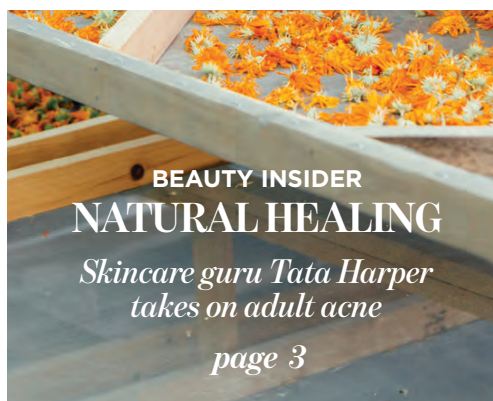




**MOST WANTED**  
**FIRST BLUSH**  
*Possibly the prettiest item to ever hit your vanity*  
page 2



**BEAUTY INSIDER**  
**NATURAL HEALING**  
*Skincare guru Tata Harper takes on adult acne*  
page 3



**FASHION**  
**IT'S BACK!**  
*Decoding Toronto Fashion Week*  
page 7

# THE KIT



ONE-MINUTE MIRACLE SPECIAL

## BEST IN BEAUTY

*Our editors tested the latest makeup, skin and hair products to bring you our comprehensive list of the 40 most innovative, game-changing (and time-saving!) winners on the market today*

page 4

PHOTO: PETER STIGTER

STAY CONNECTED



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THE KIT MAGAZINE

NEW



**THE No. 1**  
**MASCARA IN CANADA\***  
NOW HAS A PRIMER

voluminousprimer.ca

©2017 L'Oréal Canada

\*AC Nielsen, \$ volume total self-serve mascara, L52W period ending January 7, 2017.

Available at  
**SHOPPERS**  
DRUG MART

**L'ORÉAL**  
MAKEUP DESIGNER / PARIS





**MOST WANTED**

# Tickled pink

British poet Norman Rowland Gale wrote “But where to spy the truest pink is in my Love’s soft cheek, I think.” Perhaps that’s why we’re smitten with Lancôme’s limited edition La Rose à Poudrer iridescent highlighter, which graduated charm school this spring and landed right on our vanities. Inside the inherited-from-Grandma

box is a fabric rose coated in palest-pink pearlescent powder to sweep gently onto cheekbones, forehead, chin and neckline—anywhere you want to illuminate. How’s that for putting roses in your cheeks? —Eden Boileau. *Photography by Hamin Lee*

**LANCÔME LA ROSE À POUDRER**, \$79. SHOPPERS DRUG MART

**NEWS**

## LOCALS ONLY

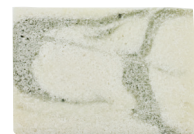
*Holt Renfrew turns its spotlight onto hometown talent*

After four seasons spent curating sustainable fashion from remote parts of the globe, Holt Renfrew’s Uncrate series is coming home. This month, an all-Canadian lineup of more than 25 do-good designers—like Kotn tees, Brunswick & Co. tote bags, Fogo Island homeware and fashion insider favourite, Laura Siegel—will launch in stores. “In celebration of Canada’s 150th and Holt Renfrew’s 180th anniversaries, we are narrowing our focus exclusively on what is happening right here at home,” says Alexandra Weston, Holt Renfrew’s director of brand & creative strategy. —Jillian Vieira

**LOWELL BAG**, \$395



**IZA JEWELRY NECKLACE**, \$175



**CHARLOTTE & CASTEL PEPPERMINT + LEMONGRASS SOAP**, \$15. ALL AT HOLT RENFREW

**FITNESS**

## SWEAT IT OUT

*SoulCycle spins into Toronto*

Popular American spinning chain SoulCycle opens its first international location in Toronto today, bringing its yellow bikes and its ability to wrap anyone who enters in a warm cult-like embrace. The candlelit classes span 45 minutes—barely the length of a juicy cable-TV drama—but those precious moments “tapping back” to upbeat tunes burn 500 to 700 calories and convert fitness non-believers faster than it takes a bead of sweat to trickle down your neck. Instructor Jenna Garofalo recommends newbies start out with the classic SoulCycle class. “The beauty of it is that motivation comes from the instructors and the energy of the pack.” To fete the 55-bike King Street West studio, the company collaborated with hometown brands on merch like a Roots varsity jacket that will have heads spinning, too. —Veronica Saroli

# THE KIT CONNECT CONFERENCE

## JOIN US APRIL 4 & 5, 2017

Want to work in fashion? We’re here to help. Join The Kit on April 5 for The Kit Connect Conference—a full day fashion career series hosted in partnership with the Canadian Arts & Fashion Awards. Learn about career options, meet new mentors, and network with potential employers.

**APRIL 4 | SHOPPING PRE-PARTY evening event**

Network and mingle with The Kit editors and other fashion industry leaders.

**APRIL 5 | 213 STERLING RD, Lower Junction**

Hear from top-tier talent, who will share tips, advice and stories on how they got their start, in moderated panel discussions.

