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Contributors

Chaneil Fidelino
Style Advisor at Aritzia, Toronto Eaton Centre, pg. 114

Favorite thing about summer: Soaking in the sun! I love the feeling of the sun beating on my skin.
One item you can’t live without: My MAC “Whirl” lipstick.
One song you can’t stop listening to: “SKRT (Remix)” by Roy Woods
Tell us a little about your contribution in our June/July issue: I did the fashion styling for editorial “The Timelessness of The Classic.” The wardrobe for each look consists of timeless pieces, like the classic white button up or silk camisole dress, with a modern twist. Every look is kept minimal and simplistic to contrast the retro props.
Instagram: @cfnf

Victor Hugo
Photographer, pg. 48

Favorite thing about summer: I love how long the days are. There’s so much time in the summer to do fun things.
One item you can’t live without: I carry this crystal in my back pocket all the time. I use it for cool effects both on my phone and DSLR.
One song you can’t stop listening to: “This Is What You Came For” by Calvin Harris & Rihanna
Tell us a little about your contribution in our June/July issue: This editorial was inspired by the song “Colors” by Halsey and titled after “Clearest Blue” by CHVRCHES.
Instagram: @victorhugo.jpg

Ella Grace Bell
Photographer, pg. 92

Favorite thing about summer: Hanging out at the beach with a cold drink!
One item you can’t live without: My Marc by Marc Jacobs Classic Q Natasha bag.
One song you can’t stop listening to: That’s a tie…. “Don’t Let Me Down” by the Chainsmokers, and also “Murakami” by MADE IN HEIGHTS.
Tell us a little about your contribution in our June/July issue: For this photo set, we wanted to go for a street style, fashion blogger vibe. All the clothing is something that would be worn casually on a daily basis. I also think it looks very “Vancouver,” which is where we are all based.
Instagram: @ellabellphoto

→ Want to contribute to one of our issues? We’d love to work with you! Visit our Submissions pages on ClicheMag.com or get in touch at info@clichemag.com.
LADY KATE
Electronic Press Kit (EPK)

BIO
Lady Kate is a producer, DJ, turntablist, and syndicated on-air radio mixer from the United States. Known for her music production, technical sets and live shows, she's won her fans the world over - and she's just getting started. Kate’s loyal fan-base continues to grow alongside her profile which has seen her headline main stages across the globe.


Specialties: DJ, on-air talent (radio), music production, sound design. Read more. djladykate.com/bio

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THE BEST SPRING TO SUMMER PIECES

IT’S NO SECRET that the transitional period between seasons can take a toll on your sense of style—the constant debate about wearing a jacket, the inconsistent weather, and the daily battle between boots and sandals. Luckily, this season’s latest trends have made our transition into summer a little easier, and may include pieces already in your closet that can be worn throughout both seasons.

Shirts with cutout and exposed shoulders, for example, are the perfect piece that can not only be worn throughout spring and summer, but are also perfect for the moderate season in between. Pair long sleeve exposed-shoulder tops with jeans and flats for cooler days or shorts and a gladiator sandal in the warmer summer months. The exposed shoulder trend gives a subtle sexiness to the basic cap sleeve while remaining classy.

Read about how to style the best spring to summer transitional pieces on clichemag.com. BY JESSICA MOYER

āsum’s Debut Bag Collection

Engineer turned fashion designer and former Project Runway contestant Angela Sum has a dream—and she’s incorporating that dream into her debut bag collection for her brand, āsum. Funded in only 7 hours on Kickstarter, the collection features a variety of sculpted, canvas bags made to “elevate your wardrobe and inspire creative living.”

Instead of focusing on fleeting trends, Sum says, “I want to create distinctive pieces that compliment casual staples in your wardrobe season after season.” And after hearing her inspiring story in her Kickstarter video, we fell in love with her drive and the meaning behind the collection immediately.

From wristlets to convertible totes and backpacks, each bag is made with a mixture of water-resistant canvas, cotton, linens, and rich leathers, and features different pockets inside to keep all your contents organized. Proving that minimal doesn’t mean “boring,” each bag acts as a piece of art, one that effortlessly compliments your style without being overbearing. Read more about this collection on clichemag.com. BY MEGAN PORTORREAL
A Love Affair

Every designer collection has a story, but not one quite like Parisa’s Love Affair Handbag Collection. Inspired by the designer’s own past relationship, each bag in the collection represents a different stage in modern relationships, ranging from the budding romance all the way to the breakup.

“With a Love Affair handbag, you will see the world differently, go on new adventures, and make it your story,” says the designer, Parisa Wang. “Sometimes a broken heart can unleash hidden potential. For me, it is to create a line of handbags to inspire courage and confidence.”

The bags in the collection include:

- The **Stage I: Hooked Lady Bag**, made of smooth calf leather with a matching matte interior and a gold chain strap.
- The **Stage II: Addicted Cross Body Bag**, also made of smooth calf leather with a matching suede interior.
- The **Stage III: Halfway Tote Bag**, made of grained calf leather with a black canvas interior, and is roomy and fashionable.
- The **Stage IV: Boundless Bucket Bag**, made of smooth calf leather with a matching canvas interior.
- The **Stage V: Freed Satchel**, made of smooth calf leather with a black canvas interior and a gold chain strap.

Also available are travel pouches, wallets, and bracelets. Learn more about this collection on [cilchemag.com](http://cilchemag.com).

Shine with Rocksbox

**BEHOLD OUR LATEST** subscription service obsession: Rocksbox. For only $19/month, a personal stylist at Rocksbox will send you three pieces of jewelry to loan or purchase—ranging from rings, earrings, bracelets, and necklaces—based on your style profile. You can get super specific about what kind of jewelry you’d like to try, which finish you prefer, and leave comments and notes for your stylist to see. It is the perfect subscription service for anyone who wants to flaunt the trendiest pieces without breaking the bank. They even give you $10 a month to spend in their store!

For a limited time, you can get your first month FREE by using the code **cilchemagxoxo** at checkout. So hurry, and make this spring a stylish one!

www.cilchemag.com

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS

IF YOU’RE INTO MUSIC like we are, then we probably share the same dream of making it to the Coachella Music Festival in California someday. But fear not! There are many other great music festivals (some new, some old) that rival Coachella in awesome lineups and atmosphere. Festivals have become an easy way for many music lovers to see their favorite artists at reasonable prices. Here are 5 music festivals to check out this summer.

1) Bonnaroo
2) Firefly Music Festival
3) Lollapalooza
4) Austin City Limits
5) Summerfest

For more reasons on each of these music festivals, visit [cilchemag.com](http://cilchemag.com).

BY BRITTANY JOHN
liché turns 7 years old this month, and when I think about how far we’ve come since I’ve been the Editor in Chief, I am so immensely proud. This past year has been our biggest year yet, and I have a feeling our seventh year will be lucky as well! From celebrities on our covers like Grace Gealey from Empire and Sabrina Carpenter from Girl Meets World (see pg. 17 for more), it has been such an honor to work with such talented, beautiful, and inspiring individuals over these past 12 months.

Speaking of talent, last month I had the pleasure of speaking to some of the most gifted rising fashion designers in New York City at AmeriChina’s New Wave of Fashion Design Pioneer event. Joined by fashion designer Eva Xu of All Comes From Nothing, Project Runway alum and designer Angela Sum, and designer and entrepreneur David Leung, we spoke to the audience of young designers about how to traverse through the fashion industry in today’s age. Afterwards, I got to know the designers one-on-one, and have since been introduced to some lovely emerging brands that I’m so excited to see grow. Head over to clichemag.com to learn more about the event and some very exciting new brands.

For this issue, we’re pretty big on fashion and beauty, too. Summer is here and that means one thing: the beach! Check out some of the hottest swimsuit styles this season for all kinds of body types (pg. 30), how to style your hair to combat that salty sea air (pg. 36), and which waterproof makeup products are going to stay put all day (pg. 40).

It’s safe to say our two cover stars are looking forward to this summer as much as we are! Singer/songwriter Megan Nicole is currently on tour with Emblem 3 and The Ready Set and is making stops in San Francisco, Tempe, Los Angeles, and New York City. Also, Justin Baldoni of Jane the Virgin is gearing up for the release of his docu-series My Last Days, due out this August. Head to pg. 102 to read our exclusive interviews with these two, and don’t forget to follow them on social media this summer! You won’t want to miss a second.

Enjoy the issue, and the sun.

Be sure to follow me on Instagram and Twitter @meganportorreal for more updates!

Now I want to hear from you! What do you think of this issue? Email me at megan@clichemag.com or tweet me @meganportorreal for the fastest response!
Pintastic!

Editor in Chief
MEGAN PORTORREAL
looks back on past pinned
cover stars of Cliché Magazine!

Are you on Pinterest?
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for more pins like these!
Happy pinning!
@Keah_Maria
I'm super excited for our June/July issue over @clichemag I'm so proud of it! I think y'all are going to love it!

@BendandSNAPPER
Putting the finishing touches on the interview I did with @shaycarl and @katilette for the June/July issue of @clichemag!

@AshleeEyBash
I'm very excited for @clichemag's next issue because I can finally share all the secrets with the world. Sort of.
STREET STYLE

From all over the world, our readers share their favorite looks and their fashion blogs with us!

SUMMER Y.L., 26
Location: West Village, New York, NY
Occupation: Fashion and Lifestyle Blogger
Loves: Dresses
Blog: summersinsstyle.com

SARMISTHA GOSWAMI, 35
Location: India
Occupation: Fashion Designer
Loves: Bardot tops, lace, denim on denim, boots.
Blog: styleovercoffee.com

ESTHER SANTER, 25
Location: New York, NY
Occupation: Fashion Blogger
Loves: Chokers
Blog: louboutinsandlove.com

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE? Head over to clichemag.com/street-style to submit your fashion blog for consideration!
Hailing from the Sunshine State, and shining with her own infectious light every day, meet our favorite blogger of the moment, Jomarys Leon-Rivera. I had the luck of coming across Jomarys, also fondly known as Jomy, through Instagram. Her Instagram page, @love_jomy, instantly caught my eye with its authenticity, quality, and heart present within each caption of every photo. Since my first discovery of Jomy, I have witnessed her blossom over social media, constantly innovating and inspiring everyone that comes her way. Not only does Jomy curate her own blog posts on her site, Love Jomy, but she also has a YouTube channel of the same name. No matter what she publishes into cyberspace, from videos where you get to see her absolutely adorable personality, to style posts that make you want to try on items outside of your comfort zone, Jomy has it—the factor to go far, in which the sky is never the limit.

BY VICTORIA OLMO

Cliché: What inspired you to create your blog, Love Jomy?
Jomarys Leon-Rivera: It all started when I was in my first semester at the University of Central Florida. I was taking a social media course that required you to start a blog and post consistently throughout the semester. Once I started, I couldn’t stop. I really enjoyed talking about the things I love and sharing it with the world.

Who would you say is your biggest influence?
My mom has always been the greatest influence in my life. I always strive to make her proud and show her that everything I do, I do for her. She’s my drive and I always look forward to hearing her feedback and excitement when I post things.

Where do you gain inspiration to curate content on your blog?
I find inspiration everywhere. I think it’s important to always keep your eyes, mind, and heart wide open because ideas and content can sprout from anything.

How would you describe your personal style?
I think it’s pretty difficult to describe my style and I am totally cool with it. I want people to see items of clothing, shoes, etc. and think, “That’s so Jomy.” I love to dabble in different kinds of styles and make them my own.

If you could give our readers one tip to channeling their own personal style, what would it be?
The best tip I could give would be to always be confident in yourself and to stay true to what you like. Forget about what people think; if you like it, rock it!

Scenario time! You have a road trip planned with some of your best gal friends. What are your must-bring items?
Candy and snacks are definitely a must! I’m not sure if I could survive a road trip without indulging in everything I shouldn’t be eating. The next thing isn’t really an item, but the most important thing about road trips is a killer playlist. That’s the key to having a successful road trip.
Let’s face it: we all have that one makeup product we cannot live without. What’s yours and why?
I don’t know how I could survive my days without mascara. Although concealer is a close second, I think mascara adds a bit of life to your eyes and face.

What is the best thing that has happened to you with the creation of Love Jomy?
I have become such a better person with the creation of Love Jomy. When women tell me how much I have inspired them to feel confident and pursue their dreams, I feel like I have accomplished much more than I could have ever imagined.

What do you hope to create and spread on Love Jomy?
I want people to feel inspired when they come across Love Jomy. I also want to spread positivity and motivate others to be their true selves.

“I think it’s important to always keep your eyes, mind, and heart wide open..."
Hi, Dolls! Finally, our summer outing days are here! You can’t beat the feeling of the ocean breeze on a warm day, and what better way to dress for this season of sunny adventures than with the chic nautical look? Nautical stripes have a liveliness about them, regardless of being a simple combination of white, red, and/or blue that puts me in a good mood.

