

THE KIT

Women in Film Special: As TIFF takes over Toronto, we celebrate the breakout stars shaping Canadian cinema



HAIR AND MAKEUP BY BRITTANY SINCLAIR/PTM. CO DRESS, \$1105, NORDSTROM.COM. COS HAIR SLIDE, \$39, COSSTORES.COM

How to lead like a film director

Lessons in confidence and creativity from Toronto filmmaker Joyce Wong

BY LIZ GUBER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAYLA ROCCA

Joyce Wong knows how to work it. We shot this cover before sunrise because the award-winning filmmaker and director was due on set to direct an episode of *Workin' Moms* at 8 a.m. After Wong wrapped a 12-hour day, we connected by phone for an interview. Wong is unruffled by her intense schedule, in part because she truly loves what she does. As she puts it, "There's something so great about being able to imagine something in your head, then you write a script, actors come in and the dream becomes a reality."

Soon after graduating from film school, Wong realized that she wanted to tell her own stories. "I was shooting all these things that did not reflect my point of view," she explains. "I felt like the stories were very sexist. That's how I got my start in directing and writing." When she's not directing episodic TV, Wong writes her own screenplays and feature films, like 2017's *Wexford Plaza*, a wistful story about a shy security guard who falls for a deadbeat bartender. "It's a love letter to Scarborough, where I grew up. One day I was driving through the neighbourhood to visit my grandmother and I saw all these strip malls that were getting torn down. I felt a pang of nostalgia." The film, created on a small budget with the help of a government arts grant, became a film-fest darling and received critical acclaim from the *L.A. Times* and Toronto Film Critics Association. "Accolades are good, but it was more about connecting with people, normal people who liked it," says Wong. Here, the creative shares her lessons and mantras. The best part? You don't need to harbour dreams of sitting in a director's chair, megaphone in hand, to find her advice enlightening.

LEADING IS ABOUT WINNING PEOPLE OVER

"You have to win people over in order to bring your vision to life. With filmmaking, you're not doing it alone, so half the work is inspiring other people to collaborate. Asking people to do what you want doesn't actually get you the best result. You want them to add their own special something to it. And you have to stay humble."

KNOW WHEN TO LISTEN

"The performances, the camera angles, it's all collaborative stuff, so there can be a lot of opinions. Sometimes, having other opinions makes you have more conviction in your own idea. But you also have to be able to spot a better idea when someone suggests it and integrate it quickly."

DRAW THE LINE ON EMOTIONAL LABOUR

"As a female director, I do more emotional labour than male directors do. It's in the director's job description to do that emotional labour for your actors. You need to be an emotional sounding board for the cast in order to get the best performances. But, because a film set is such a fluctuating environment, people come to female directors and talk to them about their problems. People love venting to women because we're so empathetic. If you're working as a teller at a bank and you're serving a customer, a co-worker wouldn't come up to you and start telling you their life story. It sounds slightly cold, but if a male director was sitting in the chair, people wouldn't bother them as much."

HAVE A PROCESS TO CAPTURE YOUR IDEAS

"Every day I wake up and I have a film idea and I write it down in my Evernote. Then it has to get past my own internal gatekeepers. Is it good enough? Is it interesting enough? Am I saying anything different that a gazillion people haven't said already? And the last one is, if it's an idea for a feature film, is this something that I can be a part of for the next five to 10 years? That's when some of the ideas start to drop off. You have to know if an idea is worthy of being realized."

EMBRACE CHAOS—TO A POINT

"Even though I like to be super-organized with my ideas, I find that having a bit of chaos and urgency is important for the creative energy. You can't do it without chaos—it's an important part of life."

HAVE UNFLINCHING SELF-BELIEF

"My job, in a very broad sense, is to honour the intention of the story. The story is the baby, and I have to take care of it. You've got to be able to clearly articulate your thoughts to other people, but also have the conviction in your own vision in order to inspire others."

ASSUME THE ROLE OF THE DIPLOMAT

"The responsibility doesn't weigh on me because it comes with the territory. As a director, you handle things like a politician. It's not the most rewarding aspect of the job, but it's a means to an end. It takes a lot of diplomacy."

ABOVE ALL, LET GO

"I've learned that the best things come organically. Forcing yourself into something that doesn't fit isn't a good thing. If you let things come naturally, you'll be in a position to notice good ideas and choices instead of trying to chase a bullet."

On our red carpet mood board: Goth is the new black

Dark drama is back for fall, with lace, leather and oxblood lips emerging as major fashion trends. Our editor-in-chief test-drives the trend, taking inspo from the gothic glamour of Hollywood A-listers past and present

PAGE 4



A filmmaker's open letter to the Canadian movie industry

"Film can be more than glitz and glamour. Film can give voice to stories that are forgotten, overlooked or misrepresented. If Hollywood was refusing to tell these stories, then I was going to do it myself."

PAGE 5

Big Night Out

It's red carpet season! As the stars get dressed up and hit the town, here are the best pro tips for getting red-carpet-ready skin

Parties, premieres and galas, oh my! When celebs hit the red carpet, they need to look their best, but a flash-worthy glow isn't reserved for A-listers. The first step in a movie-star makeover: Silk'n Titan Skin Tightening and Lifting Device. It uses infrared energy, LED light energy and RF energy to stimulate collagen and rejuvenate tired skin, providing a glowing canvas for makeup. Read on for more tips on getting ready for a special event.



THE PRO: Lyndsay Craig, *Makeup Artist*

Why do you advise your clients to use the Silk'n Titan ahead of a red carpet event? "In their own home, my clients can experience the same results as celebrities who spend thousands of dollars on spa treatments getting their skin ready for the red carpet. Typically, when you're looking forward to a special function, you start thinking about what you'll be wearing, how you'll style your hair. We should think about preparing our skin too! I advise my clients to start using the Titan six to eight weeks in advance. You can use it once for instant results but over time, you will see a lasting change in your skin's texture and elasticity."

How does the Titan help you achieve great makeup? "When the skin is smooth, makeup application is much easier. When I want to create a contoured look or enhance the cheekbones, I always turn to the Titan."

Who is the Titan best for? "Those who are starting to see their skin lose elasticity, commonly around the eye area, nasiolabial folds and jowls. And anyone who has concerns with wrinkles and fine lines, unevenness or texture."

How does it work within a skincare routine? "The Silk'n Titan is great for someone who consistently uses skincare and is hoping to enhance their regimen with professional results. I love putting on Netflix and performing my Titan treatment. It's a bit of 'me' time I can count on each week."



