

THE KIT

The Happiness Issue: Breezy summer beauty upgrades, expert skincare advice, inside India Hicks’s cool, chaotic life



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A new beginning

Devastated by war, a group of Syrian women has found hearth and home at Toronto’s Newcomer Kitchen, a joyful example of Canadian warmth. **Lauren McKeon** explores the humanity behind the headlines

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS MORA

A smell can conjure many things. It can trigger that tightening feeling of hunger deep in your stomach; it can signal an open-armed “Welcome home.” Inside Newcomer Kitchen, it does both. The air is suffused with the scents of simmering onions, garlic and savoury roasted chicken. Dozens of puffed triangle-shaped pastries rise in the oven, adding a perfume of warm bread. The tables are dotted with spice jars affixed with homemade labels, in both English and Arabic. Black pepper: فلفل اسود. Cumin: كمون. Garlic: شوم. The Syrian women who are working in the kitchen this Wednesday in June move in practised synchronicity. Their lilting voices thread through the *thwock-thwock* of the swiftly moving knives, the sizzle of the frying pan, the clanging of steel.

Newcomer Kitchen fired up its stoves in 2016, shortly after the Trudeau government welcomed 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada. Hosted out of The Depanneur, a blue-tiled, open kitchen space in Toronto’s west end, the project started as a small gathering spot for Syrian women to connect, make home-cooked meals, and create a community on the other side of the world. The Kitchen quickly became a hub; it now includes 60 women. Profits for the weekly meal service are split among the cooks, and founders Len Senater and Cara Benjamin-Pace have plans to replicate the model internationally.

Today, about 10 apron-clad women are cooking for the weekly meal service. Nadima Kingo, a petite 33-year-old whose hijab frames her delicate features, laughs warmly and moves around the kitchen with the sort of ease shown around family members and beloved friends. To her, the women at the Kitchen are both. “It’s not just a normal gathering—it’s something very special,” she says, speaking through an interpreter (also a Syrian refugee and Newcomer Kitchen cook). “[Being here] makes you feel like you are not strange, and you are not a newcomer anymore. It makes you feel welcome.”

Nadima says that cooking brings her what she calls “the spirit of joy.” Sharing Syrian food with the Kitchen’s Toronto customers allows her and the other women to share their country’s history and culture—really, to share their love: “We’re trying to learn from each other through food.” Nadima says that she hopes that people who try the Kitchen’s food will find it delicious, of course, but that they’ll also remember her, her country and the thousands of refugees when they eat it. She hopes they will remember Syria like she does.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

DESIGNING
THE
IMPOSSIBLE



IRIS VAN HERPEN
TRANSFORMING FASHION

EXHIBITION ON NOW
TICKETS AT ROM.CA

R•M
ROYAL ONTARIO
MUSEUM

Hacking Infinity. Shoes. 2015. In collaboration with Noritaka Tatehana and 3D Systems. Laser-cut cow leather, 3-D printed photopolymer, and stereolithography resin. Collection of the designer. Photograph ©NORITAKA TATEHANA. 'Iris van Herpen: Transforming Fashion' is co-organized by the High Museum of Art, Atlanta and the Groninger Museum, the Netherlands. The exhibition was curated by Sarah Schleuning, High Museum of Art, and Mark Wilson and Sue-an van der Zijpp, Groninger Museum.

How to keep your dream hair colour vibrant

Whether you've gone blonde, brunette or pretty pastel unicorn, once you've fallen head over heels for your perfect hair hue, you'll want to commit to a long-term relationship. Need help making it last? Read on for the facts on how to keep your colour the glossiest, healthiest it can be.

FICTION: It's no big deal to use any random shampoo on colour-treated hair.

Achieving your ideal hair shade is an investment—maybe you splurged on multiple salon visits or took matters into your own hands at home—and using an overly harsh shampoo is akin to pouring money down the drain. Protect your new hue by choosing products specifically designed to be gentle and colour-safe (it should say so right on the label). Many shampoos for colour-treated hair are free of sulfates, since these common foam-making ingredients can be overly stripping. Nexxus® Color Assure Vibrancy Retention Shampoo, for example, has no sulfates, but it still lathers and cleanses gently.

FACT: If your hair is dry or frayed, the colour will fade faster.

When damage is done to your hair cuticles (picture these like roof shingles on the surface of each strand), they'll lift up instead of lying flat, and allow your hair to swell a lot when water-soaked. This, in turn, will let dye molecules escape every time you shampoo.



Keeping your hair as healthy as possible is the key to your longest-lasting colour. Fortifying nutrients like protein can help: Nexxus® Color Assure Vibrancy Retention Shampoo and Conditioner, for example, with elastin protein and White Orchid Extract helps replenish hair.

FICTION: The best way to keep hair vibrant is to colour as often as possible.

