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OUR FAVES EDITOR'S PICKS This week's curated beauty selects page 3

ANNIVERSARY



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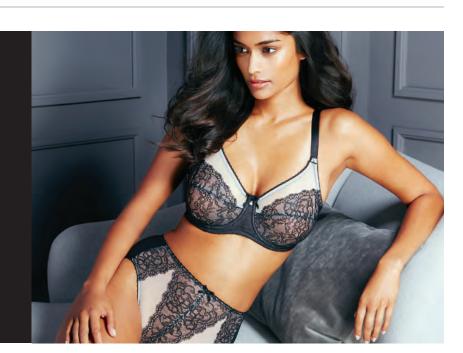
THE KIT MAGAZINE

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*Self-evaluation done by 431 Canadian women of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and skin types following the use of Sublimessence twice a day.



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In a single stroke, lashes are dressed in elegant black with soft-cashmere lash-by-lash volume.

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#15daysofhappy





INTERVIEW

THE WONDERFULLY WACKY WORLD OF GARY BASEMAN

The artist continues his stylish collab with Coach and launches a new exhibition in Toronto

BY VERONICA SAROLI

If you read Rolling Stone, have seen Disney's Teacher's Pet or play Cranium, you'll likely recognize Gary Baseman's surreal cartoonish figures. The L.A.-based artist also has a collaborative relationship with Coach: For holiday, his illustrations appear on the brand's shoes, makeup bags and key chains. Baseman recently visited Toronto to launch "My Eyes Are Bigger than My Stomach," a special exhibition at the Drake One Fifty restaurant, which features everything from a mural to illustrated placemats. We spoke with Baseman about his art and style.

What's it like working with Coach? "It's a very rare collaboration, especially with a big fashion brand. When I first met with Stuart [Vevers, Coach's creative director], we started talking about his inspiration. Even though he's got a big smile and is such a wholesome-looking bloke, there's a playful darkness. He allowed me to just run with my own narrative and my own imagery."

How is it different from your other work? "With Stuart, I'm creating something for myself that happens to be for Coach; creating this [character], a girl whom her town just doesn't really understand, somebody who doesn't necessarily follow trends and has her own point of view. The whole idea wasn't to wear the exact collection the way that Stuart has told you to do it; it's more like you use these pieces to help create your own you."

Has working with Coach changed how you dress? "Well, I have a nicer wallet! It's part of the new collection. I also asked them to take a green fluff women's jacket and make it my size. And then it became a trend on Instagram, so all these dudes were wearing it afterwards."

What was your approach to this exhibition? "My mom would always say, 'Your eyes are bigger than your stomach' when I was growing up. For [this show], I wanted to use my artistic eyes to create an environment that really engages people. In the mural, which is like the Algonquin Round Table, all my characters from other exhibitions gather here to reminisce, to talk and discuss. That's what food is about—it's how we share."

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

We're celebrating our five-year anniversary all month! Visit thekit.ca to enter an amazing contest just for you.



ED'S PICKS LET'S BOUNCE

Assistant editor **Natasha** Bruno shares her tried-andtested curly-hair heroes

It's been eight months since I gave up hiding behind pin-straightened strands and started rocking my kinkytextured hair in all its glory. While the process has been freeing, it's also required a complete overhaul of my product stash. These are my essentials for maintaining a head of natural, healthy curls.



I follow a less-is-more rule and shampoo once a week, max. This grapeseed-oil-and-amino-acidenriched formula is free of moisture-stripping detergents.

DEVACURL NO-POO CONDITIONING CLEANSER, \$27, DEVACURL.COM



To minimize hair breakage and untangle inevitable snarls, I generously coat wet hair with this creamy conditioner, then use a wide-tooth comb to rake it through from roots to ends.

KINKY-CURLY KNOT TODAY NATURAL LEAVE IN, \$24, HONEYFIG.COM



completely changed my secondday curl game. It releases a moisture-locking warm mist that revives and reshapes flattened coils

Q-REDEW HANDHELD STEAMER, \$78, HAIRCUES.CA



A light spritz of this non-drying, alcohol-free spray gel keeps my spirals smooth and crunch-less.

JANE CARTER SOLUTION NATURAL HOLD SPRAY GEL, \$9, AMAZON.CA



This blend of organic, coldpressed shea butter and coconut and olive oils makes my drynessprone ends soft and lustrous.

OILBLENDS SHEA COCO HAIR & BODY OIL, \$10, OILBLENDSPRODUCTS.COM

Top: Gary Baseman at

Coach's Rodeo Drive

store opening in 2014. Centre: A mural by

Baseman at Drake One

Fifty. Right: This Spring 2015 Coach jacket that

Baseman adopted.

RETROSPECTIVE As we mark our anniversary, we look back at game-changing products and pieces that didn't exist five years ago



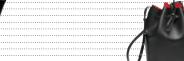
CND-Shellac

Launched in 2010, CND's Shellac hybrid gel-nail polish promises 14 blissful days of no-chip colour, no drying time and a thinner texture than gel. It took five years to develop, and five years later, there are now 93 shades.



High-heeled sneakers Beyoncé brought them to the mainstream in her 2011 "Love on Top" video, complete with sailor cap and leotard, and Isabel Marant popularized the look in 2012. (Thankfully, this trend is no longer on top.)







