

THE KIT

Red carpet spotlight: Which celeb debuted the best hair transformation? PAGE 3

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Get ready to fall in love

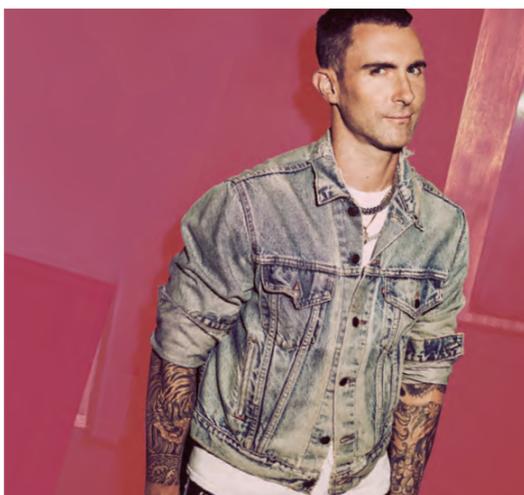
Maripier Morin is already Montreal's favourite TV personality, but now the stylish star is poised to take over big screens everywhere PAGE 4

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS MORA



Mouthing off

To plump or not to plump? We test-drive lip fillers PAGE 6



Another side of Adam Levine

The musician on grooming, growth and his girls PAGE 5



Spritz, spritz, kiss, kiss

The season's most seductive fragrances PAGE 2

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: **OAK + FORT** CC CUSHION, \$28; LIPSTICK IN OUD, \$20; LIP TINT IN DUNE, \$18; NAIL LACQUER IN BODEN AND CANYON, \$9 EACH. OAKANDFORT.CA.



Simply irresistible

Oak + Fort brings its streamlined ethos to the beauty world

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFERY CARLSON

In the era of sensory overload and decision fatigue, austerity can feel like the height of luxury. (Case in point, our collective daydreams of leaving it all behind to sell ice cream by the beach or downsizing to a teeny-tiny house.) Oak + Fort gets it. After perfecting the art of the elevated basic, the Vancouver-based clothing brand is now directing its attention to our makeup bags. Its newly launched line of cosmetics feels decidedly uncomplicated: a mix of fool-proof hues and finger-friendly textures housed in stark white packaging. The shades are sheer and the finishes are fresh, yielding an effortless aesthetic that actually lives up to the fantasy. —*Katherine Lalancette*.

Come closer

These magnetic fragrances beg you to lean in

BY KATHERINE LALANCETTE



A delicious scent (think: juicy black cherries and vanilla) you'll want to sniff again and again.

EMPORIO ARMANI IN LOVE WITH YOU EAU DE PARFUM, \$126 (100 ML), ARMANI-BEAUTY.CA



Red roses bloom at the heart (hello, romance) while a patchouli base turns up the heat.

DOLCE&GABBANA THE ONLY ONE 2, \$114 (50 ML), SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA



Miss Dior's rose and jasmine bouquet welcomes a little whimsy in the form of lily of the valley.

DIOR MISS DIOR EAU DE TOILETTE, \$135 (100 ML), SEPHORA.CA



With apple blossom and cedar wood, this playful and provocative fragrance tickles the senses.

MIU MIU TWIST EAU DE PARFUM, \$105 (50 ML), SEPHORA.CA



Guerlain pays homage to musk, perfumery's most seductive player. Spray with caution.

GUERLAIN MUSC NOBLE EAU DE PARFUM, \$221 (125 ML), HOLTRENFREW.COM



MARCCAIN

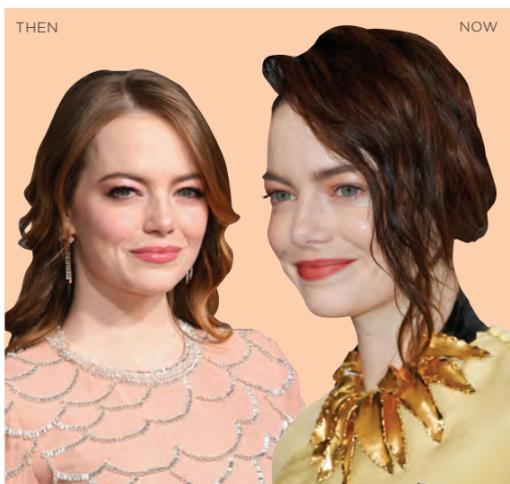
Marc Cain Collections

Marc Cain Stores | CALGARY Chinook Centre | EDMONTON West Edmonton Mall
 LAVAL Carrefour Laval | MISSISSAUGA Square One | OTTAWA Rideau Centre
 QUEBEC Place Ste-Foy | TORONTO Eaton Centre | VANCOUVER Oakridge Centre
www.marc-cain.com

Mane events

The red carpet is the ultimate place to show off a new hairstyle. These stars get our vote for the chicest hair transformations this year

BY KATHERINE LALANCETTE



DARK AND STORMY

Emma Stone debuts deep mahogany tangles at the Producers Guild Awards. Could a new film be in the works?

L'ORÉAL PARIS SUPERIOR PREFERENCE IN DARK SOFT MAHOGANY BROWN, \$14, SHOPPERS-DRUGMART.CA



FRINGE MOVEMENT

Sure, we love ourselves an Old Hollywood moment, but give us Sandra Oh's curly bangs and we'll fall to our knees in delight.

BUMBLE AND BUMBLE BB CURL CONDITIONING MOUSSE, \$37, BUMBLEANDBUMBLE.CA



UP AND AWAY

Going from short curls to smooth bouffant, Lupita Nyong'o channels retro drama at the Golden Globes.

SHEA MOISTURE JAMAICAN BLACK CASTOR OIL STYLE & SMOOTH EDGE TREATMENT GEL, \$16, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA



RIPPLE EFFECT

Right in time for awards season, *BlackKlansman* star Laura Harrier trades quirky baby bangs for bombshell waves.