Actually, your hair needs some time to recover between dye sessions and recoup its nutrients and moisture levels—or else you risk weakening the hair too much, and winding up with frizzy, straw-like strands. As a rule of thumb, schedule your all-over colour treatments about four weeks apart. (If your roots need attention more often than that, target just that section.) In the meantime, revitalize your hair with intense conditioning products to maximize the softness, sleekness and strength.

FACT: In the summer, you'll need extra steps to fight the fade.

It's the season of swimming pools, sun and surf—and that means damaging chlorine, UV rays and seawater. Chlorinated water can leach colour from your hair and cause colour fade, while the sunlight can damage hair protein (weakening your hair's structure). And although you may appreciate the beachy texture you get from seawater (a.k.a. Mother Nature's salt spray), it will suck out all the moisture from your hair and speed up fading, too. The fix? Before diving into the water, thoroughly wet your hair in the shower and apply a conditioner like Nexxus® Color Assure Vibrancy Retention Conditioner; that way, you can help protect your hair for long-lasting colour vibrancy. Don't forget to rinse out post-swim. You can also use the conditioner as an after-sun product, to give hair some TLC and bring back glossiness.

CONTEST ALERT!

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN[‡] A NEXXUS® NYC EXPERIENCE

What's better than achieving salon-worthy hair at home? Getting pampered by the experts at the one and only Nexxus® Salon in New York City. Here's your opportunity to WIN[‡] a four-night trip (for two!) to NYC, where you and a friend will be treated to the full Nexxus® experience—including a treatment customized for your hair needs, plus a chic haircut and blowout. Plus, you'll learn styling tips and tricks from the pros to incorporate into your own beauty routine.

This contest is available exclusively at Shoppers Drug Mart.

How to enter: Visit www.shoppersdrugmart.ca/nexxussalon for full contest rules.

[‡]Purchase two (2) participating Nexxus® products at Shoppers Drug Mart/Pharmaprix stores, excluding travel and trial sizes, using your PC Optimum card between June 16, 2018, at 12:00:00 AM EST and July 13, 2018, at 11:59 PM EST. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY ENTRY AVAILABLE. Prizes include: 1 grand prize consisting of a Nexxus® New York City Experience trip to the Nexxus® salon for 2 (ARV \$10,000), and 5 secondary prizes, each a Nexxus® gift basket consisting of Nexxus® products (ARV \$500.00). Open to Canadian residents who have reached the legal age of majority. Odds of winning a prize depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Skill-testing question required. Further conditions apply. Visit www.shoppersdrugmart.ca/nexxussalon for full contest rules.



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NATURE SCIENCE SALON



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In the bag

Usher in the sunshine with a summery makeup update

BY KATHERINE LALANCETTE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS MORA

This season, stock your makeup bag with happy hues and glowy finishes guaranteed to stand up to the heat. First up, a bronzing fluid and golden illuminator bestow back-from-vacation radiance, while a light dusting of translucent powder keeps shine in check. As the summer swelter can turn even the most expertly applied eye makeup into an impressionist mess, a lid primer and waterproof mascara are a must. For a fun jolt of lasting colour, reach for a hot pink gloss or a nifty multi-shade pencil. A refreshing spritz of setting spray provides the finishing touch.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: **CLARINS** 4-COLOUR ALL-IN-ONE PEN, \$35, CLARINS.CA. **MARC JACOBS BEAUTY** COCONUT GEL DEW DROPS, \$55, SEPHORA.CA. **M.A.C COSMETICS** PREP+PRIME FIX+ IN PINKLITE, \$30, MACCOSMETICS.CA. **COVERGIRL** PEACOCK FLARE WATERPROOF MASCARA, \$14, DRUGSTORES. **SEPHORA COLLECTION** BEAUTY AMPLIFIER EYE SHADOW PRIMER, \$12, SEPHORA.CA. **URBAN DECAY** HI-FI SHINE ULTRA CUSHION LIP GLOSS IN SAVAGE, \$23, URBANDECAY.CA. **ANNABELLE** PERFECT MATTE TRANSLUCENT MATTIFYING SETTING POWDER, \$10, ANABELLE.COM. **GUERLAIN** TERRACOTTA CUSHION, \$60, GUERLAIN.COM

THE KIT CANADIAN FASHION PROJECT

PRETTY LITTLE THINGS
Teeny-tiny, ultra-delicate pieces of jewellery are summer's breeziest accessories

BY JILLIAN VIEIRA



POPPY FINCH
EARRINGS, \$350,
POPPY-FINCH.COM

RETROUVAI
NECKLACE,
\$2,560,
RETROUVAI.COM

MEJURI RING, \$195,
MEJURI.COM

ANASTASSIA SEL
EARRINGS, \$770,
ANASTASSIASSEL.COM

HAATHI HOUSE BRACELETS, \$3,375-\$5,815
EACH, HAATHIHOUSEJEWELLERY.COM

MARCCAIN

Whatever sports team you're cheering for, do it with style! Lurex bomber jackets, sequins, techno-stretch pants and side-stripes in a colourful palette are the season's best performance looks.

