson of the Year award, as well as co-winner of the Lou Marsh Trophy, given annually to Canada's top athlete. In

2021, he was the recipient of the Muhammad Ali Sports Humanitarian Award for his decision to opt out of the NFL season and instead stay home to fight the pandemic.

“I often ask myself why I am getting all this credit, when there are so many more people doing so much more than I was doing,” he says. “But, if I hadn't done it, I would have been disappointed in myself for the next 40 years, because I know I'm going to stay in the medical community. I made a decision that was in line with my convictions and what I want to accomplish. Football has given me so much, but you also have to give back.”

Duvernay-Tardif will be continuing his football career, now with the New York Jets.

Duvernay-Tardif is fully engaged with his Laurent Duvernay-Tardif Foundation along with his girlfriend of 10 years, Florence Dubé-Moreau, who travels the world as an active and successful art curator. Balance is key in his life, which is also the mission behind the foundation, to promote balance in academics, arts and sports, and to help young people in Quebec schools round out their lives and find their passions with interests in all three disciplines.

Whether he is working 24-7 to protect the vulnerable in a long-term care facility or working 24-7 to hold aloft the Vince Lombardi Trophy, those are the kinds of acts that make up the fibre and being of Laurent Duvernay-Tardif. Many people often ask what defines a national hero. More often than not, by their own actions, they define themselves.

[laurentduvernaytardif.com](https://www.laurentduvernaytardif.com)

[@laurentduvernaytardif](https://www.instagram.com/laurentduvernaytardif)

LEGENDS



Bey was born in New Jersey, but she made Canada her home. She changed the musical landscape here forever by boosting Black culture and paving the way for many, many young performers

A Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, actress and playwright, Salome Bey's music came from the heart. A recent inductee into Canada's Walk of Fame, Bey was a pioneer of Black Canadian theatre and music, but her influence stretched around the world, with a legacy that's woven into the jazz cafés of Paris and the theatres of Broadway. Even more important, she dedicated herself to supporting and inspiring her family, friends and community. Just ask her daughters, singer SATE and singer-performance artist tUkU

WRITTEN BY **DONNA PARIS**
INTERVIEW BY **ESTELLE ZENTIL**

HONOURING SALOME BEY: CANADA'S FIRST LADY OF THE BLUES

PHOTO BY BARRIE DAVIS

Salome Bey gave the world some amazing music, performances and productions. She saw her own art as a gift, but she also knew the power of Black culture and how important it is to mentor and interact with other artists. It was her mission to do just that in life. Bey died on Aug. 8, 2020, at 86 years of age, survived by her two daughters, SATE and tUkU, and her son, Marcus, but her legend lives on. *Dolce* spoke with her two daughters about their mother.

Passionate, dynamic and perseverant — that’s how SATE describes her mother. And it helps to understand where Bey was coming from. “For her, being artistic was a sacred practice,” says tUkU. “If you understand that you have gift and blessing here, then you need to do this important work.” For their mother, love was at the centre of everything, she adds.

Born in Newark, N.J., Bey was one of nine children. They were a working-class family, so there wasn’t a lot of money, but there was an old piano in the living room, and the kids loved singing harmonies together. When she was just 14, Bey sneaked out of the house with her older sister to go to the famed Apollo Theatre, where she won a competition at one of its amateur talent nights. Bey was pretty happy about that, but not so much her dad, who wanted her to go to university to become a lawyer. She went for a few years, but then she joined her sister and brother in their sibling act and began touring in Europe and other cities around the world as Andy & the Bey Sisters.

One night in 1962, during their residency, they were playing in Toronto and they ended up at an after-hours club, managed by Howard Matthews. Bey fell in love, and Matthews was totally smitten. They were married, and she moved to Toronto in 1964. She played at jazz clubs, and he opened a popular restaurant, the Underground Railroad, which served up mouth-watering food: southern

fried chicken, collard greens and spice cake. At home, they welcomed Black performers, like B.B. King and Ray Charles, who would drop in when they were in town.

“When Salome and Howard met, he was running a club called the First Floor Club, so my dad was in music on one side, and my mother was the music on the other. So, that’s also how they were able to really complement each other,” says SATE. Similarly, the Underground Railroad was a place that was moving culture forward; it was a meeting place and a networking place, too, she adds.