SILK'N TITAN SKIN TIGHTENING AND LIFTING DEVICE, \$299. ALL PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT SHOPPERS-DRUGMART.CA



THE PRO:

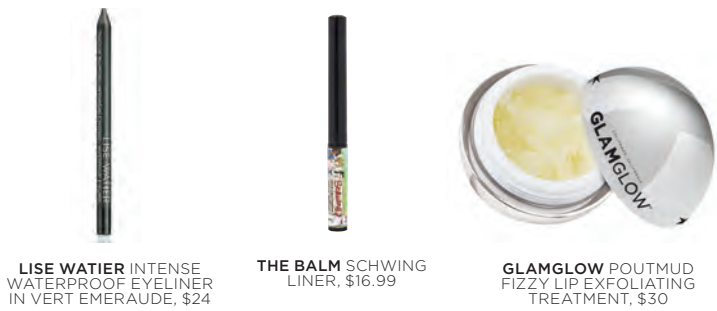
Farishta, *Shoppers Beauty Pro Team Member*

What are the hottest makeup trends this fall? "I'm obsessed with rich shimmer on the eye, using Lise Watier Intense Waterproof Eyeliner in Vert Emeraude and Stila Glitter and Glow Liquid Eye Shadow in Kitten Karma. Finish the look with a great mascara and you're set for a night out."

What are your tips for a perfect cat-eye? "Use liquid liner like The Balm Schwing liner. Follow the curve of your lower lid going up to create a cat-eye that suits your eye shape."

How do you prep lips for bold lip colour? "Lips that are free of dead skin and are hydrated will hold on to bold colour longer. I use Jouissance PlumpFX Lip Plumping Serum and exfoliate with GlamGlow PoutMud."

PRODUCTS:



LISE WATIER INTENSE WATERPROOF EYELINER IN VERT EMERAUDE, \$24

THE BALM SCHWING LINER, \$16.99

GLAMGLOW POUTMUD FIZZY LIP EXFOLIATING TREATMENT, \$30



THE PRO:

Foram, *Shoppers Beauty Pro Team Member*

How should we prep skin for makeup? "Gently exfoliate and follow with toner, serum and moisturizer. Hydrated skin means no patchy makeup."

What's the best foundation primer? "I have tried so many and Dermablend Insta Grip Jelly Primer is the best. It's silicone-free so you can use it with water-, cream- or oil-based foundation."

How would you treat a breakout before an event? "The night before, use a spot treatment such as Neostrata Blemish Spot Gel. If it's a big one, I use Uriage Bistick to dry it up and conceal. Another great option to treat a breakout is the Silk'n Blue Acne Eliminator."

What's the best sunscreen for under makeup? "La Roche Posay Anthelios Ultra Fluid Lotion. It absorbs quickly and doesn't leave ashy or white film on darker skin tones."



THE PRO:

Diane, *Shoppers Beauty Pro Team Member*

What purchases do you recommend before a big event? "Stila Heaven's Hue Highlighter in Kitten; it looks incredible in photos and in real life, and works for people who have acne, such as myself, or wrinkles. Also, treat yourself to a mask before makeup."

How can we get skin looking its glowiest? "Slough off dry skin by exfoliating, using a product such as the Silk'n Revit Prestige Microdermabrasion Device. Do this a few days in advance in case you have a bit of redness or sensitivity."

What should we stop doing before a big event? "Try to reduce alcohol consumption—it makes your skin look dehydrated and tired. Same for cigarettes—sallow and dark circles should improve. Drink lots of water, do some exercise to sweat out impurities and get lots of sleep. Then you can use less makeup to correct these issues, so it looks less cakey."

PRODUCTS:



SILK'N REVIT PRESTIGE MICRODERM-ABRASION DEVICE, \$199

STILA HEAVEN'S HUE HIGHLIGHTER IN KITTEN, \$42

NEOSTRATA PURE HYALURONIC ACID BIOCELLULOSE MASK, \$10

PRODUCTS:



DERMABLEND INSTA GRIP JELLY PRIMER, \$38

LA ROCHE POSAY ANTHELIOS ULTRA FLUID LOTION SPF 60, \$29

SILK'N BLUE ACNE ELIMINATOR, \$149



Why it works

Style editor **Liz Guber** breaks down the beauty of an on-point street-style look. This week: a master class in fall layering

A good dress is the first piece I reach for on rushed mornings, the ultimate one-and-done. But the onslaught of fall trends has me thinking more about layering. So when I came across this street-style shot from Berlin Fashion Week, I was immediately intrigued. Like most compelling outfits, there's a lot here that just shouldn't work. The colour pairing is unusual, and both the jacket and dress boast oversized proportions. And yet! The black jacket makes the pale-neon green of the dress stand out far more than it would on its own. The look is also a master class in mixing traditionally masculine (the blazer, the JFK-esque shades) and feminine (the swooshy dress, ladylike bag and pearl earrings). Here's how to recreate it.



You can't go wrong with a classic Wayfarer style. Go for black lenses to match the rest of the outfit.

MAUI JIM SUNGLASSES, \$379, MAUIJIM.CA



Pearls are easily the biggest jewellery trend of the moment. We love the irregular, organic shape of these freshwater pearls by NYC brand Agmes.

AGMES EARRINGS, \$688, GARMENTORY.COM



A small, top-handle bag is a must here—especially if you plan on draping the jacket.

MANGO BAG, \$50, SHOP.MANGO.COM



Other than the length, the most important factor here is colour. Look for a pale chartreuse green. The shiny satin fabric of this Maggie Marilyn number helps the colour look even lighter when the sun hits it.

MAGGIE MARYLIN DRESS, \$642, NET-A-PORTER.COM



The topper for this look should resemble something out of a men's suit emporium. Think: roomy, boxy and unembellished. Everlane's Boyfriend blazer is made to fit large (so no need to size up) but it's also stretchy. Whether you drape the oversized blazer over your shoulders (a controversial style move, to be sure!) or wear it normally is up to you.

EVERLANE BLAZER, \$225, EVERLANE.COM

The rise of halal beauty

How new cosmetics lines are giving Muslim women new ways to express themselves

BY NIDA ZAFAR

As a teenager, I dreamed of having the same beautifully painted nails as the other girls around me. I remember staring at their perfectly shaped nails decked out in pretty colours and patterns. Meanwhile I kept a container full of barely used polishes in my dresser drawer, never able to fully indulge in my obsession.

Having painted nails at all times just wasn't an option for me. As a Muslim, wearing nail polish during the five daily obligatory prayers is prohibited. That's because it disturbs the practice of ablution—the process of cleansing the body with water—which is required to complete prayers. Polish blocks water from reaching the nail, deeming the ablution process incomplete.

That means I'd either have to apply and remove my polish five times a day or skip the prayers altogether—both totally unviable scenarios for me. Instead, I let my stash of untouched lacquers grow, like some fancy collector's edition toys still in their boxes.

So when I found out there was such a thing as halal nail polish, it seemed too good to be true. The discovery sent me into a research frenzy, where I learned the “breathable” formulas let water and oxygen pass through to the nail. That meant they were suitable for ablution and could be worn during prayers.