CAME GAME on



SHOP THE LOOKS AT MARC CAIN

Toronto Eaton Centre | Square One | Rideau Centre
Oakridge Centre | Chinook Centre | West Edmonton Mall
Ste-Foy | Carrefour Laval

1 scarf, \$200 | 2 jacket, \$470 | 3 skirt, \$280
4 ankle boot, \$680 | 5 backpack, \$800
6 shoulder bag, \$290 | 7 dress, \$710
8 sweatshirt, \$360 | 9 sneaker, \$320

A new beginning

CONTINUED FROM COVER

The civil war in Syria is now in its eighth year. While it's almost impossible to state how many people have died in the conflict—some international monitoring groups have even, essentially, stopped counting—the estimates alone are shocking: approximately half a million killed since President Bashar al-Assad's government forces shot protestors who supported the Arab Spring uprising in 2011. An additional 12 million people—or half of the country's prewar population—have been displaced. The war is complex, and as different rebel groups and international players enter the fray, it's only getting worse.

Before the conflict broke out, Nadima lived in Latakia, Syria's beautiful coastal city. If not for the Roman architecture dotting the city, a holdover from ancient rule, Latakia could be California. Limitless azure skies meet turquoise water, and frothy waves roll to the beach like thousands of unfurling ribbons. Nadima was a hairdresser, and her husband worked in construction; on the weekends, they gathered their friends and family and went on lazy day trips to hut-lined beaches and nearby mountains. "I never felt like I would live outside of Latakia," says Nadima. "My city is so special to me."

Then the country's tension erupted and hit Latakia. In an attempt to stamp out protests, the government laid siege to the city, indiscriminately rounding up and arresting anybody it thought might be part of the rebel movement. Men and youth were particularly at risk. Eventually, Nadima says, children were arrested at school. Government tanks and navy ships shelled the city. Her face tightens as she remembers; her small body collapses inward, hands pressed together at the centre, subconsciously mirroring a symbol of prayer. "We left our houses with just our clothes."

Her husband, who was in graver danger, escaped to Turkey while Nadima stayed just outside her neighbourhood, where it became more and more difficult for her to leave her shelter to buy food. Soon power and internet services were cut so frequently that she couldn't reach her family; she had no idea if they were even alive. For three months, she lived in limbo.

The government, which Nadima calls "the regime," escalated its violence, shooting everybody: men, women and children. Life was unrecognizable, chaotic. She characterizes this time with a phrase that trans-

lates loosely into The Stucking, a not-quite word that perfectly conveys an inability to move forward, to truly *live*. "The connection—it was just cut," she says. "We were stuck at home alone. We could not reach anybody, or anything, besides ourselves."

In 2012, Nadima, then 27, finally escaped to Turkey, which shares the Syrian border for more than 800 kilometres. (Turkey also hosts more than three million Syrian refugees.) Her husband's uncle gave her money to pay the Free Syrian Army, which used specialists to smuggle people through safe points and across the border. There, she was greeted by a miraculous vision of home: her husband waiting for her, desperate to ensure she was placed in his refugee camp.

Turkey was safe, but not a true respite for Nadima. For the first nine months, she cried every day. "I used to live in a house, and then I moved into a tent," she says. "I used to eat homemade food, and then it was this kind of [camp] food. I used to sleep on a bed back home, and then, a very thin sponge." Every morning, her husband lined up for a small portion of cheese that did little to ease the cramp of hunger; they had no fridges to help them safely keep and ration their food. Living conditions were unsanitary, and Nadima hated going to the washroom outside the tent, where there was no privacy. Dishes never felt quite clean. Despite a nylon barrier designed to keep the tent dry, water always seemed to gather under her sleeping pallet. It was, she says, in a word, "disgusting."

Still, Nadima says, within a year, she began to adapt to her new normal. She and her husband started learning the Turkish language, and he began to work at a factory. Soon, they'd scraped together enough money to buy modest furniture, and Nadima made colourful crafts to brighten the canvas walls. "We tried to decorate the tent so that it felt like home."

Four years passed, until, one day, Nadima accompanied a friend as she registered her newborn child. While they were waiting in line, a man told them that anyone who wanted to go to Canada could apply right there. Nadima went immediately, not quite believing it wasn't a dream. "It's going to turn out to be a fake thing. Will we ever leave the tent?" she kept asking her husband. At the same time, she knew—if it wasn't too good to be true—that living in Canada offered a chance for healing, for a future.

Two months later, she was on an airplane.



**DISCOVER
NEWCOMER KITCHEN**
This social enterprise brings Syrian refugee women together, for business and for bonding. For details on how you can order meals from Newcomer Kitchen, visit newcomerkitchen.ca.



“As a Syrian people, we are so traumatized, but we are strong. We’ve been challenged a lot, but at the same time, we stand again.”

As she speaks, her eldest son hears her mention him and his siblings, and excitedly encourages his sister, Abrar, who is in grade 12, to bring out her artwork, which recently won a best-in-show award. Abrar says that she wanted to be a dentist, but since coming to Canada she's decided to be an art teacher. Her mother watches, beaming.