Bey lived a big life — she fell in love with musical theatre, appearing on Broadway in shows like *Your Arms Too Short to Box with God*, which earned her and the cast Tony awards and a Grammy nomination. In the late ’70s, she gathered Black actors and musicians for her first play, *Indigo*, about the evolution of the blues. “This is your shot,” she told the performers. They rose to the challenge, and *Indigo* played for more than a year, picking up rave reviews and receiving two Dora Mavor Moore Awards, Toronto’s theatre awards. A long list of honours followed, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for lifetime achievement from the Black Theatre Workshop of Montreal, and she became an honorary member of the Order of Canada.

Bey loved gathering her children onstage. In fact, one production, *Rainbowworld*, was based on tUkU’s questions about injustice, loaded with a cast of kids and starring tUkU herself in 1993. As they got older, her daughters collaborated with her, singing backgrounds and appearing onstage as part of Salome Bey & the Relatives.

Bey leaves behind not only an easier road to travel for aspiring performing artists, but also a lot of love for her children. “What I appreciated as a kid, I look at myself and say ‘Wow, you were always a weirdo, tUkU’, and I say that with so much love

for myself.” Sometimes, she says, she wonders if her mother thought she was strange. “But, I don’t think so. I think she really believed that we had magic and she constantly reminded us of that,” she adds.

On a more practical level, her daughters talk about being able to learn from their mother. They both had the opportunity to watch her process, of the research, the intention and the focus that went into creating. They watched their mom do extensive research for a production, reading books and listening to music and watching movies, so she could go deep into the history for a work she was creating. “What I learned from her . . . giving it all onstage, leaving everything onstage,” says SATE. “The intention and the process are two things that I really took away from just having the opportunity to be Salome’s daughter.” She just followed her heart and kept moving forward based on her vision, adds tUkU, and she was a meticulous archiver, who kept everything and never let go of drafts, because she might want to look back, reflect and put something back in.”

So, how would Bey feel about being inducted into Canada’s Walk of Fame? Probably that it’s about time, says her daughter SATE. “She made Canada her home, and we are on Indigenous land,” she says. “So, whether we’re born here or not, we’re all immigrants, and this is as much her Canada as anyone else’s.” She never gave up on her new home, the landscape, the building, the tilling of this soil here, because there’s so much richness, she adds. “I think she would be grateful and, at the same time, very understanding of what she deserves, because of the work that she put in.”

tUkU agrees, saying her mother might have looked at it as being able to open more doors for people and passing on the message of what those who look like her are capable of. What’s her mother’s message? “Don’t back down, don’t give up your dreams,” she says. “If it’s possible for me, it’s possible for you.”



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MUSIC

Singer-songwriter and entrepreneur Black was recently inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame

PHOTO BY ANNA KEENAN

JULLY BLACK:

“I’M AN EMPATH, A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD, AN AGENT OF CHANGE”

Following her induction into Canada’s Walk of Fame, the singer-songwriter and entrepreneur talks about her new album and how the pandemic taught her not to lock down, but lock in

WRITTEN BY JOSH WALKER | INTERVIEW BY ESTELLE ZENTIL

Jully Black is a Canadian success story. As well as being named by CBC Music as one of the 25 greatest Canadian singers of all time, she’s a Juno Award-winning, platinum-selling recording artist and 2021 inductee into Canada’s Walk of Fame.

But, for her, it’s not about the awards or accolades. “I’m full of gratitude. I’m an empath, a citizen of the world, an agent of change,” Black says. “The essence of who I am defines me more than what the accolades and awards say. It’s really about who I am.”

With her powerhouse vocals, Black’s musical style is distinct. It’s led to her sharing the stage with big names, including The Black Eyed Peas, Kanye West and Alicia Keys. She credits a lot of her voice’s development and style to her upbringing.

“Being raised in the church, there’s a strong emphasis put on your soul, energy and essence,” she continues. “For me, that’s the root of all connections. Celine Dion is a soul singer. Adele is a soul singer. I’m a soul singer. It’s people singing from truth.”

She also credits many of her attributes to her mother, who passed away four years ago. “My

mum taught me a lot of humility. There’s a saying she would say to all of her kids, especially her daughters. It’s Jamaican, but she’d say, ‘A pretty face isn’t going to get you anywhere.’ She was about ambition, studying books and focus. She’d rather you be the smartest person in the room than the prettiest.”

Black continues to explain how she puts in a huge amount of work, so she’s the best version of herself, and opens herself up to others when onstage or entering a room. She recounts an “Aha” moment she had in a meeting the week before our conversation, where she realized she was what she calls “a surrogate dreamer.”

“I’m carrying my mum’s dreams and am able to live them out. It’s helped me in missing her and wanting her physical presence every time someone laughs at something I say, enjoys a show, or I’m able to support somebody behind the scenes.”