Knuckle rings

After the "arm party" of the early 2010s came the knucklering after-party. Snug bands at Chanel's Fall 2013 Haute Couture show made thin stacked memory rings the epitome of cool. (See you in the hotel lobby.)



The Korean BB cream explosion in 2011 spawned CC and DD creams. There was industry concern that these multi-taskers (serving as primer, sunscreen, moisturizer and foundation) meant people wouldn't buy as many products.

Mansur Gavriel bucket bag Since the brand launched in 2012, its brightly lined bucket bags have been selling out like hotcakes, leaving a trail of wait-lists in their wake. Business of Fashion dubbed the accessory "the first post-

recession It bag.

PROFILE

Nice one

In conversation with Gigi Hadid, a very different kind of supermodel

BY ALEX LAWS

No one would be surprised if Gigi Hadid were the epitome of entitlement. She grew up in Beverly Hills alongside the Kardashians, with a model for a mother and a real-estate tycoon for a father. Her bestie is superstar Taylor Swift, her sister is fellow supermodel Bella Hadid, her stepfather is Canadian music royalty David Foster and her boyfriend is pop singer Joe Jonas. She started modelling at age two and now, at 20, counts Maybelline, Victoria's Secret and Balmain as megabuck clients. All the ingredients are there to take her diva rating into Mariah Carey territory.

But that presumption is put to rest before Hadid even enters the room. Everyone from the makeup artist to the camera operator marvels, "She's just so...nice."

It's hard not to concur. We meet at a swanky restaurant in Toronto to discuss Hadid's role as the face of Maybelline's latest beauty campaign. Bright and animated, she has cheeks so cherubic they could hide a pack of Bubblicious. "My Maybelline contract was a Christmas present from my mom and my agent—I opened it up on Christmas Day!"

"This is so cheesy....When I go to work, I always say to myself, 'Be nice, make a friend and work hard."

Her goals enter the conversation early. "This is so cheesy, but I have three: When I go to work, I always say to myself, 'Be nice, make a friend and work hard.' Those are the things that touch people. They create relationships that open up doors that wouldn't have opened up otherwise."

That's actually how Hadid's big beauty contract came about. "I was shooting with a photographer and he said, 'You're so fun!' He introduced me to his friend who was working next door, and she turned out to be the head of Maybelline."

Hadid made a splash during her New York Fashion Week debut last year and scored a Tom Ford campaign soon after. She's featured in an array of international Vogues, and this year's Max Mara, Topshop and Maybelline contracts are proof that her crossover career is skyrocketing.

So is her social media following. Hadid is part of a new wave of models, like Kendall Jenner and Cara Delevingne, who are becoming stars thanks in part to Instagram (her @gigihadid account currently has 6.6 million followers). They're beautiful and glamorous, sure, but they also radiate the possibility that they could, just maybe, be your friend. It's a model of modelling that's unrecognizable from the days of supes like Linda Evangelista refusing to "wake up for less than \$10,000 a day."

Hadid uses Instagram to connect with her fans. and to share her life and opinions with the world. She on a TV show and is a recently used the platform to directly address body shamers who posted negative comments about her physique. "Yes, I have boobs, I have abs, I have a butt, I have thighs," she wrote. "Your mean comments don't make me want to change my body."

Hadid also understands social media's voyeuristic appeal: She's posted everything from prom pics to family photos and snaps from her adventures with Swift and Jonas. "It gives us freedom because we're not seen as what the clients are making us on the pages,"



"She modelled until I was two, when she had my sister, and she started interior design. Now she's spokesperson for people with Lyme disease."

Foster's peripatetic, passionate life appeals to her daughter. "If I'm doing something I'm doing it wholeheartedly," says Hadid. "I always wanted to do everything!" Look out, world.



Gigi shows her true colours through her Insta feed (@gigihadid). Here, five of our fave pics



"Throwback to when my mamma was the only stylist and photographer in my life. @volandahfoster



"Can't think of an afterparty outfit that's more me....@versace_official x @adidasoriginals (or of anyone else I'd rather have by my siiiide) @bellahadid #MetGala."



Birthday boyf "Happy Birthday to yoouuuu 🏺 🖣



'When you love a photo but then you have a double chin...



Squad goals "#1989TourEastRutherford night 1 got some Bad Blood action. The Trinity. Frostbyte, Slay-Z, and Lucky Fiori will return next for the 20 year anniversary 1989 reunion tour in 2035. Multiple layers of spanx will be necessary.'



#NOWFOLLOWING

POST PERFECT

First she conquered Instagram. Now the 22-year-old photographer and blogger Margaret Zhang is taking over the beauty world

\$17, DRUGSTORES

Margaret Zhan at Mercedes-**Benz Fashion** Week Australia in Sydney. Below: The #zhangflat.





Australian fashion photographer, stylist and law student Margaret Zhang—who happens to have a well-loved blog (Shine by Three, which she started at 16) and 590K Instagram followers—has built her well-lit empire on the #zhangflat. The hashtag and concept refers to a shot from above of an artful jumble of accessories, beauty products and carefully chosen knick-knacks. The Sydneysider has even taught workshops on how to recreate it (the secrets are good natural light and stepping away to assess the set-up from a distance). Recently, beauty giant Clinique noticed Zhang had featured its products in said shots and enlisted her, along with fellow power millennials Tavi Gevinson and Hannah Bronfman, for its #FaceForward campaign. We caught up with Zhang in New York to ask her what it takes to make your mark online.