Later, Ola confides that Canada has begun to feel more like home. She now thinks her family will stay here, even after the war in Syria ends. There are more opportunities for her children to succeed. Here, she says, they can be anything they want.

Before arriving in Toronto, Ola and her family lived in a suburb of Damascus. She jokes that her biggest concern was what she was cooking that day, but when the war started, her husband was arrested in a roundup in an area where a protest was held, and detained for a month. She describes that time as incredibly painful, her husband's fate hanging like a question mark. Shortly after his release, he was kidnapped by the government for two days, a terrifying experience that prompted the family to flee to Lebanon when Ola's youngest child was only five months old. Ola initially thought they'd be in Lebanon for 10 days; they stayed for three years and eight months. It was a difficult time, she says, and it's not something she likes to dwell on.

Ola's journey to Canada happened quickly. After her interviews and medicals—a sum total of four days—she and her family boarded a flight to Montreal, then came to Toronto, where they spent time in the hotel before settling in their apartment. "When we got here, my daughter taught me one sentence: 'I'm sorry, I don't speak English.' In the elevator, people say things like, 'Oh, it's such a nice dress,' and I don't know how to respond." Slowly, she's learning. "My most successful moment is when I get a higher level in English"—because, she says, laughing, "English is everywhere."

For these Syrians, life in Canada has been a tricky balance between gratitude, hope for the future and a constant worry about family who have not yet found similar safety. Ola hasn't seen the rest of her family in seven years. Grief hitches Amina's voice as she shares that her mother died in Turkey while she was in Canada. Sitting on the couch next to Amina, Nadima clutches a giant throw pillow, which engulfs her slight frame, tears running down her face, as she talks about her own mother, who is extremely sick; Turkey's border restrictions have prevented her from visiting. Amina hugs her, offering tissues, but her reassuring smile weakens as she thinks of her family—of everyone's family—back in Syria, in Turkey, in all the refugee centres around the globe. Nothing in this whole world, no single possession or riches, she says, would make her happier than to know her family, and other families, could be reunited.



MEET OLA
Ola Al Taki and her husband brought their four children to Toronto after fleeing from Syria to Lebanon. As they build their lives in Canada, they plan to stay even after the war ends.

There are more opportunities for her children to succeed, says Ola. Here, they can be anything they want.

MEET AMINA
The matriarch of the group, Amina Alshaar is a warm friend to the women she's met here. They remind her of her three adult daughters, who remain trapped in Turkey.

For many of the women at Newcomer Kitchen, including Nadima, Amina Alshaar is the centre of the community. The 56-year-old mother and grandmother has a wide smile, throaty laugh and instantly calming presence. Warm matriarch is a role Amina is accustomed to playing. Back home in Syria's capital, Damascus, she was the connector around which her adult daughters flocked; here, in Canada, when she saw that many of the Newcomer women were without their own mothers, she made it her mission to care for them. She's so beloved that, this past Mother's Day, the women threw her a surprise party to both honour her role in their lives and to assuage the pain of living apart from her daughters—all of whom are, devastatingly, stuck in Turkey after escaping Syria. "I will never forget that day," she says, of the surprise celebration. "That's why I feel, really, these women are the same as my daughters."

Amina says she, like Nadima, lived a calm and happy life before the war. Most of her family lived in the same apartment building as she did, or less than a 10-minute drive away. The family spent all their time together, grocery shopping, cooking, gathering for big picnic trips. Every morning, they met for coffee at her mother's place. As Amina remembers these harmonious family times, she breaks out into her trademark generous grin. When she remembers what happened next, her smile evaporates.

When the war began, her entire family fled to Turkey, where they lived in a sparse apartment. (In fact, the majority of refugees who fled to Turkey—an

estimated 90-plus per cent—do not live in the camps, but in urban and semi-urban areas; where you end up depends on luck, familial connections and financial resources.) They hoped to go to Germany, where Amina's husband had worked for years in the auto industry. But Germany wasn't accepting refugees, and they needed to get out: One of Amina's sons

had cancer and needed better treatment than what Turkey could offer. He was surviving, but barely. When Amina and her husband found out they had the chance to go to Canada, they jumped at it. They knew little about the country, but they knew they wanted to give their son the best possible chance at life. Amina and her husband left with him and his family in 2016. But her daughters, who are now 41, 35, and 28, were not identified for resettlement. Once in Toronto, her son got treatment, which put his cancer into remission. Amina is thankful, but says that she feels like pieces of her are missing. "My only hope in my life," she says, "is to bring them over here."