And support Black does. With a belief that what you do in private will reward you in public, she’s committed to helping others.

Black even talks about a tattoo of a bridge she has on her forearm. “My purpose in life is to be a bridge. They connect people to go from one place

to the next. If you’re sitting in fear on one side, let me take your hand and walk you over to some faith and courage.”

As a celebration of this outlook on life — not to mention all the lessons her mother instilled in her — she founded 100 Strong & Sexy, a global community of health, wellness and lifestyle. Its mission is to help others find and commit to their wellness journey and make deeper cultural connections in mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellness.

“100 Strong & Sexy was born as a result of my mum passing away, and [my] turning pain, grief and sorrow into purpose, possibility and service. Rather than sitting in grief, I allowed it to reveal. There was an opportunity here to reveal all of my pain, shame and things we carry and suffer with in silence.”

With the pandemic putting the world in lockdown and closing gyms, the idea of being active and making moves to stay mentally and physically engaged was crucial for Black. During that time, she also became a certified Xtreme Hip-Hop with Phil instructor and founded the Power of Step which is classic retro step, aerobics reimagined with high-energy, low-impact choreographed routines set to old-and new-school hip hop and R&B, dance hall,

soca, Afrobeats and gospel music that will get your heart, body, mind and soul moving.

“I said, ‘I’m not going to be locked down, I’m going to be locked in,’” Black continues. “I’m going to be locked into purpose, routine and a ritual of daily movement.”

In spring 2022, Black will release her new album, *Three Rocks and a Slingshot*, that she describes as being an ode to the biblical tale of David and Goliath, where David used only three rocks and a slingshot to take down the giant Goliath. Black is using her three rocks of her faith, resilience and a positive outlook on life to step into the new music industry after being away for the last 10 years.

“For me, my giants were getting through the grief of getting over my mum, being an independent artist, a woman in this business, a woman who’s single and without children,” Black notes. “There were a lot of things I had to slay for the creativity to flow and for me to write and co-write these songs about love, life and fun. This album is a rediscovery and rebirth. I’m re-presenting myself, to myself.”

jullyblack.ca
@missjullyblack

Model Gandy
in front of the
London Eye

DAVID GANDY WEARS IT WELL

After 20 years reigning supreme over the male modelling world, David Gandy launches his own casualwear brand, Wellwear

WRITTEN BY CEZAR GREIF

PHOTOS BY CHARLIE GRAY

David Gandy is one of the few male models with his own book. A beautiful (obviously) coffee-table book done in collaboration with Dolce & Gabbana.

He was also the only male model representing Britain at the London Olympics. And, of course, he's ridiculously good-looking. But that didn't prevent Gandy from having to take time off during the lockdown at his countryside home in Britain. At 41 years old, Gandy is entering a new phase of his career, launching his own fashion brand, Wellwear. And that's not all he does. Cars, architecture, clothing — David Gandy has many refined interests, with one common thread running through them all: style. He's also the father of a three-year-old girl with his partner, barrister Stephanie Mendores, and a month after this interview was conducted, they welcomed a second daughter. We couldn't pass up the opportunity to discuss the many endeavours of this renowned supermodel.

Q: Did your family dress up when you were growing up?

A: My grandfather would come for Sunday-afternoon lunch and he would always have a tie on. None of my family came from a wealthy background, so they never had money. They didn't have disposable money, so everything had to last. My dad had good suits. Not name suits, not branded suits, but good suits. They would always have Windsor ties, tied perfectly. They weren't expensive, but everything fitted well. All those things have crept into me when I'm doing my own brand. It has to be quality, it has to last a long time, it has to be a comfortable fit, it has to be right. It still has to be stylish, but it has to be attainable. We call it a "lifestyle brand," because that's what I am. I'm very fortunate to have been given the "stylish man of the year" award. That's style, that's not fashion. That's a lifestyle. People see the classic cars, the house renovations, the tailoring, the jeans, the T-shirts — that's just me, that's not a stylist who does that. I've never had a personal stylist. It's selling the whole ideal. Just like Ralph Lauren — you're selling the lifestyle, with the dogs, the polo, the watches, etc.

Q: You went to college, which not all models do since many start their career early. I imagine modelling wasn't necessarily seen as a viable career choice at the time. Was it a rebellious decision to pursue that career?