DRYBAR LE SHÉRIF FIRM HOLD HAIRSPRAY, \$34, SEPHORA.CA



THE BLUE PERIOD

You can always count on musicians to push the style envelope. A periwinkle dress and bun? Get it, Gaga.

LIME CRIME UNICORN HAIR TINT IN POWDER, \$22, LIMECRIME.COM



A STAR IS SHORN

Behold, the power of a cut. Irina Shayk's locks transform into a bob that looks both bouncy and sleek.

KÉRASTASE L'HUILE ROSE ELIXIR ULTIME, \$57, KÉRASTASE.CA



PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES

THE KIT X SILK'N

It's time to prep your skin for summer

This painless at-home laser hair removal gadget promises to get you perfectly smooth skin



SILK'N INFINITY, \$450, SILK'N.CA AND SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Today, there are plenty of options for nixing body hair—shaving, waxing, epilating—with varying degrees of messiness and, frankly, ouchiness. But for a permanent fix, nothing rivals laser hair removal. The downside? Medi-spa sessions are a splurge and can be painful. Luckily, there's a new at-home beauty gizmo on the market that promises to get rid

of your unwanted hair for good: the Silk'n Infinity (\$450, at silkn.ca), designed with advanced tech to achieve results affordably, effectively and, best of all, painlessly.

While balmy days may still seem like a distant dream, winter is actually the ideal season for getting summer-ready with laser hair removal, according to

Toronto-based beauty expert Lyndsay Craig. "Because it's recommended to avoid sun exposure during laser treatment, this is the perfect time to prepare before the summer," she explains. Also, since all laser hair removal devices take time to work, you'll want to plan ahead. "The Silk'n Infinity can take six to eight weeks to begin seeing results," adds Craig.

If you've never been able to try laser hair removal before—traditionally it's only possible on those who have a high contrast between their hair colour and skin tone (for example, dark hair on fair skin)—you're in luck. "What's great about the Silk'n Infinity is that it can treat many different skin tones and hair colours," says Craig. On the Fitzpatrick scale, a.k.a. your dermatologist's way of classifying skin tone, the device can be used on Types I to V (fair to brown). What's that mean? It works on brown to black hair, and may even work on blonde, grey or red hair, if there's enough pigment. Best of all, the tool has a built-in safety sensor, so it won't treat skin too dark for the power setting you've chosen.

The Silk'n Infinity's next-level tech also offers some major advantages over other devices. It's the first tool to feature eHPL™ (Enhanced Home Pulsed Light), a patented combo of optical energy and galvanic energy. The latter is able to open your pores, so the flashes of light can reach even stubborn, thick hairs deep down at their roots. Bonus: There's no need to buy replacement cartridges, since the rapid-pulsing quartz bulb is made to last a lifetime.

There are side benefits to the galvanic energy, too: It stimulates and rejuvenates skin, and will even help your body butter absorb better. "The galvanic energy from the eHPL™ technology opens pores, allowing any moisturizer or cream applied post-treatment to penetrate deep into skin," explains Craig. "This leaves the treatment area extremely hydrated and nourished." With this clever multi-duty gadget, expect skin that feels silky-smooth—in more ways than one.



Laser highlights

With these genius features, the Silk'n Infinity is the smarter way to get rid of unwanted hair:

POWER COUPLE:

The patented eHPL technology taps into two types of energy—flashes of light, plus galvanic energy—so it can remove even coarse hair.

SKINCARE PERKS: Since the galvanic energy opens up your pores, your post-treatment moisturizer will absorb especially well for extra hydration.

RESULTS IN A FLASH: The quartz bulb reloads quickly, so you don't have to wait as long between flashes, shortening the total duration of each treatment. You can select between pulsing and gliding modes, too.

NO PAIN: Most users report zero irritation. You can choose your power setting from five options, customizing the treatment according to your sensitivity level.

That *je ne sais quoi*

As Maripier Morin leaps onto the big screen and into the big time, the emerging star talks ambition, emotion and letting go of perfection

BY KATHERINE LALANCETTE

There is a scene in the 2004 drama *Closer* where Natalie Portman's character asks Jude Law what her euphemism would be, to which he replies "disarming." That is Maripier Morin.

On set for this photo shoot, the Rivière-du-Loup-born TV personality smoulders and twirls and giggles in a sunny silk skirt, delivering an endless stream of cover-worthy frames. Then once the camera stops clicking, the Giuseppe Zanotti sling-backs fly off and the fuzzy Mickey Mouse socks come on. "They're my airplane socks," she explains.

There is no pretense or practised polish. The 32-year-old sprinkles her sentences with delicious Québécois expletives and brushes off any mention of her beauty as if swatting away a fly. She is at once retina-burningly beautiful (*désolée*, Maripier) and charmingly unfiltered, a combination that's allowed her to parlay a reality TV stint (she was the "bad girl" on a Quebec dating series) into full-fledged stardom, complete with an eponymous talk show and a Revlon makeup deal.

It's also what made Oscar-winning director Denys Arcand take notice when she interviewed him for a TV show five years ago. When the time came to cast his latest film, *The Fall of the American Empire*, a scathing satire about the excesses of capitalism, he invited her to audition for the role of slinky, street-smart Camille, the most expensive escort in Montreal.

"When I read the script, I thought 'No one other than me can play this character,'" she says. "It was visceral. I wanted it bad. I loved her and I knew I could portray her. I just needed to convince Denys."

Convince him she did, along with throngs of Quebec moviegoers. The film grossed \$2.7 million and will open in theatres nationwide this spring. Morin, who had never acted before, says she "worked like a maniac" to inhabit the part, joking that she'd harass Arcand about how much Camille would charge for her services (they landed on \$10,000 a night) because she wanted to know every last detail about her.