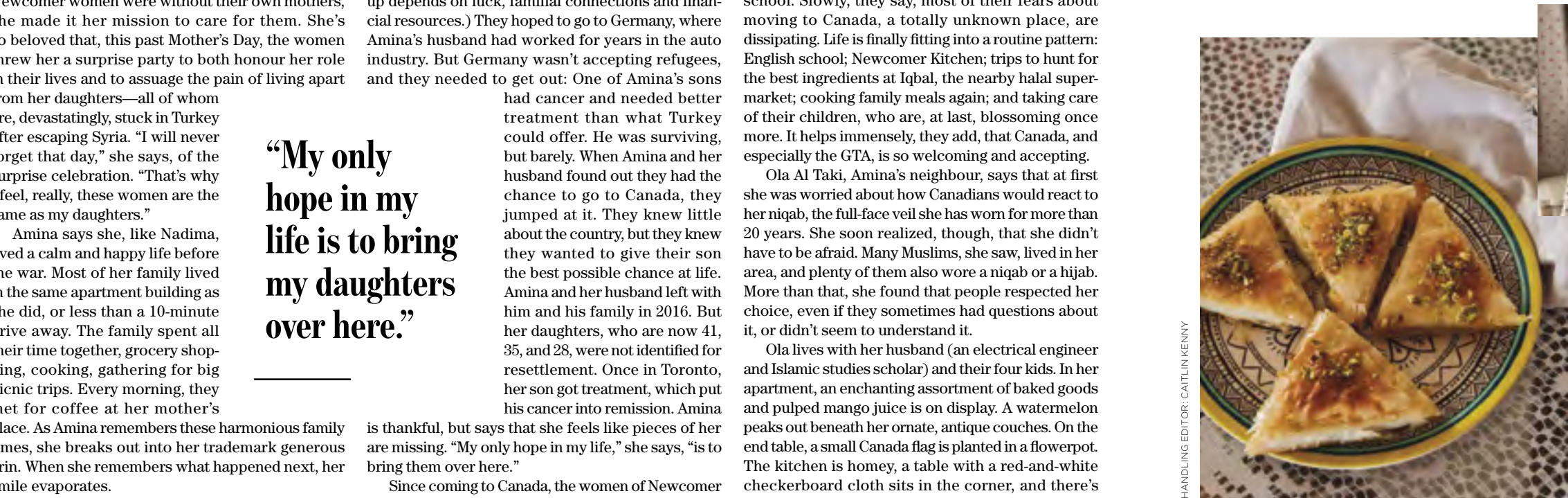
Since coming to Canada, the women of Newcomer Kitchen have found a second gathering spot in Amina's apartment. Many of them live in the same bustling high-rise apartment in the city's East York

neighbourhood, where the government helped them relocate to after months in a hotel. Amina's apartment is cheery, lined with colourful couches and chairs, many of them donated, where visitors gather to chat, happily greeting each other with three alternating kisses to the cheeks.

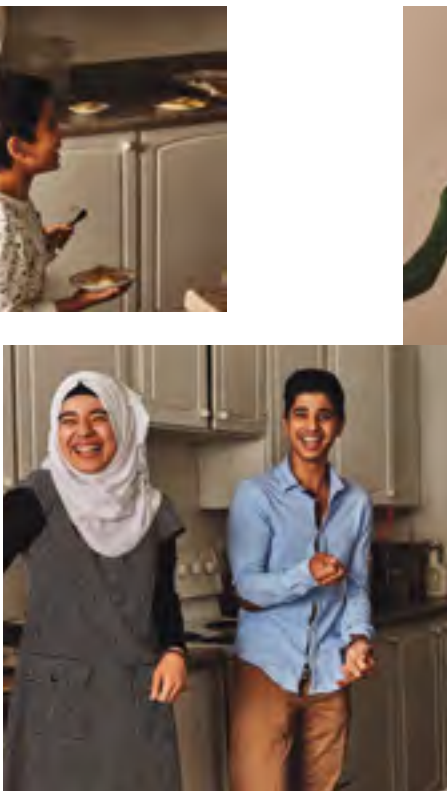
The women are busy: To fulfill the conditions of their settlement, they must attend full-time English classes at their local Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada school. Slowly, they say, most of their fears about moving to Canada, a totally unknown place, are dissipating. Life is finally fitting into a routine pattern: English school; Newcomer Kitchen; trips to hunt for the best ingredients at Iqbal, the nearby halal supermarket; cooking family meals again; and taking care of their children, who are, at last, blossoming once more. It helps immensely, they add, that Canada, and especially the GTA, is so welcoming and accepting.

Ola Al Taki, Amina's neighbour, says that at first she was worried about how Canadians would react to her niqab, the full-face veil she has worn for more than 20 years. She soon realized, though, that she didn't have to be afraid. Many Muslims, she saw, lived in her area, and plenty of them also wore a niqab or a hijab. More than that, she found that people respected her choice, even if they sometimes had questions about it, or didn't seem to understand it.

Ola lives with her husband (an electrical engineer and Islamic studies scholar) and their four kids. In her apartment, an enchanting assortment of baked goods and pulped mango juice is on display. A watermelon peaks out beneath her ornate, antique couches. On the end table, a small Canada flag is planted in a flowerpot. The kitchen is homey, a table with a red-and-white checkerboard cloth sits in the corner, and there's a food guide taped on the wall, showing examples of grain, dairy, fruit, vegetables and protein in English and Arabic.