Halter crop tops are a must and the crochet top by Vika Gazinskaya is bold with its shades of bright red and royal blue. The white trim crop top accentuates the waist and is sure to give you that summer feeling. The high waisted, horizontal striped shorts from Forever 21 are a great staple piece to wear with a solid colored top. The relaxed fit shorts feature buttons along the front pockets and mock pockets in the back.

All Saints brought the cool factor with its casual tee by adding playful shoulder slits. The vintage wash of red is a nice change-up to the common boldness of colors. I also really like that the tee fits a tad bit longer than your average t-shirt. The high waisted striped trousers by Topshop are a relaxed fit and look fab with the simple color palette. Pair it with a crisp white tank top and espadrilles to complete the trendy resort outfit. I mean, come on, who doesn’t love the “I own a yacht” look? Last but not least, it’s not a nautical notion without anchors! Dogeared makes a simple anchor pendant necklace that symbolizes strength and the peacefulness of staying grounded.

Don’t go overboard with this trend (no pun intended). The combination of different stripes clash, so it’s best to keep it simple with one striped piece, but do add a pop of red lipstick! There’s just the ocean breeze and cloudless sunny skies in our future. It’s smooth sailing from here on out, so let the adventure begin!

XOXO,
Tatiana

www.clichemag.com
Bulgarian-Parisian designer Gabriela Alexandrova knows how to make a statement. Her new collection, her namesake, made its debut this spring and features some of the most ethereal, striking pieces we have ever seen. From her atelier (or workshop) in Paris, Alexandrova employs her personality and fashion philosophy into each piece, ensuring that every woman that wears her clothing feels like it was made for her.

We all know how important a designer’s choice of fabric is for his or her collection, and Alexandrova couldn’t go wrong with her use of silk. “I am always impressed by fabrics… and this is the beginning of each garment. A fabric should be used for a reason. It should fit the spirit of the garment so well that it cannot exist in another fabric,” she said.

According to Alexandrova, she wanted her collection to capture the essence of a summer breeze, so women wearing the pieces will feel “free, light, and sensual.” For this reason, she chose to work with silk. “What inspires this better than silk?” she said. “Even the physical touch with the body is so soft that it feels like embracing.”

Like many designers, Alexandrova has her own fashion philosophy when it comes to designing and creating such a collection. “I prefer style to fashion. It is more durable,” she said. “My work is dedicated to identifying and expressing my vision of style… Following fashion is a tiresome game, which you inevitably lose in three months time. Building up your personal style is a slow and pleasant lifetime trip.”

It’s no surprise that many of the clothing in Alexandrova’s collection can be described as timeless. Some standout pieces include the bourette silk knot dress and the silk trench coat. Alexandrova explains that she likes to create a film scenario for each one, therefore ensuring that every piece has its own personality.

Similar to the way she crafts her unique collections, Alexandrova also has a vision for her future in the fashion world. In 10 years, she hopes to see her clothing on some of the most remarkable, life-changing women. We have a feeling that that isn’t an impossible task. To learn more about the SS 16 collection or to purchase your own Gabriela Alexandrova garment, visit G-a.paris.

BY NATALIA TYNDALL

My work is dedicated to identifying and expressing my vision of style.

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN a brand is headed by two family members? Some would say catastrophe, but the opposite is true for JJ Wilson and stepmother Shannon, co-founders of the clothing line Kit and Ace. Shannon, who is married to former CEO of Lululemon Chip Wilson, teamed up with her stepson JJ after realizing the need for luxury performance-based clothing. Operating out of New York, the first phase of Kit and Ace debuted almost two years ago and now they have transitioned into their very first swimwear line. We interviewed JJ Wilson on what it means to wear Kit and Ace and what's in store for the brand moving forward.

BY NATALIA TYNDALL

W

While many fashion brands believe in suffering for the sake of clothing, Kit and Ace doesn’t ascribe to that ideology. “Our philosophy at Kit and Ace is focused on the marriage of fashion and function. We create technical apparel from high performing fabrics without sacrificing style,” explains Wilson.

Currently, many Kit and Ace pieces are made of their signature fabric, what they call “technical cashmere,” as well as technical silk and brushed miskace, which ensures that customers not only look good in the brand, but feel good, too. This means being able to wear clothing that takes you from home to the office to the beach, and back. In an ever-changing fashion industry, bringing technicality into clothing is a genius idea.

Those already fans of the brand can anticipate not only pieces that mix and match with others, but implemented technology to prevent shrinking, pilling, loss of elasticity, and fading. “To enhance the fabrication, our technical designers incorporated features like non-slip grip and adjustable waistbands to support how pieces transition between activities,” says Wilson of the steps taken to ensure that this swimwear collection goes above and beyond in the name of functionality.

The SS16 swimwear collection is perfect for anyone who is constantly on the move. Like with all of their products, Kit and Ace believes in a “full-contact lifestyle.”
This means that they design their clothing with a busy schedule in mind. For example, the men’s quick-dry shorts in the collection are made to go from the beach to the patio and back again. In addition, other standout pieces in the collection include more pieces that embody the versatility of the Kit and Ace brand, such as the V-kini Swim Top, Cheeky and Tie Bikini Bottoms for women, and Coastal and Cuffed Swim Shorts for men.

As they move toward their second year as a clothing brand, Kit and Ace has a lot to look forward to. In addition to the 60 shops currently open, ten more are slated to debut across North America, Australia, and the UK. “We’re continuing to expand and develop our product line, which stems from the wide selection of proprietary fabrics we’ve created… we aren’t planning on slowing down,” Wilson explains of the commercial success that is Kit and Ace.

You can buy Kit and Ace in major cities across the country with new stores opening in Atlanta, Detroit, Cincinnati, New York, Dallas, and D.C. later on this year. See more information at kitandace.com.

“To enhance the fabrication, our technical designers incorporated features like non-slip grip and adjustable waistbands to support how pieces transition between activities.”
This season is all about layering. While statement pieces will always be a go-to to uplift a simple outfit, there is an attraction to being able to invest in a piece that will be with you for the long haul. We want a piece we can wear with a tee and jeans as well as cocktail dress and heels, a piece that will be with us for years. While investing in long-term accessories sounds like a very grown up decision, it does not have to be all work and no play. The best way to wear these simple jewels is to add depth by layering them.

BY KIRSTY BRYANT

Chokers
One of the latest trends in jewelry this season that quickly made its way from the runway to our favorite brands, shops, and showrooms is the choker. If you are looking for a more modern twist on this iconic piece, Vanessa Mooney has a great selection of chokers that also double as statement pieces. Unlike the more casual fabric bands that wrap closely around the neck, these pieces have layers, and are bold and eye-catching.
**Bangles**

Much like the stackable ring trend, bangles are not only limited to rest right on the wrist. The layering aspect of the bracelet has the ability to extend up the arm, and create an expansive look much like the layering of necklaces. Adding solid beads to metals and leather is a way to tie in the aspects of the outfit. On the other hand, arm cuffs with colorful displays of art are a great way to layer with a long or dramatic earring to match.

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**Long Layers**

It is quite an art to select the appropriate accessory to highlight your outfit in just the right way. To make the proper decision there are multiple aspects that must be considered, from color, weight, and length. While most often the last piece of the outfit that is selected, jewelry requires some debate. With the layering trend, some of the work is taken off our plate. If you are someone that prefers the simplicity of dressing, look for long necklaces that include the various tiers. If you dare to experiment, pick up necklaces in varying lengths, textures, and colors and pile them on. Another option is to find a long necklace and wrap it around, giving the illusion of multiple.

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*Levita Layering Necklace in Red, $38, freepeople.com*

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*Pema Mixed Metal Lariat Necklace, $32, urbanoutfitters.com*

*Aleria Cuff by Sibilia, $128, anthropologie.com*

*Aleria Cuff by Sibilia, $128, anthropologie.com*

*www.clichemag.com*
Weekend getaways, road trips, spontaneous adventures, and small town discoveries; when it comes to traveling, it seems like summer is made for new journeys. As we purchase plane tickets, book hotels, Yelp delicious places to eat, and plan visits to places we’ve had on our bucket lists all year long, we also begin creating a list within our heads of what exactly we need to bring wherever we’re going. From makeup bags and polaroid cameras to not enough shoes and way too many outfits, packing can feel like just as big as the adventure you will be going on soon—minus the beautiful views and good times. Luckily, we’re here to help make packing a breeze with the best bags for any summer getaways on your agendas—with plenty of room to spare for souvenirs. **BY VICTORIA OLMO**
With lace detailing and soft neutral tones, Dallas-based clothing line Winter Lennon is the latest must-have brand in the fashion game. Their specialty is romantic and bohemian staple pieces that are versatile. The Crochet Maxi Dress is a great representation of the line: bohemian and neutral. The tunic-style maxi features crochet lace down the front and back of the dress with side slits, and the light and airy fabric is great to throw over a bathing suit.

For ladies with longer torsos, it’s difficult to find summer dresses since most are way too short for comfort. Even longer shirts designed to cover your bum in leggings don’t always do the trick, but that’s where Winter Lennon comes in to save the day. The brand sells lace trimmed dress and top extenders to wear underneath your clothes to add an extra layer. The Lace Dress Extender is a transitional piece that can be worn all year round. From summer dresses to winter dresses worn with tights, the piece adds a pretty touch of lace to any outfit.

The Long Sleeve Pointed Lace Top Extender is a long top that looks great with jeans or shorts. This piece is also transitional and can be worn with a pair of ripped up denim shorts in the summer or leggings/jeans in the fall. The top features side slits that relieve any constriction and add to the flowy look, and it comes in black, camel, and ivory.

Other than the lovely clothes, Winter Lennon also carries accessories such as hats, handbags, belts, socks, and jewelry. They even have a children’s line and sell their clothing wholesale to certain retailers. Be sure to get your hands on some Winter Lennon; the pieces will definitely come in handy, especially when you face a fashion emergency! To learn more about Winter Lennon, visit shopwinterlennon.com.

BY TATIANA STEC
Every season, it is as if we are playing catch up, scrounging through our wardrobe for styles we can carry over from the season before. While there is an unlimited amount of clothing in this world, for the most of us, there is not an unlimited budget. That is why we love brands like Free Bella that are providing trendy, versatile styles without breaking the bank. In an effort to make your summer swimsuit search as easy as possible, we have rounded up the top styles you should be looking at this summer. From cut-outs to ruffles, these styles are pushing the envelope and reflecting some of the top trending pieces straight from the runways.

BY KIRSTY BRYANT

Cut-Outs
Oftentimes when one thinks of cut-outs, all we can think of is skin, skin, skin. While the usual goal of hitting the beach or lounging by the pool is to get that perfect tan, we also understand those who want a bit more coverage. That’s where cut-out swimsuits come in, and there are plenty of options to choose from. From one-pieces and high-waisted bottoms, to something a little more scandalous, this trend has all the mediums covered.

The Kate Top in Powder, $34.95, freebella.com

Motel Turtle Bikini Top and Sand Bikini Bottom in Black, $36 and $33, urbanoutfitters.com

The V Effect
Baywatch babes, here we come! The iconic red suit that the all-star cast debuted so effortlessly in 1989 is coming back for more. Whether the suit is mimicking this style showing off the hips on both sides or is taking a more modern approach with a deep V-cut down the middle, it’s exciting to see the nice play between coverage and showing some skin.

Wolf and Whistle Plunge Chain Detail Swimsuit B-F Cup in White, $40, ASOS.com

Jaded London Pastel Tie Dye Plunge Neck Swimsuit in Multi, $64.70, ASOS.com
Ruffles

The ruffle or frill is taking on a new definition for swimsuits this season. While it still remains the “cute” addition on bathing suits of little girls, ruffles are definitely making a transition into women’s styles in an innovative way. Styles like the black tankini top are great slimming options for women with curvier shapes, and ruffles in general have a great way of cutting in at the right places. Whether you want to show some skin or layer them to appear as a one-piece, this style is definitely dynamic.

Solid Black Triple Tier Ruffle Swimsuit, $35.49, overstock.com

Aloha Hawaiian Floaty Frill Crop Bikini Top and Print Tie Side Bikini Bottom, $32.25 and $22.65, ASOS.com

Bonus Accents

Ruffles, cut-outs and splits in unimaginable places are not the only trending styles for swimsuits this summer: fun textures and shapes are also in store! Metallic shades like this suit at ASOS and the flirty off-the-shoulder suit from Forever 21 are just some examples of swimsuits this season reimagining themselves to mimic street style. Don’t be afraid to mix and match some solid bottoms with more stylized tops, or throw a body-chain on a one-piece suit you already own.

