



MOST WANTED
TALK TO ME
The coolest way to add statement sparkle? Emoji-inspired shoes
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Sandra Bullock at the *Minions* premiere, London, June 2015. Photo: Getty Images.

THE KIT

HAUTE HOLIDAY STYLE

Your guide to dressing for every occasion—from office party to black tie soiree—with fashion inspiration from Hollywood heavy hitters
page 7



PROFILE
QUEEN JANE
Jane Fonda is ready to help us all age more gracefully

BY OLIVIA STREN

“We don’t have much time. So let’s get started,” Jane Fonda tells me about 45 seconds after we meet in her suite at Toronto’s Park Hyatt Hotel. One gets the immediate impression that wasting time is something Fonda—Oscar-winning movie star, political activist, fitness queen—is not, well, fond of. Even her speech is efficient, her sentences trimmed of whimsy or tangent. She is grand in carriage and coolly assessing, sitting with astonishingly straight-backed posture in a high-collared leather jacket. Her leonine-hued hair, tense with product, is disciplined into a magisterial mane. I’m sure she could still wear the hell out of a leotard and leg warmers. She looks extraordinary, and not just for her age, which is 77.
Continued on page 4



SHOPPING
HOT DEALS
Where to shop on Black Friday and Cyber Monday
page 9

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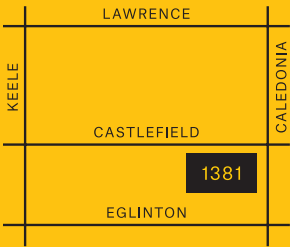


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MOST WANTED

Talk to me

Emoji-inspired shoes are the most playful way to add a little sparkle to your style this season. Pair colourful patches, fun decals and interchangeable Velcro stick-ons with a classic black suit or LBD for a fresh, youthful twist on holiday dressing. Bonus: Now your #OOTD can always match your mood. —Vanessa Taylor. Photography by Adrian Armstrong.

CLOCKWISE FROM CENTRE: MINNA PARIKKA HIGH-TOPS, \$498, CHIARA FERRAGNI FLATS, \$398, CHIARA FERRAGNI SNEAKERS, \$398 (WITH SIX INTERCHANGEABLE VELCRO EMOJIS, ALSO AT BOTTOM LEFT), B2 SNEAKERS, \$198, CHIARA FERRAGNI FLATS, \$398, ALL BROWNS SHOES AND B2 STORES



STOCKING STUFFER STILL OR SPARKLING?

The latest line to ride the Korean skincare wave into Canada, Laneige analyzes the chemical components of water types (mineral, spring, etc.) to find the properties that perform best for each of its products. Modelled on sparkling water, this light-as-air cleanser looks like shaving foam and feels super-fresh on your face.

LANEIGE BRIGHTENING SPARKLING WATER FOAM CLEANSER, \$30, SEPHORA.CA

GIFT GUIDE PERFECT WORK BAGS

A great work carryall will give you the confidence to saunter into 2016 looking and feeling like a boss. (Also, swapping bags every morning = soul death.) What to look for: practical size and a wear-with-everything colour. Here, options for every paycheck.

ONE TREND, TWO WAYS CREAMSICLE EYES

Soft washes of orange and peach make a surprisingly flattering statement



1. Pretty pastels at Thakoon
Taking inspiration from the Northern Lights, makeup artist Diane Kendal used a blush duo on eyes to finish off Thakoon models' softly reflective makeup. After applying the bronze shade all over lids and blending out toward the temples, she amplified the look with a wash of peach, and lined the waterline with a white pencil.

2. Two-tone at Altuzarra
Tom Pecheux channelled Ingrid Bergman's cool beauty and understated elegance when he painted lids in warm pastels at Altuzarra. He used his fingers to blend warm orangey copper around the outer half of the eyes and added pale grey at the inner corners to create a colour-blocked effect. —Carly Ostroff

NARS EYESHADOW DUO IN MEDITERRANEAN, \$35, NARSCOSMETICS.COM. M.A.C COSMETICS MAGNIFICENT ME EYE SHADOW IN CHEER ME ON, \$19, MACCOSMETICS.CA



INTERN
OLD NAVY BAG, \$40, OLDNAVY.CA



MANAGER
REISS TOTE, \$690, REISS.COM



BIG CHEESE
LANVIN BAG, \$3,192, NET-A-PORTER.COM



RADAR STYLE BULLETIN

Need-to-know fashion and beauty news

- 1. All-weather style**
Glamour has launched an app that sends users suggested outfits based on daily weather alerts. The free app called "Coat?" warns you if you need a jacket or an umbrella, or if you should wear your hair up, depending on the predicted forecast.
- 2. Word of the year**
The Oxford dictionary has chosen the "face with tears of joy" emoji as the word of the year, saying it best represents "the ethos, mood and preoccupations of 2015." Other shortlisted words included *they* (in reference to someone