On the #zhangflat "They started really small. It was just, like, some jewellery on some shoes, and then I started adding beauty products. They got bigger and bigger until they got to the edge of my Ikea table. It's my dream to do a massive coffee-table book of fancy flats in different places in the world."

On being transparent "I don't do paid posts or products. It's about working with brands that you're building long-term relationships with, that you really love, to maintain that integrity. With Clinique I was using its products anyway. As soon as you start

pushing what just anybody sends you, you lose the foundation your audience is based on."

On making it online "You need to aim in a different direction and use your website as a vehicle to that end. If you want to be a director, write about films, make your own mini films and put them online. If you want to be a stylist, style yourself, style other people."

On #instaobsession "You start living your life through your and your friends' camera lenses, and it's kind of unhealthy. I'm always looking for light and when I see it, I always try to get a shot. I see beautiful things in very basic set-ups; it doesn't have to be in the Maldives."

On the right caption "What you say about the post is important. Rather than being like, 'Here's my breakfast again,' are you at breakfast and studying, are you with a friend, are you working on something? It's important to have that kind of conversation so it doesn't get boring."

On getting glowy for selfies "I spray my face with Clinique's Moisture Surge 10 times a day. I'll be shooting in the morning, then meetings, then class, and it's my in-between thing to freshen up. The Chubby Stick highlighter I use because I don't wear a lot of makeup. In Australia, makeup is not an ideal situation—you're just going to sweat it all off."





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Two of a kind

Sporty chic, luxe layers and elegant embellishment—these amazing more-is-more fashion pieces make it worth seeing double this season

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FELIX WONG | FASHION DIRECTION BY VANESSA TAYLOR | STYLING BY FIONA GREEN



Mini pops

Posh PJs

Beaded embellishment

ensemble-especially

Would you wear it as a

complete look? Probably not. Minimize cost per

\$4,495, PANTS

VAN NOTEN S

J.CREW

a pyjama-style suit.

wear and break it up

structured blazer.

DRIES

RIGHT: MICHAEL KORS

with slim trousers or a

COVER LOOK: **J.W. ANDERSON** TURTLENECK,
\$445, SSENSE.COM. **PINK**

\$445, SSENSE.COM. PINK TARTAN SKIRT, \$395, PINK TARTAN. J.W. ANDERSON

OM. MICHAEL KORS RING

VALENTINO BAG, \$1,8

fancies up any relaxed-fit

modern by pairing it with a turtleneck and cozy, textural sweater. ABOVE LEFT: J.W. ANDERSON NECK BAND, \$320, RAF SIMONS SWEATER, \$705, SSENSE. COM. PETER PILOTTO NFREW. MICHAEL KORS S MICHAELKORS.CA. H&M BOOTS, \$149, HM.CA. ABOVE RIGHT: H&M TANK, \$40, SHIRT, \$40, HM.CA. MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS SKIRT, \$175, MICHAELKO ANDERSON EARF E.COM. MICHAEL SSENSE.COM. MICHAEL KORS COLLECTION MUFF, \$2,995, MICHAELKORS.CA









Mix masters

Reimagine the classic fit-and-flare silhouette via a sleek moto jacket or an accessory in an unexpected colour, like this season's ubiquitous oxblood. ABOVE LEFT: **MULBERRY** DRESS, \$2,400, MULBERRY.COM. **VALENTINO** BRACELET

13, 42,713, HERMES.COM. 1 MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS MICHAELKORS.CA. MULBERRY OUSE PRICE UPON REQUEST 1. EDDIE BORGO CUFF, \$550

Not-so-heavy metals

creatively placed zippers-add edge to any outfit.

FAR LEFT: TANYA TAYLOR SWEATER, \$514, HAMPDENCLOTHING.COM. WINNERS BLOUSE, \$20, WINNERS, EDDIE BORGO NECKLACE, \$275, HOLT RENFREW. LEF ALEXANDER WANG TOP, \$745, HOLT

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY VANESSA JARMAN



CRAZY FOR YOU

The fashion eccentric ruled the fall runways. The message? Be yourself—just a little bit wilder

BY CLARA YOUNG

This luxe varsity jacket is a fashion home run: Pair it with

this season's flared trouser

ACKET, \$490, TOMMY ER. **H&M** TROUSERS, \$80 . **ROBERT LEE MORRIS**

CKET, \$490, TOMMY R. **ALTUZARRA** TROU

\$210, HOLT RENEREV : **HILFIGER COLLEC-**

LEFT: **HILFIGER COLLEC-**

The Fall 2015 collections remind me of my friend Eve. Undeterred by fashion convention, Eve will pair a tartan peplum jacket, dark-grey lace-trimmed trousers and an oxblood sweater embroidered with beads, tassels and tufts of this and that. Patterned Nicholas Kirkwood pumps finish the look—and elbow-length gloves. The queen of mix and no-match, Eve is a bona fide eccentric, and eccentricity is the code word for fall.