As a result, she talks about Camille in protective tones, describing her as "tough on the outside, but a burn victim on the inside," and seems reluctant to expose her to the harsh glare of critics and box office metrics.

"When you create a character, it becomes someone you love but that lives

in a bubble. Once the film is over, it doesn't belong to you anymore. That's tough. But when it's about me, I don't find [criticism] as hurtful. If you tell me I'm no good, or I lack repartee or depth, that's something I can take and work on."

She sounds like an athlete reviewing practice footage ahead of a big game, because in many ways she is. The former competitive figure skater may have abandoned her Olympic dreams at 18 following an injury, but that drive to push harder remains. "It's bigger than me," she says. "I don't even know if I'm trying to prove something to myself or to my parents or to my husband (former hockey pro Brandon Prust)."

Whatever the motivation, it's garnered her a spot on a slew of TV shows (including three seasons on *Hockey Wives*), lucrative partnerships (including Reebok, Buick, BonLook and Blush lingerie) and glossy covers galore. But it's also left her tapped out.

"I listen to myself in interviews and think, 'You've been saying the same things for the past two years. Travel, do something different, live, get drunk!'" she says with a sigh. "I haven't done that in five years. I think I need to take a step back to come back stronger. Or at least, that's how my shrink's encouraging me to see it!"

So for the first time in half a decade, Morin is slowing down and attempting to actually enjoy it. Gone are the days of filming three shows at once. Right now, she's focusing on a docu-series about alternative lifestyles, and while she's open to acting again, she isn't actively pursuing opportunities. She describes this phase of her life as a high-speed train coming to a halt and causing her to bump her head. In other words, it's uncomfortable, but eye-opening.

"Our generation is obsessed with performance and we're always on the verge of a f—king breakdown," she says. "It's that Wonder Woman paradigm. You can do it all: You're the perfect wife, the perfect mother, the best employee, you scrub your floors, your house is clean, you look great, you're freshly waxed, everything's perfect!"

She laughs at the absurdity of it all before pausing for a beat. "But that's not possible. Those standards are unattainable. So from now on, I've decided I'm okay with being a bit of a mess."



"We have to leave room for imperfection and stop punishing ourselves. Mistakes are part of life," says Morin.

SHOP THE LOOK

Scoop the star's fashion-forward style



MEJURI EARRINGS, \$70, MEJURI.COM



TIBI TOP, \$475, TIBI.COM



REVLON ULTRA HD MATTE LIPCOLOUR IN HD SEDUCTION, \$12, SHOPPERS-DRUGMART.CA



ALTUZARRA SKIRT, \$1,230, ALTUZARRA.COM

HIT MONTREAL LIKE MARIPIER

A roundup of hot spots in *la métropole*

FOR A COOL-GIRL MANI

LE MANOIR
With its Glossier-esque aesthetic and girl-boss philosophy, this one-stop beauty salon has acquired a cult-like following. Ask for a minimalist design using its good-for-your-nails gel polishes or treat yourself to a Dermalogica facial before perusing the dainty rings and necklaces from in-house brand Treasure Box.

15 RUE SAINTE-CATHERINE EST, SHOP-MANOIR.COM



FOR A DESIGNER HIT

SSENSE
A true showpiece, the luxury e-tailer's flagship soars up five storeys in historic Old Montreal. There's a café, a bookstore, two full floors of fitting rooms and a chance to nab some of fashion's most sought-after pieces like exclusive collabs with Virgil Abloh, Prada and more.

418 RUE SAINT-SULPICE, SSENSE.COM

FOR A PRO CUT

PRIVÉ PAR DAVID D'AMOURS
He is the master of sun-bleached balayages, swaying S-waves and Bardot bangs and the pro behind Quebec's most famous manes like Morin, Céline Dion and Charlotte Cardin. If David D'Amours is all booked up (as he often is), trust you'll be in great hands with one of his highly skilled stylists.

360 RUE NOTRE-DAME OUEST, PRIVE-PARDAVIDDAMOURS.COM



FOR A MEGA CHILL

SPA BOTA BOTA
A spa, on a tugboat, overlooking Old Montreal... Take in the fairytale setting as you experience the soothing powers of a Scandinavian water circuit. First, a warm immersion in a sauna, steam room or hot tub, then, an invigorating dip in a cold bath and finally, 20 blissful minutes of lounging in a hammock. Relax and repeat.

CORNER OF RUE DE LA COMMUNE OUEST AND RUE MCGILL, BOTABOTA.CA

FOR A CHIC COCKTAIL

MARCONI
A Mile-Ex dépanneur converted into a bustling bistro; it doesn't get more Montreal than that. Feast on shared plates of decadent seasonal fare (cured char topped with dashi gelée, Brussels sprouts laced with buffalo mozzarella and kimchi...) and wash it all down with a zingy swig of natural wine.

45 AVENUE MOZART OUEST, MARCONI-MONTREAL.COM



Goals like these

Adam Levine is here to tell us what still matters once you reach the very top of your game

BY KATHRYN HUDSON



Adam Levine walks quietly into the house in the Hollywood Hills, side stepping the waiters who are setting up for the event that's about to kick off. He darts upstairs with his stylist to change out of his blue and black fashion sweats. When the singer pads back down the mod staircase, ready to host the handful of beauty executives and media, he is wearing a different pair of chic sweatpants. This is when I realized that Adam Levine is a swagger-walking, fast-talking, pitch-perfect singing embodiment of a hashtag: #goals.