- without a specific gender), *on fleek* and *refugee*.
- 3. Browns Shoes expands**
Browns Shoes plans to open up to 10 new stores across Canada by the end of 2016. (Vancouver, Edmonton and Montreal are on the list.) Next up for the retailer: continued expansion into 2017, with plans to open four to six stores a year until 2020.
 - 4. Fashion force**
Star Wars: The Force Awakens, the newest addition to the mega movie franchise, has partnered with Bloomingdale's to create window displays at

- the store's New York flagship. The initiative, called "Force 4 Fashion," will feature *Star Wars*-inspired looks by designers such as Cynthia Rowley, Rag & Bone and Todd Snyder. The designer items will then be auctioned off with proceeds benefiting the Child Mind Institute, an organization devoted to children's mental health.
- 5. Drake takeover**
Drake holds a special place in our hearts, and now he's moved into our closets and makeup bags, too. His first women's line for OVO hits octobersveryown.com on November 28. In other

ONLINE FOR MORE STYLE NEWS, VISIT THEKIT.CA

- Drake news, Tom Ford released a burgundy lipstick named after the rapper this week.
- 6. 'Tis the season**
Claridge's, the luxe London hotel, has unveiled its lobby Christmas tree, designed by Christopher Bailey, the chief creative and chief executive officer of Burberry Prorsum. The tree, made from 100 umbrellas, is motion-activated, with 77,000 bulbs, which light up when people walk by. Burberry also released a Snapchat geo-filter, allowing visitors to frame their selfies with metallic umbrellas like the ones on the tree.



Jane Fonda, queen of all red carpets, at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

PROFILE

Queen Jane

Continued from cover

If in the world of fashion every-thing old is new again, *being* old is newly in fashion. “It’s about time,” says Fonda. “We’re the fastest-growing demographic in the world. Somebody better start paying attention.” On a pop culture level, we are. This year saw the release of *Iris*, a documen-tary about 94-year-old style icon Iris Apfel; the rise of 87-year-old Instagram star Baddie Winkle, whose granddaughter photographs her in raver wear to the delight of her 1.7 million followers; and the anointing of 80-year-old writer Joan Didion as Céline’s poster girl. Fonda herself has seen renewed success with her Netflix series *Grace and Frankie*, in which she co-stars

alongside her *9 to 5* co-star and long-time friend Lily Tomlin, 76. In her role as spokesperson for L’Oréal Paris, appearing in its ads for Age Perfect skincare and hair colour, Fonda also acts as a repre-sentation of older women within a culture of beauty still in thrall to ideals of youth. But allowing the world to see her age is daunting, even to her. “I am brave in a lot of ways, but not that way,” she said in an interview with the *Telegraph* this year. Honesty also takes bravery, and Fonda has been refreshingly open about having had (excellent) plastic surgery on her jowls, on her eyelids and under her eyes. Aging naturally, particularly for women in the spotlight, has somehow

become radical—the sort of thing that requires courage. Frankly, we should all be so lucky to age (naturally or not) as well as Fonda. Rihanna, for one, thinks so. At the most recent Grammy Awards, Fonda, resplendent in an emerald-green Balmain jumpsuit, was introduced to the pop star, who exclaimed, “I want to be you when I grow up!” I can’t help but agree with the sentiment. “Well, I’ll take it,” says Fonda. “I think it’s funny because between the ages of birth and 60-something, I never could have imagined that that could be possible. You know, I didn’t grow up seeing myself that way. And it took me a long, long time to get to a point where I was, as the French say, *bien dans sa peau*.” I wonder when that finally happened. “Sixty-three, 64,” she says, adding that writing her memoir, *My Life So Far*, helped her find that comfort in her skin. “There are those rare people who grow up with confidence, being whole. I mean, it would be fabulous to live a whole life like

“It took me a long, long time to get to a point where I was, as the French say, *bien dans sa peau*.”

that. But there’s also something great about not being like that and then becoming that way when you’re older, when you’re aware it’s happening. It means the work I’ve done on myself has paid off.” At this point in her life, Fonda enjoys helping younger women feel less afraid of death. I decide to ask her for some pointers. She

describes watching her father, actor Henry Fonda, die of heart disease. “He took a long time to die. I was aware of the fact that he was going out with a lot of regret. And I realized then that going out was not what scared me. What scared me was coming to the end of life with a lot of regrets.” So Fonda resolved to live “more intentionally.” “When I turned 60, I thought, ‘Well, this is the begin-ning of my final act,’” she says, outstretching her arms as if the act in question would take place on Broadway. “You can’t just get to the end of your life and try to cash in chips that you never earned. If you want to die with love around you, then you have to behave in a certain way.” This includes how she presents herself to the world, which extends beyond clothes and makeup. “I come from a long line of depressed people, so I have to work very hard at not being nega-tive and judgmental,” she says. “Because if you stop being negative and judgmental, your face changes, you tend to smile more, the corners of your mouth turn up more, your eyes light up.” Here Fonda pauses, looks out the window and reflects on her last visit to Toronto, a few months ago, when she marched in the Jobs, Justice and Climate rally with her 16-year-old grandson, Malcol. “One of the great things that happens to you when you’re old is [you realize], what the hell have you got to lose? ‘So throw