But nail polish is just the tip of the halal beauty iceberg. The industry, which now includes makeup and skincare, appears to be experiencing a growth spurt. Halal beauty brands offer cruelty-free, ethically made cosmetics that don't contain any ingredients that are inadmissible, or *haram*, in Islam. This includes ingredients commonly found in beauty products like carmine (crushed up insects), lecithin (fat derived from animals) and gelatin (collagen extracted from animals' skin, bones and connective tissue).

One such company is Botxn Beauty, the brain child of three Toronto sisters and Ryerson students Fadumo, Nasra and Amal Botan. The sisters work with a local manufacturer to produce their products. All of their cosmetics are halal certified, which means they're proven to be made in accordance with the rules of Islam.

Growing up Muslim, the sisters struggled to decipher which products they could actually use. “We didn't know if [a product] was halal because the ingredients were written in gibberish so you couldn't understand if it



contained ingredients we could use,” explains Fadumo.

As makeup lovers, the sisters wanted Muslim women to have access to halal products. Their parents, who had fled civil war in Somalia, encouraged them to pursue their dream. “They always pushed us toward making a difference and starting our own thing and not giving up on our hopes,” says Amal. “Their motto was ‘if you want to do something, go out and do it.’”

The risk paid off. Botxn Beauty now has orders coming in from all over the world, from people of all backgrounds and religions. Amal says they plan to expand their product line soon.

The sisters credit their success, in part, to their halal certification. “Being halal certified means the products aren't tested on animals, which is important to many consumers” says Nasra. “It helps people have that comfort in their heart.”

For me, the comfort that comes with halal-certified beauty products is multifaceted. It's a mixture of emotions, tied to confidence, gratitude and a sense of completion, as though halal cosmetics have filled this large void in my life.

Now, my once barely touched drawer of lacquers has been replaced with a rotating collection of halal polishes I use regularly. And when I kneel down to pray and press my beautifully painted fingers on the rug, I feel fulfilled knowing I'm staying true to every part of myself.



BOTXN BEAUTY GLAM GLOSS LIP GLOSS IN PINKY, \$22, BOTXN-BEAUTY.COM



TUESDAY IN LOVE NAIL POLISH IN BE MINE, \$19, TUESDAY-INLOVE.COM



MAYA NAIL POLISH IN TAMARIND, \$19, MAYA-COSMETICS.COM

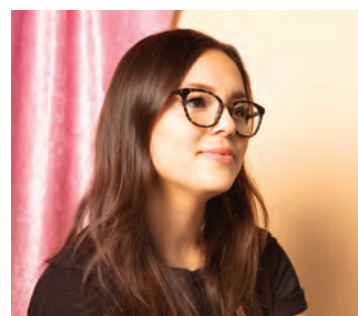
THE KIT X CLEARLY

Eye Catchers

We test-drove Clearly's latest trending frames

The changing of the seasons always calls for a wardrobe overhaul, but what about your glasses? Enter: Clearly, your go-to source for on-trend frames that are affordable and convenient to shop via their virtual try-on tool. They also give back to those in need of vision care with their Buy 1, Give 1 program.

Three Kit staffers put Clearly frames to the test just in time for fall—here's what they had to say.



The trend: Mix & Mingle

Lara Buchar, Marketing & Special Projects Coordinator



KAM DHILLON BLOSSOM-S1 IN HAVANA, \$150

What do you love about your new frames?

“I love the gold detailing—it's subtle, but it feels a touch more luxe than standard frames. I typically only wear my glasses when I'm out with friends for concerts and movies (so I can see from a distance), and these frames are chic enough for me to feel confident wearing them in the evening.”

What do you look for when picking new glasses?

“My face is quite round, so it can be challenging to find glasses that are flattering. I'm always on the hunt for shapes that are square yet slightly rounded, since that's what works best for my features, with some fun details mixed in to keep things interesting.”



The trend: Retro-Inspired

Kelly Matthews, Operations Director



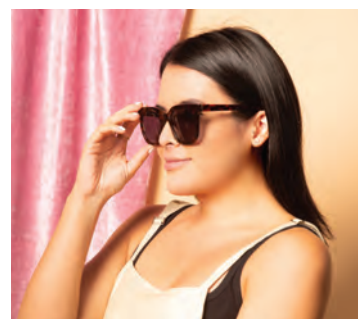
DEREK CARDIGAN 7006, \$75

What do you love about your new frames?

“These frames definitely make a statement, in a fun, playful way. I felt a certain familiarity with them and realized that my mom had a similar pair back in the day. They say you always turn into your mother at some point—who knew I'd get such stylish frames in the process?”

What was your favourite part of the Clearly shopping process?

“Buying glasses can be daunting in person and even more so online. I really liked their ease-of-use tool, MyFit, and the step-by-step guide to buying glasses online. The look of the frames in person were true to how they looked on my phone.”



The trend: Fair & Square

Sarah Chan, Collab Specialist



KAM DHILLON CAMILLE-S1 IN TORTOISE, \$75

What do you love about your new frames?

“I love how different these frames are from every other pair I own. I usually go for a gold-wire frame style, but these bold, thick frames feel extra glam in the best way.”

What was your favourite part of the Clearly shopping process?

“I look for frames that are versatile and can complement my sense of style. As someone who likes to switch up her look all the time, I love the reasonable price points because it makes changing my frames more accessible.”

All glasses available at [Clearly.ca](https://clearly.ca)



MARIE SAINT PIERRE DRESS, \$890, NORDSTROM.COM. TABITHA SIMMONS BOOTS, \$895, TABITHASIMMONS.COM. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY BRITTANY SINCLAIR/P1M

Into the darkness

Each issue, we're taking a major (and surprisingly wearable) fall trend for a spin. First up, our editor-in-chief, **Laura deCarufel**, embraces her inner goth

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAYLA ROCCA

In high school, I fell in love with a goth named Adam. He had all the style hallmarks of a suburban lord of darkness: the ankle-length trench, the Doc Martens, the leather-bound poetry journal that surely contained couplets involving pain and rain. My obsession was conducted from afar: He was Robert Pattinson before Edward Cullen had adult teeth, and I considered him too cool, too dark, too real for me with my lavender bedroom and *Sweet Valley High* collection.

Well, Adam, get a load of me now. A few weeks ago, when our style editor, Liz Guber, presented the fall fashion trends to the *Kit* team, my heart jumped at the sight of the ruched black satin dress at Simone Rocha, paired with a black turtle-neck and an expression of slightly amused disdain. Even more than the dark drama of lace, leather and oxblood lips, it's that perfectly calibrated attitude that is goth's enduring appeal. It's Winona Ryder in *Beetlejuice*, Fairuza Balk in *The Craft*, Janis Ian in *Mean Girls*. It's Kristen Stewart looking badass on every red carpet of the past three years. Goth is the uniform of the rebel, moodier than punk and more elegant, too.