HANDLING EDITOR: CATLIN KENNY



Style connection

The Kit brought fashion and beauty lovers up close and personal with the best in the business, for the second annual The Kit Connect Conference

Together with the Canadian Arts and Fashion Awards, the *Kit* team presented The Kit Connect Conference on April 18 in Toronto. As experienced members of the fashion and beauty industry, our team knows the challenges of finding a career in this environment and the hurdles encountered along the way. That's why each spring, we bring aspiring fashion and beauty professionals one step closer to achieving their dreams by putting them in the same room as some of the most influential and successful industry insiders. This year's event was hosted at The Great Hall, one of the city's most beautiful and historic venues located in downtown Toronto, and we were joined by 130 delegates eager to get a career start. Here are some highlights from The Kit Connect 2018.

From left: Natasha Deen, Michel Coulombe, Erika Hogerwaard, Wayne Falloon, Elaine Shigeishi and *The Kit*'s Katherine Lalancette.



INSIDE BEAUTY, PRESENTED BY SHISEIDO CANADA

The Kit was thrilled to present Shiseido Canada as the official beauty partner of The Kit Connect Conference 2018. Team members from Shiseido, Laura Mercier and Clé de Peau Beauté took the stage alongside *The Kit*'s beauty director, Katherine Lalancette, to give our guests a glimpse into the beauty industry. The group proved just how many unique job opportunities exist within the beauty industry and provided useful advice:

1. Internships are invaluable—give them your best

Erika Hogerwaard started as a summer intern with Shiseido Canada in 2007, and has since climbed her way up the ladder to her current role as the company's public relations manager.

2. Make the most of a foot in the door

Elaine Shigeishi, vice-president of Shiseido Canada, Clé de Peau Beauté and Laura Mercier, shared an inspiring anecdote about an I.T. worker

who demonstrated a knack and interest for business, and eventually found a role in the marketing department of Shiseido Canada.

3. Be very careful with your resumé

Wayne Falloon, national sales and education manager for Shiseido Canada, sees a lot of resumé's in his role. His advice? Make sure you proof read yours thoroughly—typos read as careless and unprofessional.

4. Be flexible

For Laura Mercier global makeup artist and training executive Michel Coulombe, no two days are the same—he could be doing a star's makeup for the Golden Globes one day and be training sales staff the next. It's important to be able to adapt to any challenge.

5. There isn't one "correct" way to pave your career path

Natasha Deen was a high school biology teacher before becoming an education and development specialist at Shiseido Canada.



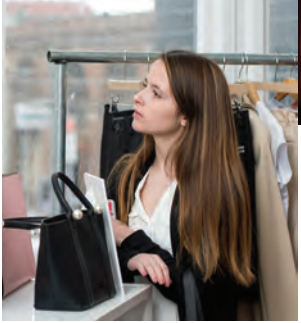
From left: Gillian Singerman, Emily Ramshaw, *The Kit*'s Caitlin Kenny and Roger Gingerich.

CAREER REAL TALK

The conversations closed with an insightful discussion hosted by *The Kit*'s digital director, Caitlin Kenny, who sat down with top job matchmakers including Roger Gingerich, regional director of Fashion Group International; Gillian Singerman, senior recruiter of Creative Circle; and Emily Ramshaw, Canadian country lead for Bumble (Bizz) to discuss best practices when it comes to working toward a career in a competitive field. The group of career connectors shared practical tips for applying, interviewing and standing out from a crowd of other job hopefuls.



From left: Editor-in-chief Laura deCarufel and Kimberley Newport-Mimran of Pink Tartan.



ONE-ON-ONE WITH PINK TARTAN'S KIMBERLEY NEWPORT-MIMRAN

The event opened with an intimate discussion between *The Kit*'s editor-in-chief, Laura deCarufel, and Kimberley Newport-Mimran—founder, head designer and chief merchant of Pink Tartan. The pair chatted about the guts, glory and never-ending persistence required to run one of the most recognizable fashion companies in the world. Newport-Mimran detailed her climb from a humble Toronto-based designer trying to get her brand out there, to an ultra-successful household name both inside and outside of Canada. She opened up about her creative process when it comes to designing her collections, revealing that she often selects her fabric before deciding what she

“It’s definitely instant. You know whether or not someone likes something immediately.”

Kimberley Newport-Mimran on how the rise of the digital world has impacted her relationship with consumers.



is going to design, and prefers to design in the season, for the season. Newport-Mimran said her unique creative process has proven to work for her, which is why she stays true to it, and she and encourages design hopefuls to do the same.



From left: *The Kit*'s Giorgia Bigioni, Lesley Hampton, Christine Faulhaber, Joanna Griffiths and Dani Roche.