A: There was one thing I learned at university, and that's that I shouldn't have gone to university. It was the biggest waste of time of anything I've ever done in my life. That's the honest truth. I wanted to progress and see the world. It wasn't for me. When I came to the fashion world, I didn't get Dolce until five years into my career. I absolutely

adore travelling. That may scare a lot of people. A lot of people want to be at home, have a routine, a wage, know when they'll go on holiday. My routine is, there isn't one. You don't know what you'll be doing from one day to the next. It's calmed down now, but for 20 years, I didn't know where the next wage was going to come from. You could be on a plane tomorrow. You could be on a plane next week ... or you could be on five planes next week. And that was the excitement for me. So, it wasn't rebellion; it was a way of discovering the excitement of life.

Q: You're a pretty organized guy, mapping out where you want to be, doing five-year plans. COVID -19 must've been hard for you. Do you owe some of your success to being well organized?

A: When I got my start in the business, I observed. I was fortunate enough to work with people like Christy Turlington and Naomi Campbell, and I thought, *What are they doing differently that the male models are not doing, to reach that plateau that we can't reach?* They had PRs, they had managers. It was because the supermodels ran it as a business. And any business needs to be organized. I am organized and run it as a business. There are strategies, and there are plans. It's different, very difficult, in this industry, to plan where you're going to be and what you're going to do, and that's where plans come through. You need to have a goal. If you don't have a goal, you won't know where you're going. I plan everything. I look 10 steps ahead of everything to see the dangers and where things could go wrong and have solutions ready before things even go wrong. Hopefully, they never do, but if they do, I've got a plan. It drives my other half mad. [laughs] She's a barrister and has to think on her feet. She doesn't plan at all. We're complete opposites.

My wife complains I don't plan enough. We can never win.

Either you plan too much or not enough — we know that. [laughs]

Q: I've read some of your car reviews for *British GQ*. You've been into cars for a long time. I'm wondering what you drive in your personal life and how you would define a great car?

A: A great car is something different to everyone. An American person could say they love a classic Mustang. And I would disagree. I'm a classic Jaguar guy. We could argue about that forever. I prefer classic cars. Every modern car is spectacular in many ways. The technology — there's hardly a bad car on the road nowadays. At the same time, if you were blindfolded, you'd have a hard time telling apart a Mercedes from an Audi or a BMW. If you talk to a car designer about this, you're literally talking centimetres of design difference.

If you go to classic cars, you got the [Mercedes-Benz] Gullwing, the [Jaguar] XK 120, etc. There's just something about those cars. Steve McQueen drove the [Jaguar] XKSS. James Dean was in the [Porsche] 356. There's history in these cars, there's heritage to it. The whole thing is like going back in time. And some of them are horrid things to drive — it's the challenge of it. Cars nowadays, the key's in your pocket, you press a button, everything's automatic, wipers are automatic, the seat moves around you, it's like a computer. It's all a bit easy.



Gandy's first time doing
a photoshoot on a boat
on the Thames River

———— “ ————
**AN AMERICAN PERSON COULD SAY THEY LOVE
A CLASSIC MUSTANG. AND I WOULD DISAGREE.
I'M A CLASSIC JAGUAR GUY**
———— ” ————



Gandy is planning to greatly expand his newly launched brand Wellwear in 2022

Q: Can you explain the T-shirt with the “perfect fit”? It must be a challenge to design it since guys come in different body shapes. Does it have to do with finding the right neckline design?

A: When I worked with M&S, we sold six million pounds of T-shirts. We only really made two styles of shirts. We were really narrowing down who we made them for. But by adding sizes, you’re expanding the number of people you’re making them for. At Wellwear, we’re doing the loose crew. We’ve done the Heritage Tee with a pocket, different ribs, V-neck, etc. You can’t please everyone, but we’re trying to please as many people as we can. With the quality and the softness we use, I think we’ve created something very, very special. And I’m not telling everyone we’re a sustainable brand, but Levi’s had a campaign recently saying we have to buy less, and that’s pretty much where we’re at. You buy quality, you buy less. The problem with

disposable fashion is not wearing a T-shirt once and washing it; it’s wearing a T-shirt once and then never wearing it again. That cannot continue. But it also depends on if you’re in a hot or cold country. We’re using natural materials. We’re using cottons with the BCI, the Better Cotton Initiative. When you use natural fibres, they breathe more naturally. Polyesters and acrylics are basically a blend of plastics, and that’s why you get hot and sweaty and have bacteria.

Q: Is it OK to wear the same T-shirt two days in a row?

A: Yes, absolutely.

Q: It’s quite affordable, which is also a break from what you wear in many of your shoots.

A: Again, it’s something I’ve always done in all my collaborations, the quality of luxury brands,

but making it attainable for everyone. High-street prices, with the quality of luxury. We start at 26, 26 pounds and finishing around 80, 85 pounds for the most expensive items.