Elegance is what defines this season's take on goth, elevating it from the realm of angst adolescent to edgy adult. When I slipped on this dream of a Marie Saint Pierre dress, I loved the two-tone black-and-navy palette, the oversized neoprene pockets, the deliberately ragged hem. But most of all, I loved that I felt both refined and ready to take on the world. It made me wish I could go back to grade 10 and transfer some of that confidence to the girl with the pastel backpack. Maybe I'd go up to Adam and ask for a peek at his poetry journal. But I'd definitely have the guts to write my own story, sartorial and otherwise.



SIMONE ROCHA

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

SIMONE ROCHA

SHOP THE TREND



PARIS GEORGIA BASICS COAT, \$578, BONADRAG.COM



BA&SH TOP, \$775, TNTFASHION.CA



CHRISTOPHER KANE SKIRT, \$2,515, MODAOPPE-RANDI.COM



SEA DRESS, \$590, SAKS-FIFTHAVENUE.COM



SAINT LAURENT BOOTS, \$1,370, SSENSE.COM



KAT VON D STUDED KISS CRÈME LIPSTICK IN EGGPLANT, \$27, SEPHORA.CA

Secrets from the makeup chair

A face painter to the stars on how to get ready for *your* close-up

BY KATHERINE LALANCETTE

Peter Philips talks about makeup the way priests talk about the church—it's a vocation. And like many men of the cloth, it all started with an epiphany. "I was doing all these purely creative, explosive catwalk looks and I was confronted by real-life issues, women wanting to know how to use makeup to make their skin look better and overcome insecurities," he recalls. "When I realized the power of makeup and how it could make someone feel more confident, I thought, 'This is how I could use my expertise to help women.' From then on, I was on a mission."

That mission has led him to work on some of the most recognizable faces on the planet, from Lauren Hutton and Naomi Campbell to Natalie Portman and Bella Hadid. It's landed him creative director roles at Chanel and Dior, where he's launched products so highly coveted, they've wound up selling on eBay for three times their original price.

Here, the master shares his best beautifying wisdom and recalls some of his most memorable celebrity encounters, including the time a certain screen legend dropped her robe. Now that's what we call a religious experience.

You've worked on some icons throughout your career. Is there a particular moment that stands out for you? "A few years ago, I had the pleasant honour of touching up Sophia Loren for the Pirelli calendar shoot. It was amazing. She came totally made up and every eyebrow hair was drawn on. The hair was totally done, and she had a big scarf around her head. She's done her own makeup for every movie she's ever been in. She set up her table with all her products, took this huge magnifying mirror out of her bag, and then she said, 'You can touch up my makeup because I don't see that well anymore.' I just cleaned up her makeup, and then she took a towel and said, 'Okay, now you can do my body.' She just had a towel on and I was like 'I'm putting makeup on Sophia Loren's body!'"

I remember you saying Bella Hadid is very specific about where she likes her contour. Do you find these high-profile women usually know their face very well? "Oh yeah, I mean I've



Peter Philips's famous clients include (from left) Natalie Portman, Sophia Loren and Bella Hadid.

worked with girls like Linda Evangelista, who knows her face like nobody else. She could probably do the best makeup herself. I don't ever have to tell her anything. She actually does the best manicure, too. She does her own nails. It's an impeccable manicure."

You've done some very avant-garde editorial looks, but you're also amazing at making women look classically beautiful. Is one harder than the other? "From a technical standpoint, it's harder to make it look effortless. Taking a bit of liquid makeup and doing a splash on somebody's face will always be spectacular. But to give the illusion of perfect skin with just the right amount of contouring—not making it look like a person is made up—that's more complicated because it's very technical."

So how can we mortals do it at home? "The hardest part is actually finding your right product. It takes a bit of a quest. Taking your time is always my advice. Go to a counter, ask questions and find the right formula for your skin. Do you want full coverage? Do you want something that boosts your luminosity? For everything you want, there is a foundation on the market. Then, make sure you prepare and moisturize your skin correctly. The new [Dior] primer is essential for me. It's got 24-hour hydration and a blurring effect. Normally, primers have a bit of a white finish, but this one is peach, so it doesn't make your skin look chalky. It looks great on darker skin, too."

What are the most common foundation mistakes you see women making? "That it doesn't blend in nicely or becomes like a mask. Sometimes, girls don't need a lot of foundation, but use a thick formula. It's almost like a security blanket. For me, that's kind of a mistake because it's not necessary. On the other hand, if it makes you feel better, then it's not a mistake."

What are your tricks for contouring in a natural way? "As a makeup artist, I've done contouring all my life, even for natural makeup looks. I do a bit of darker shade in certain areas and blend it in. With social media, what happened is the same thing that happened in the '80s with shoulder pads and big hair—it became really extreme. But I think people had to go through that phase to tone it down again and discover the best thing is highlighting in combination with light contour. That can do wonders for your face. I do a bit of gentle shading in the hollows of the cheeks and along the jawline to connect the chin to the neck. And then I like to use cotton rounds with barely any pressure to blend it in nicely. You can do this for any powder. If you prefer using a contour stick, blend with a sponge."

What are some easy makeup tricks that can instantly make us look better? "Get an eyelash curler. Even if you don't wear makeup, curl your lashes; it will open up your eyes. Make sure that your eyebrows are done. Don't pluck them very thin, but clean them up a little, especially as you get older since they tend to droop. If you clean them underneath, it will open up your eyes. And a touch of a mascara, and lip gloss or lip balm can do miracles."



DIOR FACE & BODY PRIMER, \$48, GLOW FACE PALETTE IN GLITZ, \$59, SEPHORA.CA

Telling my own story

How filmmaker **Carol Nguyen** realized she didn't need the Hollywood fantasy after all

I smiled all the way through the glamour of *Crazy Rich Asians*. I cried when I saw the rom-com *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, starring an Asian lead. I felt like these were the movies I needed in my childhood. When I got the news that my short film, *No Crying at the Dinner Table*, was selected at TIFF this year, it felt as if I had travelled back in time to my teenage self and told her, "Dream big and don't let it go. You could be anything."

I was taught as a child that I could be whatever I wanted when I grew up, but mainstream media told me otherwise. Growing up, the most visible Asian woman on TV was Tila Tequila—and let's be honest, Tila Tequila wasn't someone you'd want your kids to model themselves after. Asian actors were often stereotyped or not cast at all—our slate was condensed to the doctor, the clown, the nerd or the kung-fu master. I never wondered who was behind the camera or why they told the stories they did. All I wanted was a big house with a pool and a love story like *The Notebook* in which a man would chase after me and confess his love after we'd had some crazy altercation. Pretty bleak, I know, but it was hard to ignore the glamour on TV.

It didn't take long for me to fall in love with filmmaking after I entered the film program in high school. When we were asked to tell stories that mattered to us, I made films about my family, my culture and my Vietnamese-Canadian identity. Seeing my own films play in front of my peers and parents at school made me understand how profoundly a story can affect someone; it can move you and shape the way you see the world. Film can be more than glitz and glamour. Film can give voice to stories that are forgotten, overlooked or misrepresented. If Hollywood was refusing to tell these stories, then I was going to do it myself.