GREATEST HITS

Let’s take a page from Jane Fonda’s book with her best beauty moments

MOD LASHES, 1960
L’ORÉAL PARIS
VOLUMINOUS SUPERSTAR
MASCARA, \$15, DRUGSTORES

THE SHAG, 1971
R + CO BADLANDS DRY SHAM-
POO PASTE, \$32, SALONS

BURNISHED BRONZE, 1978
BURBERRY WARM GLOW
NATURAL BRONZER, \$54,
BURBERRY.COM

FULL VOLUME, 1990
NIOXIN BODIFYING
FOAM, \$18, SALONS

POLISHED PEACH, 2015
ESSENCE LONGLASTING LIP-
STICK IN WEARING ONLY A SMILE,
\$4, SHOPPERS DRUG MART

SKINCARE

Retinol Rx

Find out why doctors hail retinol as a multi-talented skin-improving miracle worker, no matter your age or skin concern

BY JILL DUNN

It’s a rare dermatologist who doesn’t cite retinol as a #skinwin. “I’d recommend a retinol or prescription Retin-A from 20s until death—most dermatologists do,” says Dr. Benjamin Barankin, medical director of Toronto Dermatology Centre. But before you start slathering it on by the bucketload, there are a few things to be aware of. One: It’s off-limits during pregnancy because of the risk of absorption. Two: If you’re going in for any kind of skin treatment, you should let the staff know you’re using it. And three: It can be a lot for your skin to take. Read on for everything else you need to know for retinol to work its magic.

What is retinol, anyway?

It’s a vitamin A derivative, part of a class of compounds called retinoids that includes, in order of potency, retinoic acid, retinol, retinaldehyde and retinyl palmitate. The gold standard is retinoic acid (prescribed as tretinoin or Retin-A). “Retinol has to be converted to retinoic acid in the skin to be active,” says Dr. Heidi Waldorf, a New York dermatologist and clinical professor at Mount Sinai hospital in Manhattan. “Retinyl palmitate first needs to be converted to retinol, which takes time.” That means less of the ingredient gets absorbed but also that it tends to be less irritating. Retinol is generally more consistent in its results, and there is more evidence on its efficacy than on that of the other compounds. But its less potent siblings, properly formulated in high enough concentrations, can be effective. Packaging counts: “Be sure it is in a solid [not clear] container with a small opening—retinol is deactivated by ultraviolet exposure,” says Waldorf.

What is it good for?

Barankin describes it as the superhero of skincare, fighting every skin enemy in its path: “Retinol can

WHAT TO KNOW IF YOU’RE IN YOUR...

help with acne and acne marks or scars. It can help with hyperpigmentation, flat brown sun spots and melasma, and it can help even out skin tone. It gives a nice glow to the skin and improves the feel of it. It can help reduce the appearance of pore size and helps reduce wrinkles by helping make new collagen. It can even help reduce precancerous lesions called actinic keratoses.” (Jeez, leave some skincare work for the other ingredients.) Waldorf adds that it’s been shown to speed up cell turnover (promoting the breakdown of old collagen and formation of new collagen) and reduce whiteheads and blackheads. Plus, it has been shown to work on skin aged by time as well as skin that’s aged prematurely from too much sun exposure.

How should retinol be used?

Take a pea-sized amount and dot it on the forehead, cheeks, nose and chin, and then rub it in. Avoid the upper eyelids but do apply it to the crow’s feet area and the lower eyelids. Apply your sunscreen overtop every morning. Start slowly: If you’re too intense with your retinol use right away, you could end up with redness and peeling, depending on how sensitive your skin is. “Use it two times a week for one month and then increase by one day per week until [you reach] a level that you can tolerate without too much peeling or irritation,” says Dr. Barankin. “If you’re irritated by it, you need to take a break for two or three days and don’t treat through the discomfort.” To minimize discomfort, layer it with other products. “Apply a moisturizer immediately after, or, if you’re very sensitive skinned, apply it beforehand,” says Waldorf. In the winter, when the air is drier, retinoids can be harder to tolerate, so listen to your skin and use the product less often.



20s
RETINOL RECO: Millennials can recruit retinol to fight breakouts and prevent fine lines. “As long as there is a reason to use it, like acne or pores or sun damage, it can be used,” says Waldorf. **WORD OF WARNING:** Don’t combine retinol and benzoyl peroxide as they could cancel each other out, but salicylic acid is fair game—just watch for irritation. **STRIVECTIN** ADVANCED RETINOL PORE REFINER, \$99, MURALE.CA



30s
RETINOL RECO: As lines and sun damage become more obvious, you might want to step up your exfoliation game with alpha-hydroxy acids (glycolic, lactic or malic acids). While there’s no contraindication to using them with retinol, “generally there is no need—you might add irritation without adding efficacy,” says Waldorf. **WORD OF WARNING:** If you can’t bear to do without your AHAs, use them in the



morning and retinol at night, or use AHA products nightly and a retinoid twice a week. **NEUTROGENA** RAPID WRINKLE REPAIR SERUM, \$29, DRUGSTORES

