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1. FELINE FASHION Vamp it up by pairing this fast cat with a dark and flirty jewel tone mani for an eye-catching look. Zad mixed-metal jaguar cocktail ring, \$20, ellehardware.ca

2. LEADER OF THE PACK It's no surprise that selftaught accessories designer Jenny Bird admits to being a fiery Aries. Symbolized by the ram, her sign is characterized as pioneering and adventureseeking. Ditto this ring. Jenny Bird gold-plated ram ring, \$85, jenny-bird.com

3. SNAKE CHARMER Add a dash of sultry to your outfit day or night by channeling your inner asploving Cleopatra. Thomas Sabo sterling-silver snake ring, \$219, thomassabo.com

your LBD for a night out. Cocoa Jewelry gold-plated brass and crystal Nala lioness ring, \$35, cocoajewelry.com

Spark a fashion conversation

with this crystal-embellished

feline ring. Accessorize with

4. COPY CAT

5. HEAR ME ROAR This full-maned knuckleduster makes a fierce statement. Try it paired with jeans and a flowy blouse to create a soft, Boho look Cocoa Jewelry gold-plated

-NATASHA BRUNO/PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL HARRISON

lion cocktail ring, \$25, cocoajewelry.com

ASK JEANNE

"I would like to do as some French fashion editors do and stop wearing makeup to work. My hair and clothing are always polished. Good idea? Bad idea?"—Aurelie

DEAR AURELIE:

Sounds like you're ready for a big change. Make sure you ask yourself why. Are you just looking to save a few minutes in your morning by nixing your makeup routine? Do you just want to tone down your makeup for work? The latter might be a better idea instead of ditching your makeup altogether. A bit of tinted moisturizer, mascara, and lipgloss would give you that natural look you crave, without doing away with makeup completely.

It also depends on the kind of job you have. If you're at a job where you're not doing lots of presentations with clients, or staying in the office most of the time, you may not be that inspired to wear much makeup. But, wearing a little makeup is nice—it makes it look as though you've put an effort into your personal style.

I'm not sure that all French fashion editors abandon makeup for work. I think that may be a bit of a myth. But many of them definitely go for a more natural, laissez-faire, natural look. And that's lovely. But remember, even these seemingly effortless looks often involve subtle, but calculated grooming, makeup application and shading.

While great style is a universal subject, culturally, there are some subtle differences that go on. For example, a stylish French woman can get away with having only two or three well-made, classic little black dresses in her wardrobe and constantly turns to them for any and every occasion. Here in North America, stylish women usually entertain a much more diverse (and larger!) wardrobe and crave many more options. I'm not saying one approach is better than the other. They're just different.

As one gets older, less is often more: Certainly no need to go for a fully made-up look every day. It also depends on what kind of overall personal style statement you want to make.

If you're not sure what to do, why not try going to work with less makeup for a few days and see what people say—if they say anything



yourself in the mirror. If the image that's reflected back pleases you, then stick with the no-makeup look. When all is said and done, you ve got to make yourself happy first and foremost and put your best face

Send your questions to

Jeanne Beker is contributing editor to the Toronto Star and host of Fashion Television Channel. Follow her on Twitter @Jeanne Beker.

web See more gorgeous accessories at thekit.ca/accessories

radar



Retailers have littles on the brain. Destination Maternity has opened a Canadian location, in Calgary. Last week, Baby Gap released a collection, above, inspired by the Peter Rabbit books. And don't forget celebrity moms-to-be Kate Middleton and Kim Kardashian. Babies: so hot right now.—Nadine Anglin

GET WELL AT THE RITZ

Free workshops at the Ritz-Carlton Toronto's Wellness Week help you kick-start 2013. The highlight: a skin health class at the hotel's Spa MyBlend by Clarins (January 27; 1:30 p.m.). Visit spamyblendtoronto.com for details.—N.A.