It wasn't until I decided that I wanted to pursue directing that I realized how I was conditioned to restrict who I was and what I could accomplish. I didn't even know that being a film director was an option for Asian women. I thought directing was reserved for white men, with their suits, megaphones and berets.

I remember a conversation with my film teacher in which I outlined my backup plan to be a film professor if my directing career didn't work out. "It's going to work out," he responded. "Trash that plan." "Okay, I'll trash it," I said halfheartedly, not actually believing myself. Recalling this moment reminds me of something Sandra Oh said in an interview about being cast as the lead in *Killing Eve*: "I think about that moment a lot. Of just going, how deep have I internalized this? [So] many years of being seen [a certain way], it deeply, deeply, deeply affects us. It's like, how does racism define your work?"

I can relate to that internal dialogue. I really did dream of that big house with a pool, but how could someone like me,



One to watch: Canadian filmmaker Carol Nguyen.



A scene and the poster from Nguyen's short film, *No Crying At The Dinner Table*.

whose parents once had nothing to their name, afford that? Hell, there was no way that I could be the lead in my own rom-com. And what on earth made me think I could make it as a director?

After making a couple of films, I realized that I didn't want Hollywood after all. What I wanted was a world that reflected the diverse faces and stories in my everyday life. Who wants a house so big that it always feels empty? Or a Noah were to hang off a ferris wheel to force me to go out with him, I definitely wouldn't give in as Ally did. I'd probably say something along the lines of, "This is coercion and harassment. Don't be stupid. Get yo' ass down from there!" There goes my Hollywood fantasy.

I don't think I ever truly wanted Hollywood at all. I just wanted to know that it was possible for someone like me to be or achieve what I saw on screen. After being able to cast the people of my choice and control how their stories went, my idea of an ideal future changed. I felt hopeful. I could write my own narrative, so long as the gatekeepers allowed me to.

What I really want to say is thank you to all the women and people of colour who have come before me and fought to allow me the privilege of being where I am today. We have made great progress over the decades, but we are still nowhere near our goal of complete equality and diversity in film. I vow to continue this fight, and hope that I am able to contribute to making change for generations to come.



Raise your voice

The buzziest films debuting at TIFF are directed by women. Catch them soon on a screen near you

BY JENNIFER BERRY

HARRIET

Directed by Kasi Lemmons (best known for the 1997 film *Eve's Bayou*) and co-written by Lemmons and Gregory Allen Howard of *Ali* fame, this Harriet Tubman biopic stars Tony-Award-winning Broadway actress and *Widows* standout Cynthia Erivo as the abolitionist hero. The film, co-starring musician Janelle Monáe, follows Tubman's life from her own escape from slavery through her journey leading hundreds of other enslaved Black people through the Underground Railroad to freedom. TIFF is often a predictor for the films that go on to dazzle during awards season, and this moving biopic is poised to be an Oscar shoo-in.



TAMMY'S ALWAYS DYING

This second directorial effort from Canadian actress Amy Jo Johnson—yes, from the 2000s TV series *Felicity* and the police drama *Flashpoint*—explores the complicated relationship of ailing alcoholic Tammy (Felicity Huffman) and her long-suffering daughter Kathy (Anastasia Phillips), who has to move back in with her mother to care for her when she's diagnosed with cancer. Kathy's only solace in this dark comedy comes when she's chosen to be a guest on a tawdry talk show.

CLEMENCY

In *Clemency*, written and directed by Chinonye Chukwu, a death-row prison warden played by Academy Award nominee Alfre Woodard, struggles with the emotional repercussions of her job following years of executions. The drama won a Grand Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, with critics praising Woodard's nuanced performance as "brilliant" and "heartbreaking." Nigerian-born Chukwu's previous directorial credits include several short films and the 2012 feature *alaskaLand* about an estranged Nigerian-American brother and sister who reconnect in their hometown of Fairbanks, Alaska.



THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER

Oscar-nominated Canadian actor and activist Ellen Page co-directed this documentary about environmental racism in her home province of Nova Scotia alongside Ian Daniel, her co-host from the Vice docuseries *Gaycation*. The documentary that TIFF calls "urgent" was inspired by Dr. Ingrid Waldron's book by the same name that considers the legacy of environmental racism using Nova Scotia as a case study. *There's Something in the Water* shines a spotlight on the Indigenous and Black communities disproportionately impacted by Nova Scotia's most pressing environmental crises, while also highlighting how grassroots activists are fighting to protect the land they love.



HUSTLERS

Hustlers is so jam-packed with big and buzzy names, it's hard to keep track. With a cast that includes living legend Jennifer Lopez and *Crazy Rich Asians* leading lady Constance Wu, along with Keke Palmer, Fiona Stiles, *Riverdale*'s Lili Reinhart, Cardi B and Lizzo, it's easy to understand why the movie attracted so much buzz before the first trailer had even dropped. Directed by Lorene Scafaria, best known for her work on the indie films *Nick & Nora's Infinite Playlist* and *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World*, the film was inspired by a *New York Magazine* story about a group of former strip-club employees who scam their Wall Street clients.

HOW TO BUILD A GIRL

Beanie Feldstein is having a moment. After stealing scenes in 2018's *Ladybird* and leading the beloved Olivia-Wilde-directed *Booksmart*, the actress stars in the film adaptation of British author Caitlin Moran's popular 2014 semi-biographical novel. The coming-of-age comedy charts 16-year-old Johanna Morrigan's rise from geeky, endearing teen to infamous music critic in 1990s England (expect excellent style and musical throwbacks). *How to Build a Girl* co-stars Chris O'Dowd and Emma Thompson and was directed by Coky Giedroyc, an English director best known for her work on *Women Talking Dirty* (which, incidentally, had its world premiere at TIFF in 2001).



Girl's best friend

Who needs a man to “say it with diamonds”? Here's why buying rocks for our friends is a feminist act

BY RANI SHEEN

This weekend, I'm giving one of my best friends a diamond ring. She's celebrating a big birthday, and I want her to feel special and loved, to show her how much I treasure our shared history and that I have her back for life. “Say it with diamonds,” goes the slogan. Yes, it does feel a bit like I'm proposing to her.

Naturally, I found the perfect piece for this occasion—a delicate, vintage-y 14k-gold ring set with seven tiny, ethically sourced white diamonds of SI2-clarity (i.e. “slightly included” and thus not flawless but still very sparkly)—at the airy, relaxed Mejuri showroom in Toronto.

The millennial-focused brand founded by Noura Sakkijha, a third-generation fine jeweller, has based its booming business on the tenet that women are not only the ones wearing most of the jewellery in the world, they're also the ones paying for it (75 per cent of Mejuri purchases are made by women). By selling direct to consumer online, they cut out the giant markups and offer “demi-fine” cool diamond jewellery

at not-once-in-a-lifetime prices. “My best friend and I got each other these rings as a new, new year tradition,” reads one of its many customer testimonials from women buying special pieces for their friends.