This season's all-you-can-wear craziness they look extremely different from the rest stinks of a stylists' conspiracy. It draws a line between fashion laywomen, who cling to their little black dresses, and the initiated, who have a connoisseur's understanding of the fine art of overdressing. How else to explain the strange shapeless shifts at Gucci, floral patterned like old wallpaper? The amoeba-swirled onesies challenges, an audacity that enthralls. You and oddly tinted fox furs at Dior? The explosion of librarian glasses, berets and Pierrot pompoms? They're more costume than streetwear, what Toronto stylist Lea-Anne Baxter calls "beautiful but ugly."

That's a contradiction in which Miuccia Prada is well versed. "Ugly is attractive, ugly is exciting. Maybe because it's newer," the designer mused to a reporter back in 2013. This fall, Prada's Pepto-pink shifts embellished with fur shoulder pads embody the "don't pair, don't care" spirit of the season. In the fashion world, ugliness is like a secret handshake. Understand it, and you're one of the few who do. Embrace it, and you ascend to the rarefied ranks of the fashion iconoclast, who dresses purely to please herself.

Fashion fearlessness acts as a shorthand for a powerful personality.

Designers occasionally feel the blade for sticking their necks into style-eccentric to say, 'Look, you have to tell people. No one territory. Critics famously savaged Yves Saint Laurent's 1971 "Libération" collection, which included Carmen Miranda turbans and a black shirt-dress emblazoned with surrealistic and become leaders of our own style. The pink lips. "Nothing could exceed the horror of this exercise in kitsch," a Guardian critic wrote, while a former Vogue editor sniped to Women's Wear Daily, "Saint Laurent let challenge well worth accepting. After all: No down the whole of Paris couture. For that, he deserves to have his face slapped." In 1981, avant-garde designers Rei Kawakubo and Yohji Yamamoto collaborated on a now-iconic collection of voluminous misshapen coats, which elicited this derisive reader response in People: "Yamamoto's clothes would be most appropriate for someone perched on a broom. [They] are definitely for the 'woman who stands alone."

Nowadays, all the world's an Insta runway, especially during Fashion Week, when street-style snappers, both pro and amateur, roam in search of women who stand alone. The Anna dello Russos and Willow Smiths among us are descendants of a long line of fashion nonconformists, some of whom directly inspired designers this fall. The late legendary fashion editor Diana Vreeland acted as muse to Marc Jacobs, who commissioned a runway set of floor-to-ceiling canvases recreating her all-red living room, which was designed to look like a "garden from hell." On the catwalk, the models' gloves, impeccably cut coats and ultra-refined chignons reflected the sartorial rigour of a woman given to pronouncements such as "Unshined shoes are the end of civilization." At Maison Margiela, Marchesa Luisa Casati, a 20th-century Italian aristocrat who wore live snakes as necklaces and paraded around with cheetahs on diamond-studded leashes, sparked the imagination of long-time admirer John Galliano. (Casati has also influenced Karl Lagerfeld, Alexander McQueen, and Georgina Chapman and Keren Craig, who named their Marchesa line after her.) For Fall 2015, Galliano resurrected the spectre of Casati during the debt-ridden decline of her later years, clad in a cloche hat and leather washing-up gloves. Still flame-haired and raccoon-eyed, she was bereft of the pet

cheetahs, the family fortune and her sanity. Fashion extroverts like Vreeland, Casati,

the socialite Daphne Guinness and the nonagenarian decorator Iris Apfel are important source material for the eccentricity trend. Theirs is a strong-minded fashion, individualistic and contrarian. And like my friend Eve, who thinks nothing of bicycling to the pool in a belted orange boiler suit and highheeled sandals, they simply don't care that of us. In fact, they revel in it. (Casati, who was buried in leopard skin and wearing false eyelashes, once declared her intention to be a living work of art.) In turn, we revel in them. Fashion fearlessness acts as a shorthand for might not ask the woman in the fur shoulder pads to handle your accounts, but you sure want to sit beside her at dinner.

The style eccentric's outrageousness also pushes fashion onward and, most of the time. upward. Take Daisy Fellowes, the '30s It girl and heiress to the Singer sewing machine fortune, who helped make Surrealist designer Elsa Schiaparelli a star. Fellowes faithfully wore Schiaparelli's monkey-fur coats, lobster frocks and even a generator-powered light-bulb dress. Today, Fellowes would be a Tommy Ton favourite amid an ocean of madly dressed fashionites, ready for their 15 nanoseconds of fashion fame.

In our era of instant information real-time runway shows, borderless online shopping and fast fashion, where the same Zara dress is available from Toronto to Taipei—true singular style is more alluring, and rarer, than ever. But discovering it begins the same way it always has: by being brave enough to trust your instincts. In her 1984 memoir, D.V., Vreeland recalled, "[In] 1966 or '67, I published this big fashion slogan: This is the year of do it yourself.... Every store in the country telephoned wants to do it themselves—they want direction and to follow a leader!" Nearly 50 years later, designers are nudging us to take charge season's most powerful message proposes that we dress up as ourselves, whether that involves bold patterns or cheetahs and diamonds. It's a

WILD AT HEART

Channel your inner iconoclast



OTEN SUNGLASSES, \$347, .COM. KENZO COAT, \$2,279 M. JEWELLERY BY KAREN





JOE FRESH SHIRT, \$32, JOEFRESH.COM. BIRKS PEARLS, \$995, MAISONBIRKS.COM. HERMES SCARF, \$1,080, HERMES BOUTIQUES

THE MARCHESA CASATI BY AUGUSTUS JOHN







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ALL ABOUT THAT BASE

Seven friends put fall's new foundations to the shade-matching test

BY ANUPA MISTRY PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEFANIA YARHI

When I started wearing makeup 15 years ago, there were only a few companies that explicitly catered to women of colour, and they were really only options if you lived in a big city and already knew about them. I didn't. It took years to forget that one day I went to school looking downright ghoulish after experimenting with my lighter-skinned mum's foundation and powders.