Q: I’ve watched some of your interviews, and you’re quite knowledgeable about sustainable fashion, and it’s not recent. You’ve been interested in this for a while. I imagine it’s an important element of Wellwear.

A: I’m in the fashion industry, and it’s a heavily polluting industry. I have to know about their practices. It’s something that’s essential for me to understand. I’m not saying I’m an expert, but I have my views on it. It’s logical for people to want sustainable clothing, but if you take plastic out of the ocean and make clothing out of it ... I get what you’re doing, but those plastics are still not biodegradable. So, that woman’s drawers or that top made of plastics, how do you get rid of that? Natural fibres are biodegradable. When you wash them, plastic is not washed into our water system. If that clothing is washed away into the sea, it will biodegrade. Same thing on land. Plastic will not. You can recycle polyester, and it’s very good material, but you can only do it a certain number of times. And then you’ve got to get rid of it somehow. We’re doing as much as we can to become sustainable, and we will improve even more in the future.

Q: How to make sure clothes last the longest? This goes to sustainability. Some guys iron T-shirts.

A: No. I like an ironed T-shirt, but I can’t be bothered to do it. But I look after other things. Leather is a skin, it’s got to be waxed, it’s got to be fed. I’ve always looked after my leathers. Same with jackets, with Barbours — they need to be waxed. The tailored clothes I always dry clean, the shirts, too. That’s about it. A lot of the tailors, the suits will go back to them for a proper clean, a proper press. At the Wellwear factory in Portugal, they take all our clothing, take one out of every 10 items, cut it up in pieces, take one piece and they rotate it 30,000 times, and that imitates the effect of being worn for a few years. All our stuff goes through that. If it doesn’t pass the test, we don’t put it out. That’s as far we’ve gone to make sure of the quality of Wellwear.

Q: Zoolander — good or bad? Did you find it funny?

A: Fuck yes, of course it’s funny. Don’t get me wrong, there are Zoolanders. They’re all exaggerated elements, exaggerated parts of the industry. I can spot little bits of everyone I’ve met in my 20 years in the fashion industry: the managers, the designers, the models, etc. We all need to make fun of what we do. The fashion industry probably is guilty of taking itself a bit too seriously. There’s always time to laugh at yourself.

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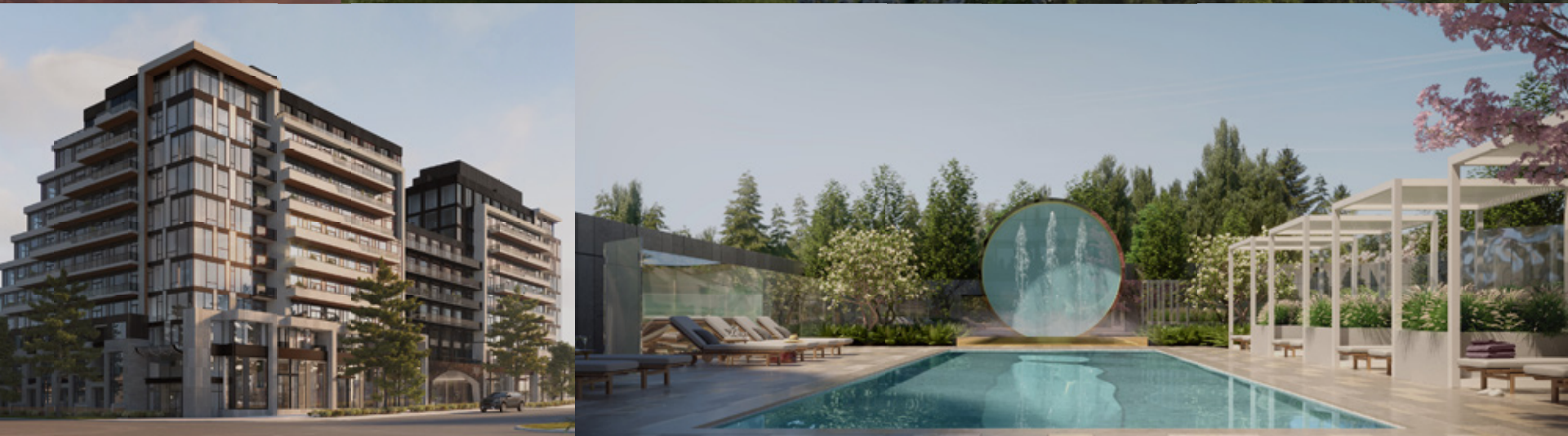
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