40s
RETINOL RECO: As wrinkles deepen, consider asking for a prescription. “The percentage isn’t important but the quality of ingredients and penetra-tion are,” says Barankin. “This is best done through medical-grade products.” **WORD OF WARNING:** When you see surface creases deepen, the temptation is to layer on more product. “Putting on too much too fast and not moisturizing enough with it are common,” says Barankin. Resist the urge. **PHILOSOPHY** HELP ME RETINOL NIGHT TREATMENT, \$59, SEPHORA



50s
RETINOL RECO: Hormonal changes at menopause result in drier skin, so layer rich moisturizers or sleeping masks under and over your retinol. **WORD OF WARNING:** The skin becomes thinner around this age as well. Lessen the frequency of treatment if skin flakes or looks red. **DERMALOGICA** OVERNIGHT RETINOL REPAIR (WITH BUFFER CREAM), \$110, DERMALOGICA.CA



60+
RETINOL RECO: Take out insurance at the creases of the nose, sides of the mouth, chin and by the eyes, which tend to be most sensitive. “Applying moisturizer or even petroleum jelly to those areas before a retinoid can protect them,” says Waldorf. **WORD OF WARNING:** Retinol does not lift sagging skin or reshape facial contours. “It’s great, but not magic!” says Barankin. **CHANTECAILLE** RETINOL INTENSE, \$140, HOLT RENFREW

BLACK FRIDAY'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FINDS



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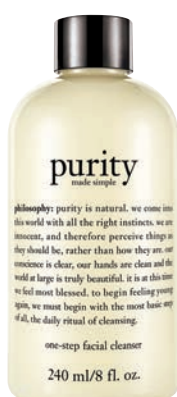
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**SHOPPERS
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BEAUTY FIX

MAKEUP MISTAKES HAPPEN. THESE THREE EASY SOLUTIONS HELP YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST LEFT A MAKEUP ARTIST'S CHAIR

It's a scientific fact (at least to us!) that women feel more confident when they feel good about how they look. The perfect power shade of lipstick or a gorgeous smoky eye hold the key to a knock 'em dead, girl-boss attitude. It pays to have a little extra help so that you look (and feel) your best. Enter KNOW Cosmetics and three game-changing beauty solutions.

1

PUCKER POWER

Imagine not having to worry about bleeding or feathering lip colours. (Amazing, right?) With No Bleeding Lips, your ravishing red lipstick or pretty pink gloss won't budge. This clear lip liner eliminates the need to find the exact lip liner match and lets you play with any shade of the rainbow, from the deepest plum to a sophisticated beige. Keep your lipstick or gloss where it should be—on your lips.



2

BRIGHT EYES

Late nights often result in dark under-eye circles—the most complicated beauty issue to fix without the right concealer. The silky, light-weight, waterproof formula of No Dark Shadows offers coverage in two shades (for rosy or yellow undertones), and it conceals as beautifully as it highlights. For intensive coverage, use it under the eyes; to even out skin tone, dot it on imperfections. Add it to the planes of the face to help highlight cheekbones, the brow bone and even the Cupid's bow. Now *that's* beauty double duty.



3

QUICK FIX

Looking for a kissable pout? No Thin Lips is a lip-enhancing treatment that plumps for a glamorous, sensual look. Aloe oil and vitamin E keep lips soft while the clear gloss-type solution means you can wear it on its own, or apply your favourite lipstick over top. Talk about win-win.



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RIGHT LOOK, RIGHT AGE

Haute holiday style

The floodgates of the festive season are about to burst open, unleashing a wave of invites (and often confusing dress codes). Here's how to effortlessly navigate every holiday event with inspiration from five super-chic celebs

BY INGRIE WILLIAMS



20s

THE EVENT: Late-night cocktails with your girlfriends
INSPIRATION: Amanda Seyfried
Let's all raise a glass to an outfit that hits the sweet spot between totally effortless and drop-dead stunning. Mixing a basic top with a metallic skirt is an all-access look that produces enviable results. And who better than your besties to appreciate your sexiest heels?

TOPSHOP CAMISOLE, \$38, **THEBAY.COM**. **A.L.C.** SKIRT, \$831, **INTERMIX-ONLINE.COM**. **JIMMY CHOO** HEELS, \$1,025, **DAVIDSFOOTWEAR.COM**



THE EVENT: Office party
INSPIRATION: Kerry Washington
When the goal is to look professional while making merry, a classic silhouette in a bold print gets the job done. Choose feminine shapes that provide appropriate coverage (like Washington's crop top and high-waisted pencil skirt) in an eye-catching graphic. Add dainty jewellery for a subtle hit of glitz and close the deal with pumps that move seamlessly from networking tête-à-tête to dance floor circle.

MSGM DRESS, \$494, **THEOUTNET.COM**. **BANANA REPUBLIC** EARRINGS, \$62, **BANANAREPUBLIC.CA**. **SERGIO ROSSI** PUMPS, \$1,092, **INTERMIXONLINE.COM**



30s



THE EVENT: Black tie soiree
INSPIRATION: Uma Thurman
Clean lines and an unexpected jewel tone are key ingredients in the recipe for modern glamour. With details like a shoulder-baring halter neckline, simple cuts also prove to be extremely sexy. Easy does it when it comes to accessories: Refined heels and minimalist jewellery complement, rather than compete for attention.