If only I'd been able to get my hands on makeup from Fashion Fair, a brand started in 1969 by Eunice W. Johnson, founder of the Ebony Fashion Fair show, which featured the work of African-American designers and models. Or Iman Cosmetics, created by the supermodel turned business mogul in 1994, or Vasanti Cosmetics, launched in 1999 by three South-Asian-Canadian women.

Finding a perfect makeup match is still a daunting prospect for women of all colours, but now that more mass and specialty lines have arrived—or expanded their shade ranges—there's real hope for finding a foundation that fits. Mixed Chicks, a cult haircare line for women with textured hair, recently got into the makeup game with double-ended foundation and bronzer sticks, designed to be mixed and matched to provide a custom solution. Make Up For Ever, the god of HD foundation, recently expanded its shade range to a whopping 40 in an upgraded formula that stands up to the intense detail of 4K video technology making its way to screens everywhere (including the iPhone 6 Plus). It also added a stick formula that offers more moisture and coverage, in 15 shades. Coming in at 22, 24 and 23 shades, respectively: a new highly pigmented, semi-matte foundation from Marc Jacobs Beauty; a flawlessly opaque formula from Too Faced; and M.A.C's new super-lightweight, water-based foundation, with the added bonus of SPF 30.

"Foundation has gotten a lot better in terms of shade matching and technology," says Robert Weir, a Toronto makeup artist. Better-quality formulas are more consistent in their colour, which addresses a common mismatching problem caused by products that get darker throughout the day due to oxidization. "The better ones—which aren't always expensive; drugstore brands have come a long way—won't oxidize." Weir recommends women of colour buy more than one shade to address variations around the T-zone. "It's nice to have two-at least that's what Iman says!"

To test drive the latest shades, I called up six friends with different skin tones and asked Weir to help us get flawless. With a mountain of new foundations to play with and a photo booth set up on the patio, we chatted about our experiences (and struggles!) and pursued the dream of finding makeup that matches.















РНОТО ВООТН

Meet the foundation party guests, and find out which shades made their cut

Anupa, 30

"I'm a recent foundation convert but I've never been matched. Right now I wear Make Up For Ever. I get three to four shades darker in the summer, so I need to switch it up with the seasons.

Perfect match: Mixed Chicks Bangin' Bronze. 'It's so weird that the most limited range would be the perfect match, but I suppose it proves that foundation is really trial and error.

Gayna, 37 "I don't like to wear makeup! I'm very minimalist so I want

Perfect match: Marc Jacobs Beauty Ivory Medium. "This feels so light, like it completely disappeared."

Neha, 35

"A few months ago, I bought YSI's Touche Éclat as a treat. Before that I was using Make Up For Ever because I found a great match.' Perfect match: Make Up For Ever Y405. "I like the stick

over the liquid because it's

novel to me. Nana Aba, 37

"I can wear the darkest shade in some ranges, but then I'm the church lady with the weird skin that doesn't match her hands. I'm ready for something better than what I'm wearing now. Perfect match: Make Up For Ever R540, a new shade in the lineup.

Makeda, 30

"I don't wear foundation. When I've tried, it's been a wrong match, and I feel like I'm wearing Halloween makeup.'

Perfect match: Make Up For Ever Y535. "Come at me! I feel truly prepared for life when I put on my eyebrows, but this is a nice finishing touch.

Amina, 22 "I normally wear Make Up For

Ever, Lancôme and Clinique foundation—I'm a makeup junkie. I'm excited about the new Marc Jacobs, which feels great-actually, it doesn't feel like anything This shade is called Cocoa Light, which is perfect because I am a cocoa light!" Perfect match: Make Up For Ever Y445. "It's a much better price point and a better match.'

Hannah, 28

"I have zero tolerance or patience for foundation, but right now I wear 100% Pure.

Perfect match: M.A.C NC15. "SPF? Sign me up!"

Product hit list

the easiest solution.'

Looking for your own perfect match? One of these new foundations might be just the ticket













TRAILBLAZER ROLE MODEL

Before Caitlyn Jenner, there was Andreja Pejic. A year after completing her transition to a woman, the model is landing beauty campaigns and shining a light on our gender preconceptions

BY RANI SHEEN

It's rare to be incredibly moved at a beauty launch event, but when Make Up For Ever's newest brand ambassador, Andreja Pejic, takes the mic in an industrial studio space in New York, the room is transfixed. "When I was little, I would dream about what it would be like to grow up as a woman," says Pejic in her soft Australian accent. "I would sit for hours imagining it. I didn't care if I was scrubbing toilets; if I was doing it as a woman I'd be happy."