**The Panelists**

**THE MARKETERS**

The experts who reach a style-savvy audience with bullseye precision, from brand managers to marketing directors

**THE RETAILERS**

The authorities who understand what people want to buy before they do

**THE ARTISTS**

The visionaries who create incredible editorial shoots and inspiring ads, from photographers to hair and makeup artists

**THE DESIGNERS**

The brilliant minds behind wearable art, from designers to pattern makers

**THE EDITORS**

The creative crew who curates compelling print and digital content, from fashion & beauty editors to editors-in-chief

**THE BLOGGERS**

The in-the-know It crowd who rule the social space, from bloggers to influencer agents

**GET TICKETS AT [cafawards.ca/the-kit-tickets/](http://cafawards.ca/the-kit-tickets/)**

Only \$99 for both days + receive a gift bag full of top products from your favourite brands

\*Must be 19+ to attend



**FASHION CAREER SERIES**



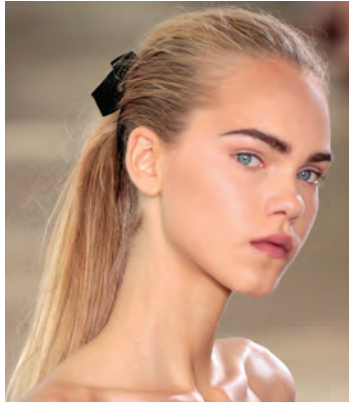


**ONE TREND, THREE WAYS  
RUMPLED PONIES**

The humble ponytail is a gift to those who like to sleep in and those who can't be bothered to wash their hair after barre class. But this season, we saw a decidedly more artful take on the low-key style. At Monique Lhuillier, hairstylist Bob Recine saturated dry roots with Moroccan oil mousse and raked them upwards toward the top of the head to encourage movement, then used his fingers to blow-dry hair in all directions for a chaotic look. Then he gathered the hair in his hands to secure it in a ponytail and added a small black ribbon. "There's no combing, no brushing," said Recine. "When you perfect beauty, you sacrifice charm. There's always that little mistake in hair that people are attracted to; the little hair that flirts with somebody's mouth. That's what we're after: imperfection." —Rani Sheen

**MONIQUE LHUILLIER**

**How-to:** Rough-dry hair, then gather into a mid-height pony and finish with a simple ribbon.



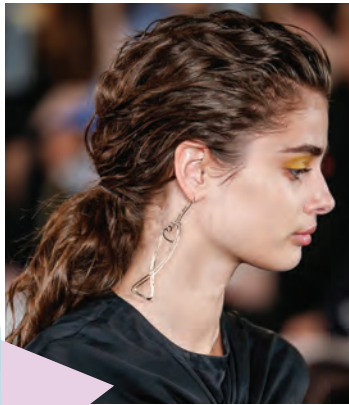
**ROKSANDA**

**How-to:** Use a curling iron for a smooth wave pattern throughout hair, then secure a pony very low and cover elastic with a wide neoprene tube or ribbon.



**SPORTMAX**

**How-to:** Diffuse hair for extra volume and curly texture, then fasten tightly at the nape of the neck with a thin black elastic.



**Tool kit**  
MOROCCANOIL VOLUMIZING MOUSSE, \$30, MORROCCANOIL.COM

**BEAUTY INSIDER  
SPOT ON**

*Green beauty titan Tata Harper takes on a new skincare frontier: adult acne*

BY RANI SHEEN

When you visit Tata Harper's lush, pond-dotted farm in the rolling hills of Vermont's Champlain Valley, the plant power behind her green beauty empire is immediately obvious. Harper has 1,200 acres of fields and greenhouses in which lavender, arnica, calendula, meadowsweet, borage and alfalfa are grown, dried and blended for her decadent skincare products. Even the bustling research labs and manufacturing facilities that act as the brains behind every green and gold bottle are tucked into converted barns.

Lately, Harper has turned her resources to a skin issue many of us are facing. "Adult acne is on the rise—I see it all the time," says Harper, every inch a glamorous farm-dwelling Colombian in a full gingham skirt and low-back T-shirt. "One of my really good friends has acne, and I felt so bad that I had nothing to help her with. I had never really studied acne with our scientists to get to the root of it." Now that she has "gone deep," researching and developing a new spot treatment that stars antiseptic willow bark, detoxifying broccoli extract and oil-reducing saw palmetto, we asked for her top five pieces of breakout-busting advice.



Models' complexions were prepped with Tata Harper products for a runway-ready glow at Brock Collection during Made Fashion Week.



Ingredients for Tata Harper products are harvested at her Vermont farm.



**1. Think long-term strategy** "Acne is something that needs to be controlled all the time. It is a condition you have to live with, so you need to learn how to control it."

**2. Look to the causes** "I think it has to do with people's lifestyles and the amount of stress they have. It's also triggered by hormonal changes in people who are having babies. Some people have food allergies and don't realize it. Also, our air and water is polluted. And sometimes people say to me that they moved from one city to another, like from Miami to New York, and their skin freaked out."

**3. Don't dry out your skin** "When you get to a certain age, controlling it by drying it out just doesn't work out anymore. You need anti-aging benefits, moisturization and collagen production—you need a lot of things in addition to controlling and healing the skin. Also, people who have eczema and acne can't use benzoyl peroxide and alcohol because their skin gets so agitated."

**4. Nourish the skin's top layer** "People who have a compromised skin barrier are the quickest to help. Or if you need to improve your microbiome, it's a fairly simple task. But when people have food allergies or hormonal issues that they have not identified, it's much more complicated."

**5. Eat your way to clear skin** "It's helpful to eat foods that are rich in sulfur (such as eggs), silica (cucumber) and beta carotene (cantaloupe, apricots, carrots). Look for green and yellow vegetables, rather than red ones."