BADGLEY MISCHKA DRESS, \$415, **THEOUTNET.COM**. **SOPHIA WEBSTER** HEELS, \$595, **DAVIDS-FOOTWEAR.COM**. **MICHAEL KORS** BANGLE, \$175, **MICHAELKORS.CA**



50s

THE EVENT: Family dinner
INSPIRATION: Sandra Bullock
A jumpsuit in a poppy hue may seem like an intimidating style proposition, but it's a surprisingly easy—and super-chic—alternative to an LBD. (Put it on and you're 90 per cent ready.) Add classic elegant accents like neutral kitten heels and luxe baubles to make the look feel timeless, not uber-trendy.

FOREVER 21 CUFF, \$15, **FOREVER21.COM**. **AQUAZZURA** PUMPS, \$795, **THESEPTEMBER.COM**. **ROLAND MOURET** JUMPSUIT, \$4,935, **NET-A-PORTER.COM**



60+

THE EVENT: Champagne brunch
INSPIRATION: Helen Mirren
It's a fashion fact that a statement coat can express your celebratory spirit in ways that a parka just can't compete with. Underneath, get wrapped up in a crocheted dress that nods at winter's gothic romance trend. A ladylike top-handle bag is the perfect companion for post-mimosas window-shopping.

SELF PORTRAIT DRESS, \$530, **HOLT RENFREW**. **ETRO** COAT, \$4,740, **NET-A-PORTER.COM**. **COACH** BAG, \$450, **COACH.COM**



Meghan Markle, clockwise from top: in New York, February 2015; speaking at Toronto's Dove and Plan Canada self-esteem workshop, October 2015; doing press in New York, June 2015.

SPOTLIGHT

Cool crusader

Actor Meghan Markle opens up about fighting insecurities, passion projects and the importance of role models

BY NATASHA BRUNO

She's best known for playing the smart and impeccably stylish Rachel Zane on the legal drama *Suits*—which kicks off its sixth season next year—but Meghan Markle is also full of surprises. She's a United Nations Women Advocate; she has her own lifestyle site, the Tig; and last month, she addressed a group of Toronto teachers and youth counsellors at a self-esteem workshop held by Dove and Plan Canada in celebration of the International Day of the Girl. "When you take on a passion project, it's not tiring, it's invigorating," says Markle on the subject of her many interests. We sat down with the 34-year-old actor at the Toronto workshop as she shared her self-esteem highs and lows, in the hopes of giving young girls a confidence boost. Here are seven other things Markle revealed at the event.

She looked up to women who looked like her
"When I was younger I loved Halle Berry. I think we all look up to someone that looks like us, and she was an example of someone who was biracial, aspirational and so embraced at the time. Jessica Alba was the first young woman that I saw who was ethnically ambiguous on TV, not having to fit into this pigeonholed idea of the blond girl next door or the 'hot' girl."

She's big on flaunting her freckles
"I can't imagine covering them up. My one absolute no-no is when I do photo shoots and I see that they have airbrushed my freckles out. I'll have my agent call and say, 'Put her freckles back. That is what she looks like.'"

She has experienced beauty bias
"When I was auditioning for commercials only 10 or 15 years ago and I would go in for skincare campaigns, they would say, 'This product is never going to sell with you because you have freckles. It doesn't look like you have healthy skin.' That's changed, and I hope we continue to push the envelope so that people can connect to every version of beauty."

She's come a long way
"Most people who know me now only know me as that girl on TV, not where I came from. At first I felt displaced, like I didn't fit in. Auditioning was hard; I was crawling into the trunk of my car because the doors wouldn't open anymore and I couldn't afford to fix it. Whatever they see on TV and whatever they think I am now, it was a long journey to get here. It's exciting for me to show very candidly that your life can be bigger than you ever imagined, and so much of that comes from self-belief and having people around you that are encouraging."

"It's exciting for me to show very candidly that your life can be bigger than you ever imagined."

Her mom is her #1 beauty influencer
"She had braids, she had an Afro—now she has little dreadlocks. She's never had any work done, and all her lines to me are signs of laughter and experience, which has really informed the way I look at aging now."

She's giving up the hair fight
"My mom would say to me, 'Flower, one day you are so gonna be over this hair thing,' because she has watched me do everything like relaxers and Yuko hair systems. And she's right: In the past year I stopped doing all that stuff, and when I'm on vacation, my hair is as curly and wild as can be. I have so much hair it's nuts."

She wants her blog to be a vehicle for empowerment
"It has evolved into talking about the concept of beauty and how I see it. People might come to this site to figure out how to get a perfect blowout, but they'll also see an article I wrote about self-identification or self-empowerment."



Meghan Markle at a Reitmans photo shoot.