Wolf and Whistle Metallic Swimsuit in Metallic Bronze, $45.29, ASOS.com

Striped Cropped Bikini Top and Cutout Striped Bikini Bottoms, $19.90 and $15.90, forever21.com

The Shotgun Rosary Necklace, $97, vanessamooney.com

Try dressing up your swimsuit with long, gold jewelry

www.clichemag.com
White Hot

ANYONE WHO KNOWS ME knows that white lace is my thing. Though some may say I buy too much of it, it is the quintessential style to own for summer, and Muehleder has the ideal balance of dressy and casual wear for the upcoming summer season. BY JACQUELINE HOLBEN

When shopping their latest collection, I found the Claire Lace Jumpsuit. This romper, though slightly revealing, could be dressed up for graduations, ceremonies, and nicer events. Pair it with classy heels and you have an outfit for any dressy occasion.

In general, white is a great color for a hot summer day. This Melanie Halter Dress is ideal for more conservative summer occasions. Short and simple, it’ll work with any accessory and almost any pair of shoes. Have fun with a pop of color.

The Mariah Bandeau is a simple crop top to pair with a vibrant skirt, jeans, or colorful shorts. Though simple, it goes with nearly any pair of high-waisted bottoms and is great for a concert, summer outings, or other events. Add a pair of bright shoes and you have the perfect outfit.

The Katrina Layered Lace Skirt has the ultimate combination of flare and flounce. Like the above dresses and tops, this skirt makes it easy to play around with colorful accessories and shoes. Lightweight and airy, it’s a perfect skirt for summer.

Shop all these gorgeous looks at muehleder.com
Celebrity hair stylist Shasha Lee certainly has her hands full crafting amazing styles for some serious A-listers. Her client list includes Lil Kim, Nicole Richie, and Janet Jackson, and her work has been presented in countless publications all over the world. Here, we chat with Lee about her favorite hair trends, tips for extension experimentation, and even some crazy client stories.

**Cliché**: What are some key hair trends we can expect this summer?

**Shasha Lee**: Shoulder-length bobs and loose waves, and sexy, short styles with deep parts are in style. Gorgeous, glamorous hair is making a comeback, and creamy caramel bonds and buttery highlights placed strategically throughout the hair are in. Large wand curls are perfect and versatile.

**Which summer hair styles are your favorite to recreate for customers?**

Khloe Kardashian-esque, banana colored hair. Classic, sleek bobs.

**Tell us about your new LA weave bar. What type of experience can clients expect there?**

Gorgeous by Shasha Lee is a total beauty experience. Walk in and get the Triple L Package: luxury looks for less. Our expert technique allows us to provide extraordinary extensions in a few short hours, allowing you to minimize time spent in the salon and walk out gorgeous, ready to maximize your day!

**What piece of advice would you give to someone experimenting with extensions for the first time?**

Research and find an experienced stylist. Anyone can post on Craigslist and social media offering budget extensions. You want an experienced professional who not only creates natural looking styles, but protects your real hair. Also, invest in high quality hair. It may seem pricey initially, but with proper care, it can save you money in the long run because you can reuse it. I’ve had my same Gorgeous by SL extensions for a year!

**What are some upkeep hair care tips for those who have hair extensions?**

Keep your scalp clean. I love tea tree shampoos because it stimulates the scalp so that it cleanses the hair, but also encourages growth. Don’t weigh your hair down. Make sure you thoroughly rinse conditioner so that your hair can have ultimate bounce and flow. I like to keep product use to a minimum, but one of my secrets is that I like to spray perfume in my hair.

**Do you feel like location (LA and NYC) affects your clients’ style preferences at all?**

Absolutely. California girls like bone straight hair while New York girls prefer lots of body and love unique styles with a lot of oomph.

**Do you have any hair horror stories that have happened to you over the years?**

When I first started doing hair, I did a color on Lil Kim. She asked for a T-Boz look and because of all the prior chemicals in her hair, it came out five different colors! That was the day I learned how to master a weave.

When I first became a salon owner at Shasha Lee Exclusive in NYC, I hired ambitious young stylists that came highly referred and quickly realized that not everyone reflected the top notch quality I wanted represented by my brand. Now, I require all stylists to audition first and give them multiple tests to ensure that everyone is capable of delivering an elite experience.

**What can you attribute to your success? What advice do you have for others looking to get to where you are now?**

I attribute to my success that I am my biggest fan. I never bet against myself and always have faith in my gifts and my path. The advice I would give others is to be patient with yourself. Stay FOCUSED. NO is ON in reverse. Dream your dreams to life and stay gorgeous.
Chatting with the lovely Britta Fleck, President & Managing Director of GLOSSYBOX USA, is swoon worthy, as you can’t help but fall in love with a company that clearly is initiative and thoughtful towards its clientele base, yet daring and adventurous for its own cause. The brand is innovative and wickedly intelligent in understanding what captures a beauty lover’s heart and soul. Don’t believe us? That’s okay—we’re still in awe of GLOSSYBOX’s ability to curate beauty magic, too.

BY KATELYN BONGIorno

Cliché: We love GLOSSYBOX’s idea of incorporating iconic brands as well as niche brands. What are some of the iconic and niche brands we can expect to find in our boxes?

Britta Fleck: The most iconic ones for sure are Benefit Cosmetics, GLAMGLOW, Estee Lauder, and bareMinerals, whereas the niche brands are RITUALS, Emité, MDMflow, and NUXE, to name a few.

Speaking of niche brands, ironically, they’re becoming quite the trend nowadays. Did you make plans to incorporate niche brands into your packages knowing that it was going to become a trend, or was it due to the general desire to explore all areas within the beauty industry?

Our tagline is ‘Come discover beauty with us,’ so the desire to explore is definitely part of our DNA. Personally, I think that composition is key—that’s why we put so much effort in it.
within most of the industries, the smaller brands are the innovative ones that drive trends simply because they are smaller and hence quicker to act. To discover niche brands is super exciting for me. However, it really is key to mix niche and iconic brands in order to create an amazing box composition.

The website also features a limited edition box from time to time. How do you decide what the next limited edition box will be?

We have two different versions of Limited Edition boxes: one is tied to a holiday/special occasion, such as Mother’s Day and Christmas, where you find a composition of six full-size products of different brands. The other variant is the mono brand editions, which only contain products of one very special brand.

GLOSSYBOX appears to be very meticulous in how they curate their packages. Generally, how is each box curated?

Oh yes, we are super selective when it comes to box curation. There is so much you have to keep in mind when composing the best box for each of our GLOSSIES. I believe that composition is key—that’s why we put so much effort in it.

Is there a specific brand or beauty product that you love from GLOSSYBOX, and what is it you love about it?

I have so many; it’s very hard to pick only one. RITUALS is definitely one of my favorite brands for body care. The shower foams smell divine. I can’t do without the blue mascara from Benefit Cosmetics (see next question) and GLAMGLOW’s Powercleanse is definitely the best cleanser I ever used.

With summer on the horizon, what are your go-to tips and/or beauty must-haves for the season?

My signature look is steel blue mascara, glossy blush, and, if I am in the mood, very bright red lipstick. Hey Honey’s Morning Serum is perfect for the lighter care routine, and I would never leave the house without using SPF. I am a big fan of a dewy complexion; matte doesn’t work for me. Fortunately during summer, that comes naturally due to humidity. I try to encourage everyone to use blue mascara, which instantly gives your eyes a wake-up kick. Same for the Vichy Thermal Water spray; I could never survive without it—and my kids believe it has magic powers. I become braver during summer when it comes to nail varnish and wear any kind of color to match or to accentuate my style. Add a touch of Bronze Goddess, my all-time favorite summer scent, and I am ready to face the heat!

What can we expect from the summer GLOSSYBOX’s?

A lot! We have a very special collaboration for June with the TONY Awards. It’s going to be a fantastic box in a very special design. The Fighting Pretty Limited Edition is super important to us as it is a charity box to support women battling cancer. You should also not miss our September Box, the most exciting box design of the year, created by an artist especially for our fashion edition. Actually, there are lots of great GLOSSYBOX’s coming our way this year!
Out of Water

Summer days spent taking a dip in the pool or soaking up some sun at the beach are perfect for showing off those new swimsuits, drinking piña coladas, and catching a tan—but not so much for our hair. Whether it’s the chlorine or saltwater, our locks can become just as reckless as the waves we may crash into. I know firsthand how tangled and trying out-of-water hair can be, especially if you have a lion’s mane like mine. I’ve had my fair share of bad hair moments after a beautiful sunny day, but with plenty of visits to the beach and pool comes experience with how to beat any water blues. Here are my go-to out-of-water hair tips to make sure that there won’t be any clouds raining on your parades anytime soon.

BY VICTORIA OLMO

Holy Grail Hair Products
Apply a small amount of any of these hair products into your locks for magical results. And if you decide to brush through them, remember that a wet brush or wide tooth comb is your hair’s ultimate BFF.

1. Moroccanoil Curl Defining Cream, $35, moroccanoil.com

Beachy Waves/Curls
Apply some hair product, scrunch it into your locks, and just let them air dry! You can even add little braids or loose buns for bohemian-inspired details.

2. Davines All In One Milk, $16, us.davines.com

Bun Duo
Because two messy buns are so much more fun than one.

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Must-do Hairstyles

No one has time for tangles and knots, so when it comes to rocking your hair after a full day of swimming, you may feel like your locks are limited. Fear not, though! These hairstyles have become my go-to options, no matter how much chlorine there is in a pool. Just spritz one of the amazing hair products in, gently brush it through, and style it for an easy, breezy hairdo.

Milkmaid Braids

This braid style has free spirit written all over it.

Boxer Braids

Whatever you may call these braids, they all have one thing in common—they are totally made for summer days.

Macadamia Healing Oil Treatment, $18.98, amazon.com

Oribe Soft Dry Conditioner Spray, $36, oribe.com

Oribe Dry Texturizing Spray, $44, oribe.com

Milkmaid Braids

This braid style has free spirit written all over it.
All About That Blue

Our go-to brands for this type of look include Makeup Geek and MAC because not only are their pigmentation worth every penny, but their single eyeshadow pans retail for $6, which isn’t bad at all considering it’s within the “higher-end” makeup spectrum! A few colors we love are Makeup Geek’s Chit Chat, Shore Thing, Dragonfly, and Hopscotch, and MAC’s Aqua, Atlantic Blue, and Electric Eel. Other great brands with excellent pigmentation that range from high-end to drugstore include Anastasia Beverly Hills, Make Up For Ever, Maybelline, and L’Oreal. If you’re truly uncertain as to what shades of blue to choose from, head over to your local Sephora, ULTA, or nearest beauty counter to find a beauty consultant who can properly advise you on the best colors for your eyes and skin tone.

Once you’ve found your shades of blue, the best way to incorporate these eyeshadows is by creating a more “blown-out” effect, as Jaclyn Hill mentions in her spring trend tutorial “Aqua Eyes,” which eliminates the usual intensive crease and definition amongst eyeshadow shades so that the overall look is more cohesive, especially when incorporating multiple shades of blue. The variety of hues will still provide a beautiful array of colors while also exuding our inner mermaid feels.

Meanwhile, the beloved Kathleen Lights will show you how to incorporate your not-so-average eyeshadows, such as in her spring makeup tutorial “Shades of Teal,” from brands you wouldn’t originally think to consider for individual eyeshadows, such as Kat Von D and Colourpop.

So go on, try it! Make it a fun girl’s night in or out, and don’t forget to thank the lovely ladies who know how to do makeup best—the ladies who will always have your back no matter what the hue.

BY KATELYN BONGIORNO
Sure, everyone’s body chemistry is different, but ultimately, Thierry Mugler’s Alien perfume is still Thierry Mugler’s Alien perfume, which we can spot on that girl walking a mile away from us. Am I right, or am I right? Don’t get us wrong; we love Alien just as much as that girl walking by does, but even our most beloved perfumes see their days sometimes. We would be lying if we said we didn’t have those moments of wanting to find that scent that instantly notes the very essence of who we are as beauty lovers, females, and to put it simply, as women. If you’re wondering where you can find such a thing, look no further. Lately, the beauty industry has been shedding some light on the fragrances to beat: niche fragrances.

As we all know, we’re guilty of buying the same or similar scents of multiple body sprays, perfumes, and scented hand lotions than we know what to do with! It’s an addiction that, as beauty lovers, we can reason with just as much as we can with our ten different shades of nude lipsticks! (What? They’re not all the same.) However, at Cliché, we’re encouraging you to try something different—amazingly different—and we’re using the season of spring, the season to start anew, to go out on the edge not with your style or your makeup, but this time with your scent. That’s where niche fragrances come in.

Though experimenting with scents can be a little more difficult considering the sentimentality and sensitivity that the sense of smell can bring, the ideal of breaking our mold so that we don’t deprive ourselves of such a beautiful experience and enjoyable sensation is what’s so rewarding and refreshing. We deserve to find a scent that accentuates our souls—our inner beings that make us feel whatever and however it is we want to feel.