**TOOL KIT**  
If you're acne-prone, every skincare step should soothe, nourish and treat your skin—as well as prevent breakouts. Here's your full kit:

**Cleanse**  
THE BODY DELI SAGE & GRAPEFRUIT CLEANSER, \$37, THEDETOXMARKET.CA

**Exfoliate**  
DERMLOGICA DAILY SUPERFO-LIANT, \$79, DERMA-LOGICA.COM

**Serum**  
PROVINCE APOTHECARY CLEAR SKIN ADVANCED SERUM, \$76, PROV-INCEAPOTHECARY.COM

**Moisturize**  
EMINENCE CLEAR SKIN PROBIOTIC MOISTURIZER, \$58, THEFACIALROOM.CA

**Treat**  
TATA HARPER CLARIFYING SPOT TREATMENT, \$43, BEAUTYMARK.CA

# DEAR SENSITIVE SKIN... IT'S OVER.

New

## 10balm™ soothing cream from Indeed Laboratories™

A unique blend of nature's 10 most powerful soothing ingredients helps to calm and nourish irritated and sensitive skin.



#ScienceForYourFace  
indeedlabs.com

Exclusively at



PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER STIGTER (PONIES); GETTY IMAGES (BROCK COLLECTION); ART DIRECTION: SONYA VAN HEYNINGEN (MOST WANTED)



ONE-MINUTE MIRACLE SPECIAL

# Little wonders

Here at The Kit, our editors appreciate a beauty product that does what it says it'll do, and fast, just as much as you do. All year long we try out hundreds of contenders—here's what made the cut

BY THE KIT STAFF

## HAIR HEROES

The shampoos, stylers and treatments that gave us shiny, swishy, voluminous, TV-commercial-worthy hair

**DRY SHAMPOO**  
**Dear Batiste Dark & Deep Brown dry shampoo:** Blondes really do have more fun—mostly because they aren't spending tons trying to brush away pale dry shampoo residue from their golden roots. But you've given this brunette her morning minutes back: Your rice starch and cocoa-coloured tint (not so much that you stain my scalp, but enough to invisibly blend in) revive my two-day-old hair, leaving a light jasmine scent. Now that I've got all this free time and date-ready hair, what are you doing this Friday? *All my love, Jillian Vieira*

**SMOOTHING SERUM**  
**Dear StriVectin Hair All Smooth Overnight Anti-Frizz Serum:** May I be frank? I love sleeping with you. After smoothing a pump of your lightweight, creamy balm onto my mid-lengths and ends before bed, I'm able to rest easy. I know your formula, packed with keratin, oat protein and olive oil, is working to smooth frizz over time, fight static and generally say *bonsoir* to bed-head. Plus, your subtle vanilla and almond scent helps me unwind so I can wake up relaxed—and rumple free. *Bisous, Kathryn Hudson*

**SCALP CARE**  
**Dear Head & Shoulders Cooling Relief Shampoo:** I didn't think we'd hit it off. My type normally has glossy gold packaging—maybe I'm too superficial. But your generous lather made me tingle and your fresh, cooling peppermint oil (like the gum I chewed in high school) got me going first thing in the morning. My scalp was soothed (thanks, tea tree oil!) and my hair was left super soft: a refreshing reminder that assumptions can get in the way of love. *Kisses, Kathryn Hudson*

**CO-WASH**  
**Dear Joico Moisture Co-Wash Whipped Cleansing Conditioner:** I don't like bubbles. I renounced bubble bath years ago (why would I want to soak in soap?), and only soft, unctuous cream cleansers will do for my face. Until you came along, I had no choice but to wash my hair with sudsy shampoo. But you, dear whipped-cream emulsion,

have changed everything. Now conditioning, my favourite step, is the only step. You're dreamy and time-saving. I'm ready to co-habitate, for good. *Loveably, Eden Boileau*

**JOICO MOISTURE CO-WASH WHIPPED CLEANSING CONDITIONER, \$23, SALONS**



**SHINE BRUSH**  
**Dear Goody Clean Radiance Brush:** I'm not one to beat around the brush: You hurt me. When I run you through my fine, easily tangled hair, I feel your copper bristles every step of the way. But once I get your chic rose-gold body through my locks, the static-free, glistening waves that emerge—the very ones I started out with six hours earlier—have me dreaming that I could be

**BODY BOSSES**  
*Heads, shoulders, knees and toes (plus nails): We didn't miss a spot with our roundup of the best in body*

**STRIVECTIN HAIR ALL SMOOTH OVERNIGHT ANTI-FRIZZ SERUM, \$35, BEAUTYBOUTIQUE.CA**



**HOT OIL**  
**Dear Lush Cosmetics Kinky Hot Oil Treatment:** You're a reminder to schedule some much-needed me time. When I place your solid-chunk-of-oil-on-a-stick into a bowl, add hot water and stir, you melt into a thick cream with an uplifting aroma of sweet jasmine and earthy vetiver. You take a few moments to work into dry hair, section by section, and hang out there while I kick back and relax. Post-shampoo, you leave my spirals hydrated, buoyant and well-defined. Let's spend more quality time together. *Thankfully, Natasha Bruno*