That longing, so fundamental but, until recently, so maligned in mainstream culture, was finally fulfilled last year with Pejic's gender transition and confirmation surgery, made financially possible by the 23-year-old model's burgeoning career. At 18, when Pejic decided that she wanted to undergo the process, her mother offered to take out a loan to pay for it. "She was a single mother, and I grew up in relative poverty, so I was like, 'No, I don't want you to do that.' I told myself, 'You're going to do it yourself," says Pejic, sitting gracefully in a fitted Ralph Lauren pencil skirt after stepping off the stage. "When it did happen, it was freeing but it was also a huge personal accomplishment. Sadly, the majority of trans women who want certain surgeries or treatments can't afford it." (In most Canadian provinces, there are varying degrees of health coverage to assist with procedures but wait times are very long.)

Pejic has lived out an incredibly personal experience in public, one that can lead to discrimination, violence and suicide. To scroll her 165K-follower Instagram account (@andrejapejic) is to notice that for every nasty comment—and yes, they're there—there are many supportive ones. Pejic says her experience has been mostly positive. "I was definitely nervous about how people would perceive me. I feel incredible that it's gone well and that I'm accepted as a woman."

When we meet, it's just days after the world has learned about the woman whose transition brought transgender issues to the mainstream: Caitlyn Jenner. "She's had a really amazing response," says Pejic. "People often dismiss the American public as being backward and not accepting. I don't believe that to be true. Support for marriage equality has grown, and there is no reason why people, when they're exposed to trans experiences, can't support that."

Pejic is referring to the world at large and the fashion industry in particular, which despite its veneer of open-mindedness has struggled to place her. "At the beginning of my career, I didn't have as many opportunities because people just saw me as an alien." But she had a few high-profile champions, including designer Jean Paul Gaultier: At 18, Pejic walked in his Spring 2011 menswear presentation; a few months later, she wore a wedding gown to close Gaultier's haute couture show. Landing the Make Up For Ever campaign places Pejic squarely in the realm of women's modelling, although it would seem gender boundaries are blurring to the point where it doesn't matter who buys the products as long as they're selling. Like most top models, Pejic can pull off many makeup styles, but on her own time she prefers a natural look. "A little bit of shimmer on the eyes and some mascara, and I'm good to go."

Pejic is aware of the responsibility she bears as a public figure. She's becoming involved in organizations that support LGBTQ communities and she's also working on a documentary about her life. "It's about showing a bit of the human experience, which a lot of people can learn from," Pejic explains. "I don't necessarily think that everybody needs to be an activist, but I feel like I'm doing my part."





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Tough cookies

In professional kitchens, women don't always get the recognition they deserve. These six talented Toronto chefs dish on how they've beaten the odds to come out on top

BY THE KIT EDITORS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NORMAN WONG

The six chefs gathered in a downtown photo studio have never met, but their conversation is so animated that it's audible from outside. They're here to sound off on being a woman in a male-dominated field—and to model head-to-toe white, our take on chef whites and, conveniently, a major fall trend (see "White Heat" below). It's an essential quality in their line of work, a fact made clear by stories of assault in restaurant kitchens peppering headlines this summer, including a harassment suit at Toronto restaurant Weslodge, which was settled confidentially

last month. In response, restaurateur Jen Agg hosted the sold-out panel "Kitchen Bitches: Smashing the Patriarchy One Plate at a Time," which encouraged women to speak openly about their experiences. (The world of professional cooks and chefs is largely controlled by men: In 2014, Bloomberg.com analysts found that women occupy only 10 out of 160 head-chef positions in the 15 most prominent restaurant groups in the U.S.) Here, six Toronto chefs—from junior sous-chefs to owners—discuss the challenges and joys of being a strong woman in the kitchen.



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Meet the chefs: 1. INDIRA RAMNARINE, 40 INDEPENDENT

CONTRACTOR, TOURNANT Cooks for and consults for businesses including the Drake properties.

2. ALYSSA FIGUEIRA, 23

SOUS-CHEF, BAR ISABEL Started at Oliver and Bonacini's Auberge du Pommier when she was 15.

3. IRENE TZARAS, 31

CHEF/CO-OWNER BUSTER RHINO'S BBQ Grew up in a family-run restaurant; opened her barbecue spot in 2015.

4. SUZANNE BARR, 39 CHEF/OWNER, SATURDAY

DINETTE Worked as a private chef in New York, Miami and Paris before opening her first Toronto restaurant this year.

5. SONIA MARWICK, 34 HEAD CHEF, ROSE & SONS SWAN

Moved to Toronto two years ago and has just taken her first head-chef job.

6. SARAH FIORE, 21

JUNIOR SOUS-CHEF, BUCA AND BUCA YORKVILLE Started as a high school student at the original location and has been with the company ever since.

What do you think it takes to survive in the kitchen?

Irene Tzaras: "I grew up in the industry, in a restaurant. I've always had really strong women to look up to, whether my mom or my aunts."

Sonia Marwick: "Anyone can run a kitchen. I'm lucky that not many people have given me attitude for being female. They respect me because I work hard side by side with them, getting down and dirty, and I have the scars to prove it. Hand model no more!

Sarah Fiore: "I was the youngest one in the kitchen when I started. [Fiore was 15.] They were all making bets on how long I would last. That was six years ago. My mom worked in construction. I get a lot of my strength from her."

Alyssa Figueira: "If you can hold your own in the kitchen and tell a guy to f--k off when he needs to be told to f--k off, you're good."