BUILDING YOUR BRAND

The Kit's publisher, Giorgia Bigioni, led an inspiring panel discussion with fellow brand-builders, including Lesley Hampton, creative director for Lesley Hampton The Label and Robust by Lesley Hampton; Christine Faulhaber, president and CEO of Faulhaber Communications; Joanna Griffiths, founder and CEO of Knixwear; and Dani Roche, owner of Kastor & Pollux. The group shared anecdotes about their individual rises to success, and advice for overcoming the inevitable road blocks along the way. The consensus? No matter how driven and independent you are, you will need to accept help from others, make (and learn from) mistakes, plan for the future and put in the long hours.



CHEERS!

Our friends at Coca-Cola generously kept our guests hydrated throughout the day with fruitwater, smartwater, smartwater sparkling and Diet Coke. Tim Horton's

provided the perfect sweet finish of fresh donuts and muffins.

NETWORKING HOUR

During the final hour of the conference, guests headed into the Conversation Room where artists from Shiseido, Laura Mercier and Clé de Peau provided complimentary makeup touch-ups and free product samples. *The Kit* fashion director Jillian Vieira was on hand to share creative industry interview styling do's and don'ts.

GIFT BAGS

Guests walked away with a stacked goodie bag full of products from Crest, David's Tea, Knixwear, Spinco, Laura Mercier, Clé de Peau and Shiseido.



Coming to light

A celebrity makeup artist reveals the key to achieving a Hollywood glow might not be makeup at all



In demand much? Mario Dedivanovic's starry client roster includes, from left, Emily Ratajkowski, Gabrielle Union, Hailee Steinfeld, Kate Bosworth and Kim Kardashian.

BY KATHERINE LALANCETTE

Whether you attribute it to Glossier's "skin first, makeup second" credo or the rise of Korean-inspired multi-layered regimens, it seems we've become obsessed with our complexions. "Our clients are definitely becoming more interested in skincare products," says Jane Nugent, vice-president of merchandising at Sephora. "More than ever, they're researching and using active, effective ingredients like vitamin C, retinols and skincare 'superfoods'—and they're using them at an earlier age than before."

Beauty's top artists, like celeb favourite Mario Dedivanovic, are also responding to the trend. At first glance, it might seem odd for a makeup pro who rose to prominence painting the face of a certain reality TV star (hint: her name starts with a K) to serve as the ambassador of a skincare brand, especially one as minimal and glitz-free as Philosophy. Yet that's exactly what Dedivanovic is doing, advocating a "skin before anything" approach that's highly representative of our current beauty moment. (Fellow star artist

Patrick Ta, who boasts an Instagram grid replete with strobed It girls, is also currently extolling the virtues of serums and pore perfectors.)

"Skincare can really make or break a look," says Dedivanovic. "It's just as important as the makeup." The artist actually owes a great deal of his luminous aesthetic to skincare products: He's never used a primer, preferring instead to prep skin with moisturizer. "I feel like primer puts a barrier between the makeup and the skin, and I like when the makeup really melts in."

Dedivanovic's popular Master Classes (attendees pay around \$300 to watch his live tutorials around the world) therefore begin with him using a sponge to press a generous dollop of moisturizer into a model's skin and end with a lengthy spritz of hydrating mist to give makeup a lived-in effect.

As for the *pièce de résistance*—the all-important highlight—Dedivanovic's go-to also resides in the skincare aisle.

"On the red carpet, [photographers] zoom in, so you can't have a chalky or glittery powder because it creates a weird texture," he explains. "The best thing to use is an emollient product like a balm or petroleum jelly. You gently

dab it on over makeup with a sponge and it gives a beautiful expensive glow."

"Expensive glow" is an apt description, as consumers appear increasingly willing to splurge in pursuit of radiance.

"Our clients are definitely investing more than they used to in skincare because the conversation of obtaining glowing and healthy skin has increased," says Sephora's Nugent. "This chatter has really influenced their skin priorities, with many clients looking for products that garner bright, clear and luminous skin."

In other words, consumers are now seeking to build that elusive glow from the skin up, rather than relying solely on makeup. They're onto something, says Dedivanovic. He might be known as the "contour king," but the pro is happy to see this move toward "real" skin.

"Getting the skin right is hands-down the most important thing," he says. "If you have a great canvas, everything else will look great."



“Skincare can really make or break a look. It’s just as important as the makeup.”



PHILOSOPHY RENEWED HOPE IN A JAR HYDRATING MIST, \$34, PURITY MADE SIMPLE ULTRA-LIGHT MOISTURIZER, \$34, SEPHORA.CA

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Renaissance woman

India Hicks likes her life the way she likes her home: filled to the brim

BY KATHERINE LALANCETTE

India Hicks is many things: a British aristocrat who served as one of Princess Diana's bridesmaids, a former model and Ralph Lauren muse, an interior designer and entrepreneur and a free spirit who moved to the Bahamas after falling in love with an English expat during a vacation. The couple now has five children, including a boy they took in after his mother, a friend, passed away from breast cancer.