**DETAINGER**  
**Dear Revlon Professional Equave Instant Beauty Volumizing Detangling Conditioner:** Your bottle says "Instant Beauty Instant Love," which is remarkably accurate because I did fall instantly in love with you. My very long locks suddenly think (and look like) they're 10 years old—all carefree and shiny and bouncy. With two different types of keratin (keratin amino acids and hydrolyzed keratin), you smooth and soften my hair like nothing I've ever used before. And since you're spray-on and leave-in, you cut my shower time and my water usage. You're really doing all you can to woo me, aren't you? *It's working, Eden B.*

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**REVLON PROFESSIONAL EQUAVE INSTANT BEAUTY VOLUMIZING DETANGLING CONDITIONER, \$18, SALONS**

the star of my very own shampoo commercial one day. So no pain, no gain, right? *With admiration (and future royalties), Evie Begy*

**STYLING GEL**  
**Dear Herbal Essences Soft Control Crème Gel:** Right after a shower, I eagerly rub my hands together as if anticipating a scrumptious meal, but it's my hair that gets to feast on a dime-sized dollop of the aloe-cactus flower-and-bamboo-rich cream sandwiched between my palms. There's no need for seconds, because one coating provides all the frizz-reducing protein and light hold I need. *Compliments to the chef, Veronica Saroli*

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**REVLON PROFESSIONAL EQUAVE INSTANT BEAUTY VOLUMIZING DETANGLING CONDITIONER, \$18, SALONS**

caramelized sugar scent. Your three moisturizing oils (argan, coconut and cranberry seed) fight frizz, yet you're as light as air and seem to disappear on contact, leaving only shiny locks behind. I thought I was in love with dry shampoo, but I may have to re-examine my feelings. *Falling for you, Eden B.*

**CAKE THE LOCKS SMITH HYDRATING DRY CONDITIONER SPRAY, \$19, SHOPPERS DRUG MART**

**DETAINGER**  
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**REVLON PROFESSIONAL EQUAVE INSTANT BEAUTY VOLUMIZING DETANGLING CONDITIONER, \$18, SALONS**

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER STIGTER (BEAUTY SHOTS), GEOFFREY ROSS (PRODUCT SWATCHES)

## MAKEUP MAGICIANS

These primers, shadows, blushes and glosses go above the call of duty to offer beauty with benefits. Herewith, our pick of the makeup crop

**CREAM BLUSH**  
**Dear By Terry Cellulose Blush Glacé:** You are literally making me blush. A dab of your shimmery tinted gel, as silky as English custard and rose-scented to boot, is enough to transform my office-cubicle complexion into a flushed cast worthy of the most breathless Jane Austen character. You blend easily on top of tinted moisturizer, leaving a subtle water-colour wash that outlasts most romances. I leave you with a quote from *Pride and Prejudice*: "My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you." *Kisses, K.H.*

**CONCEALER**  
**Dear Osmosis Age Defying Treatment Concealer:** My morning routine just doesn't feel complete without your double-ended genius. First, your smooth stick of argan, apricot and coconut oils, plus shea butter and Vitamin E, instantly moisturizes my under-eye area—especially helpful when I'm sleep-deprived or suffering from itchy eyes. Since the formula isn't sticky, I'm able to immediately layer on and blend in your dark-circle-and-blemish-camouflaging concealer. You leave me looking dewy, fresh and bright-eyed. I hope we stay friends forever. *Love, N.B.*

**CONTOUR**  
**Dear L'Oréal Infallible Pro-Contour Contour and Highlight Palette:** At first I thought you were totally weird. I mean, what's with that V-shaped brush? But like so many geniuses before you, you were just misunderstood. Then I figured it out (duh): The brush straddles my cheekbones, one side swiping on highlighter while the other deposits the contour—both shades exactly where I need them, at the same time! Contour confusion gone; makeup mastery complete. *Swooning, Eden B.*

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**MASCARA**  
**Dear Rimmel Wonder'full Volume Colourist:** You're full of surprises. To the naked eye (get it?) you're a perfectly serviceable mascara: dark and inky, volumizing without being clumpy, with a tapered brush that makes it easy to coat the tiny lashes in the corners. But where you excel is the fact that your formula contains a small dose of dye, so you actually tint my lashes over time. That means that on lazy weekends my mouse-coloured lash tips look less naked, even when they are. This is going to be a long-term relationship. *Yours, Rani Sheen*

**BROW DEFINER**  
**Dear Know Cosmetics No Bare Brows:** My a.m. makeup routine is easy, breezy and done in less than five minutes—except when it comes to my brows. Years of over-plucking and waxing have left my sparse set in need of special attention. That's why I appreciate your do-it-all attitude. Your buildable, gel-like colour on one end lets me create natural-looking strokes, while your silky wax—and extra-stiff brush—on the other is the perfect finishing act. Now my brows are done in a flash and your timing could not have been better. *Yours always, J.V.*

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**LIP TINT**  
**Dear Clarins Instant Light Natural Lip Perfector:** I'm a little clingy when it comes to my lip products: I keep them close at hand for regular reapplication after they come off on my endless cups of tea. You are there for me at any hour (and every hour), with a shiny but not tacky finish that brightens my face, a flattering red tint and a nourishing mix of shea butter and wild mango that keeps my lips from drying out. You also smell deliciously like candy apples, providing a nostalgic (if appetite-stimulating) moment of escape, well, every hour. *Best, R.S.*