The up-and-coming category in the beauty industry is a fragrance-related term that is representative of alternative scents that are so diverse that, perhaps, the newness of such is what creates the originally off-putting smell. There are times where niche fragrances tend to focus on one particular scent, whereas most perfumes incorporate multiple notes in one perfume. However, niche fragrances are already proving to be equally as powerful, inviting, and wonderful as the favorite perfumes you have at home. In fact, niche fragrances are slowly becoming more popular with perfumery houses like Jo Malone making their way around the country. What’s particularly attractive about niche fragrances right now is their individualism, as their already unique scents blend with our body chemistry, making for an even more unique and indistinguishable scent for every person.

Niche fragrances’ growing popularity can also be contributed to their presentation: no use of advertisement. There is simply the hard work of creating scents with timeless edge and sound reputation.

Niche fragrances can be found at your local Sephora store. Such brands include Ex Nihilo, Vilhelm Parfumerie, CLEAN, Nest, Atelier Cologne, and Juliette Has a Gun.

BY KATELYN BONGIORNO

www.clichemag.com
Once the temperature begins to rise from 40 to 100 degrees, we know that a full face of makeup look can quickly become a thing of the past. With the heat and humidity peaking during the summer, wearing foundation, false lashes, or any type of makeup for that matter can feel like way too much. So what’s a beauty babe supposed to do when she wants to beat her face like no tomorrow, yet not have her hard work melt off by the end of the day? Well, welcome to the water world, beauty babes. Keep your makeup perfectly in place, no matter how hot it may be, with products that have one very important description: waterproof. From Make Up For Ever’s Aqua Rouge Lipstick to Stila’s Stay All Day Waterproof Liquid Eyeliner, these cosmetics are just as bright and long-lasting as the sun’s rays on a hot summer day while on land or in water. Think colorful eyes, bold lips, dewy complexions, and bronzed finishes; you’ll be the epitome of mermaid goals with these go-to beauty picks for summer time. BY VICTORIA OLMO

Mermaid Goals

The ultimate summer foundation + concealer combo.
Amazonian Clay Waterproof 12-hour Concealer, $23, tarte.cosmetics.com

Go waterproof.
Better Than Sex Waterproof Mascara, $23, too.faced.com

Perfect summer makeup.
Face & Body Liquid Make-Up, $43, makeupforever.com

Time to go rouge.
Aqua Rouge Lipstick, $24, makeupforever.com

It’s prime time.
Eye Pigment, $24, milkmakeup.com

Never worry about your brows melting or budging.
Aqua Brow by Make Up For Ever, $22, sephora.com

Just when we thought this mascara couldn’t get any better.
Stay All Day Waterproof Liquid Eyeliner, $22, stilacosmetics.com

Cream of the crop.
Ombre Couture Cream Eyeshadow, $26, sephora.com

Brow game so strong.
Retractable Brow Pencil Waterproof, $12, sephora.com

www.clichemag.com
If you’re a fan of the French braid, try a braided crown.
Everyone loves a French braid, but there’s always a time to try new things. This style takes a little bit of effort, but once you master it, there’s literally no stopping you. Braid your hair into a crown around your head like the queen you are and look fabulous while keeping your hair away from the water.

If you’re used to the simple topknot, try a chic bun.
We totally understand the appeal of the topknot; it’s simple, quick, and an old favorite. However, don’t you want to switch things up with something sleeker? Slicking back your hair into a chic looking bun is sure to add a certain polish to your beach persona. Spend a little extra time in the mirror before you hit the beach and your confidence will thank you.

If you’re used to the messy bun, try the braided bun.
With a few simple adjustments, you can achieve the polished look even at the beach. Instead of just piling your hair on the top of your head haphazardly, putting your hair in a neat braid first makes a world of difference. Add in a statement headband and you’re ready to go!

If you’re a fan of the ponytail, try a bubble pony.
This style is for the bold and the beautiful. Instead of doing the played out ponytail, try something exciting and new with the bubble pony. Seen a lot on the runway, this style is easy to do, but leaves a big impression. Simply put your hair into a sleek ponytail (low or high, your choice) and section off with ponytail holders every inch or so. The result is a slick, fierce style that’s impossible for others to ignore.

So you’re getting ready for a day at the beach and you have everything: sunscreen, bikini, and a towel. But what about your hair? Making an impression is necessary no matter where you are, and the beach is no exception. Prepare to turn heads with these revamped beach hairstyles!

BY NATALIA TYNDALL
With a multi-million dollar business and a 40% growth rate year after year, Tone It Up is a perfect example of a business built on hard work and social media prowess. The digitally-based healthy lifestyle and fitness community that has a current reach of over 5 million women worldwide on multiple platforms was founded by fitness trainers Karena Dawn and Katrina Scott. Since the initial launch of Tone It Up in 2009, these dedicated ladies have acquired over a million followers combined on both of their Instagram accounts, over half a million subscribers on their YouTube channel, and millions of users across social media using the #toneitup hashtag. Karena and Katrina are not only leading ladies in the fitness industry; with a thriving organic, non-GMO Perfect Fit Protein business, the launch of a second activewear collection in collaboration with BANDIER, a beauty line, and more, they are a tour de force in the health/food, beauty, and fashion arenas as well. Here’s what they had to say about their inspiring business. **BY MARGARITA NEHME**
Cliché: Tell us about the events in your life that lead you to decide to start your own business.

Karena Dawn and Katrina Scott: We’ve always been passionate about fitness and actually met each other at the gym. We became fast friends and decided we wanted to reach more women than we had been with one-on-one training. We started creating free YouTube workouts with the hope of inspiring women around the world. Everything naturally evolved from there!

How did you break through the clutter of the health and fitness industry?

There’s so much misleading information out there that we totally get how confusing it can be to try to do the best thing for your body. We both came up with our nutrition plan through intense research and by seeing what worked best for us and our bodies, which are whole, nutrient dense foods filled with antioxidants and vitamins.

In terms of marketing, do you focus more on social media or Google ads and SEO?

What matters the most to us is connecting with our community who look to us and to the rest of the team for motivation and encouragement. TIU girls are really active on Instagram and on Snapchat, so we use those platforms the most to connect, inspire, and even share a few of our real life moments, too.

What has been your most engaged platform?

Right now Instagram! The #TIUTeam hashtag has over 2 million posts!

What is the predominant problem women face in their fitness journey and how do you help them overcome it?

Women naturally put others first, placing our own needs aside. We’re natural caregivers, which is a great thing, but we sometimes mistakenly believe neglecting our health is the right thing to do. We help women realize that when you take time to love and take care of yourself, you end up having so much more love and energy to give those around you! Even if it’s just an hour in the morning to squeeze in a workout, you’ll see and feel a world of difference.

What did your dedication to your health and fitness teach you about the business world?

When you lead with passion, anything can happen!

Would you say it was challenging to have a business partner?

No, it’s really the best. We each have our strengths and weaknesses that balance out between us. We couldn’t do it without each other!

On days when you feel uninspired, what keeps you going?

Our community keeps us going! It’s amazing to see hundreds of thousands of women waking up early to workout, eat healthy, and share so much positivity with each other. There are really no words for how powerful the TIU community is.

What is the main thing about Tone It Up that keeps people coming back?

We strive to make healthy living a really fun part of life. We believe that balance is key... which means a glass of wine here and there is totally #TIUapproved!

What advice can you give women who are working towards their goals, be it fitness, business, or any other?

Dream big and know that you deserve whatever it is that you desire for yourself. Find someone to be your cheerleader and your accountability buddy, then check in with each other daily as you complete tasks that get you closer to your goals!

"...when you take time to love and take care of yourself, you end up having so much more love and energy to give those around you!"
A Beauty and a Beast

Fitness guru and dancing queen Massy Arias proves to us that fit is the new sexy. Sharing uplifting words, she’s a woman with a heart of gold and on a mission to not only motivate people physically, but to build them up to be mentally and emotionally strong. Here, she tells us how she found happiness in being fit and in love, while building an empire of her own. BY DOMINIQUE BARCHUS / PHOTOGRAPHED BY PAUL SMITH

Cliché: Everyone does something that they consider to be an escape, so why is focusing on your fitness that outlet for you?

Massy Arias: Since exercise releases endorphins in your body that make you feel good, it is the tool I use to keep myself grounded, focused, and live an exciting life. I am always finding new ways of staying active and that means meeting new people, visiting new places I never thought I’d go to, and keeping my mind occupied while doing something positive. I usually end up doing things I’ve never done before and getting a kick out of them. There is never a day where I don’t meet someone I find really cool and have a great time. My day is full of positive energy and that’s why fitness is my escape to a happy place.

What was life like for you coming to the U.S. in comparison to being in the Dominican Republic?

Being that the majority of my family is back in the Dominican Republic, I think life was very hard. I had to adapt to a culture I wasn’t familiar with, and as a teenager, it was tough to overcome the insecurities that brings.

How would you describe your fitness journey?

My fitness journey hasn’t been easy, but it has been the most rewarding experience so far. I have had so many downs, but in those downs I have found that I am very strong-minded. My journey has been exciting, but it has definitely brought its challenges. It has given me purpose and continues to bring out the best in me.

You regularly post motivating words to your followers. What is the most important message you’re trying to send to them?

On a fitness level, I want them to always strive for progress and not perfection. When trying to reach any goals in fitness, many of us don’t take into consideration all the variables that influence overall physical progress. We want to believe in the idea of instant gratification and set unrealistic goals that are unsustainable.

I will give you a really good analogy that can be applied for different scenarios: If someone loses 1 pound a week, that is about 50 pounds in the year. Slow progress is still progress and obsessing over slow progress will only hinder your motivation to continue working towards your goals.

If you are really out of shape, you can start walking because walking will soon turn into jogging, then running, and finally you will be sprinting. Your body is a machine that adapts to the stress you put it through. Don’t get discouraged because you are not at the level you want to be yet. If you strive...
for progress, you will always stay positive because every day you are trying to become a better version than you were yesterday. Don’t quit because you’re not getting there as fast as you thought.

You’re constantly put into the category of “#bodygoals.” What exactly is your goal with your physique?
To be quite honest, I don’t think I have any aesthetic goals as of right now. Many of us do not realize that our bodies are actually a machine that adapts to whatever stress we put it through. So instead of focusing on an aesthetic goal that might hinder my motivation based on the time it might take me to get there, I am putting all my focus on my performance. By always improving on my performance, I know that my body will change accordingly. My goal is to stay healthy and, above all, happy.

A little birdy told me that you’re engaged! Congrats! Want to give us a little inside recap of your love story?
Yes, to Stefan. Ironically, we met on social media, but before the craziness of today. [Laughs] An online friend connected all of us in a group chat, trying to assemble a group of fit influencers. One day, Stefan decided to call me out of the blue and I decided to call him back. He was in Los Angeles, and I was in New York. We began texting, then speaking every day, and after a year, we knew we needed to meet. I took a flight to go meet a man I had never met before. As cliché as it sounds, it was love at first sight. We dated long-distance, coast to coast, for a year before we decided that we should be on the same coast. We then lived in New Jersey for a year, then returned to LA thereafter, where we still live today. We want to have a simple beach wedding this summer and make it official.

You’re more than just a fitness guru, but also a businesswoman. Can you touch a little on what you’ve been doing?
When I first started my own personal training business, I was focused solely on training clients in person. As my client listing and popularity grew, I realized how many people I wasn’t able to connect with. I started with an online system and ran it through my own website. In addition to working with clients online, I created The MA30Day system—my personal 4-week nutrition and workout program. Since it’s gone live, our clients have lost over 70,000 lbs collectively.

As my personal brand and social media presence continued to grow, I wanted to capitalize in a conscious way by helping guide others and teaching them my concepts. I saw many people promoting products and selling items that they didn’t believe in, and I knew it wasn’t for me. I’ve been patient and have built long-lasting professional relationships and partnerships that I feel strongly about. I’m currently a spokesperson for a plant-based supplement company, and have recently come out with my own series of products, which I am extremely excited about. I won’t ever work with a brand or represent a product that I don’t personally use or believe in. I have a few projects on the board for 2016, but I’m not sure I’m ready to share those just yet. [Winks]

You’ve been through a lot of trials and tribulations in life. What advice would you give those who feel like they’ve hit rock bottom?
My advice to those who are hitting rock bottom is to embrace whatever they are going through instead of sinking deeper into it. Once you embrace your situation, you can start seeking the help of those who love you unconditionally. Your friends and family can be of tremendous help, but only if they are aware of what you are going through. Know that in every situation in life, there is room to grow and to learn. That is extremely important. If we can look at our past mistakes as lessons, we will realize that failure is another form of learning how to get better at whatever is that is holding us back.

“My fitness journey hasn’t been easy, but it has been the most rewarding experience so far. I have had so many downs, but in those downs I have found that I am very strong-minded.”
canadian dentist Dr. Todd McClenaghan tells us about his practice, South 40 Dental, as well as what clients can expect from his care, and about the biggest, most helpful advancements in dental technology yet. **BY MEGAN PORTORREAL / PHOTOGRAPHED BY KATE EDIGER**

Cliché: How long have you been a dentist and what has been most rewarding part of your career?