THE KIT WILL RETURN



Yet another reason to pine for warmer weather. Banana Republic will release a limited-edition collection this summer in collaboration with quirkyhip New York label Milly. Look out for more than 60 pieces for men and women, including maxi dresses, mini skirts, polo shirts and accessories. A new print was created exclusively for the collaboration, featuring Milly's trademark vintage-inspired vibe. Prices range from \$24 to \$175. At select Banana Republic stores worldwide. Visit bananarepublic.gap.com.





SPOTTED

JBLE DOSE

Sass up your winter nails with a multi-coluor manicure



ORANGE WITH ATTITUDE Vermilion nails with a contrasting racing stripe straight down the centres: Now that's a great way to speed into spring. OPI Euro Centrale Collection Nail Lacquer in Oy-Another Polish Joke! and My Paprika Is Hotter Than Yours!, \$11, opi.com



NAIL ARTISTRY A two-colours-in-one wand allows for endless nail-art experimentation in a pair of the coming season's happiest hues. Revlon Nail Art Expressionist Nail Enamel Duo in Monet, \$9, drug stores and mass retailers, revlon.ca



TROMPE L'OEIL Push the manicure envelope with fashionforward styles inspired by the spectator shoe. Try a silhouette nail or a reverse moon. Sally Hansen Colour and Care Complete Salon Manicure in #670 Midnight in NY, \$8, at major retailers. Essie Nail Lacquer in Adore-A-Ball, \$10, at major retailers



BEIGE & BEYOND Reimagine neutral beiges with iridescent bug-green tips, or perhaps try a tiny teal polka dot placed strategically upon 10 nude-enamelled moons. Avon Nailwear Pro + Nail Enamel in Shimmer Noir Emerald, \$7, avon.ca. Dior Vernis in Gris Trianon, \$24, dior.com

Material Girl Cillis

microfiber fauxsuede pumps, \$69, thebay.com



BEAUTY SLEEP ESSENTIAL

Admit it. You haven't always been good about removing your makeup before bed. Noncomedogenic Burt's Bees wipes are infused with white tea and cucumber extracts, and made with natural fabric. They take off everything—even that longwear lipstick. No excuses.

-DEBORAH FULSANG Burt's Bees Facial Cleansing Towelettes,

THE BUDGET CHALLENGE

STRAP ONE ON FOR WAY LES



EARTH ANGEL Playing off this angelic white frock, Jones injects some edge to her look with these strappy Mary Janes—a

sexy twist on the classic version.



LONG AND LEGGY While there is no arguing this dress is painted on Conrad, the almond shape toe of her Mary Janes helps lengthen her lower half.



GOLD DIGGER Bosworth's flapper-inspired outfit and Mary Janes are a natural fit. We love the added vintage nod: a metallic cap toe.

RED CARPET FASHION FORECAST

The Heiress

Canary yellow

and classic red

lips are the ideal

combo for red-

heads. Chastain

looks flawless in

The nude under-

lay transforms this

dress from classic

that passed on ac-

cessories, keeping

the focus on this

fantastic outfit

1970s-inspired

skirt. Finishing

touch? A multi-

coloured collar

(part of the dress),

wept faux-bob.

earrings and a wind-

Awards

to mysteriously

sexy. We loved

this lace frock.

Bash

events to predict what they'll wear on Hollywood's most glamorous evening this February wanessa taylor



Lawrence's sequined Valentino Couture dress has a 1970s nod with the draped skirt and batwing sleeves. We love that her tousled braided updo showcases the statement earrings and sheer neckline.

ero Dark

Hitting several

ends in the

ame outfit is

o easy feat,

ut Chastain

oks great in

his cobalt Elie

Saab dress. The

ooudoir-inspired

classic shape of

the pencil skirt

with a subtle

SEEN AT:

premiere

The Impossible

Los Angeles

While some may

think prints are a

casual option for

this floor-grazing

aown is stunning.

and fit-and-flare

silhouette have a

subtle 1940s look

along with her

The flutter sleeves

floral Zac Posen

the red carpet,

ace bodice

contrasts the

Thirty premiere



SEEN AT: Critic's Choice Despite the sweetheart necklin on this Prabal Gurung gown, the leather detail and cleavage makes thi one smokin' frock. A sheer train adds a major dose of red-carpet appeal without being too overwhelming.