**LIP GLOSS**  
**Dear CoverGirl Outlast Intense Color + Gloss:** I'm an Aquarius, and as such I enjoy having the freedom to follow a whim. Your double-ended colour and gloss is there for me whether I feel like doing a carefully applied velvety pale peach—you're the perfect peachy shade for that, IMO—or a quick swipe of almost-clear gloss for a hit of full-on '90s shiny. Your two ends are designed to be layered, but I prefer choosing one or the other, and you're fine with that. *Appreciatively, Rani Sheen*

**COVERGIRL OUTLAST INTENSE COLOR + GLOSS IN NUDE INTENSITY, \$12, DRUGSTORES**

**EYESHADOW**  
**Dear Benefit Big Sexy Eye Kit:** Thank you for your honesty. When I'm trying to muster the energy to freshen up for after-work cocktails, I cling to your promised description of "three beyond easy eyeshadow duos." You don't disappoint. I simply sweep the custom Shadow-Blender (which resembles the karaoke microphone I might just see at some point during the weekend party circuit) across one of your shimmering neutral shadow combos. Then I slide the sponge across my eyelid: The light shade lights up the lid and the deeper shade contours the crease for a seamlessly blended long-wear look in roughly two seconds. That, my friend, makes it feel like party time. *Cheers, K.H.*

**EYESHADOW**  
**Dear Smashbox Photo Finish Lid Primer:** Before we met, I had a stormy relationship with eyeshadow. Once applied, it slipped off

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**CLARINS INSTANT LIGHT NATURAL LIP PERFECTOR IN RED SHIMMER, \$20, CLARINS.COM**

my lids like a toddler whooshing down a waterslide. Oh, the cut-eye I cast on my shadow stash. But now, your genius base acts like the sun at high noon, keeping my shadow firmly in place. And your dark formula deepens the colour, so I can create a smoky eye in the time it takes to say "Shadow, we're okay." If this whole innovative makeup thing doesn't work out, you'd make a rad couples counsellor. *Love, Laura deCarufel*

**SMASHBOX PHOTO FINISH LID PRIMER IN SMOKE, \$25, BEAUTYBOUTIQUE.CA**

**ILLUMINATING STICK**  
**Dear M.A.C Prep + Prime Essential Oils Stick:** You make me feel pretty, and you're not even trying. Your main aim is to bring moisture to my skin via your solid stick of nourishing plant oils (nigella seed, camellia, coconut) and butters (cocoa, shea, mango seed). And that you, do, to dry cuticles, knuckles and elbows. But when I swipe you onto my cheekbones, browbones and above my eyebrows, where I would normally wear highlighter, magic happens. The high planes of my face become gleamy but not shiny, making me look like I'm having a candlelit dinner even when I'm sitting under harsh office lights. *Fondly, R.S.*

**M.A.C PREP + PRIME ESSENTIAL OILS STICK, \$33, MACCOSMETICS.CA**

**DECIEIM THE ORDINARY HIGH-SPEADABILITY FLUID PRIMER, \$8, THEORDINARY.COM**

**FOUNDATION PRIMER**  
**Dear Deciem The Ordinary High-Spreadability Fluid Primer:** As a working mother of a toddler, the idea of adding another step to my morning routine made me want to head to a remote mountaintop where I could live, barefaced, among the goats. Your promise of a perfectly even complexion stilled that urge. Now I wake up knowing your light, non-oily formula—a blend of premium, super-spreadable silicones—will help me leave the house looking polished and ready to take on the day. Timbuktu will have to wait. *Love, L.D.*

**REVLON SPONGE BRUSH, \$15, DRUGSTORES**

**BLENDING SPONGE**  
**Dear Revlon Sponge Brush:** You're bringing something new and well thought out to the makeup sponge table. Your conical handle allows me to more comfortably and neatly apply and blend out my foundation, and your flat sponge edge with pointed tip lays down concealer exactly where it's needed. You're pretty slick, probably because you were designed by the same detail-oriented people who work on BMW. It all adds up to a seamless experience. *My compliments, R.S.*

**FOUNDATION PRIMER**  
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**REVLON SPONGE BRUSH, \$15, DRUGSTORES**

**DECIEIM THE ORDINARY HIGH-SPEADABILITY FLUID PRIMER, \$8, THEORDINARY.COM**



ADVERTORIAL

# Win your own miracle kit

We sent this selection of beauty miracle-workers to our cross-country network of influencers and asked them to put them to the test. But we want you to have the chance to try them out too, so we're giving away a miracle kit valued at \$469 for one hour each weekday, from March 2-8. Visit [thekit.ca/omm-2017/](http://thekit.ca/omm-2017/) to enter

Serious hydration minus the heaviness of a thick cream—this Korean-made gel moisturizer is the bomb

Irritated, scaly, eczema-prone skin will be thrilled to meet this soothing balm

Get your body moisturizing done in the shower with this innovative, refreshing lotion that you apply onto wet skin

Soft, manageable, swishy hair is just a spritz of this dry conditioner away

Pop these in your travel bag for an intense anti-wrinkle treatment on the go

Sandal season is just around the corner, so add this creamy heel treatment to your at-home pedi prep