"It's crazy, but this is how I live my life," she says. "It's like: 'Let's have a child, no let's have five! Let's get a dog, no let's have three!' Some people have normal lives and I'm just complete craziness."

One gets the sense that Hicks thrives on that warm, chaotic swirl. She's currently on a whirlwind tour promoting her new book, *A Slice of England*, as well as her eponymous fashion and beauty brand, which now ships to Canada. She's got interviews and book signings and TV appearances lined up, but as she sits in a Toronto restaurant, skin gilded by the Caribbean sun, her smile as easy as an island day, it's clear she wouldn't have it any other way.

How do you do find balance?

"I'm not always terribly balanced, but I have a great deal of fun. You need to make sure that you're having fun and that you wake up excited about what you're doing. Life doesn't necessarily come like that and it's often a grind, but there are ways to find moments of joy within that."

Tell me about your new book.

"Normally publishers like to put books in pigeon holes, like a decorating book, or a cookbook, or a book about design,

but I wanted to have a bit of everything. I didn't want to talk about Pantone colours, I wanted to talk about how my dogs sleep on the sofa and why we chose the floor because it would deal with roller skates and kids coming through."

Your lifestyle brand is based on a direct sales model. Why was that important?

"There was something so cold about the idea of selling a collection all about storytelling in a department store when I can work with women who can tell my stories and their own in a much warmer environment. I also began to see real power in this, in terms of women mentoring one another and inspiring each other to lead a slightly more extraordinary life."

You were Princess Diana's bridesmaid. How was it watching Prince Harry get married?

"It was wonderful! It was a very different wedding but just so magical. I think it represented a lot of hope for a lot of people, with nations and cultures coming together. I was really struck by Meghan's mother. Seeing her there alone, she seemed so calm and so strong."

You recently ran into Ben Mulroney and chatted about his kids taking part in the wedding. Having been in that position, what can you tell him about how this experience will impact them?

"It follows you your whole life. Those bridesmaids and pages will be marked with that forever. For me, because I was Diana's bridesmaid and she is no longer with us, there's a lot of fascination. She was remarkable, a total star, and she made a lot of changes in the world, so she'll forever be in people's memories."

THE KIT X M•A•C



M•A•C ARTIST OF THE MONTH
Hannah Curwen
@glitteree, M•A•C Artist at Park Royal in West Vancouver, whips up whimsical lip looks packed with personality

FESTIVAL REALNESS
Inspiration: "A soft everyday lip, spiced up with a pinch of glitter. Perfect for jumping around to the sounds of your favorite artists!"
Get the look: Apply M•A•C Mirage Noir Collection Lipstick in Goodbye Kiss all over lips, and then slick on Mirage Noir Collection Lipglass in Oysterized overtop. Press Glitter in Rose onto the middle of the top lip.



SOFT ROUGE BLEND
Inspiration: "The bright fruits of summer and the natural gradients of nature. It's like wearing fruit punch!"
Get the Look: Hydrate and prep lips with M•A•C Lip Conditioner before applying Lipstick in Proud To Be Canadian on the centre of the mouth. Finish by patting Oh, Sweetie Lipcolour in Strawberry Torte on the outer edges to create a soft ombré look.



ROYALTY
Inspiration: "Nothing like a '90s ombré! This is a great way to bring back an old trend and make it fresh with a metallic twist."
Get the Look: Use M•A•C Aaliyah Collection Lipstick in Street Thing as a liner to define your pout. Dab your favourite shimmery shade from the Aaliyah Collection Eye Shadow x 9 Palette in Age Ain't Nothing on the centre of the lips. Swipe on Aaliyah Collection Lipglass in Li Li's Motor City all over to blend.

Free play
Self-expression and fun are at the heart of Hannah's artistry

How did you first become interested in makeup? "I was a competitive baton twirler for a long time. My mom and I had so much fun putting together looks to match each costume. I even got to pick out my own lipsticks for competitions. I chose M•A•C Lipsticks in Girl About Town and Russian Red. They're still my favourites to this day. I remember staring at my makeup in the mirror instead of practising!"

How would you describe your beauty philosophy? "If it feels right, it's right. When it comes down to it, it's about how the makeup makes you feel. We can get so caught up in trends, rules and techniques, and although these things can inspire us and be quite helpful, sometimes you just have to trust your gut and rock what you want."



FROM TOP: M•A•C COSMETICS LIPSTICKS IN GIRL ABOUT TOWN AND RUSSIAN RED, \$23 EACH, STROBE CREAM IN PINKLITE, \$30, LIPGLASS IN LOVE CHILD, \$21, PREP + PRIME FIX +, \$30, PREP + PRIME LIP \$22, PRO LONGWEAR NOURISHING WATERPROOF FOUNDATION, \$43, AVAILABLE AT ALL M•A•C LOCATIONS AND MACCOSMETICS.CA

THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR HER

Oscar de la Renta
BELLA BLANCA