Let's review the evidence. Nearing his 40th birthday, the Cali-born front man of massively famous band Maroon 5 has become the face of L'Oréal Paris's Men Expert grooming line, which involves a global explosion of his perfectly stubbled visage across billboards and pulsing ads. One of his latest videos, *Girls Like You*, which dropped just last spring, has been viewed more than a billion and a half times. He is married to supermodel Behati Prinsloo, who, by all accounts, is way too nice to be that beautiful. Together, they have two young daughters and live in Los Angeles, where it's almost always sunny. Now, he's reached that very rare and desirable level of fame that allows you to dictate how many pairs of expensive sweatpants are required for any given event. (It's only 3 p.m., so who knows how high today's tally might go.)

With that in mind, I sat down with the hardworking songwriter to get his advice on how to win at work and play.

What's your grooming routine like? "I'm definitely not as meticulous as my wife is. She's all about skincare, and there's like 4,000 skin products in the bathroom. She's beautiful and she's good at it. But I'm just simple: I always keep my face hydrated, which is a good habit to have. I could still be better, but you don't want to obsess too much about it—there's definitely a balance to be struck."

How do you find that balance? "Especially in our business, it's pretty easy to get hung up on always competing with people or always trying to look your best. I don't necessarily believe in that. I'm always well-groomed for the events that I have to do—but I don't do it myself a lot

of the time. I think there's a very basic level of self-care that's important for any human, but I don't obsess over the little details. Life's too short."

Do you live more in the moment then? "I'm not a planner: Seven days is a good span of time for me to really dig into. When you talk about taking care of your body, or your career, or your kids or whatever it is, it's too overwhelming to think about everything at once—especially with the way my schedule has been these days. You can't retain and process a year's worth of information and still be a creative and functional human being. Being busy is one of those beautiful things that's a blessing, but it can also be very damaging if you don't know how to ration it and budget it so you can still enjoy your life. That took me a little bit of time to learn, especially when I started getting busy with jobs like *The Voice*. I think that, now, at the end of my 30s, I'm striking a really good balance. Of course, these are champagne problems."

What's the best advice you've gotten? "When I was a kid, I misunderstood something my mom told me that wound up to be extremely profound and really hilarious. She would get mad at me because she was tired of cleaning up my mess, and she said, 'Look, you better make a lot of money and have a very successful career, so that you don't have to clean up after yourself.' I took that somewhat passive-aggressive statement totally literally. I misinterpreted what she was saying because clearly she wanted me to clean up my own mess—I'm sorry, mom, I wasn't a great teenager. Being a teenager is a bummer. I have to credit my mom with inadvertently giving me advice to make a career for myself."

Now that you're successful, the work you create is seen by billions. The *Girls Like You* video showcases so many powerful and inspiring women, from Ellen DeGeneres to Ilhan Omar, the first Somali American elected to legislative office in the U.S. What does that feel like? "There needs to be a reason for why you want people to pay attention. It can't be completely self-fulfilling.

I mean, I'm a singer in a band, so I love attention, but if you can do something that unites people and presents a perspective somebody hasn't seen before, then that's the greatest part about any artistic endeavour. The video is absolutely that—and we didn't know if we'd pull it off. (It's a very simple concept, but it wound up being a very complex process, with just scheduling alone.) But it's exciting to join the conversation in celebration of women. It should never stop. I've got two little girls, so I'm now injected with more of a sense of purpose."

Is raising two girls intimidating in this day and age?

"It's daunting. You want to solve all the world's problems and pave the way perfectly in a day. It's something that is always on my mind as 'the dad.' You're living your life for whatever reasons before you have kids, and then everything changes and you want to do your part during the time you have on this planet to be the best human being you can possibly be for these kids. It was a life-changer—it was *the* life-changer."

How are you getting adjusted to the role of father?

"I always wanted to be a dad. If I'm honest with myself, I think that being a musician and being a dad were probably the two things I always knew I wanted to do. I never thought much about the institution of marriage, but I was lucky enough to meet someone that was so incredibly special to me."

You've accomplished your only two goals. Now what?

"Just be a dad [laughs]. And play some more music. The wheels in my head turn a lot. It could be in a very unproductive way, but I like to focus on the good ways. I don't want to waste my energy with things that aren't fulfilling."

Travel and accommodations for Kathryn Hudson were provided by L'Oréal Paris. L'Oréal Paris did not review or approve this story.

Borrow his style

Treat the man in your life to these stylish Valentine's Day gifts



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: OFF-WHITE BEANIE, \$207, MRPORTER.COM. LOPEZ HOODIE, \$120, LOPEZMTL.COM. L'ORÉAL PARIS MEN EXPERT HYDRA ENERGETIC 24H ANTI-FATIGUE MOISTURIZER, \$16, MASS MARKET RETAILERS. ADIDAS ULTRABOOST SHOES, \$270, ADIDAS.CA. ACNE STUDIOS BLA KONS BAG, \$200, ACNESTUDIOS.COM

THE KIT X FENDI

Carried away

The Fendi Baguette is the original It bag—and it's still the stuff of fashion dreams



Actress and style icon Sarah Jessica Parker is amongst the Fendi Baguette's most loyal fans.



Left: Actress Riley Keough with a vintage Baguette. Right: Model Winnie Harlow with logo Baguette.



The Baguette set

With its innumerable iterations, the Fendi Baguette has accomplished the rarest of fashion feats: perennial coolness. It continues to win over celebrities of all style stripes, from Hollywood A-listers to millennial muses



Above from top: Fashion editor Giovanna Battaglia Engelbert; model Gigi Hadid.

Like so many genius innovations, the Fendi Baguette looked like nothing else when it first arrived on the scene, back in 1997. Emerging amid a sea of basic black rucksacks, which were then in vogue, the accessory was the exception to the rule: An impractically petite pochette that was long and thin—ready to be tucked under the arm like its namesake French bread—with the signature FF-logoed clasp front and centre.