If you hate that tight post-cleanse feeling, this creamy wash is for you

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. OPEN TO CANADIAN RESIDENTS, 18 AND OLDER. CONTEST LAUNCHES AT 12:01 AM, MARCH 2, 2017 AND CLOSES AT 11:59 PM, MARCH 8, 2017. ODDS OF WINNING DEPEND ON TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE ENTRIES RECEIVED. ENTRANTS MUST ANSWER ASKILL TESTING QUESTION. APPROXIMATE VALUE OF EACH PRIZE: \$460+. COMPLETE CONTEST RULES AVAILABLE AT [WWW.THEKIT.CA/OMM-2017/](http://WWW.THEKIT.CA/OMM-2017/)



**SKIN STARS**

*Our quest for eternal dewiness knows no bounds—here, the lotions, potions and emulsions that got us glowing*

**MICELLAR CLEANSER**  
**Dear Garnier SkinActive Micellar Waterproof Cleansing Water:** You've become my special companion on those late nights when I just want to slip into bed without sudsing up my face. After a quick shake, your bi-phase formula blends conditioning silicone with micelle molecules to

a glistening trace of water droplets—I was spellbound. May I share your secret? As you turn from cream to water on contact, “hydrozome” technology pushes a wave of moisturizing ingredients, like minerals and sea kelp, into the skin to keep it plump and radiant. My dryness disappeared faster than Houdini. *Signed, Hogwarts alum V.S.*

**BLISS FABULOUS DRENCH 'N' QUENCH** MOISTURIZER, \$48, SEPHORA.CA

my skin tone over the long term. As for our future, well, I think we're golden. *Yours truly, C.O.*

**LA PRAIRIE CELLULAR SWISS ICE CRYSTAL TRANSFORMING CREAM,** \$250, HOLTRENFREW.COM

**EXFOLIATING PEEL**  
**Dear Kiehl's Nightly Refining Micro-Peel Concentrate:** I love the idea of a glowy complexion that's born of almond milk smoothies and early morning yoga. But life is busy, you know? Just two drops of your formula, packed with quinoa husk extract—a superfood that is apparently super at refining

But now your smoothing blend of raspberry leaf, lady's mantle and oat husk extracts has followed me home to Canada. I'm ready to move past our summer romance and see where your long-lasting hydration takes us. *Let's never be apart again, R.S.*

**BELIF THE TRUE CREAM—AQUA BOMB,** \$47, THE FACE SHOP STORES, BELIF-CANADA.COM

**HYDRATOR**  
**Dear Kate Somerville DermalQuench Liquid Lift:** I'm not typically perky before coffee, but you've got me bubbling over. Every morning, before moisturizer,

I pump on your foamy formula and massage it in. Thanks to the plumping effects of oxygen and hyaluronic acid, you give my complexion a fresh-from-a-facial glow. What can I say? You make my skin tingle. *Yours bright and early, C.O.*

**KATE SOMERVILLE DERMALQUENCH LIQUID LIFT,** \$114, SEPHORA

**ILLUMINATING SERUM**  
**Dear Darphin Paris Lumière Essentielle Illuminating Oil Serum:** By this time of year, my skin has little of the radiance it had during sunny days. But with you, it always feels like summer. Smoothing on your ultra-light hydrating formula packed with citrus and cedarwood essential oils leaves my skin so bright and bouncy, I might ditch foundation. I think it's time we made it official. *With love, J.V.*

**DARPHIN PARIS LUMIÈRE ESSENTIELLE ILLUMINATING OIL SERUM,** \$105, SEPHORA

**TREATMENT CAPSULES**  
**Dear Estée Lauder Advanced Night Repair Intensive Recovery Ampoules:** I'm a frugal woman, but sometimes, conditions necessitate a splurge. Conditions like a Canadian winter, deadline-related stress or lack of sleep. Your blend of oils puts my tired complexion to bed and tells it everything's going to be okay—and you mean it. When you're in my routine, I wake up to calm, smooth, hydrated skin. There's a lot of science behind you, with Chrono-luxAI technology to help skin repair and soothe irritation, but I don't need to know all that. I just need to know you're there for me. *Yours, Eden B.*

**ESTÉE LAUDER ADVANCED NIGHT REPAIR INTENSIVE RECOVERY AMPOULES,** \$135, HUDSON'S BAY



attract dirt, oil and makeup with a few swipes from a cotton pad. High-five for whisking away even my stubborn waterproof mascara. And thanks for being oil-free and not leaving a greasy, cloudy film on my contact lenses, which is a strangely common problem. *Yours truly, N.B.*

**GARNIER SKINACTIVE MICELLAR WATERPROOF CLEANSING WATER,** \$10, DRUGSTORES

**MOISTURIZER**  
**Dear Bliss Fabulous Drench 'n' Quench:** As a kid, I was too busy reading *Harry Potter* to be interested in magic. Real wizardry was done with wands. But when you came in contact with my grown-up skin—sinking right in and leaving behind

pores and evening out skin tone—helps me get the healthy look without the lifestyle. Bonus: You don't leave my sensitive skin red or tingly, like glycolic acid products have, so I look as fresh as a glass of kombucha. *Namaste, K.H.*

**COLOUR-CORRECTING CREAM**  
**Dear La Prairie Cellular Swiss Ice Crystal Transforming Cream:** When we were introduced by a mutual friend, I thought you were too good to be true. Your colour-correcting technology promised to adjust to my skin tone whether I had spent the weekend in my apartment or on a yacht in Cannes—and it did. Plus, your prismatic pigments help blur any evidence of nights on the town and early mornings at the office. As if that weren't enough, your daisy-flower extract promises to even out



**LA PRAIRIE CELLULAR SWISS ICE CRYSTAL TRANSFORMING CREAM,** \$250, HOLTRENFREW.COM

**GEL CREAM**  
**Dear Belif The True Cream—Aqua Bomb:** When we met in Seoul,

I thought it was just going to be a holiday fling. I bought one pot of your gel-cream moisturizer, which gave my skin the radiant, translucent gleam all the South Korean cool girls had, and I thought that would be it.