What's it like to work in a male-dominated industry? Irene Tzaras: "You don't get taken as seriously being a woman in the industry. When hiring new employees, I say, 'This is the type of work environment that we're gonna be in. It's a family."

Indira Ramnarine: "If they start treating me like a woman, I remind them of how much of a woman I am. I'll walk in and I'll be like 'I'm on my period; I'm going to kill you today. Just try me.' That usually works.

Suzanne, you recently had a baby. How much maternity leave did vou take?

Suzanne Barr: "I had a month. [The women bow in unison.] I went into labour while I was working. Now I'm back in the kitchen and juggling breastfeeding, prepping and dishwashing. I just got my aunt to help me with the baby. I've been really adamant about not giving him formula, so it's a lot of pumping. I'm passionate about what I do-it's a lot of work, but it's what I believe in and I can't imagine doing anything else right now.'

How are your current experiences working with men?
Sonia Marwick: "[Owner] Anthony Rose doesn't introduce me as a female chef, he introduces me as a chef all the time. I feel very empowered in that kitchen."

Alyssa Figueira: "Grant [van Gameren, owner] is constantly pushing us to make better dishes. I've been at Bar Isabel four and a half months and I've created four dishes that I can call my own on the menu. He's very thankful for what we do and he's not afraid to show it."

Sarah Fiore: "Rob [Gentile, executive chef of the Buca properties] took me under his wing. I'm really grateful to have been able to work with him and Ryan [Campbell], the chef de cuisine. I feel like I can go to them with anything. If anybody is being treated unfairly, they're the first to jump on that

How do people outside the kitchen perceive you?

Suzanne Barr: "My partner, Johnnie Karras, is often mistaken for the owner. I'm on the line working, but people often think he owns the restaurant. They see me as a black woman, and he's a white male.

Irene Tzaras: "As the part owner, being there every day, I often get people saving, 'Who's the big guy, who's the head honcho here?' so that's a little frustrating.

Indira Ramnarine: "I don't enjoy walking into a kitchen and having them look at me like I'm short, or I'm brown or I'm a woman. I'm there to do a job, and I let my work speak for itself.'

What challenges do you foresee continuing to be issues in the future

Alyssa Figueira: "I'd like to see more longevity with females in the kitchen. It's very hard to see that girl you're training doing really well, and all of a sudden she's like, 'I have a boyfriend and I'm gonna quit cooking and raise a family.' Why stop what you love? Why can't you have both? I see that constantly, and I think that's why we don't have a lot of women cooking in Toronto

Sonia Marwick: "Family is a good subject. I remember being 27, having a review with my boss—a huge fan of female chefs—and he said, 'A restaurant owner will look at you in your age group and being single and probably never give you a promotion because you could meet someone and get pregnant at any time.' Women don't have a choice—we need to take a break at some point, and it's hard to get back in.

Indira Ramnarine: "It's like that with any industry, not just ours. They think, 'She's 27,' and they do the math. But because of the love and the passion women have for their lives, they will make it happen. That's the point."

STYLISH EATS

These five hot Instagrammers will satisfy your fashion and food cravings

BY VERONICA SAROLI



Lookbook Cookbook, @lookbookcookbook Toronto native Jessica Milan's Lookbook Cookbook Instagram account alternates between shots of vegan goodies, like stacks upon stacks of pancakes, and the muses behind the recipes.



Laney Crowell, @laneycrowell The Instagram feed of Estée Lauder's editorial creator, Laney Crowell, is an eye-pleasing feast of tasty treats, pastel hues and beautiful settings



Chrissy Teigen, @chrissyteigen Model Chrissy Teigen enjoys cooking (and snapping her efforts) so much she's making a cookbook. Her feed shows off behind-thescenes shots



@ aroehrs The most literal take

on food and fashion, Gretchen Röehrs's 3-D drawings incorporate fruit, bread, oyster shells and more to create impossibly chic illustrations.



Zac Posen, @zac_posen Designer Zac Posen has many talents: Look up #cookingwithzac to see him create mains and desserts as tempting as his red carpet gowns.

TREND CLOSE-UP

WHITE HEAT

Good news: You can wear your summer whites all year long

BY VERONICA SAROLI

It's official: White is now an all-season hue, as elegant an option during the cooler months as it is throughout the spring and summer. For Fall 2015, designers explored the sartorial possibilities of the shade. At Nina Ricci, cozy oversized sweaters paired with billowy culottes, while Akris and Isabel Marant offered a tailored take on the trend with crisp jackets and fitted trousers. At Alberta Ferretti, models wore frothy ivory dresses and black over-theknee boots for a "Brigitte Bardot meets Mary Poppins at the races" vibe. Roberto Cavalli showed the sexiest white look: a snow-white shaggy coat and (micro) mini-dress. Pale fire, indeed.











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LIFE, INTERRUPTED

Breast cancer can strike at any age. Three women under 40 tell their stories and explain how the disease and its treatment changed the ways they see themselves

BY KRISTEN VINAKMENS

Imagine dealing with the trauma of a cancer diagnosis, chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and recovery, all while you're trying to date, plan a wedding, have a baby or establish your career—milestones when self-image is top of mind. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, 18 per cent of new breast cancer cases are among women under the age of 50. Meet three women who recently navigated those choppy waters.