The reason it feels a little engagement-like to give a friend a diamond ring is that traditionally, fine jewellery wasn't marketed to women at all. “Women used to say, ‘I can't buy my friend a diamond ring because it should be her husband buying her that.’ The change of mindset came from consumers, and now the industry has caught up,” says Eva Hartling, a Montreal-based brand development, marketing and communications strategist whose clients include ethical fine jeweller Ecksand.

A few years ago, Hartling was a VP at Birks when the venerable jewellery company overhauled its model after realizing that most of its e-commerce transactions were being made by women. “In some companies, all of the marketing, product design and even the way stores are conceived still focuses on men buying jewellery for women,” says Hartling. “If you think about a Tiffany's campaign, you remember the man holding the blue box behind his back. For a lot of traditional jewellery stores,

staff has been trained to speak to the men who come in, and there's a whole technique for selling to them, asking them what the budget is. Now it's much more casual and friendly, the products are easier to look at. You don't get the feeling that you have to spend at least \$10,000.”

Gone are the days when if your betrothed didn't buy you a diamond ring, or you didn't inherit one from your grandma, you just weren't going to have one at all. Hartling recently organized a diamond eternity band group gift for a girlfriend who was expecting twins via a sperm donor. “For her, there's no man buying her jewellery. She was thrilled to receive it.”

Is buying diamonds a feminist act? It certainly feels like it. “There's something alluring about turning around that stereotype of guys purchasing you diamonds—it feels a lot more powerful,” says Kathryn Feeley-Lussier of Wwake, the New-York-based purveyor of ultra-modern fine jewellery for cool girls.

Plus, if someone is going to buy you a piece that you'll potentially wear every day for years, wouldn't you want it to be chosen

by the people in your life who know your aesthetic the best? “Women come with a really clear idea not just of the person they are shopping for but their overall style and what they want to be saying with this piece,” says Feeley-Lussier. “They're thinking, ‘She's really preppy’ or ‘She's more rock and roll. It would go well with so many different things she would wear.’ Guys get a lot more input from us. They say, ‘She tends to wear a lot of blue’ or ‘She doesn't wear a lot of jewellery so what do you think I should go with?’”

Women also know what it's actually like to wear jewellery day in and day out. “When a woman is buying for her girlfriend, she knows how she's going to wear the pieces and what she has to be careful of,” says Hartling. “For example, a beautiful big stone or an eternity band can look amazing, but if you're someone who works out every day, works a lot with your hands, or if your profession needs you to wear gloves, you have to be mindful of that.”

A few years ago, Jessica Beresford's friends got together to buy her a Mejuri diamond ring with six tiny diamonds for her 40th birthday, which she was not looking forward to. “I was still single and just didn't like the reality of 40. My family and friends kept asking me what I wanted to do for my big 4-0. My reply was: absolutely nothing. Then it hit me: I would like a piece of jewellery that reminds me of my friends and how great they are,” she says. “I picked out a ring that wasn't flashy or too expensive. A close friend asked me for my ring size and a bunch of friends pitched in. I love it. It's been two years and I still wear it every day. I put a positive spin on the pressure of turning 40.”

Diamonds still hold that power to make someone feel special. “It goes back to the '60s when that whole ‘Diamonds are forever’ thing started, which is partially a marketing tactic but is also partially true because they hold up so well over time—they're super durable and hard to scratch,” says Feeley-Lussier. “I think that's still a big part of their appeal. If you're getting something for yourself or for your friends, they're probably going to pass it down to their daughter or even another friend. They really can go through the generations.”

Now, with people getting married later or not at all, our friends are our family, and we can be responsible for creating each other's heirlooms. “Jewellery is a sweet gift and doesn't always have to come on bended knee from that one true love. I'm over that,” says Beresford. “I say ‘I do’ to all my girlfriends who spoil me!”

“Diamonds are a girl's best friend,” goes the slogan. Well, no, they're not. But they certainly can come from one.

PUT A RING ON IT
Shop delicate diamonds from these modern jewellery brands



AURATE 14K-GOLD AND DIAMOND RING, \$210. AURATE-NEWYORK.COM



AND DIAMOND RING, \$325. MEJURI.COM



SCOSHA 10K-GOLD AND DIAMOND RING, \$150. 6RYGEE-BEAUTY.COM



THE LAST LINE 14K-GOLD AND DIAMOND RING, \$371. THISISTHELAST.COM



VRAI & ORO 14K-GOLD AND DIAMOND RING, \$323. VRAI.COM



WWAKE 10K-GOLD, OPAL, AND DIAMOND RING, \$466. WWAKE.COM

Kyoto black book

Renée Tse explores the city's myriad sources of inspiration

Kyoto is home to the original J-beauty icons—geishas. Although their numbers have shrunk considerably, today, these well-respected artists, musicians and dancers can be seen walking along the streets in Gion, an area populated by geishas and maikos (apprentice geishas), wearing their traditional kimonos, hair and makeup as they head to restaurants and theatres for evening performances. Having preserved its rich heritage and culture, it's no wonder people from all over the world flock to this magical city. Here's what you can't miss.

THE SHRINE

Shinto is a traditional religion that encompasses multiple specialty gods. Many women, including geishas, come to Yasaka Shrine in Gion, one of Kyoto's largest Shinto shrines, to pray to the beauty god, cleanse their hands with the beauty water and write their wishes on wooden plaques to hang on a nearby tree.



THE FOOD

Gion Mamehora is known for temari sushi, bite-sized morsels designed so geishas don't have to open their mouths too wide with full makeup on.

THE NATURE

The Japanese concept of “wabi sabi” celebrates the beauty of imperfection. Only nature can be considered perfect, which is why Zen Buddhist temples like Kennin-ji are popular locations for visitors to sit quietly and admire the tranquil gardens tended by monks daily at 4 a.m.



THE SPA

After a day of temple-hopping, head to the Spa at the Four Seasons Kyoto to experience the Tatcha Akari Golden Glow Facial. The treatment features a radiance-boosting facial massage with heated golden tools to promote lymphatic drainage. Arrive early for a soak in the ofura, a hot and cold bath that will relax sore muscles and put you in a state of bliss.



THE SHOPPING

When it comes to buying beauty souvenirs, Japanese pharmacies are the go-to. Matsumoto Kiyoshi offers J-beauty hits such as KissMe eyeliner, Bioré watery essence sunscreen and Megurism steam eye masks.