STYLE STRATEGY
Meghan Markle—the face of Reitmans' fall collection—talks TV vs. personal style

LAX to YYZ
"I'm a California girl. Cropped jeans, a great button-down and flip-flops were part of my norm before I moved to this coast. Now I love wearing great heels."

Right piece, right price
"I didn't grow up like [my *Suits* character] Rachel Zane did. She comes from a tremendous amount of wealth: She's wearing a Tom Ford skirt on a Tuesday. Who in the world, as a paralegal, can wear a \$5,000 skirt? I go to my fitting and I see this tag and I'm like, 'Oh my God, this is six months of rent!'"

Runway and real way
"Reitmans has this range of sizes and this classic style—plus key pieces that are more trend-driven and affordable."

TV looks translated
"I love the Cinderella moment and getting to play dress-up, but it's always been difficult when women say, 'Oh my God, who is that top you're wearing on this episode?' or 'I love that skirt!' But they don't really want to know, because it's just disheartening. It's important to be able to find a brand that has pieces that are comparable in terms of silhouette."
—Alex Laws



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MUST-READS

BLOCKBUSTER COOKBOOKS

From delish feasts to need-to-know party-planning tips, these books will have you hosting in style

BY VERONICA SAROLI

We asked fashion designer Lela Rose—best known for her whimsical party dresses—for advice on throwing an extra-stylish fête.

- 1. **Create a custom drink for the evening.** “A specialty cocktail shows that attention to detail was paid and sets the tone for a fun event.”
- 2. **Use real dishes.** “Put away the plastic glasses, paper plates and disposable cutlery. Fashion should sometimes trump function.”
- 3. **Colour it up.** “Candles are an easy way to add style to your table. I love to use a coloured candle, like a Paris grey, as I think it adds real warmth to the room.”
- 4. **Mark the occasion.** If you’re celebrating an anniversary or



milestone, “pop open a great wine from the year when it all began. It’s always a great excuse to enjoy a little splurge.”

PRÊT-A-PARTY: GREAT IDEAS FOR GOOD TIMES, AND CREATIVE ENTERTAINING, LELA ROSE, \$40, BOOKSTORES



WEB TO TABLE
Former *Wall Street Journal* executive style editor turned blogger Sasha Wilkins (a.k.a. Liberty London Girl) has moved from couture to cookbooks, bringing chic but unfussy fare to a table near you.
FRIENDS FOOD FAMILY: ESSENTIAL RECIPES, TIPS AND SECRETS FOR THE MODERN HOSTESS, SASHA WILKINS, \$34, BOOKSTORES



KNOW IT ALL
This pretty-in-pink book is filled with essential advice for hosting or attending parties. Think Instagram etiquette, the proper way to shuck an oyster and how to arrange a cheese board for any occasion.
ALL IN GOOD TASTE, KATE SPADE, \$34, KATESPADE.COM



CELEB EATS
Back in the day, her milkshake garnered lots of attention, but so will Kelis Rogers’s shrimp alcapurrias. In her first book, the singer and Cordon Bleu grad features recipes from around the world combined with dishes inspired by her Puerto Rican heritage.
MY LIFE ON A PLATE, KELIS ROGERS, \$30, BOOKSTORES



SHOPPING

HOT DEALS

Black Friday (November 27) and Cyber Monday (November 30) make this a weekend dedicated to shopping

BY VERONICA SAROLI

1. Topshop and Topman at Hudson’s Bay

IN STORE & ONLINE: Get 40 per cent off knitwear and outerwear and 20 per cent off everything else from November 27 to 29.
ONLINE: All regular-priced merch is 30 per cent off at thebay.com on November 30 and December 1, so you can fill your closet with cool Brit staples.
THE BUY: Topshop coat, regularly \$180, \$108 in store and \$126 online on sale, thebay.com

2. Forever 21

IN STORE & ONLINE: Get 30 per cent off a new pair of boots until December 11.
IN STORE: Save 50 per cent on clearance items on November 27. Gift cards will be distributed to some of the first customers for in-store purchases made that day. (Gift cards will vary in number and value and aren’t available in Quebec.)
ONLINE: On November 30, get 21 per cent off your entire purchase (excluding holiday deals and web exclusives).
THE BUY: Forever 21 boots, regularly \$46, \$32 on sale, forever21.com

3. Jenny Bird

ONLINE: At jenny-bird.com on November 30, get 30 per cent off all jewellery and get an extra 30 per cent off sale items from the coveted Canadian designer.
THE BUY: Jenny Bird necklace, regularly \$125, \$88 on sale, jenny-bird.com

4. The Detox Market

ONLINE: Pick fave products from more than 60 cult natural and organic lines and get \$60 off at thedetoxmarket.ca when you spend over \$300, \$30 when you spend \$200, and \$10 off sprees over \$100, from November 27 to 30.
THE BUY: May Lindstrom Skin The Problem Solver Mask, regularly \$112, \$102 on sale, thedetoxmarket.ca

5. Indochino

IN STORE & ONLINE: Get 70 per cent off everything in Indochino’s showrooms and at indochino.com until December 2—all the bespoke suits and shirts, bow ties and stocking stuffers a guy could ask for. Just type in the coupon code “BLKFRI” at checkout.
THE BUY: Indochino Charcoal suit, regularly \$999, \$500 on sale, indochino.com

Bonus: GivingTuesday

Offset your shopping spree with some real giving. December 1 is GivingTuesday (givingtuesday.ca), which encourages people to volunteer with or donate to their favourite charity. Decorate a shoebox and fill it with \$50 worth of little luxuries for the Shoebox Project—the boxes are given to women living in shelters; donate funds (or blood) to Canada Blood Services; or make a contribution to Canada Helps using PayPal, and PayPal will match 1 per cent of donations made from December 2 to 31.