**Dr. Todd McClenaghan:** I have been a dentist for 5 years, and in August of 2016, I will be celebrating 3 years in my own practice, South 40 Dental.

We see that you attended Dental school in the U.S. Is there a specific reason you chose Midwestern University versus other schools either in the U.S. or Canada?

I chose a dental school in the U.S. (Midwestern University) because at the time, it was a brand new school with some of the most advanced technology available, and I love working with all the advancements that have come available in the last 10 years. There was also no specialty program at Midwestern, so the undergraduates were permitted to do the speciality procedures that are just not offered to undergraduates at the schools that do offer those specialty programs. We also worked in partners, so that provided me the opportunity to perform a higher volume of dentistry during school.

A lot of people think of a dentist as someone who cleans your teeth and does an occasional root canal, but you offer over 15 services from veneers to implants. Was it by design when you started your business to offer a multitude of services or has your business transformed over the years to include more services?

It was by design when I started my business to offer a convenient location where we wouldn’t have to refer our patients out, sometimes out of town, for some of the more advanced services. I strive to be as diverse in my dental skills as possible. I’m always learning something new. Our patients love the wide variety of services all available in one convenient location, and as our business has grown, I’ve expanded on even more advanced services, including frenectomy (tongue/lip tie) utilizing lasers, and Botox for TMD. Most recently we’ve expanded into sleep apnea appliances as well.
Tell us more about “sedation dentistry” and how it benefits your business and your patients.

Sedation dentistry is a big benefit to our patients and our business. We offer conscious sedation, so our patients are still “awake” during their procedure, although we find most are happily snoozing once the sedation takes effect! By providing this type of sedation, our patients are able to complete extensive treatment in one visit, which helps them reduce the amount of time off from their work schedule and saves them the travel costs associated with a referral out of town. The cost can also be substantially less and the patients with high dental anxiety are able to complete their dental needs in comfort.

What has been the biggest advancement in technology over the last 5 years that has produced better results for your patients? Do you foresee other advances in technology that could make your job easier?

I feel some of the biggest advancements in technology over the last 5 years have been with CEREC® same day crowns and Invisalign Ortho. With CEREC®, we can replace amalgam fillings, or restore teeth requiring crowns and use 3D scans to create tooth colored porcelain crowns, in one visit. This also keeps our lab fees reduced because we use our in house milling machine. With Invisalign, we use the 3D scan technology to plan out the movement of teeth to create amazing smiles with near invisible orthodontic trays and attachments.

Implants are also continuing to improve, from traditional implants to the mini (same day) implants. The downtime and cost associated with the newest implant technology has been reduced, making it an even more appealing way of replacing lost or broken teeth, or providing additional support to dentures. There have also been great improvements in porcelain materials; increased esthetics combined with increased strength allows us to place veneers with minimal amounts of natural tooth reduction.

It’s clear that providing an exceptional experience is very important to you. Because of that, you have received hundreds of perfect 5-star ratings by patients. What do you feel is the #1 reason that people absolutely love your service, staff, and clinic?

The patient experience at South 40 Dental is just that: an experience! Our team is very much a tight knit “family,” and our patients definitely feel what a cohesive, fun, and professional team we have. Our 5-star ratings by our patients is testament to our entire team’s focus on making sure that each patient is treated like they are visiting a 5-star hotel. The # 1 reason why people love our service, staff, and clinic is they feel “at home.” They can be themselves. Whether they are a bit anxious, or in a fun-loving/joking mood, or even if they are feeling like they are misunderstood, our team works at making sure they leave knowing we care, and will do everything we can to ensure each time they visit, they leave feeling a bit better about themselves, not just their oral health!
Top SILENCE & NOISE
Jumpsuit AMERICAN APPAREL
Heels ZARA
clearest blue

Photographer: VICTOR HUGO
Model: SIERRA LIPPERT (Scout Model & Talent)
Wardrobe Stylist: BRANTON ALEXANDER
Wardrobe Stylist Assistant: LAUREN JOLY
Makeup Artist: KARL PUA
Hair Styling: VICTOR HUGO
Denim Shirt (Outer) H&M
Denim Shirt (Inner) LEVI'S
Shorts AMERICAN APPAREL
Rings H&M
Crop Top: H&M
Underwear: CALVIN KLEIN
Pants: OLD NAVY
Denim Shirt: LEVI'S
Heels: ZARA
Rings: H&M
Top and coat: TOPSHOP
Heels: ZARA
Socks: AMERICAN APPAREL
Top SILENCE & NOISE
Jumpsuit AMERICAN APPAREL
Top: BDG
Overalls: OLD NAVY
Heels: ZARA
Rings: H&M
Hoodie STYLIST’S OWN
Shorts and socks AMERICAN APPAREL
Boots ALDO
Top and coat: TOPSHOP
Skirt: ZARA
Rings: H&M
Sports Bra AMERICAN APPAREL
Denim Shirt (Outer) H&M
Denim Shirt (Inner) LEVI'S
Shorts AMERICAN APPAREL
Heels ZARA
Top CALVIN KLEIN
Denim Shirt OLD NAVY
Jacket ZARA
Pants TOPSHOP
Shoes ADIDAS
Rings H&M

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MAN'S WORLD

Paul James

Photographed by Catie Laffoon
You’ve probably seen Paul James all over your TV for the past few years. Following the series finale of the popular ABC Family show *Greek*, where he played Calvin Owens, James has kept busy with guest appearances on shows like *Grey’s Anatomy* and *Shameless*. He also recurs as O’Connor on the TNT series *The Last Ship*, which is airing now for its third season. This summer, he finds a new home as Sean Egan on the new Hulu original series *The Path*, alongside Aaron Paul, Hugh Dancy, and Michelle Monaghan. We caught up with James recently to chat about the exciting new show and what’s to come.

**BY LYDIA SNAPPER / PHOTOGRAPHED BY CATIE LAFFOON**

**Cliché:** Tell me a little about yourself growing up. What were you like? Were you always into entertaining?

**Paul James:** I was pretty much the same, just smaller. I was also definitely dumber. I think I played a lot with action figures and then outside with my friends. I liked building things, so I think my parents thought I would be an architect or something. My favorite color was chrome, but I remember changing it to red a little later, but never blue though. I enjoyed watching *The NeverEnding Story* every day after school. I liked tunafish sandwiches, always with relish and always the chunky white kind. Tuna didn’t travel well to school, so I only ate bologna and cheese sandwiches at school, always with mustard. I definitely was always entertained by myself. We had a cat, Melody, that didn’t find me too funny. But she died and I’m still here, so who is laughing last, Melody?

You previously starred on ABC Family’s hit series *Greek*. What is your best memory from that set?

Oh wow, there are so many memories, the best of which are mostly inappropriate to print. I am still very close with most of the actors from the show as well as many crew members. Someone came up to me one day and said I had changed his life by my portrayal of Calvin. That made me feel really good about the show and the character. Then someone told me that they fast-forwarded through my parts because they didn’t like Calvin. So then I was back to feeling pretty much the same as before.

**What about The Path felt different or exciting for you and made you want to get involved with the show?**

I actually wasn’t too sure about it at the beginning. I hadn’t had luck with projects that began with the letter “W” and the show was originally called *The Way* (I won’t watch *The Walking Dead* because of this), but the script was really excellent. Aside from that, you really just audition and the producers and writers give you the thumbs up or thumbs down. I have auditioned for lots of crap, like real shit, and you wait by the phone and hope to get it so you can pay the mortgage or go out with friends to Benihana for a birthday. Beggars rarely get to be choosers, though I have met a few stuck up panhandlers in my time out in L.A. It is really nice to get something that you’re excited to work on. And then when the name got changed to *The Path*, I knew it was going to be great. I like the letter P a whole bunch.

**Tell me a little bit about your character Sean Egan. What is he like?**

Well, Sean is a vegetarian as are all the members of the Meyerest movement. Initially he really struggled with this as he used to play football and was on a high protein diet. I became a vegetarian for three days to get in the mindset, but I really felt like on the fourth day I had learned all I was going to learn and now I am eating meat again. Sean is pretty new to the movement, but he has found peace in the movement. Now, a show about people who find peace and stay at peace wouldn’t be very interesting, so his perspective definitely gets challenged as the show progresses.

**What is your absolute dream role?**

I’m not much of a dreamer these days, besides dreaming about the Mets winning the world series.
Two words: Cody Linley. More likely than not, minds go on a whirlwind and instantly think of one character: Jake Ryan. No, not Jake Ryan from Sixteen Candles, but the new and improved one from Hannah Montana! Now, it has been 10 years since the show first premiered and the whole cast are out doing their own thing, including Cody Linley. In fact, fans can expect to see him in one of the most talked about franchises this summer, Sharknado: The 4th Awakens. We had a chance to chat with him to talk about his new role, his famous past role, and what he does off screen.

BY ASHLEY BULAYO / PHOTOGRAPHED BY TERRY CASS

Cliché: You’ve been acting since you were a kid, but who or what introduced you to the world of acting and entertainment?

Cody Linley: My mom is an acting coach and my older brother Chad was an actor. I remember when I was 4 years old, I saw him on set playing baseball, and I knew then I really wanted to be like him. So, a couple of months later, by chance, I booked a commercial without an agent. It was so exciting for me to be able to do acting just like my big brother, and the rest was history.

When you were younger, how did you imagine your future career? Were you always set on being an actor or did you want to pursue another career path?

Like a lot of kids, when I was young, I wanted to do a lot! I wanted to work with animals, go to outer space, and be an artist, musician, actor, and director. Now as an adult, I still like all of those things, and who wouldn’t want to go to outer space, right? But one thing is clear: acting has been a huge part of my life and always will be.
We’ve literally watched you grow up on screen and play different roles each time. Is there anything you would want to tell your younger self that you wish you knew then?

I don’t know if I would have listened to any advice when I was younger, because I was pretty stubborn and set on living a carefree lifestyle. If I could tell myself anything though, and knew it would actually stick, it would be to mind the people you have around you. Keep your circle to those that you love, trust, respect, and who you see as your equals. I think it’s easy for young entertainers to get caught up in being “famous” and there are all kinds of people who will appear from all over the place, for all kinds of reasons. I would tell myself that real friends require nothing from you, other than your friendship itself.

The Hannah Montana/Miley era was just before the time social media took over the world. Do you think social media might have changed the outcome of how your character was either portrayed or left the show?

For sure. Social media has changed so much about Hollywood, so certainly the outcome would have been different. My role started out as a one episode guest star part, with the possibility of recurring, and I ended up doing a dozen episodes, over four seasons. So yes, it’s possible that Jake and Miley would have stayed together if the fans pushed for that, and the writers followed that heat, but who knows? It was a fun run being Hannah Montana and it definitely exceeded my expectations of how it could be received!

I’m sure you get tons of “Jake Ryan” references, which is awesome. However, has it been difficult to get yourself away from being labeled as just Jake Ryan?

When I first finished Hannah Montana, like many Disney actors, I wanted to break away from being known as just a Disney Channel guy. Since then, I have done all types of roles in films and TV, and yes, Jake seems to be the one that I’m most often remembered for. But I’ve come to appreciate it because Jake Ryan was such a huge part of many people’s childhoods and he is without a doubt an early symbol of young love, which I’m totally cool with. Anytime I get recognized as Jake when I’m out and about, I send that love right back to the person, and I see it as one of my life’s gifts to even for a few moments be able to make someone else’s day better and brighter.

Now you’re in Sharknado, which has become one of the most talked about movies on social media for three years! Major congrats on landing the role as Matt. How did this role and opportunity to be included in Sharknado 4 come about?

Actually, it came in as a direct offer to me, completely out of the blue while I was auditioning for other projects. Evidently, one of the producer’s daughters was a big Jake Ryan fan. So I watched the other three movies, and needless to say, I laughed a lot! So I figured, why not? It looked fun, and so I became a part of the franchise.

Since your character is coming back from flight school and the army, any chance we’ll get to see you doing any crazy stunts with some sort of flying vehicle?

Yes. I don’t want to give anything away, but right from the start the film becomes an over-the-top thrill ride that won’t disappoint. The action was challenging at times, but so very exciting for me. I got to do lots of stunt work, and yelling at green screens, on this film. I became a big fan of hot tea!

Now, not to say your character is getting killed off, but since Sharknado has had a lot of gruesome or let’s say, unique, death scenes, if you were to get bitten off… How would you want your character to leave the movie? [Laughs] That’s a funny question. How would I like to get eaten by a shark? Hmm… I guess, head first, so it would be a quick and easy death, with minimal pain and maximum blood!

Which would you rather be in: a Sharknado or zombie apocalypse, and what would be your plan to survive?