Spa day

Can't make it to Kyoto? Create your own Japanese-inspired beauty experience at home



CLÉ DE PEAU VITALITY-ENHANCING EYE MASK SUPREME, \$190. HOLT RENFREW



HERBIVORE SOAKING SALTS, \$24. HERBIVORE-BOTANICALS.COM



LULULEMON SCRUNCHIE, \$16. LULULEMON.COM



MAISON CHRISTIAN DIOR SAKURA FRAGRANCE, \$285 (125 ML), SAKS FIFTH AVENUE TORONTO EATON CENTRE



NEST FRAGRANCES CANDLE IN BAMBOO, \$56. SEPHORA.CA



TATCHA SATIN SKIN MIST, \$62. SEPHORA.CA



SASAWASHI BODY SCRUB TOWEL, \$20. SHOP.GOOP.COM



Sarah Selecky at magic hour on her Prince Edward County property.

Back to the land

When novelist Sarah Selecky fled her downtown life to renovate a 200-year-old Prince Edward County barn, she was able to dress for joy instead of protection

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHELLE YEE

The day I decided to leave the city was an exceptionally beautiful September afternoon. I'd just had a massage and felt centered and clear, like I'd come back home. Then a fire engine seared through the intersection in front of me. Two more blared right behind it, red lights flashing. I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. A sour aroma wafted from a sunbaked garbage can. As soon as I opened my eyes, a war jet swooped over me: a practice flight for the air show that weekend.

In less than five minutes, the results of my restorative \$120 massage snapped and disappeared like a soap bubble. After a decade of living in Toronto and snidely quipping, "There sure aren't a lot of parks in Parkdale," my nervous system had finally bailed on me. I felt shattered and jumpy on a daily basis. Even the noise-cancelling headphones I ordered weren't enough. (I wore these in the house during the day, because there was a condo going up next door and I was trying to write a novel.)

I hadn't always felt so harassed and drained by urban life: I'd chosen it, after all. I grew up in a small town in Northern Ontario. I was one of those kids who roamed in the bush for hours every day, unsupervised. I made snow forts in the winter and tree houses in the summer. At night, I would watch the stars like they were television. Lakes, stones, birch trees, wildflowers, berries—the natural world was my first language. But as a teenager, I longed to move to Toronto, where I was sure everything important happened. So I did it: I lived in the middle of a vibrating neighbourhood with bright lights and traffic that never stopped. Now, I wanted to go back to nature. I wanted that all-encompassing quiet that stilled my breath and calmed my heart. I wanted to go out at night and watch the stars.

Five years ago, my partner and I put our house on the market and switched gears, moving into a 200-year-old converted barn situated in a field that's on traditional territory of the Wendat, Anishnaabeg and Haudenosaunee Peoples, adjacent to the Mohawk community of Tyendinaga. This part of Ontario is also known as Prince Edward County.

Our new home overlooks a grassy field and hundreds of acres of what the locals call "greenbush"—scrubby cedar trees that remind me of where I grew up. Our barn is the only structure on the horizon, taller than all of the trees. From the top floor, the sky is everything. The renovation took a year. We covered the floors with reclaimed wood, sealed the mouse holes and painted the walls Cloud White. We stayed up late to scrape years of built-up ladybug excrement off the old windows. As I wiped the glass clean, I saw the constellations in the

night sky and heard coyotes yipping in the distance.

With this move, I traded fast for slow, anxiety for calm. My all-black wardrobe was the first thing to go. My black heeled ankle boots didn't work for me anymore, and my black vegan leather motorcycle jacket with the zippers just felt wrong. My black V-neck T-shirts, my black skinny jeans, my long black go-everywhere coat: They were all necessary basics in the city, but here, I felt smothered by them.

It wasn't until I packed for a weekend trip to the city that I reached for my black turtleneck and paused. The truth was that I was apprehensive about the visit—the driving, the crowds, the noise—and I was packing the sweater for protection. Black had been my armour in the city.

In my quiet country life, not only do I not need protection, I dislike it.

Instead, I now bask in the pleasure of wearing light, earthy colours. In the winter, I wear snowy white and cream, grey and wheat. In the early spring, I wear oak-brown gloves, my cedar green sweater and waxed canvas jacket, and a slouchy grey hat that reminds me of the stones at my favourite swimming beach. In warmer weather, I wear goldenrod, willow-leaf green, and lots of denim and chambray the colour of the sky, juniper berries and chicory flowers.

Now that I'm surrounded by natural fibres (rustling wheatgrass, velvety mullein leaves, silky milkweed fluff) I've quit wearing synthetics; they've started to feel like a kind of lie, or half-truth. I shop at City Revival for gently used year-round cashmere, silk, cotton and linen. I wear my own hand-knits, made of local alpaca wool from Shed.

I don't just dress to be like the landscape—I dress to become it. When I wear a grey T-shirt, I am connected to everything else that's grey: the sky, the limestone, the osprey and herons. When I wear brown boots, I match the tips of dried grasses and fallen acorns. And when I step out in the rain in my purple boots, I turn into the darkest lilac buds that line our road every May.

I spend time outside every day and feel my place within the landscape. I've shed layers in order to let my life back in. And before I go to work—writing, mentoring or planning an event—I put on a bright lipstick, the same muted red of the dogwood branches in the back forty.

Living in the country isn't a vacation. I still cringe at my inbox and feel overwhelmed by my to-do list. But as soon as I step outside, the trees, the grasses and the clouds in the sky remind me that all is well, and that I belong here.

“When I wear a grey T-shirt, I am connected to everything else that's grey: the sky, the limestone, the osprey and herons.”

Shades of nature

A soft palette to reflect the earth and sky



CUYANA COAT, \$395, CUYANA.COM



FRAME JACKET, \$725, MATCHESFASHION.COM



JOSEPH SWEATER, \$620, MATCHESFASHION.COM



ANIÁN SHIRT, \$189, ANIANMFG.CA



BLISS AND MISCHIEF PANTS, \$437, BLISSANDMISCHIEF.COM



J. CREW CAPE, \$58, JCREW.CA

Moving to the country

The narrative of overworked city slicker uprooting and starting a bucolic life of new meaning is a powerful fantasy that's explored in many a movie. Here's our ranking of cinematic moves from most to least idyllic

BY RANI SHEEN

FROM FANTASY IDYLL...

▼ *Under the Tuscan Sun, 2003*

San Francisco divorcee (Diane Lane) is sent by her BFFs on a tour of the Tuscan countryside, where she proceeds to fall in love with a ramshackle villa and buy it on a whim. She embarks on a flatteringly lit journey of reinvention, renovations and, of course, romance.

▼ *Baby Boom, 1987*

Diane Keaton is iconic as the "Tiger lady," a high-powered exec yuppie who inherits a baby from a deceased cousin and finds motherhood incompatible with 1980s corporate life. She moves from Manhattan to Vermont to raise the child, where her keen business-woman instincts kick in and she turns her homemade farm-fresh applesauce into a baby-food empire.

▼ *Shirley Valentine, 1989*

In what is basically an ad for Greek islands tourism, Shirley Valentine (Pauline Collins) is an unfulfilled middle-aged British housewife who swaps dreary Liverpool for sunny Mykonos. She has a lusty fling with a local tavern-owner but it's the easygoing island life that she falls in love with.