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TREND CHALLENGE

Boy crazy

We asked assistant editor Carly Ostroff to tackle the current menswear trend—for under \$500

My style budget
“Approximately \$150 a month, when I stick to budget, which doesn’t happen often.”

My personal style
“A heavy rotation of all-black separates, statement shoes and investment bags.”

Why I chose this trend
“The runways were full of good reasons to take a cue from the guys: It started in New York with Ralph Lauren’s three-piece leather suit and continued in Paris, with Saint Laurent’s suspended models. Stella McCartney, Chloé and Louis Vuitton also proved that anything boys can wear, girls can wear better.”

My shopping strategy
“To recreate the trend on a \$500 budget, I pulled key pieces from the world of menswear and reimagined them with a fem spin for my everyday wardrobe.”

My dream splurge
“I could come up with an excuse to wear Stella McCartney’s star oxfords every day.”

LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN

1. Chloé’s Fall 2015 pastel take on the trend. 2. Shirt + tie = a key look for Ralph Lauren Fall 2015. 3. Timeless beauty Lauren Hutton in a timeless suit. 4. Madonna in 1989’s “Express Yourself” video. 5. Model Binx Walton in a relaxed-fit two-piece suit at Stella McCartney. 6. Singer Lou Doillon, daughter of Jane Birkin, sports minimalist menswear. 7. No red carpet gown for original gender bender Diane Keaton. 8. Collegiate cool at Michael Kors Fall 2015.



“Adding in luxe basics like this super-soft white tee dresses down the look.”
ATM TEE, \$90, **HOLT RENFREW**



“Velvet—one of fall’s hottest fabrics—lends a feminine touch to the classic blazer.”
TALULA BLAZER, \$185, **ARITZIA.COM**



“These suspenders have Saint Laurent appeal for a fraction of the price.”
TOPMAN SUSPENDERS, \$19, **THEBAY.COM**



“Skinny jeans make for a modern addition to a classic Le-Smoking-inspired suit.”
FOREVER 21 JEANS, \$22, **FOREVER21.COM**



“Diane Keaton broke all the Oscar red carpet rules in oxfords like these.”
BANANA REPUBLIC OXFORDS, \$128, **BANANA REPUBLIC**

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TEST DRIVE
BOOT CAMP
One writer discovers, hand-sewing your own pair of shoes is quite the workout

BY VERONICA SAROLI

Craft beer! Local pickles! Homemade bitters! It’s a (total) scientific fact: Artisanal things taste better. But what about fashion: Do handcrafted clothes look better too? And what if you’re the one who made them?

Recently, I had the opportunity to find out. Despite the fact that I’m a person who walks around with staples in her hems, my editor asked me to take a shoemaking class, one of Toronto’s trending DIY-craft workshops. As a major fan of footwear, I was curious to know exactly what goes into making a pair of shoes. (And I secretly pictured myself as a female Daniel Day Lewis taking off to Florence to apprentice with a cobbler circa the late ’90s.)

The workshop, run by seasoned shoemaker Jennifer Allison at Leslieville’s Art & Sole Academy, promised a pair of handmade shoes in exchange for two precious Sundays. First step: I had to pick a style of shoe that I would be guaranteed to like 16 hours (16 years?) later. I settled on a classic desert boot: comfortable and slightly mod—something Steve McQueen would wear to a cottage.

Next, I went material shopping and managed to pick up just over four square feet of cowhide and pigskin. While surrounded by animal hide, it struck me that I’ve never this deeply considered what my shoes are made of (pigskin is super-soft, hence it’s perfect for lining boots).

Armed with my leather and more than a few nerves—these kicks had to be ready for their magazine close-up (no presh)—I arrived for class and took a seat at a long wooden table. My classmates included a middle-aged British man, a woman making boots for her



Insta snaps from @artandsoleacademy: sketches, materials and ballerina flats in progress.



PREP SCHOOL CLASS: The Art & Sole Academy, 20 Leslie St., Toronto
COURSE: Desert boot workshop
COST: \$475

husband’s birthday and a teenage boy who aspires to be a shoe designer.

The first objective was making the pattern using a wooden foot known as a last. Then we carefully drew on the materials and cut out our pieces, and sanded and skived (shaved) our “stiffeners,” which are basically harder pieces of leather inserted to give the shoe structure. “It’s very difficult to find quality shoes in the market these days,” Allison told me, noting that companies often forgo the internal components of the shoe that our class spent hours wrestling with.