Ooh, both would be really scary, but since I have training in Sharknado hunting, I’d say I’d be in a Sharknado. I would have lots of chainsaws, automatic rifles, grenades, and a bulletproof suit of course, because you know how a disaster-apocalypse can go. I would live in a tornado shelter, eat beans and rice—vegan till the end, baby!—and listen to music until all the sharks I encountered were killed.

I read that you do a bit of improv when you’re not working on a project. How did you come across doing improv? Is it difficult to transition from going from a very unstructured “anything-can-happen” type of acting to a very structured and scripted role?

I love improvisation and have used it as a tool for years to help deepen my characters from scripted jobs. I had the privilege to study with one of the founders of The Groundlings, Gary Austin, when I was just 10 years old, and I’ve continued to study with him off and on. I’m also an alum of Improv Olympics and still perform there sometimes on Friday nights. Improv is a fun outlet where you find a lot of freedom in being in the unknown, and developing new forms of comedy. Luckily in Sharknado: The 4th Awakens, there were some sequences and moments where we as actors were allowed to improvise, which allowed us to feel really invested in the action. I think that the spirit of “anything can happen” should be embedded even in a scripted role. It’s what gives a character life.

Although you’re busy gearing up and promoting Sharknado: The 4th Awakens, what else can our readers expect to see from you in the near future?

Expect great things. I love what I do and I’m not going to stop any time soon, so follow me on social media at @codylinley to stay up to date. I might even surprise you at your Sharknado: The 4th Awakens watch party! So tune in to Sharknado: The 4th Awakens when it premieres on the SyFy network on July 31 in the US, and August 2 in the United Kingdom, and I promise it will deliver some hilarious insanity!
A hustler with a heart of gold or regular Joe Schmoe? Actor Joseph Sikora, known as Tommy to some, gives us a behind the scenes brief on what it’s like being on the hit TV series *Power*, which is returning for a third season this July.

**BY DOMINIQUE BARCHUS / PHOTOGRAPHED BY QUAVONDO**

Cliché: First off, congratulations on the new season of *Power*!

**Joseph Sikora:** Yes, thank you! It’s a really exciting season; I’m really proud of it. It was really interesting just how Courtney Kemp Agboh really capitalized on the second season and the tumultuous relationship between Tommy and Ghost, in terms of exploring the topics of family and loyalty and realizing what those bonds are. Sometimes there are these real deep things in your psyche that are existent for most people, but specifically for Tommy and Ghost, they’re reacting out of really old, deep bonds.

Yes, I was actually looking at that [on Instagram]. I see you and Omari Hardwick (Ghost) are actually really close off-screen. I love that dynamic.

Yeah, we are close friends. He’s a special human being. He’s a wonderful, giving man and such a talented actor, but it’s also the other aspects of his daily life. He’s such a great dad and an incredible poet. He’s big on education and does talks specifically with black youth. He’s really a special human being.

Many fans of the show are obsessed with him.

There’s a multiplicity of emotion in the character, but I get it: he’s a sexy mother-fucker, isn’t he? [Laughs] I guess it’s a bit of a turn-on when a guy can protect you and provide for you. I think women see that he’s a strong guy who’s good with a gun and who’s honest and loyal; it seems like a good package. The only thing that’s negating is that he’s a little off. Sometimes I watch and I’m like, “I’d be scared of me.” I’d be scared of that guy.

When you first started acting, did you think you’d be where you are today?

I don’t know. I’ve always thought there would be some sort of success because I wasn’t better than good at anything other than acting. Sometimes when I was acting, I really felt like a vessel. I felt like there was something that wasn’t there before; it felt a little like magic. Something was getting created out of nothing and that happened here with me. I’m proud of *Power*; I think it’s a great, undervalued show. Sometimes people [see] hustlers, guns, and drugs, and are like, “Nah, I’m not into that,” but I think if people take the time to watch the show,
Almost none. I’m very, very grateful. I love the fans and I don’t mind the attention. I mean, sometimes it’s difficult if I’m trying to shop. The salespeople leave from behind the counter to take a picture or if I’m at the airport and about to miss a flight, the TSA people are like snapping photos and I’m like, “Are you supposed to be doing this? Aren’t you on camera? Won’t you get in trouble?” [Laughs] But to me, those are such slight things. I’m very blessed.

What’s the most influential piece of advice someone has ever given you?

The most important thing is to teach people how to treat you and that’s not easy to do. I’m a people pleaser; I want people to be happy and I’ll go the extra mile to make somebody else happy at my own expense. You have to teach people what your boundaries are. Tell them, “I won’t do that,” or “I won’t sacrifice that much.” You have to love yourself more and put yourself first.

“The most important thing is to teach people how to treat you and that’s not easy to do.”

If there was any other career you might have chosen, what would it have been?

Well, I’ve always put my name on the list for the Chicago fire department. In Chicago, unlike New York, you have to live in the city to work for the city. So growing up on the far northwest side of the city, my neighborhood was predominately firemen, cops, or city workers, so most of my friends, or at least the people I grew up with, are cops, firemen, or city workers. I figured that I would be, too.

What is the craziest encounter you’ve ever had with a fan?

I think they’re relatively tame; I’ve got to say fans are usually disappointed that I don’t talk and act like Tommy, especially when we are coming right off the series; I’m still in great shape, I still have the haircut, and I think we have a bit of a reciprocal tough swagger. People, especially on the subway, will be like, “Yo Tommy, yo Tommy, that’s my guy Tommy,” and I’ll be like, “Hey man, what’s your name?” and he’ll be “Jim” or something, and I’ll say, “Hey Jim, I’m Joseph.” Yeah, they’re not into that. I’ll start talking and they’ll see that I don’t have a thick New York accent or they’ll be like, “I thought you were bigger,” and I’m like, “Yeah bro, you know, television. I don’t know what to tell you. Sorry.” [Laughs] Then they walk away and I’m like, “Oh man, did I disappoint them?”

What would you say is the biggest downfall with being in the public eye, especially on a show that’s so popular right now?
success story
Leonard Wu is a talented actor with an impressive body of work in film and television. He’s had roles in series such as Workaholics and Marco Polo, as well as appearances in the films 17 Again and Crush the Skull. Wu caught us up on his latest work, as well as what inspired him to be an actor, and why he loves acting. Make sure to catch him in season two of Marco Polo, which comes to Netflix on July 1.

By Nicole Ryan / Photographed by Quavondo

Cliché: You attended UCLA and received a BA in English. What made you decide to go into the acting field? Leonard Wu: It’s kind of a strange thing. Acting is something that I had always wanted to do since as far back as I can remember. But growing up in D.C., it was just unheard of among my peers, and so it wasn’t something I really explored. As a teenager, I studied and performed Chinese Opera, and though I wasn’t keen on the singing/speaking roles, the martial arts and acrobatic aspects of it completely fascinated me. That was about the extent of it for me in terms of performing, but it really whet my appetite, and when I graduated high school, it was a pivotal moment where I said to myself, “Okay, I’m gonna get out of D.C. and head to Los Angeles to take a crack at this acting thing.” I think I kind of blindsided my parents with that, but they were supportive and told me to at least major in something that had some semblance of a practical application. So I majored in English, and every single opportunity I got, every free moment I had, I spent it learning and performing on stage productions all over campus.

You have a very diverse body of work featuring both television and film. Is there one you prefer over the other? I think if you had asked me five years ago where I’d prefer to be working, I would have said “film” without skipping a beat. It’s amazing to see how much the industry has evolved and changed over that time. With the recent renaissance that has happened in TV, it’s just such an exciting space to be in and explore. Basic cable and premium channel shows have really pushed the boundaries in terms of what can be offered, and as a result, there is something for everybody, and at such a high caliber. So for the moment, I’m loving working in the TV arena.

Do you have any projects in the works right now? I’m currently developing some TV projects, in more of a producing/writing capacity. They’re still in their infancy, but being behind the camera is something that excites me as much as being in front of.

What is your favorite part of being an actor? This is a tough one. There is so much I love about being an actor, but if I had to pick one thing right now, it would be the characters that I’ve gotten to immerse myself in. It’s always fun to play something that is so far removed from who you are in everyday life, and really explore different aspects of yourself.

Can you tell us a little about your character Orus on Marco Polo? Orus is a fierce and loyal warrior intent on bringing long-held traditions back to the people of Mongolia. We filmed in Hungary, Slovakia, and Malaysia, and I had to train heavily for the role. Martial arts, weaponry, horseback riding… the whole nine yards. I was very fortunate to be working with stunt coordinator Brett Chan and his amazing Hitz International Stunt Team. They were an integral part of helping me shape Orus.

Your most recent film was Crush the Skull. What experience working on that film did you enjoy most? My role in Crush the Skull was just a cameo, but I was working with family, so it was an absolute joy to be on set. I had worked with Viet Nguyen (the director/writer) and Chris Dinh (actor/writer) on previous online projects such as Ninja Say What?! which completely blew up and went viral, and we all had such a great time together that we were always looking for opportunities to collaborate. Fast forward a few years later and Viet and Chris are kicking ass and making their feature debut, and they asked us to come out and play again. I said, “Yes,” with no hesitation. The day we shot, it was like good ol’ times with the buddies. My scene was with Jerry Ying (also in Ninja Say What?! and Chris, and we were sitting in the back of a car, just riding along this bumpy dirt road in the middle of nowhere, improvising for like three hours straight. I think that’s the thing I love most about being directed by Viet. He’s this master editor, so he’s cutting in his head as he’s filming, so when he knows he’s got what he needs, he lets you just go insane and do whatever. And, for me, I don’t get a whole lot of opportunities to improv in general, so I love it.

What advice would you give to someone who is trying to become an actor? I think a lot of aspiring actors come into this town with a romantic notion of how they’re going to find success and fame. I totally get it; I think that a part of you always has to maintain that romantic notion, but it has to be tempered with pragmatism. Everyone loves an underdog story about the actress who had $15 left in her pocket when she got that huge role that changed her life forever. But those stories are few and far between, and the reality of it is, living in squalor isn’t particularly fun. So I have a pretty practical approach in terms of how I handle being an actor: if you can’t afford to eat or put a roof over your head, you’re not gonna be able to subsist and you’ll have no choice but to quit acting. If you’re able to do those two things, then you can keep fighting. The rest of it honestly is just details. Success may not happen in a month, a year, or 10 years, but if you are able to survive and continue to maintain a discipline in regards to how you approach acting, then you’ll find yourself making progress.

What’s the best advice you’ve ever been given? My acting coach Stan Kirsch has said this to me on a numerous occasions: “Do not ride the highs and lows that come with success.” At the end of the day, I try to always remember that in order to help me stay even keeled. It’s a good way to keep this industry from driving you nuts.
One evening on a chilly night in Idaho, Colette Butler filmed her husband Shay as he pranced around their home in one of her old leotards. Although a mindless action with the sole purpose of capturing her husband’s obscure behavior, this turned out to be the moment that changed her family’s lives forever. After hearing about a relatively new website where you could upload your own videos, Shay, who has never been one to take himself too seriously, decided to throw the clip online and share the hilarity with whomever happened to stumble across it. So, with a few minutes of processing and one swift click of the upload button, the ‘Shaytards’ were born.

Part of the appeal of the daily vlogging channel from the get go was that the Butlers represented the everyman family. They weren’t jet-setting across Europe in private planes, driving ferraris, or lathered in diamonds and Chanel. They were real and from your first introduction to them, it felt like you knew them. They were the family you’d see at neighborhood barbecues, or town-wide football games, or at the local swimming pool. They were such a stark contrast from the reality show zombies that dominated entertainment that you couldn’t help but fall in love and want to keep up with them.

Eight years and 4.2 million subscribers later, Shay and Colette Butler are now seen as one of the founding families in the world of YouTube. As pioneers for this new frontier of entertainment, the two, alongside their group of their close Internet friends, have paved the path of what it means to be a vlogger. Over the years, the family has had to decide what, and how much, to share with their quickly expanding audience—a decision that, even to this day, is always changing.

It must be strange though, right? To have millions of people know all about you having only known one another through a computer screen? You would think it would present a sort of odd dynamic when the opportunity to meet in person does arise.

“I met a girl last night named Samantha and she said she’s been watching for seven or eight years and she supported us in all our endeavors,” explains Colette, as we sit across from each other in a lower Manhattan hotel room. The room is emptied of all bearings that would make it resemble anything other than maybe the set of a talk show. It’s professionally lit and decorated modestly, with only a Tribeca Film Festival backdrop as part of the press junket for their new film, Vlogumentary, which premiered the night before. “She started getting teary eyed when she told me how she lost 70
pounds watching Shay going through his weight loss journey and it’s just like I know her. I didn’t need to know more than that to know her.”

“You can’t understand it, unless you’re in it,” continues Shay, jumping off his wife’s point. “YouTube is weird, man. For outsiders, it’s like, ‘Who are these people that are putting their lives online and why are other people invested in them?’ You can’t understand it unless you take the step to upload a video, or make your first comment, or follow a creator for more than one video.”