"I was asked, among other things, to come up with a particularly easy and functional handbag," recalls Silvia Venturini Fendi, creative director of accessories and menswear at the legendary Italian house of Fendi. "In a certain sense, it had to be technological and minimal, just like the times. My response (fortunately I am indomitably disobedient) was the Baguette."

Venturini Fendi's intuition for what women want proved spot on: The Baguette quickly became so hotly coveted, it commanded a wait-list—before the era of wait-lists—establishing itself as one of the first It bags. Demand hit a new high when it became pop-culture famous on *Sex and the City*, appearing in multiple plot lines (when a mugger accosts Carrie, "Give me your bag," she counters, "It's a Baguette!")

A see-and-be-seen accessory, it was adored by celebrities (see The Baguette Set, above). Elizabeth

Taylor, for one, was such a serious collector, her estate auctioned off 18 of them. Indeed, part of the Fendi Baguette's brilliance was the myriad versions it came in: The shape may have been simple, but you could find it tricked out with precious stones, crafted from exotic skins or made in a riot of colours. Boldfaced names, from Scarlett Johansson to Jeff Koons, have been enlisted to customize the design, and it's been produced in more than 1,000 styles, each one a little work of art.

In recent years, a new generation of fashion fans has embraced the enduring appeal of the '90s-to-aughties staple. Supermodel Gigi Hadid stepped out with a vintage Baguette, and Venturini Fendi herself took note of an Insta-trend: Cool girls borrowing their moms' Baguette, and putting their own spin on how to wear them (hint: like a street-stylin' fanny pack, across the body.) For the spring/summer collection, the Baguette was back in a big way on the Fendi runway. So expect to see it everywhere this spring, looking just as fresh as ever.

Uniquely yours

The lasting appeal of the Fendi Baguette is that the slim signature silhouette can be infinitely customized and reinvented with eye-catching patterns and textures



FENDI BAGUETTES. ALL AVAILABLE AT FENDI.COM



Lip service

In our I Tried It series, columnist **Leah Rumack** test-drives the latest and buzziest cosmetic procedures. This time around, she seeks to rejuvenate her lips—without looking like a duck

ILLUSTRATION BY OANA CAZAN

I'm afraid of duckies. Not the quacking kind, but the duck-lips variety. Since the exploding popularity of dermal fillers in the late '90s, I've watched as women inflated their lips to extremely obvious and sometimes hilarious proportions. (They call it trout pout for a reason, friends!) It wasn't a look I aspired to, so I didn't think there was much I could do when fine lines started appearing across my top lip like a flotilla of tiny weeds.

My deep and abiding love for intense lipstick wasn't helping matters, either—even stay-on formulas eventually smeared into the tiny cracks that multiplied by the day. My mouth was starting to look like my cat's bum, which she enjoyed displaying to me with horrifying regularity. Clearly, something had to be done.

First, I tried felt-tip-marker-inspired lip liners like Rouge Dior Ink Lip Liner in an attempt to hold back the tides of seeping product. This helped a little, but I wanted something more permanent. I skipped over the many plumping creams that are specially formulated for this area—I'm too impatient!—and went straight to the office of Toronto facial plastic surgeon Cory Torgerson.

Torgerson quickly outlined the problem for me. "This is thin skin on top of a very dynamic muscle," he explained, "and the muscle is a squeezer muscle, so it puckers the skin on top." Basically everyone eventually develops lines above their talking and eating "squeezer"—smokers or not. (Those lines got that nickname because smokers are often pursing their lips around their shame sticks, and smoking can thin the skin more, but Torgerson prefers to call them "bar code lines.")

Luckily for me, it turns out that stiff old-school fillers—and their resulting *Zoolander*-esque pout—are no longer the only tragic end available to withering lips. The gold

standard for treating them is still a Co2 fractional laser, which basically removes several layers of skin, requiring sedation, prescription medication for pain afterwards and up to two weeks downtime (like, hide-in-your-house, you-look-hideous, the-sun-is-your-enemy downtime). The good news is that the results last up to a year and a half. The bad news is everything else.

"Lip fillers or hyaluronic acid fillers are a lot more au courant because there's no downtime," he says. "But truthfully there hasn't been a really fabulous product until recently. They've all been really thick and have created lumps and bumps."

Torgerson is pumped about a newish product called Teosyal RHA 1 (there are four levels of the RHA line, but 1 is specifically designed for the finest lines on lips and around the eyes). Like many fillers, it's hyaluronic-acid-based, but its chemical makeup more closely resembles the HA the body naturally produces. "The main problem people have with fillers is that they're too hard and they look fake," he says. "This line was designed to stretch, so we can inject it exquisitely superficially and when you smile and talk it moves, so it looks natural... We call it 3-D filler."

But first he wants me to do three treatments of V2 Beauty Booster, which uses a special micro-needling tool to inject another hyaluronic Teosyal product called Redensity1 all over my face just under the skin, including into those pesky lines. "It's really good for thickening up and bringing hydration to the skin. You'll look really glowy. Your skin will be like angels singing!" he promises.

The Beauty Booster treatments are three weeks apart. The tool is basically a tiny gun loaded with the product in nine evil little needles that the aesthetician zaps all over my face,

delicately mopping up blood spots as she goes. It doesn't tickle, but they use numbing cream beforehand, so I make it through. Afterwards my face is covered in small bumps and looks like raw turkey skin, which, I discover, is a great way to terrify people on the subway. It subsides by the next day, aside from some small bruises.

By the end of the almost three-month regime, my face definitely looks juicier, but the dastardly lip lines haven't subsided much. Torgerson tells me I should be using retinols, exfoliating with glycolic acid and applying moisturizer and sunscreen to the area, just like I would on the rest of my face. I realize that I'd been unconsciously skipping this area when using products since my teens, when I used to get pimples around my lips. I commit to babying my kisser from here on in, but now it's time for the big guns.