▼ *Did You Hear about the Morgans?, 2009*

The wilds of Wyoming help estranged married couple Sarah Jessica Parker and Hugh Grant reinvigorate their relationship when they move from Manhattan to a small town under witness protection, after seeing a murder. Bear attacks, rodeo accidents and local sheriffs prove to be just the shared challenges the pair needs to face together to repair their marriage.

▼ *Footloose, 1984*

A study of small-town America and the redemptive power of dance, *Footloose* stars Kevin Bacon as the new kid, who moves from Chicago to Utah, where a local pastor has banned rock music. He faces small-minded country folk but wins them over with his love of a good hip thrust and high kick.

▼ *The Amityville Horror, 1979*

"A relic of a time when the world wasn't in such a hurry," intones the voice-over to the trailer of this classic country-house horror flick. Swarms of flies, storm-smashed windows and crumbling basement stairs are just a few of the rural plagues that befall the unlucky family (headed by Margot Kidder and James Brolin) that moves into this Long Island house of horrors.

...TO COUNTRYSIDE NIGHTMARE

THE KIT

Editor-in-Chief
Laura deCarufel

Creative Director
Jessica Hotson

Executive Editor
Rani Sheen

Beauty Director
Katherine Lalancette

Digital Director
Caitlin Kenny

Managing Editor
Eden Boileau

Style Editor
Liz Guber

Digital Editor
Jennifer Berry

Associate Art Director
Oana Cazan

Assistant Art Director
Poonam Chauhan

Editor-at-Large
Kathryn Hudson

Publisher,
The Kit
Giorgina Bigioni

Operations Director,
Digital Media
Kelly Matthews

Direct advertising inquiries to:
Collab Director
Evie Begy, eb@thekit.ca

Collab Coordinator
Sarah Chan

Marketing & Special Projects Coordinator
Lara Buchar



(c) 2019, The Kit, a division of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited.

President and CEO, Torstar and Publisher, Toronto Star
John Boynton

SVP Editorial, Torstar
Fredric Karen

Editor, Toronto Star
Irene Gentile

RIBCAGE JEANS

OUR HIGHEST
HIGH RISE YET.

© 2019 LEVI STRAUSS & CO.



LIVE IN **Levi's**[®]

Calling all foodies

RELISH The Foodie Event at Cloverdale Mall promises to be two fun-filled days of cooking presentations, activities and most important of all—eating!

If you love to eat, this one is for you. On September 14 and 15, RELISH The Foodie Event will take over the north parking lot at Cloverdale Mall in Etobicoke. You'll find celebrity chef cooking presentations, food trucks and tents, a Tastemaker's Marketplace of artisanal delights and activities including kids' workshops and a food-themed art battle! Plus, so much more: Visit cloverdalemall.com for the Celebrity Chef Stage schedule and dishes, as well as details on all the action. Read on for highlights of what to expect from this delectable weekend.



COOK LIKE A CHEF

Chefs Cory Vitiello, Rob Gentile, Grant van Gameren and Shahir Massoud will be appearing on the Celebrity Chef Stage for delish cooking demonstrations and meet and greets. We asked Vitiello and Massoud for their top tips and food favourites.



CORY VITIELLO Flock Rotisserie & Greens

What's the one meal you could eat for the rest of time?

"Not taking my health into consideration, it's most definitely fried chicken and soft-serve."

What's your late-night junk food of choice?

"My partner, Martina, turned me on to popcorn dressed with nutritional yeast, salt and a drizzle of honey. It works, trust me."

What's one thing most home cooks don't do that would make their food 1000x better?

"Try and use recipes not as a rigid set of instructions, but rather a guideline and source of inspiration. Trust your instincts, make some mistakes and over time you'll find a flow in the kitchen where you can truly improvise and create. And salt. Don't forget to salt!"

What are you most looking forward to at this event?

"Cooking with and teaching the kids. No group is more fun to cook for."



SHAHIR MASSOUD Host of *Around the World in 8 Meals*

What's the one meal you could eat for the rest of time?

"A classic Roman pasta dish: bucatini all'amatriciana."

What's one thing most home cooks don't do that would make their food 1000x better?

"Using acidity to brighten up flavours! Often when you taste a dish and feel that it needs something, that last-minute finishing touch is a squeeze of lemon or a drop of balsamic or other good-quality vinegar."

What's your late-night junk food of choice?

"Candy all the way. I have a secret stash that I hide from my toddler."

What's the best food and drink pairing of all?

"I just got back from a trip to Moscow, where really good quality vodka and caviar were pretty affordable—and extremely delicious together."



GET CREATIVE

Kids will get excited about meal prep while compiling their own bento lunchbox filled with fresh fruits, veggies, a sweet or salty treat and fun-shaped sandwiches in the Little Foodsters tent.

Presented by **metro**

Plus, aspiring mini chefs can participate in a fun kids' workshop with Chef Cory Vitiello, where they'll plate veggie sushi rolls and vegetarian rice paper and lettuce wraps. Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in the Little Foodsters tent. Pre-registration required. Head to cloverdalemall.com for registration details.

FILL UP ON FOOD TRUCK DELIGHTS

Nibble on global dishes from Brazilian street food to sweet and savoury crêpes from the wide array of food trucks and tents.



FEATURED FOOD TRUCKS

Crêpe Street: Sweet and savoury crêpes and milkshakes.

Delight Bite: Burritos, tacos, quesadillas and poutine.

Dogg Shoppe T.O.: Upscale hot dogs and loaded fries.

Espeto Brazil: Brazilian street food.

Get Your Own Taters: Handcrafted toppings and signature sauces over the humble tater tots.

Harry's Burgers: Serving the juiciest and most flavourful burgers in the city. Harry's Burgers is co-owned by Grant van Gameren, Robin Goodfellow and Nate Young.

Holy Cannoli: Traditional Sicilian cannoli, fresh filled with sweet ricotta cream.

Meltdown Cheesery: Gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches.

The Arepa Republic: Venezuelan arepas and empanadas.

The Kathi Roll Express: Globally influenced Indian street food.

Tim Hortons: Fresh brewed coffee in exchange for a donation to the Tim Horton Children's Foundation.

Alijandro's Kitchen*: Middle Eastern-Mexican fusion *Saturday only

Los Vietnamita*: Mexican-Vietnamese fusion. *Sunday only.

SAMPLE ARTISANAL DELICACIES

Try locally made treats, from popsicles to hummus to hot sauce, at the Tastemaker's Marketplace, curated by BRIKA. Plus, pick up some fresh flowers at Lou Lou's Flower Truck.



RELISH The Foodie Event runs September 14 and 15, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the north parking lot at Cloverdale Mall, 250 The East Mall, Etobicoke. Visit cloverdalemall.com