The bow is feminine, but this silhouette means Chastain would be dressed to kill. A fiery redhead in this sizzling shade is a sure-fire



Stepping away from the classic red carpet puffy gown, this column

Wearing the 'It

pretty updos.

nue of the season, Chastain arrives n a mint sorbet Givenchy couture gown. Though the colour is sweet, he silhouette s daring. The plunging neckline and backless detail show Chastain can wear almost anything and look

olden Globe

earrings peek out

beneath her vintage

nspired faux-bob.

People's Choice Watts doesn't shy From the front, away from a bold, Watts's rich burgundy Zac look. She makes a Posen gown reads dramatic entrance and exit with this conservative, with Alexander McQueei keyhole. But it's backless halter top completely open at and slinky column the back and sports a full train. We love that her matching



dress would look incredible. THE FIX

IT'S THE BALM

Canada's 2010 Olympic figure skating bronze medalist Joannie Rochette waxes on lip balms vs. ointments—and why she no longer bites her lips Janine Falcon



A lip balm in every jacket or coat she owns, plus at least four in her purse, earns figure skater Joannie Rochette a Lip-Balm Addict diagnosis. "While competing,

I put lip balm under my lipstick to keep them hydrated and prevent my colour from getting into the little lines of my lips," she says. Most of us share Rochette's lip balm obsession. Along with Sorel boots, puffy parkas and maple syrup, lip balm in every pocket is part of the winter-proofed Canadian's culture.

Rochette is part of Canadian culture, too: she's a six-time national champion and 2009 world silver medalist. And during the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics, she touched hearts worldwide with her bronze-medal win and two days after her mother unexpectedly passed away of a heart attack. These days, Rochette is touring with Stars on Ice as the Canadian spokesperson for Carmex Lip Balm.

According to Dr. Sandy Skotnicki, dermatologist and medical director of the Bay Dermatology Centre in Toronto, there is good reason for our dependence on lip balm, especially in icy, dry conditions. She says lips are more delicate than the rest of your skin "because they lack the protection of the stratum corneum to keep moisture in and irritants out," she says. So think of lip balm as a substitute shield.

When it comes to lipbalm format, Rochette is definitely on Team Tube rather than Team Stick. "The problem with waxy lip balms is that when I get in the rink they get cold and almost impossible to apply.'

Janine Falcon is head geek at imabeautygeek.com

6 SALVES FOR BABY-SOFT LIPS



Lip Treatmen has kokum butter, a fruit seed extract that feels just great. \$5, Shoppers Drug Mart, Rexall,





Diptyque Balm elevates lip salve to luxe salve with subtle fragrance, melty texture, and a pretty pot. \$42,



cream. It has cocoa butter, lanolin, tingly camphor and menthol. So great, it sells 138 units per minute. \$3.79, Shoppers



Elizabeth Arden Eight Hour Lip Protectant Stick SPF 15 is a favourite of makeup pros to soften lips at ohotoshoots. \$23, The Bay, Sears, elizabetharden.ca



The Body Shop Lip Roll-On softens with natural oils for a pillowy soft finish. \$6, thebodyshop.ca

THREE STEPS TO SUPPLE LIPS WORTH KISSING

I. GENTLY BUFF **ROUGH LIPS with**

a hot, damp washcloth. (Forget the toothbrush idea, which can be too aggressive for delicate lips.) 2. DAB LIPS WITH NATURAL OIL, such as seabuckthorn, olive, or sunflower, or a blend like The Body Shop Natural Roll-On. Try a drop or two of the same hydrating serum you use for your face and

let it sink in before applying the next step.

3. Load up on balm. Ointments blanket dry lips easily, but some stick balms, such as LippyGirl Lip Love Lip Conditioning Stick, are satisfyingly emollient.





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A FAIRY TALE COME TRUE

Get brighter, younger-looking skin with anti-aging products that tap the super powers of stem cells

JANINE FALCON

Once upon a time, around the mid-18th century, in a land far, far away—Switzerland—there lived an apple tree named Uttwiler Spätlauber. This was a very special apple tree: It bore fruit that had a mysterious ability to heal itself.