The following Sunday came the real work. Using a huge needle, I sewed the top panel to the base of the shoes—by hand—which caused areas of my back to tense and stiffen and purplish mounds to form on my thumbs and index finger. (The teenage shoe designer inserted a private note between the leather layers before he sewed his together. Sweet.) I cursed loudly when I accidentally sanded through the leather in two places, then told myself they just looked “lived-in” already. For a moment, I questioned whether the shoes were worth the trouble, compared with the facile gratification of swiping my plastic. But then I got into the groove. I hand-sewed the leather, liner, stiffener and sole together, and I used a sewing machine and an electronic sander, without even hurting myself.

When I’d finished—and wiped the flecks of electrically sanded rubber sole off my face—I felt so gratified. Don’t get me wrong; they’re not perfect, but I wouldn’t trade my desert boots for all the Charlotte Olympia heels in the world.

FIRST PERSON

Lip reading

As a new generation of celebs come clean about having a little work done, writer *Andrea Janus* explains the thought process behind her own enhanced pout

When millennial starlets are openly acknowledging their lip injections and implants, you know that there's a sea change in plastic surgery culture. It wasn't that long ago that women in Hollywood routinely pleaded the Fifth or outright denied that they'd had a little nip and tuck, no matter how obvious. "Denying it is lame," rapper Iggy Azalea, 25, recently told *Seventeen*, confirming that she's had her nose made smaller and her breasts bigger. "I don't think you should be ashamed if you made a change to yourself." Meanwhile, 18-year-old reality star Kylie Jenner is building an empire around her injectable-plumped lips. She debuted them at the 2014 Billboard Music Awards and stayed quiet while rumours swirled until this past May, when she copped to enhancing them, on an episode of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*. During a scene in which she evades a reporter's question about them, she says in a voice-over, "I want to admit to the lips, but people are so quick to judge me on everything."

This past summer, I considered myself lucky when I was offered a non-invasive procedure of my choice at the Plastic Surgery Clinic (67 Scollard St.). So many flaws, so many fixes! In the end I opted for Juvederm filler (which would normally cost \$600) to add some temporary oomph to a non-existent upper lip that has been the bane of my existence since I bought my first lipstick at age 13. It wasn't that I was ashamed of how my lips looked or that they made me feel particularly insecure. I just didn't like them, and I

"It wasn't that I was ashamed of how my lips looked or that they made me feel particularly insecure. I just didn't like them."

was excited at the prospect of a safe and not-too-painful way to make them look better.

"The big myth is that most people are doing these procedures to be unusual, to look like celebrities," says Yorkville plastic surgeon Dr. Cory Torgerson, who also says that only a small subset of prospective patients request Jenner's lips or cartoonishly big breasts. "Most people just want to be 'average.' They have something that to them doesn't quite look right. We're all a little bit conformist."

One may wonder: Did I have needles jabbed into my face in an effort to conform? But doesn't that presuppose that I mindlessly make my choices about my appearance on the basis of other people's perceptions, or to attract male attention? It's the same condescending insinuation that comes up when women are criticized for wearing makeup or heels (I wear both, a lot).

I was raised by a feminist who fought to get her education and have a career, and who did it with perfect nails that she painted herself, every week. The ease with which I made the decision to get my lips done, just for me, comes from that influence.

Which is why I bristled when Amy Schumer devoted part of her recent *Saturday Night Live* monologue to lamenting the fact that young women look up to the Kardashian clan, claiming that the sisters consider the faces they were born with "a light suggestion." They've changed their faces and/or bodies, so they're disqualified from being taken seriously?



For the spotlighted Kardashians, Jenners and Azaleas of the world, the way they look is a professional asset, so getting work done may be a career move, or a signal of status ("like having the latest Gucci bag," in Torgerson's words). For me, it's simpler. There was something I didn't like about my face, I had an opportunity to change it, so I did.

"There's nothing wrong with having bigger lips and feeling great about them," says Torgerson, who admittedly stands to gain from this perception. But I agree: I love my new lips (now that the bruising and swelling have gone away), and my opinion on the topic is the only one that matters to me. I don't know if anyone else even has one—if they do, they haven't offered it. I had drinks with two acquaintances hours after the procedure and I felt like I had two mini pillows attached to my face. I emailed later to explain, and both said they hadn't noticed. When I lost a few pounds after I began walking to work, plenty of colleagues commented. But a new set of lips? Crickets. I didn't go out of my way to tell friends and family, but their silence did get me thinking: Is it just that my lips are now "average," overlooked by the untrained eye? And should I have gone bigger?

Like Azalea, I'm not ashamed that I've made a change to myself. And you know what? I can't wait to do it again.

PERFECT MATCH

Can you pair the owners to their (natural and boosted) lips above?



KIM KARDASHIAN (8), JAMIE CHUNG (4), BELLA THORNE (6), TAYLOR SWIFT (5), RIHANNA (7), KYLIE JENNER (2), IGGY AZALEA (9), JESSICA ALBA (1), ANGELINA JOLIE (10), PRIYANKA CHOPRA (3)

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