"I don't want volume," I warn Torgerson for probably the 70th time as he comes at me with a specially designed Teosyal pen full of RHA 1, a tool which he tells me allows him to touch up precise spots with small drops of the product just under the skin. "With this I'm not worried about pressing a big plunger," he says. "I'm doing artwork to the face."

He pokes, leans back, pokes again, and leans back, staring at my lips like he's drawing. After a bunch more small pokes, he also fills in a small divot I have on my bottom lip due to a long-ago scar and then massages my lips a bit with his fingertips. The whole thing takes about 10 minutes. Afterwards he leads me to a mirror. My lips look just slightly fuller, like a perfect Cupid's bow—and the row of tiny lines is gone. It costs \$740 and will last about six months.

"See?" he says. "No ducky!"

I finally lost my lip-filler virginity—and at least it wasn't to a duck.

The game changer

Jennifer Berry test-drives the new concealer making shockwaves

At the risk of being excommunicated from planet Earth, I need to share a confession: I'm not the biggest fan of Fenty Beauty foundation. I know, I know. How could I speak ill of Rihanna, our queen and the indomitable force behind Fenty Beauty cosmetics, Savage x Fenty lingerie and more musical hits than we could ever possibly name off? It's downright blasphemous.

On paper, I loved everything about the then-groundbreaking launch: a balanced range of 40 inclusive foundation shades to colour-match all skin colours—not just one or two dark shades thrown in as an afterthought. On others, the foundation lent a flawless, matte finish, but on me, it just didn't work. The full coverage gave my alabaster skin a ghostly cast, and the formula settled into my pores almost immediately. I wanted to love it, but I simply couldn't. Every time I swiped on my beloved Fenty Beauty Gloss Bomb, I was reminded of the one that got away.

So when I got my hands on the brand's latest launch, a 50-shade range of Fenty Beauty Pro Filt'r Instant Retouch Concealers meant to complement the foundations, I was nervous it would be another missed connection. However, I'm jazzed to report the cream concealer is a keeper.

As mentioned, I'm pale, so I wouldn't say I have extremely dark circles, but I have some degree of under-eye darkness on a daily basis. As well as under my eyes, I typically dab on a little cover-up around my nose, on any redness on my chin and on the occasional blemish. I'm not at all loyal to any one concealer, but I would consider CoverGirl's classic Invisible liquid concealer a tried, tested and true drugstore gem that I keep going back to.

Prior to swiping on the Pro Filt'r

cover-up in shade 150 (the same as my ill-fated foundation, an intentional shade match system by the brand), I'd been using a sheer liquid formula from a natural beauty brand for about a month. The difference between its coverage and that of Pro Filt'r was startling. Why didn't anyone tell me I'd been going to work looking like I'd just rolled out of bed for weeks?!

The Pro Filt'r concealer comes with a nice-sized doe foot applicator that spreads the product easily. The formula is seriously creamy and buffs out to a smooth matte finish. I tried blending it with both my fingers and a sponge and would recommend using the latter to adequately blend out the rich, creamy goodness. Word to the wise: This isn't a swipe-and-go product. I was rushing out the door one morning (okay, I rush every morning, but this one was particularly frenzied) and didn't take enough time to tenderly blend it like Rihanna does in her tutorial video and I noticed it looked a bit creased when I got into the office.

Bad Gal Ri Ri doesn't call this stuff "the cure" for nothing—it seriously camouflages dark circles and leaves my under-eye area visibly brighter immediately. And though I've yet to test it against Rihanna's promise that it covers "even hangovers" (maybe circle back on Sunday morning?), I'd bet my bottom dollar it makes you look impossibly fresh after a few healthy pours.

In terms of its long-wear promise, Pro Filt'r concealer holds up impressively well. For example, I had to go straight from the office to an event last night and when I arrived in the ladies room with my makeup bag in hand, ready to do a little touch-up... there was nothing to touch up. What can I say? Sorry (thanks to Fenty Pro Filt'r concealer), I'm flawless!



FENTY BEAUTY PRO FILT'R INSTANT RETOUCH CONCEALER, \$32 EACH, SEPHORA.COM

ON OUR RADAR

THE KIT COLLAB

Valentine's Day

This Valentine's Day, make sure to show *yourself* some love. Here's what we'll be treating ourselves to (guilt-free) this month.

REEBOK

The perfect sneaker? One that is stylish enough to take you from the gym to brunch, if you ask us.

REEBOK SOLE FURY, \$130, REEBOK.CA



LOFT

This Valentine's Day, wear your heart on your sleeve "literally" with a cheeky printed sweater to match your mood.

LOFT HEART MOCK NECK SWEATER, \$60, LOFT STORES



QUO

Whether you're heading out on a date or hitting the town with your best girlfriends, pull your look together with a matte finish lip shade like this one.

QUO MATT E LIPSTICK IN SEDUCE, \$14, SHOPPERS DRUG MART



Miracle maker

As the wellness industry explodes, Caitlin Kenny heads to Australia's tea tree plantations to rediscover the most misunderstood oil

When I boarded the cramped plane in Sydney for a one-hour hop up the coast, I didn't expect to be dropped into an Australian postcard, but here I am. The afternoon sun lends a golden wash to the green rows of tea trees that meet me at eye level. On the drive to the field, I snapped a photo of an emu posing regally off the side of the road, and now, I'm told I just missed a wallaby that bounded into the nearby hedges. In about an hour, I'll spot a pair of kookaburras nuzzling in a tree (though not a gum tree, alas).