**BELIF THE TRUE CREAM—AQUA BOMB,** \$47, THE FACE SHOP STORES, BELIF-CANADA.COM


**LIP BALM**  
**Dear Almay Age Essentials Lip Treatment:** This is my dilemma: I have an incredibly kissable baby and I love to wear lipstick. As a result, little blond Charlie occasionally resembles a redhead. Luckily, your formula—rich in peptides, collagen and hyaluronic acid—defines the contours of my mouth so my colour stays put. Since you also target fine vertical lines, my lips are almost as smooth as baby Charlie's. *Kisses, Laura deCarufel*

**ALMAY AGE ESSENTIALS LIP TREATMENT,** \$10, DRUGSTORES

**CREAM CLEANSER**  
**Dear Aveeno Absolutely Ageless Nourishing Cleanser:** You're the best thing to happen to my parched skin. Usually winter makes my complexion go ballistic, but your super-dense formula of moisturizing glycerin and exfoliating citric acid draws water in and drives impurities out, giving me a springtime glow. My once dehydrated complexion now looks baby fresh. I can't resist your silky charms—you make cleansing the best part of my day. *Sincerely yours, Paige Peake*

**HEALING BALM**  
**Dear Indeed 10Balm:** You're the scratch to my itch. When my eczema-riddled skin needs love, you're as soothing as Bob Ross on *The Joy of Painting*. Your 10 big-deal natural ingredients, from bee pollen to baobab oil, take my dry patches from alligator rough to baby's-bottom soft, with no greasy film. And you're unscented, so my sensitive sniffer will never tire of you. *Forever yours, Sonya van Heyningen*


**INDEED LABORATORIES 10BALM,** \$20, SHOPPERS DRUG MART



Hyaluronic Acid 2% + B5  
**\$6.80**



Lactic Acid 10% + HA 2%  
**\$6.70**




Argireline Solution 10%  
**\$7.90**



Vitamin C Suspension 23% + HA Spheres 2%  
**\$5.80**



High-Spreadability Fluid Primer  
**\$7.90**



High-Adherence Silicone Primer  
**\$4.90**



Advanced Retinoid 2%  
**\$9.80**



100% Organic Cold-Pressed Rose Hip Seed Oil  
**\$9.90**

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Wrkdept presented its unisex collection at Re\Set in Toronto in February.

## FASHION

# The state of Toronto Fashion Week

It's official: TFW is back after being scrapped last year—but seemingly countless high-style events have already stepped in to take its place. In this new crowded landscape, **Carlene Higgins** wonders: What should Fashion Week be, anyway?

Up until the December news that Toronto Fashion Week was being resurrected from the grave, some of us in the industry believed it might never come back. IMG—the production company behind New York, London and Sydney Fashion Week, among others—killed it last July after four years. The reason? A lack of “local support for the industry.” Oh, how the truth burned. You would seldom catch a buyer from any of the country’s major department stores sitting front row, and most editors couldn’t make time for the full week of all-day events. But the big problem, as one insider put it, is you weren’t likely to have FOMO if you didn’t attend.

When the axe fell on Fashion Week, I was a style editor at a major Canadian publication and had a trip booked to attend London Fashion Week, which redefined itself in recent years from a staid afterthought on the international circuit to a destination for cutting-edge fashion. Sure, Simone Rocha and J.W. Anderson stunned, but the off-runway showroom presentations also sparked buzz in the town car I shared with international journalists and stylists. In the vast, white Brewer Street Car Park (a former parking garage), more than 100 emerging designers displayed their wares as pop-ups, including talented up-and-comers like Rejina Pyo (who’s since debuted on net-a-porter.com) and Canadian expat Steven Tai, whom I chatted with casually. With impossibly chic U.K. editors like Caroline Issa in attendance, it felt like a secret after-hours club—like maybe the next Alexander McQueen was somewhere inside among us.

That’s when I started wondering: In the face of nothingness, what should Toronto Fashion Week be, anyway?

FashionCan was the first to swiftly step in last season, supporting Canadian fashion when it needed a champion. A joint effort organized by the Canadian Arts & Fashion Awards (CAFA), The Collections and Yorkdale Shopping Centre, the runway event coincided with the launch of the mall’s new wing last October. I pushed the limit on my downtown company’s cab expenses to check out top homegrown designers like Pink Tartan, Greta Constantine and Mikhael Kale, whose looks graced the sprawling aisles. Between shows, I noshed on food court butter chicken, and at week’s end, shopped the pop-up shops offering the see-now-buy-now collections (a trend big in New York for the last few seasons). By the time you read this, season two will have just wrapped.

Turns out, IMG’s fateful move encouraged a lot of people to imagine what a new Toronto Fashion Week could look like. One of them is real estate developer Peter Freed. Mid-December, he announced that he was spearheading a group of investors who had purchased Toronto Fashion Week from IMG, and that along with former IMG Canada director Carolyn Quinn and PR maven Suzanne Cohon, Toronto Fashion Week was back on.