Piercing an Uttwiler Spätlauber apple skin would spark the slow growth of a mass of new cells over the cut. The colourless mass, called a callus, was special, too. Comprised of stem cells, it could repair the damaged fruit flesh without leaving a mark. Like magic.

Today, there are only a few Uttwiler Spätlauber apple trees left. But happily, some other species of plant stem cells are also capable of regenerating entirely new plants

"Stem cells are like 'super cells,' because they have superior qualities, such as a longer life cycle and more endurance."

Solen Marie, former VitalScience product development manager

if need be. Apple or plant, these stem cells can help maintain the health of human stem cells, too.

According to the Mayo Clinic, "Stem cells are the body's raw materials—cells from which all other cells with specialized functions are generated. In the body or a laboratory, stem cells divide to form more cells, called daughter cells. These daughter cells either become new stem cells (self-renewal) or become specialized cells (differentiation) with a more specific function, such as blood cells, brain cells, heart muscle or bone."

An International Journal for Applied Science study reports that human stem cells aren't quite like plant or apple stem cells—capable of replicating themselves endlessly. Instead,

we are each born with a limited number—and because life isn't fair, some of us are born with more, says product development manager Solen Marie, who oversaw the forumulation of Dermaglow Synchron Age Cream. (Marie just left VitalScience for a complete career shift). "Stem cells are 'super cells.' They have superior qualities: a longer life cycle and more endurance," explains Marie. Stem cells divide into new stem cells and healthy new tissue cells, including fibroblasts, which produce collagen, hyaluronic acid and elastin—essentials for bouncy skin, notes Hiroko Nagawaka, Shiseido's director of global product development and research.

But, we lose stem cells as we age. They reproduce only a limited number of times before they work their way up from the bottom of the epidermis to die with other cells at the skin's surface.

Stem-cell skincare, usually aimed at more mature skin (40s and up), contains ingredients such as fruit or plant extracts designed to improve stem-cell health and performance. The idea is to "slow down the renewal of dysfunctional cells and in-

crease the renewal of healthy ones," says Marie.
"A good environment needs to be created for dermal stem cells to function effectively within the skin," says Nagawaka. The result? brighter, smoother, firmer, more resilient and

younger-looking skin.

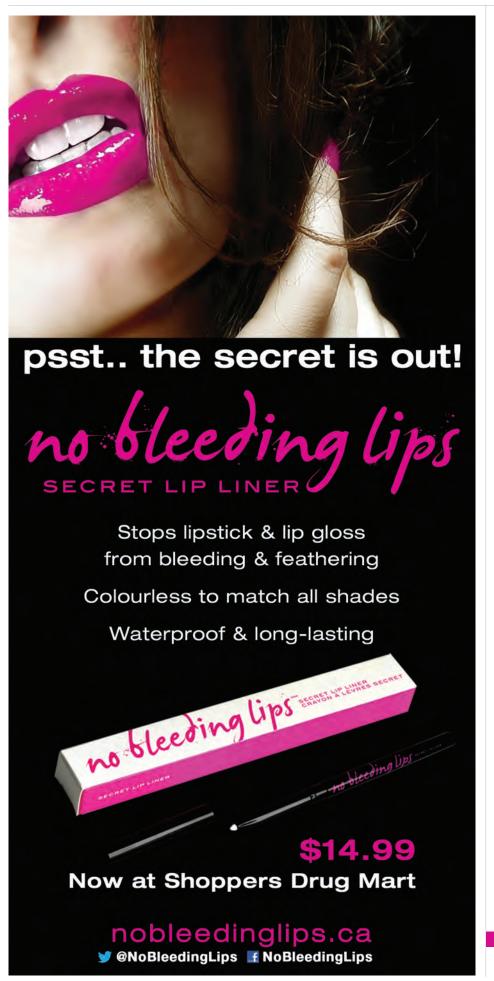
The science is encouraging. Investigations show that stem cells from the fabled Uttwiler Spätlauber apple really can protect human stem cells from damage and prolong their life cycles. In fact, one study revealed a 15 per cent improvement in crow's feet in over just four weeks.