This is Ballina, a Down Under caricature come to life. But despite all the Aussie iconography, it's actually the tea tree that drew me to the other side of the world. This coastal town is home to Thursday Plantation, creator

of the world's first tea tree plantation back in 1976. Today, its products are available in 14 countries, including 20 years in Canada, where it's the top-selling essential oil brand. Still, Thursday Plantation's star shines brightest at home. Here, a bottle of its tea tree oil is considered a household staple. "An Australian will tell you

it fixes everything," I was told by a friend prior to my trip. "Just put some tea tree on it!"

Like with so many of Australia's other wellness exports—avocado toast, turmeric lattes, "fitfluencer" Kayla Itsines—the rest of us are finally catching on. Analysts forecast that the global tea tree market will hit \$62 million by the end of 2025, up from \$41 million in 2017. Our collective obsession with all things health and natural is fuelling growth in the essential oil market, but tea tree faces a unique challenge among its counterparts: a tarnished reputation. Though its antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and antifungal properties are lauded for treating acne, cuts, scrapes, dermatitis, lice and even ringworm, many complain that it can, ironically, cause skin irritation.

As I rub my fingers along the plant's needles, the sweet, medicinal scent summons memories of my own tumultuous relationship with tea tree. There was the time when I was in grade seven and I accidentally grabbed a hot pan from the stovetop. My aunt was a salesperson for Melaleuca, a direct-to-consumer line of tea tree products named after



Caitlin Kenny stands among Australian tea trees.



THURSDAY PLANTATION TEA TREE OIL, \$20, WELL.CA

Essential oils are extracted from the leaves of the tea tree using steam.

per cent pure Australian tea tree oil and meets specific quality standards).

For all the confusion around the selling of tea tree oil, its creation is decidedly simple. At a larger farm just about an hour's drive from Thursday Plantation's headquarters, tea tree seeds the size of pepper flecks germinate in a white plastic greenhouse. Three months later, they'll

be planted outside, joining the two million-plus trees, some 20 years old, that cover the plantation's 800 hectares. Once a year, the shrubs are cut down to their roots, with the harvested leaves and stems chopped up and loaded into large bins. Inside an industrial shed, the bins are steamed to extract the essential oil from the leaves, and then the leftover mulch is often sent back out the wide sliding door to fertilize the fields.

After each batch of tea tree oil is tested and cleared, it shifts into the form I recognize most: poured into tiny vials, blended into acne-fighting face wash, or, as in the case for Thursday Plantation's newest addition, steeped into wipes for on-the-go cleansing. This year, Australia will export more than a million kilograms of tea tree oil, with more than half of it heading to North America. One bottle was shipped directly to me, since I was ready to give the misunderstood oil another chance.

After a few months of use, I find myself forgetting that I ever swore off tea tree. My sensitive skin is wholly unbothered by the oil, and its antibacterial properties are proving their worth. Pimple? Bug bite? Ingrown hair? Every instance sparks a Q-Tip dip into my bottle and a surfacing of the Australian cliché that has stuck with me the most: "Just put some tea tree on it."

Travel and accommodations for Caitlin Kenny were provided by Thursday Plantation. Thursday Plantation did not review or approve this story.

the plant's genus, and a few drops of tea tree oil soothed the burn, helping my blister to lose its sting. But the next time I turned to the oil, a few years later, it burned me. I picked a bottle up from the mall to treat a breakout and wound up with an angry rash where once there was a small blemish.

It's a problem Tony Larkman, president of the Australian Tea Tree Industry Association (ATTIA), is all too familiar with. The root of the issue: Often, the tea tree oil we reach for isn't tea tree oil at all, he says. Only 0.3 to 1 per cent of the population is allergic to one or more components of tea tree oil, Larkman explains, so the reactions are more likely caused by adulterated formulas. He regularly tests samples of marketed tea tree oil and discovers they've been cut with industrial by-products—pine oil, eucalyptus oil, even hashishene, the main ingredient in hash oil—to mimic the chemical structure of tea tree oil. "[Suppliers are] coming up with a concoction that approximates tea tree oil, and they are selling it as 100 per cent pure tea tree oil," he says.

A lack of regulation (in Canada, brands only need to disclose where the oil was bottled) and fake certificates of analysis complicate the issue. "I've never seen a sample of Chinese tea tree oil—and I have tested hundreds and hundreds—that is tea tree oil," says Larkman. For Canada, he estimates that more than half the tea tree oil bottles on our shelves are impure, and with the widespread false claims, there's little way for consumers to decipher the truth (though the ATTIA does require independent testing for every batch of oil sold by its 11 member companies to confirm that it's 100

Often, the tea tree oil we reach for isn't tea tree oil at all.

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Reinventing business travel

North America Business Class from Air Canada makes travelling for work a pleasure



The delectable in-flight menu is complemented by an expanded wine selection.

Not all business travel is created equal, particularly on transcontinental flights.

Frequent flyers know business travel isn't always as glamorous as it sounds. Attending conferences, networking with clients and trying to close deals can be challenging after a long day of travel or while fighting jet lag.

Sometimes it even means getting off an overnight flight and heading straight to a meeting.

Business travellers need to get from A to B as quickly, easily and comfortably as possible, so they can make the most of their time out of the office. If employees can rest (or catch up on work) in transit, they'll arrive refreshed and ready to go — which is why most companies feel business class travel is a worthwhile investment.

But not all business class travel is created equal, particularly on transcontinental flights. Air Canada's award-winning, end-to-end North America Business Class experience begins the

only Canadian airline to provide dedicated lounges for its premium travellers, who can escape the airport hustle to relax or work as they await boarding in one of 17 lounges dedicated to North American flight departures.

Its brand-new 7,000-square-foot Maple Leaf Lounge in New York's LaGuardia airport is one of the airline's newest lounges. The newly-built lounge in the new Terminal B offers travellers panoramic views of the terminal alongside a self-service food buffet and bar, and specially-designed TV viewing area.