“But it works both ways,” Colette adds. “Like when we meet people like our friend Molly, from Make-A-Wish, and she tells us we inspire her. Watching what she is going through, it’s like no—you inspire us! The connectivity to the amount of people and stories that we have is just amazing to me.”

In the near decade that they’ve been at this, their lives (and YouTube) have transformed dramatically. What used to be a small and tight-knit group of people has grown exponentially into a large community with seemingly endless avenues. Still, growth can be scary and a recent debate between long time YouTube fans is that the community, as a whole, is starting to dissolve and it is now nothing more than another big business.

“Nothing surprises me anymore,” laughs Colette, as we think back about all the crazy experiences the family has had because of their channel. They’ve been invited to the White House, started a clothing company, and became best-selling authors, to name a few.

“When people say, ‘You can do anything,’ I’m like, ‘I know, because I can’t believe the stuff we’ve gotten to do already,’” agrees Shay, smiling proudly. “The ‘pinch me’ moments happen a lot more in the beginning. You just kind of wander around like, ‘Can you believe this?’ It’s been so overwhelming and the opportunities just keep coming. Now, it’s sort of like, ‘How can we take it to this next level?’ I don’t know. It’s just that ‘always wanting to grow’ mentality and I think the secret is not finding happiness in those achievements.”

Shay clarifies, explaining that he doesn’t mean that he isn’t grateful or excited by the unpredictable moments. Rather, he feels those moments should just be part of the ride, not the measurement of success.

Over the past two years or so, YouTubers have reached unprecedented levels of success, both offline and online. The rest of the world has seemed to catch up to this phenomenon and new doors have continued to open up; between the book deals, TV appearances, movies, and billions of ‘secret projects’ and ‘exciting meetings,’ it’s incredible that creators even have time to breathe.

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Shay clarifies, explaining that he doesn’t mean that he isn’t grateful or excited by the unpredictable moments. Rather, he feels those moments should just be part of the ride, not the measurement of success. Over time, YouTube has continued to transition into an industry, and more and more money has gotten involved. Alongside the experiential perks, there are also some pretty lofty financial gains from being a successful YouTuber. For instance, Shay and Collette were the founding talent partners in Maker Studios, which sold to Disney for $675 million. And no, they didn’t get all of that.
“The day that Maker sold to Disney, Colette called me and I said, ‘Have you seen our account? Go check our Wells Fargo!’ There was one moment of ‘Oh my gosh!’ and then, the next minute it was like, ‘Okay, so, what’s for dinner?’ People think once they get rich, they’ll be so happy, but nothing changes,” says Shay, the atmosphere of the room shifting ever so slightly.

Still, just like any other relationship, once money gets involved, awkward strains can develop between creator and viewer—something Shay and Colette had to face when various news outlets reported on the details of the sale. So, how do you stay relatable to your audience, but also truthful to the reality of your life and business?

“I’ll be honest with you: it’s hard,” admits Shay. “Now that we have more money, it sort of feels like some people have turned on us. It feels like we can’t express to our audience when we’re going through hard times because they will be like, ‘Whatever, you’re rich. You can’t complain. You’re rich.’ But that doesn’t change anything; we’ve learned that money really doesn’t bring happiness.”

“I think what has changed the most, is that now people know,” adds Colette, grabbing hold of Shay’s hand. “I mean, we were doing fine before that. Honestly, people finding out almost made it worse because all of a sudden we were not ‘relatable.’”

“Maybe we should share that more?” Shay questions aloud, the thought hanging in the air. “I think that people would understand that. It’s just hard to talk about. You get that weird feeling any time money gets brought up. The only solace I have is that people have been watching us for eight years,” he says.

“They know where we come from; they know I’m not some stuck up rich guy. We were broke. We were living on food stamps. Our kids were sleeping on the same mattress on the floor; we couldn’t afford box springs for our freaking three kids. So now, it’s sort of like, ‘Look, you can make it, too!’” He continues, “It just takes time and hard work and all that bull crap stuff you learn in kindergarten, like, ‘Never give up. Keep trying. Have a good attitude.’ All that stuff that seems like clichés, that’s the secret—that’s the secret sauce to life. It takes twenty years to become an overnight success.”

Although being a YouTuber is technically his job, a term Shay says he uses loosely to describe what he feels is a calling, and with the sale of Maker, he no longer has to do this.

“It takes twenty years to become an overnight success.”

He admits, “It’s a secret temptation of mine,” he admits. “I have this great desire where I want to disappear in the mountains and delete all my accounts. For now, I want to make the vlogs my priority again. For how long we’ll do them for, I don’t know. It’s the biggest question in my life.”

BY LYDIA SNAPPER
Donate by Color

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Meet the rising women in fashion, television, and pop culture.
meet selfie queen
india westbrooks

With over 2 million followers on social media and a TV show The Westbrooks on BET, we’ve all been dying to know: who is the real India Westbrooks and how do we get our selfies to look like hers?! From our perspective, she is an inspirational, trailblazing socialite whose future career endeavors, alongside her sisters, will be a force to be reckoned with. Here, we get a closer look at the life of India Westbrooks and her take on the things we’ve all been dying to know.

BY DESTINY BUTLER

Cliché: Your social media presence and new show The Westbrooks on BET has opened many doors and opportunities for you. With you only being 20, what do you want to do when you grow up? What is your dream career?

India Westbrooks: Indeed The Westbrooks on BET did open many doors for me and my career. A reality show is definitely the start of my “dream career,” which I don’t really have a name for. I’m 20 and have a great big itch for greatness and success. I aim to one day inspire my generation and all of the young girls and boys who don’t have the confidence to be themselves and just be amazing at it. I haven’t found my specialty in life yet, so for now, my dream career is building my brand. My brand is very important to me because that is my dream “job.” From inventory, to modeling, to speaking to the youth, to endorsements to charities—I mean, my dreams for my name and my brand are endless... and I set goals to achieve those things and work towards it every day.

Who are your major idols and role models?

A major role model in my life is definitely “CrystALL,” aka my sister Crystal. [Laughs] Her style, her uniqueness, and her ability to maintain herself in a world full of tornadoes of trends is really something I salute, so I definitely look up to her and her ways. A major icon in my life is obviously QUEEN RiRi herself. Her presence speaks for itself and that’s exactly what I aim to be. Not only is she crazy successful from just being her and doing whatever she wants in life, but she’s also stamped in the fashion world as well and that’s a major goal of mine. I am inspired by everything about Rihanna, and I definitely respect her as a person.

Social media has such an impact on our day-to-day lives, whether they are positive or negative interactions. Do you ever receive negative comments on social media, and if so, how do you handle it?

I’d say my social media comments are about 78% negative, which sucks by the way. [Laughs] But there’s honestly nothing I can do about it because I’m just being me. I learned the best way to deal with negative comments is not to. I may read the harmful words people may say about me, but I’m very confident in the woman I am and what I stand for, so nothing anyone can say can change that. I’m on a mission to better myself every single day. I do make mistakes—sometimes a lot of them—but I can tell you one thing: I’m definitely learning. And I feel like my growth from learning who I am and seeing the bigger picture helps me to navigate my energy away from hateful and harmful things. Instead, I focus on being great.

Your Instagram is filled with gorgeous selfies. Do you have any tips on how to take a killer selfie?

You need amazing lighting, a clear camera, and camera angles on fleek. Also, confidence SHOWS. Take 100+ selfies at a time just for options and choose wisely. Many may look the same, but trust me... There’s that one winner in the bunch!

What do you love most about your career and lifestyle? Is there anything you’d like to change?

What I love most about my career and lifestyle is that I built it on my own. What I love most about my career and lifestyle is that I built it on my own. I started building my brand at a young age without me even knowing I was doing so and ended up really creating a position for myself in life to inspire others and make a name for myself. That has created such a pedestal that my followers and fans put me on that I am still to this day trying to live up to.
If there was something I could change, it would definitely be learning the importance of privacy in life at a younger age. I was the "I love it so much I wanna show the world" type of person and that definitely has had an effect on my life today, but I've definitely learned my lesson. It's kind of a little too late for too much privacy now with the career I chose, though.

How has The Westbrooks impacted your personal and professional life?

The Westbrooks has first and foremost brought my entire family closer together and hungry to achieve success as a unit, so that is something I'm truly grateful for. My family and I have all grown into true hustlers trying to brand our family name, "Westbrooks," and seeing that is so dope.

Viewers and reporters have compared you and your family to the Kardashians. Do you think you have any similarities? What about differences?

Being compared to the Kardashians is of course a compliment. My family is greatly inspired by the family hustle they all have and what they've grown to be. However, I do feel my family is a lot different than theirs. We've built our family name from being an inspiration to the audience and getting people to gravitate towards us, and then we as a family took off from there. We all share the fame and stand as a family.

What advice do you have for girls who watch your show and follow you on social media who want to be as successful as you are?

Some advice I have for the youth is to look in the mirror and realize who you are and own it right then and there. It's so important to understand the importance in embracing yourself and learning what it is YOU want out of your life. Set goals to work towards and really attack them. Once you reach your success, then learn how to keep bettering yourself. Keep being a better you.

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in the flash
Violett Beane is a star on the rise, a name you may not know, but you will. As Taylor in The Leftovers or Bethany in Flay, Beane lights up every screen she is on. At just 20 years old, she has worked alongside some of the best actors and actresses in the business. Now, she stars in The CW’s The Flash as Jesse Quick, the daughter of Harrison Wells, and we can’t wait to see what superpowers are in store for her.

**BY KEAH BROWN / PHOTOGRAPHED BY RYAN WEST**

Cliché: What was the first role you auditioned for and what did it teach you?

**Violett Beane:** My first theatre audition was for High School Musical when I was in middle school. I wanted to be Gabriella, of course, but I ended up getting the role of Martha Cox. At first, I was bummed, but it actually put a lot of things in perspective for me and I learned to go into situations clear of expectations. I ended up having a lot of fun!

Who inspires you?

In this business, the heart and soul of actors such as Brie Larson, Tatiana Maslany, and Mark Ruffalo have always stood out to me. I love that they work extremely hard and all believe in something. It’s really easy to forget yourself and forget that you’ve become a role model whether you wanted to or not. Not to mention they all have taken on amazingly tough roles and done them such justice.

And in life, my mom is definitely an inspiration to me. She has worked hard raising my brother and I alone and she has never let it break her. She also lives life the way she wants to, which I have mad respect for. She travels whenever she wants and tries to find the most in whatever she’s doing.

Why do you love acting?

I love acting because it allows me such a beautiful, creative outlet. I love bringing myself to a role while also discovering things about myself through those roles. There’s no denying that the industry can be tough at times. I can’t tell you how many scenes I’ve seen of myself where I knew I had done a better take, or one that showed the character more, and it wasn’t chosen. Instead of getting caught up in those instances, I just find other outlets where I can express creativity. Sometimes I make videos with friends or cook/bake!

**You play the daughter of Harrison Wells and soon to be Jesse Quick. What do you love most about your character and why?**

I really love that Jesse is a just a real girl! She’s strong and funny and extremely smart, just like all the girls I know! I love that I’m able to play someone who is actually a real depiction of a girl, not just some cookie-cutter version of what the world expects her to be. I think The Flash and The CW in general do a really good job of creating those real characters.

**Who are you favorite superheroes? Which superheroes would you jump at the chance to play?**

I didn’t really grow up reading comics... I did read all of the Captain Underpants books though, and I thought they were hilarious. More recently I got very into the Avatar: The Last Airbender series, and it would be pretty cool to play Katara, or Aang for that matter! I know they made a real life version, but they should REMAKE IT! And I would be happy to help them out.

What was it like for you coming onto an already successful series? Were you nervous? Were you a fan of the show previously?

I had seen a couple episodes of the show before my audition and really liked it. I’ve never been more nervous than I was the first day on set for The Flash. It was the biggest thing I had done so far and I was in a different country, surrounded by unfamiliar faces, doing a scene with Tom Cavanagh, who’s amazing! It was all a lot to handle, but Tom was really sweet and helped so much. I think he could tell I was nervous—must’ve been pretty obvious since I couldn’t remember a single line—and I think he sort of pretended to forget his lines, too... I’ll never forget that!

What do you love most about the DC universe?

I like that the DC universe has so many smart female characters. I feel like they’re ahead of their time in that way. Whether it’s Caitlin Snow, Lois Lane, or Felicity Smoak! They’ve all got so much to offer and aren’t just there to look pretty.

**What is your dream role?**

That is a hard question... I have a few parts I would love to play! Although it’s too late for me now, I would love to play Lolita from the Vladimir Nabokov novel. I feel like I had a lot in common with her at a younger age and it would help me to understand myself if I could fully understand her. Another project that would be extremely cool to be a part of is the TV version of the Gone series, written by Michael Grant. It’s about a town where in one moment all of the citizens over 15 years old vanish and many of the kids left behind begin to develop powers. I’ve always been a fan of dystopian novels and read those in high school. It’d be awesome to be a part of it!