Does that sound like a fairytale?

Janine Falcon is head geek at imabeautygeek.com



web Get more skincare advice at thekit.ca/beauty



CELEBRITIES WHOAGE GRACEFULLY

These gorgeous celebrities will have you planning your beauty routine proactively so you won't ever look a day over 29 NADINE ANGLIN

In show business, youth is often equated with beauty, and we've all seen the terrible lengths some celebrities will go to retain their winning looks.

Dramatically-altered faces and waifish bodies are unrealistic at any age, so it's refreshing to see several celebrities take a more natural route with aging: retaining some wrinkles and character, and choosing to age gracefully-and looking so much better for it!

Want proof? It's right here:

- Michelle Yeoh is the poster child for beauty, brawn and brains.
- DianeLaneisquietlyconfident and always subtly sexy.
- Julianne Moore, is just radiant: her porcelain skin seems to glow from within.
- Halle Berry personifies the phrase, "Aging like fine wine." It was made just for her.









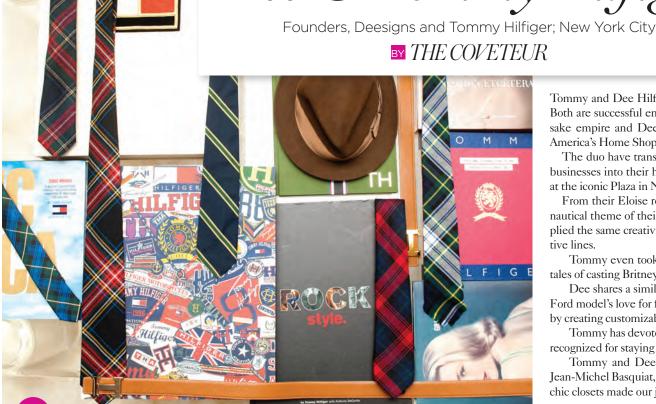
OUCTS: GEOFFREY ROSS. SKINCARE MODEL AND CELEBS: GET

web Look beautiful at any age. Visit thekit.ca/right-look-right-age



CLOCKWISE: Power couple Dee and Tommy Hilfiger; the Hilfiger master bedroom, Halston jacket and Stubbs & Wootton shoes; Tommy Hilfiger ties, vintage hat, Hermès belt

Dee & Tommy Hilfiger



Go inside Tommy's chic closet at thecoveteur.com/tommy_hilfiger

Tommy and Dee Hilfiger are two names synonymous with style and power. Both are successful entrepreneurs in their own right; Tommy with his namesake empire and Dee with her recently launched collection, Deesigns for America's Home Shopping Network.

The duo have translated the very same labour of love and passion of their businesses into their home, which is a carefully curated, museum-like abode at the iconic Plaza in New York.

From their Eloise room, which features a hand-painted, 360°-mural to the nautical theme of their youngest son Sebastian's room, the Hilfigers have applied the same creativity and thoughtfulness in their home as in their respective lines.

Tommy even took the time to give us an lesson on Hilfiger history, with tales of casting Britney Spears in his ad campaign before anyone knew her.

Dee shares a similar passion for the arts and Americana prep. The former Ford model's love for fashion inspired her to fill a void in the handbag market by creating customizable, multi-functional bags.

Tommy has devoted years to building the classic Americana brand, widely recognized for staying true to its signature red, white and blue-jean classics.

Tommy and Dee's sophisticated taste in art—they own Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring and Richard Prince pieces—and preppychic closets made our job a breeze.

THE KIT ON

Visit us at instagram.com/the_kit and go behind the scenes of The Kit. See our candid pictures from photo shoots, events and more.



The Kit's office makeover continues with poster-sized prints of our favourite editorial images



Candid photos from the office: Showing off quirky iPhone cases



Our intern's glittery, impressive DIY nail art is inspiring and detailed



A favourite tote from Kate Spade at Yorkdale Shopping Centre in Toronto



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