Special attention is paid to the in-flight experience. For example, for those who need to stay in touch with the office while in the air, Air Canada offers North America Business Class travellers in-flight Wi-Fi. For the frequent traveller, subscription-based Wi-Fi is also available to ensure connectivity every time they board. Each seat also has its own power supply to charge devices.

The seat-back in-flight entertainment system — with enhanced-definition touchscreens and intuitive interface — offers more than

moment you arrive at the airport with expedited check-in and security clearance, priority baggage handling and preferential boarding. And Air Canada is continually working to improve this experience.

600 hours of top-rated entertainment, with a range of new releases accompanying a rotating lineup of 150 movies, as well as short films, television programs, music albums, audio books and podcasts.

North American travellers can also experience Air Canada's new Signature Class, the premium cabin of its wide-body aircraft, which brings international business class services and amenities to select non-stop transcontinental flights in North America, including daytime flights between Vancouver and New York, and overnight flights from Los Angeles and San Francisco to Toronto. Air Canada is the first North American airline to designate aircrafts with lie-flat seats on these specific routes, which stretch out to 80 inches and come equipped with quilted pillows and plush mattress pads.

For all North America Business Class passengers, the delectable in-flight menu is complemented by an expanded wine selection chosen by Véronique Rivest — Air Canada's sommelier and one of the top-ranked in the world. Sophisticated touches are even found on the new restaurant-style dishware and glassware.

Air Canada's commitment to elevating customer service is clearly paying off. The airline received the Skytrax 2018 Best Business Class in North America award in addition to its Best Airline in North America award — the seventh time in the past nine years it has won the latter award. ✈️

MEET EUROPE'S ULTIMATE BEAUTY SECRET

Cult skincare line Embryolisse brings its multi-tasking miracle products to Canada for the first time. Time to beautify like a French woman



EMBRYOLISSE
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\$39
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From the beginning, Embryolisse was unique. In 1950, a French dermatologist created its first product: the now-mythical Lait-Crème Concentré, a deeply hydrating moisturizer that proved both remarkably efficacious and gentle enough to use on all skin types. It became a cult product, passed from mother to daughter, friend to friend. Makeup artists fell in love with its many uses: as a daily moisturizer, makeup base, even a night mask. Celebrities and models soon followed suit.

Almost 70 years since its founding in a Saint-Louis hospital, Embryolisse is one of Europe's most beloved pharmacy brands with a full skincare range, which is—finally—available in Canada at select Shoppers Drug Mart stores and online at shoppersdrugmart.ca. Standout products include Lait-Crème Concentré, Moisturizing Cream with Orange, Rosamelis Toner, Filaderm Cream, Smooth Eye Contour Care, Anti-Age Firming Care and Gentle Night Peeling. Needless to say, we're a little excited. To celebrate, we gave beauty experts and influencers Jennifer Morton and Mikayla Greenwood a sneak peek at Embryolisse essentials and asked them to share their test-drive verdict with you.



MIKAYLA GREENWOOD
@MISSMIKAYLAG, Vancouver

"I found the products to be super nourishing."

When looking for new skin products, what is most important to you?

"The biggest skin concerns I have are dryness and sensitivity. Making sure a product isn't going to dry my skin out more or isn't too heavily scented are things I always look for. Embryolisse has a range of products that I have found to be super nourishing."

You travel so much as part of your job. What is your go-to Embryolisse essential for travel?

"The Lait-Crème Concentré (\$39) is one of the hero products from my understanding and for great reason! This cream is so hydrating, it is seriously perfect for my super-dry winter skin. I love the fact that you can use this product in so many ways, too, which also makes this a great travel product. I've tried it both as a makeup primer, hydrating mask and my regular nightly moisturizer and all have been so wonderful."

If you had to pick just one product, what would it be?

"My standout product is probably the Smooth Radiant Complexion Moisturizer (\$49). It's hydrating, smoothing, plumping and makes my skin feel so prepped for makeup. This is also a product I will use on my no-makeup days to give my skin that hydration boost it needs. I love how it makes my skin look and feel fresh."

JENNIFER MORTON
@JENCMORTON, Toronto

"Every product I've used has had immediately noticeable effects."

What do you look for in a skincare brand?

"With naturally oily skin, I'm always looking for new foundations and BB creams that will suit me. I really loved that I could apply the Embryolisse BB cream (\$36) with my fingers super quickly, creating a natural look and finish in about a minute."

You test hundreds of products a year. What makes Embryolisse stand out?

"I was amazed by the thoughtfulness in each product—they're all so functional in their own right. From products to get rid of my morning eye puffiness, to a moisturizer that doubles as a mask, all of them were so innovative and effective. I found that every product I've used has had almost immediately noticeable effects—it's no wonder it's makeup artists' go-to brand."

If you had to pick just one product, what would you choose?

"It's a tie. I'm in love with the Radiant Eye stick (\$33) in the morning—I honestly use it every day and am kind of addicted to it. It immediately makes me look awake. And then, the Lait-Crème Concentré (\$39) is such an amazing product. It's very hydrating, so I like to apply it in spot-application to target dryer areas and add a touch to my foundation for a dewier, more natural look."



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Makeup artists have been among Embryolisse's biggest fans for decades, so it follows that the famed French brand would create a special line inspired by their expertise. *Secret de Maquilleurs* features four pro-level products that harness the power of beauty experts but are easy enough for everyone to use: a cooling Radiant Eye stick (\$33) that hydrates and eliminates puffiness; a plumping Smooth Radiant Complexion moisturizer (\$49) powered by hyaluronic acid; an anti-aging Complexion Illuminating Veil (\$36) that blurs imperfections; and a Lashes & Brows Booster (\$45) to lengthen and volumize. There, now you're ready for your close-up.

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