So on a Monday morning in January, I ventured to the Hazelton Hotel to hear their

plans. “What Fashion Week needs, with Peter’s guidance, is a re-invention,” said Cohon, the official fashion, arts and culture ambassador for Toronto Fashion Week. Their vision, they told me, is to take over the ritzy Yorkville neighbourhood TIFF-style this fall. In short: to create a grand spectacle that draws in the whole city. In addition to runway shows and presentations, they’re planning for in-store activations, packed restaurants, live music (whether celebrities will perform isn’t known yet) and Ted-talks-style learning sessions from fashion heavy-hitters. “Toronto Fashion Week has achieved incredible things and missed out on incredible things,” said Freed. “It’s evolved, but it’s an opportunity to bring it to the next level...to make this thing credible.”

With all the activity around fashion week, it's become an exciting, if confusing time.

They aren’t the only ones looking to bring TFW into the present. Just two months after IMG announced it was stepping down, TOM founder Jeff Rustia announced that he would expand his three-year-old Toronto Men’s Fashion Week to include a women’s division. Titled TW, it kicks off March 9. “It will be a modern, high-tech, relevant Fashion Week, with runway presentations that are well curated,” Rustia says. “It will have showrooms, buyers’ days and industry talks—all aimed at helping the business of fashion.” Evan Biddell of *Project Runway Canada*, emerging talent Zoran Dobric and Toronto Fashion Incubator’s annual competition made the edit.

With all the activity around Fashion Week, it’s become an exciting, if confusing, time. Hopefully, one of these initiatives will manage to lure the brightest of our talents to participate in the hometown scene—if only before making it big abroad. Last year, 19-year-old designer Vejas Kruszewski made *Vogue* headlines after his line of avant-garde streetwear earned him LVMH’s special prize (a huge honour and a cash injection

With established labels like Pink Tartan and exciting fresh brands like Markoo, there’s no doubt that Canada boasts a wealth of homegrown design talent.



of €150,000); he was a virtual unknown in Canada who never bothered to show a collection here, but nonetheless managed to infiltrate New York’s fashion crowd: Model-of-the-moment Hari Nef wears his clothes and Opening Ceremony now sells them.

Similarly, Mona Koochek and Tania Martins, founders of local label Markoo, have side-stepped TFW for the past few years. Their line had been carried by a few boutiques in Toronto and Vancouver, but it’s now exclusive to Assembly New York, a retailer that focuses on international designers dedicated to hand-crafted, slow fashion. The duo presented in Toronto in a “small way” about a year ago, Koochek divulged to me over the phone, but they quickly bailed when they realized that it didn’t exactly jibe with the spare, street-leaning image of their three-year-old brand. “The tent was covered with a lot of advertising,” Koochek recalled. “I remember one time it was all pink lights, and I just felt that wasn’t really us.”

When I meet with Juliana Schiavinatto, stylist and former fashion director of *Elle Canada*, over a glass of red wine, she agrees that a flashy event for the general public serves a purpose (i.e., to drum up some desire to spend locally) but to earn credibility within the notoriously tough fashion industry, she believes that less is definitely more. “One day is enough,” she tells me, underscoring the “curating” (an oft batted around term) needed to make the cut on a world stage. “It needs to be unexpected. Maybe it’s set up like a tunnel, so you don’t know what you’re going to see next,” she says. “Because if we just do it the same way, trying to be something we’re not, it’s not hitting the moment.”

That’s the kind of restraint I noticed at The Collections’ reimagined presentation in February. The Toronto production agency’s event—aptly titled Re\Set—was in collab with Robin Kay, long-time president of the Fashion Design Council of Canada. “We want to provide designers with marketing and commerce opportunities and rethink the national and global perception of fashion in Canada,” explains Mel Ashcroft, one of the founders of The Collections, over email. Gone are the generic white tents of seasons past. Instead, the invite-only, two-night event took place in a weathered, mansion-like space in the trendy Queen West neighbourhood. Cool kids in navel-grazing ’90s tops and cropped flares seemed legitimately excited to take in the pop-up shop and intimate presentations from the likes of Sid Neigum and Beauville (both already style-anointed by *vogue.com* and *WWD*) in various rooms, complete with cracked walls and chandeliers. Finally, there’s a hint of something different in the atmosphere this season—it feels like we’re ready to take a fresh breath, instead of gasping for air.

## BUY LOCAL

The Toronto Fashion Incubator, long-time advocate for Canadian fashion, is marking its 30th anniversary this year. Celebrate by supporting some of its brightest alumni

MATTHEW GALLAGHER



“Canada has such a unique fashion perspective because we all come from different backgrounds and it’s fascinating to see how we were raised culturally.” —Matthew Gallagher

JENNIFER TOROSIAN



“Designers are influenced by their surroundings and what they see daily. Diversity makes Canadian fashion unique.” —Jennifer Torosian

JENNY BIRD



“The Canadian designer point of view, compared to the New York designer, isn’t as heavily influenced by what’s happening in Europe.” —Jenny Bird

SID NEIGUM



“Many people have talked about Canada lacking fashion identity. Lacking Canada’s identity is our multiculturalism, and that shows in my work.” —Sid Neigum

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