Life stage: Starting a career

Sarah Taylor-Haddad was 26, a newlywed and a fashion designer

for Garage Clothing in Toronto when she found out she had breast cancer. Her first thought was: "What am I going to do about work? In the fashion industry, we're workaholics." Her second was about the prospect of losing her dark brown hair, which, at the time, flowed down to her waist. Once it started falling out during chemotherapy, she asked her husband to shave it off. "It's hard to see yourself like that, but eventually you just get used to it. You really have no choice." The hardest part was losing her eyebrows and evelashes. "That really defines your face," she says. "Your hair on your head is fine—you can wear a hat."

Taylor-Haddad, now 28, finished cancer treatment four months ago and is now undergoing monthly hormone-therapy injections that put her in a state of "medical menopause." "It's definitely not what you expect in your 20s, to feel like you're 80 years old," she says. After a few months of downtime, she went back to work in August. Her hair has started to grow back, and she's sporting a pixie cut. The experience has given her a renewed sense of empathy, as well as self-acceptance. "I'm not as judgmental about people," she says. "I'm also not concerned about my weight and stuff like that. As long as I'm healthy, that's really all that matters."

Life stage: **Having babies**

While breastfeeding her baby son, Jackson, Tamar

Mandel of Toronto found a lump in her breast. Her doctor downplayed Mandel's alarm, saying breastfeeding women can have "all kinds of weird lumps and bumps." But she had it checked out, and her fears were realized. "Everybody was shocked, since I'd just turned 30," she says. Six weeks later, she had a lumpectomy. Now she is in chemotherapy, taking care of Jackson and her three-year-old daughter, Sadie, with the help of a supportive husband and family. "My first thought was, 'How do I get through this and not affect the kids?' That's always been the focus—to maintain some kind of

normalcy for them." Mandel took the loss of her hair in more beautiful or to realize that you stride. Her breasts are a different story, and not just because she had to wean Jackson right away. "My one boob looks kind of weird. I call it my 'Dr. Seuss Boob." She's looking

forward to a double mastectomy and reconstruction. "It's a constant reminder-looking down and seeing that scar." In her last round of chemo, Mandel is focusing on the positive: "I never used to leave the house without mascara. Now, I don't have eyelashes. But it's actually improved how I feel about my appearance. I don't have the luxury of those add-ons anymore, so I've learned to like myself without them."

Life stage: dating scene

Playing the dating field was challenging for

Calgary graphic designer Nancy MacEachern, but never more so than after she was diagnosed with breast cancer at 38. As she struggled through chemotherapy, a mastectomy and radiation, she opted to take almost a year off from work to recover. Dating, too, went on the back burner. "You just want to get through it, so [dating] isn't really on your radar," she says. Now 40 and in remission, MacEachern is back at work and on the dating scene—with a different perspective. "Before, I would go on lots of dates with lots of different people

and maybe give somebody a chance," she "I have never felt says. "But you begin have to make decisions that are going to make you happy. I became even pickier, and that became frustrating."

The physical changes from the

treatment and the hormone therapy that she'll undergo over the next 10 years have also had an impact. "Now, I've got this short hair that I would never have, and I've got one boob. There's a whole different baggage level, so I'm working through that now." Her self-image has already shifted, though. "I have never felt more beautiful or like my body was stronger than when I was bald, scarred and 'sick.'

BEAUTY BOOSTS

Cancer treatment affects your whole body, most visibly your hair. "I've seen clients who had extremely wavy hair end up with straight hair [when it grew back]," says Justin German, Pantene Pro-V stylist and ambassador for the brand's annual Beautiful Lengths campaign, which encourages women to donate hair or money to make wigs for cancer patients. "But generally speaking, after a while it balances itself out." Skin and nails, too, withstand a lot. Here's how to give yourself some TLC.

1. Rock the crop. Slicked, choppy or pixie, short hair can be more fun than long. "Some of my favourite crops are the ones that grow out naturally from a shaved head," says German. You can't cut them that perfectly.

2. Stimulate growth. Supplements such as Viviscal and vitamin B can boost scalp health and help hair grow faster. German advises maximizing your washing routine with a scalp rub. "Massaging the scalp will help stimulate blood flow and encourage hair growth.

3. Keep it simple. Protect fragile skin at all times with a good sunscreen, says Agnes Fallen, a Toronto makeup artist, breast cancer survivor and volunteer with Look Good Feel Better. And look for an ultra-gentle cleanser, serum and moisturizer.

4. Nurture your nails. Revive brittle tips by massaging cuticles with a rich cream or oil to stimulate growth, says Fallen, who likes vitamin E, jojoba and almond oils.

5. Line and define. As brows and lashes grow back, Fallen uses taupe pencil to fill in sparse brows, and dark brown cream liner to define the eyes. "The emphasis of liner on the lash line really helps to give the illusion of fuller, darker lashes.



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THE LAST STEP

Radiation tattoos, which are small marks that outline the target area for treatment, can be unwanted reminders of the experience for many cancer survivors. "Patients see removing their radiation tattoo as the final step to a full recovery," says Toronto plastic surgeon Dr. Sean Rice. who offers free removal during October. A cutting-edge laser, the PicoSure, hits the pigment with a super-short blast of energy, smashing it into pieces tiny enough to be absorbed by the body. One or two quick and (nearly) painless treatments often do the trick. —Andrea Janus

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