If you weren’t an actress, what would you be doing and why?

I would like to think I’d work at a cute bakery somewhere. I’m really into baking; there’s something soothing about it. I’d still like to open up a bakery at some point in my life. Something delicious with healthier, allergy-friendly options!
Fashion model Lornalitz Baez is breaking barriers in the fashion world and inspiring everyone who has ever been told “can’t” to love themselves regardless and just say “Eff it!” Here, she gives us a look into her struggles with body image, being mixed race, and her hopes for the fashion industry while chasing a life-long dream.

BY DOMINIQUE BARCHUS / PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL HERMAGENO

Cliché: We all choose different paths in life, so for you, why was it modeling?

Lornalitz Baez: I’ve always loved photography and having my photo taken. Ever since I was a little girl, I have pictures of me where I’m posing for the camera. My parents say they remember me running toward the camera and I was never really a shy girl. Then around the age of 12, my mom started putting me in beauty pageants. I was tall for my age; I remember at 5 years old, I looked like I was a second grader. [Laughs] So my mother said, “I need to do something with this.” No one in my family was a model. Everyone in my family is either a teacher, a business owner, or a lawyer. I fell into kind of liking the pageantry; I competed in something small for my first competition and I made top 5. I also remember just always being intrigued by fashion magazines and fashion shows. It was always something that I loved. I would always play dress up in my mother’s shoes and in her makeup, so I just think it was always in me because there was no one in my family that was a model or anything like that. I was the first and the only so far.


I always try to gear toward someone that I found was relatable to me, because I’m mixed—I’m Puerto Rican and 40% Japanese and I have more African American, Indian features. Growing up, it was hard for my agents to put me into a category, so I kind of gravitated toward Tyra Banks. It was like, okay, she’s my complexion, she’s tall, she’s beautiful, and a top model, but she didn’t have my body shape because I was very curvy, so with that, I started to gravitate toward J-Lo. You know, she was the first one with the whole booty, the curves, and she’s Puerto Rican. So I would definitely say it’s between Tyra Banks and Jennifer Lopez.

So with that [feeling as if you don’t fit in a certain category], I know you’ve battled with body image. Did that stem from the fashion industry or was it something that transpired before then?

Oh no, that came from the fashion industry. [Laughs] I didn’t even realize my body was an issue until I got in the fashion industry. In my family, everyone is curvy. Everyone is shaped so differently, but there really isn’t a size zero. My cousins are size 12, 14, and 18, but they’re healthy, voluptuous, tall women. No one has ever told me growing up that I needed to lose weight. It was never family; it was definitely the industry. There wasn’t a “junior plus” when I was growing up. So I had to pick and choose. My agency said I had to either lose weight—I was a size 12 at age 12 and 5’8”—or fall into this video vixen-ish type of work because there really wasn’t a market for plus. So when you’re young and this is a dream of yours, you get manipulated a little bit and that’s what happened to me. I was a young girl and I really didn’t know any better, so I told myself, “Okay, I’ll just lose the weight. How hard can that be?” It turned into me losing the weight, but then it became a struggle to maintain the size in order to continue working, and that’s where the whole eating disorder came in because you start trying different diets, and you start experimenting and talking to other models that are also in the same predicament. So then it became me trying this diet pill, and that diet tea and hearing them say, “Just go to the gym, but go three times a day,” and those are all different forms of eating disorders.

There are many young girls struggling to find their place—not just in the fashion, but in society in general. What advice would you give them having been someone that went through it?

What helped me was just saying “Eff it.” [Laughs] I went through that journey and afterwards, I was able to discover what I wanted and what made me happy. So I tell girls and women of all ages that I got to the point where I was not going to listen to other
I want to be the first Afro-latina Japanese full-figured Victoria’s Secret model. I want to be an Angel. I would love that.

people anymore and realized I needed to listen to myself and love myself enough to realize that I am enough. I had to remind myself that if they—the fashion industry or people in general—don’t want to accept me, then eff it. I am where I want to be in my life and I do what makes me happy and proud of myself in the end of the day. So my advice is to really internally figure out what is making you feel this way and try to surround yourself with like-minded people, friends, and family that you can really trust, inspirational books and motivational speakers like Les Brown. You have to find yourself. There are so many of us trying to break the barriers in the fashion industry—even myself. I’m trying to break the barrier for the ethnically ambiguous. Not just the black and the white, but the Asian and the Indian and the ones that are mixed like me. The change has been slow, but it’s happening, especially with the first full-figured model on the cover of Sports Illustrated. Now we just need the first full-figured African American, or Asian or mixed model on the cover. I think if that happens, then it opens so many doors for the younger generation to feel more accepted and feel like they have somewhere to fit in.

The Sports Illustrated cover was a huge deal and I think the fashion industry, especially overseas, is taking responsibility in how these models look. I know there are countries that have been putting weight requirements on these girls because they want them to look healthy and have some meat on their bones and I applaud them for that. What do you think about this change? They don’t talk about it, but it’s because many young models were dying because they were malnourished. That’s the reality of it, and people overseas were complaining and uncomfortable going to these shows and seeing bones on the runway. They made it known that they can’t appreciate the clothing and the fashion when all they’re focused on is the model that looks unhealthy and it’s sad. I think it’s also starting over here, too. I walked in NYFW for the first ever full-figured designer (Ashley Nell Tipton) to win Project Runway and I was her muse. I was the model that was able to close out her show. Also, some designers are letting one or two full-figured models walk with the straight models in shows, so hopefully over time there isn’t a label anymore of straight size or plus size and everyone can just be a “model.”

Tell me about your most fun, most difficult, and most scandalous shoot/modeling jobs you’ve ever done.

The most fun job I’ve done was shooting a Hawaiian Tropics swimsuit spread in Hawaii. I love Hawaii. I just feel I could see myself retiring there.

The craziest shoot was for this magazine and I don’t even remember the name anymore—I think I purposely erased it from my memory. They were trying to do a reshoot of Jesus and the 12 disciples and they tried to throw me into the mix as a temptress, but then they were like, “but we need you topless.” [Laughs] It was the weirdest thing, but this was years ago. [I thought] topless was something you had to be okay with as a model, so I told myself, “Might as well go topless.” That was horrible because the quality of the shoot was terrible. It wasn’t a top photographer, it was just a random shoot, and my mom got to see the pictures and she was not happy about that. [Laughs]

The sexiest one I’ve done—and I’ve done a lot of sexy ones—was a photo shoot in New York City where I wore leopard high waist panties and posed topless. The photographer made me feel really comfortable and the room was filled with cameras because I was filming for an episode of Curvy Girls season 1 on NuvoTV.

What is one of your biggest dreams as a model?

I want to be the first Afro-latina Japanese full-figured Victoria’s Secret model. I want to be an Angel. I would love that. I want to be the face. I want to be with the other models, wings on, walking the runway.
ally Maki is a busy girl: from her new show Wrecked debuting this June (think Lost meets Gilligan’s Island) to her guest cameo on FOX’s New Girl and even her trips to Coachella, she doesn’t slow down. We caught up with her to discuss her new roles and what we can expect from this rising star in the next few months. BY NATALIA TYNDALL / PHOTOGRAPHED BY VINCE TRUPSIN

Cliché: How would you describe your character Jess in Wrecked? Do you identify with her at all?
Ally Maki: Jess is the fun, feisty firecracker, and hopeless romantic of the group. Having been in a relationship with Todd for 7 years—how shall I put this?—“very difficult” boyfriend Todd, she’s really trying to figure her life out and the future of her tumultuous relationship. She doesn’t need a man, but she so desperately wants one and the fairytale romance that comes with it. This season for Jess is really all about her journey to finding out who she is, finding her sexuality, and her journey to becoming the strong, independent woman she’s always dreamed of becoming. I definitely can identify with all of that. I don’t think I’ll ever stop identifying with any of her story. She’s a constant challenge. I find so much of myself in Jess, which makes it fun and often therapeutic.

What can fans expect to see on Wrecked in the fall?
Absolute craziness, in the best way. Our creators, the Shipley Brothers, have the most creative minds and really found a fantastic way to create a new world for this group of strangers stranded on a deserted island. And while yes, Lost fans are in for a treat, I feel like the show is really its own thing and one I think people are going to love. Thematically, a lot of the season deals with the idea of “if you had a second chance at life to start over, who would you be and what sides would it bring out in you?” which leads to some very interesting episodes and storylines.

If you were stranded on an island, what would you absolutely have to have with you?
First thing that weirdly pops in my head is a coffee machine and the strongest coffee beans this world has to offer. Who would I be without caffeine? I would absolutely be that girl in the bushes brewing an Americano just so I can power through the day to find basic necessities like food and shelter. Oh man, I would really be terrible on Survivor.

What was it like being on New Girl?
I feel like you would just constantly laugh on set.
Being on New Girl has always been on my bucket list, so when I finally got the chance to be on the show, I was absolutely thrilled… and so nervous! It can be challenging to jump onto any established show, but even more so when it’s a show you’re a fan of. I honestly was just trying my best not to act like a total goof all the time, even though I was literally drooling all over “the loft” set and the infamous “douchebag jar.” But everyone was so lovely and fun. I laughed a lot. Since Zooey was on break from the show at the time, I worked with the guys, and mostly Jake Johnson, who is a total genius. I remember just being in awe watching Jake and Max Greenfield improv back and forth for a solid five minutes after a scene was over. They were just throwing zinger after zinger. It was incredible.

What is your process like when preparing for a role?
When I come into any role, I really try to find a way to correlate my own experiences and what I’ve been through to the character’s. Especially with comedy, I try and relate everything back to my own life, the stupid things I’ve done, my heartbreaks, quirks, the interesting people I’ve met, etc. I like to make it as real for myself as possible. Beyond that, having fun and truly immersing yourself into a character is really half the battle.

I saw you went to Coachella. How would you classify your summer/festival style?
I love Coachella style! I love funky separates, weird sunglasses, and am also a jean shorts kind of gal. I think my rule in that sort of situation is: the more the better! If I wanted to wear a funky headband with feathers in my hair and mermaid-colored extensions with baby goldfish hanging off the ends, I feel like it still wouldn’t have been enough. It was so fun to see people’s personalities come out through their style.
Having fun and truly immersing yourself into a character is really half the battle.
Adina the Warrior

Adina Porter is an exceptionally talented and versatile actress. From her role on HBO’s The Newsroom as Kendra James to her most recent roles on The 100 as Indra and Underground as Pearly Mae, she has had an Obie Award-winning career to say the least. Here, we get a closer look at Porter to get her inquisitive, realistic view on Hollywood and the things that inspire her the most as an actress. BY DESTINY BUTLER / PHOTOGRAPHED BY QUAVONDO
Cliché: *Underground* has just been renewed for a second season. How do you feel about that?

Adina Porter: I’m very proud of being a part of *Underground* and what we have accomplished. I think WGN would have been crazy not to renew it because of how successful it is.

Your role in *The 100*, which is in a post-apocalyptic setting, is very different from your role as Pearly Mae in *Underground*. How do you channel them both?

Well, I’m no rookie; this is not the first time I’ve had to juggle two different characters. I mean, I didn’t film them at the same time. At the hiatus of *The 100*, I did *Underground*, so I didn’t have to shoot them at the same time this time, unlike when I did *True Blood* and *The Newsroom*. That was challenging because I played two completely different individuals. In one way, it’s easier now because Indra is a warrior and Pearly Mae is also a warrior, but a different kind of warrior and she needs a different kind of strength. Indra needing a more physical strength and Pearly Mae knows when to take risks and when to pretend. I love that line that [Aldis Hodge] has in the premiere: “We’re all pretending.”

On Twitter, you’ve stated that you are an advocate for equality in Hollywood. What is your take on the lack of representation of certain groups of people?

It was in a response to some fans asking me about the lack of actors of different sexual orientations. I was responding that it is hard for everyone to get a job in Hollywood. I have been able to work pretty consistently in Hollywood and before that in theatre back home in New York. I think we live in a very exciting time where I have survived reality television. This is not an easy business. The nature of life isn’t fair. Don’t give up and be the best you can possibly be, no matter who you are.

What advice do you have for young aspiring actresses?

Because I get asked that a lot, I’ve decided to ask them a question. Why are they aspiring to be an actress or actor? And I would formulate my answer to that. The fame and fortune should not be their motivation. That’s not a good enough reason to be an actress. It is not a good enough reason to keep you going when you have to deal with all of the rejection. I wonder, do people ask surgeons the same questions? If an aspiring brain surgeon asks a brain surgeon for advice, they would say: “You know what you need to do. Study hard; you need to go to school for it. Once you get into medical school and then go through internships, become the best surgeon you can be.” Study all of the intricacies. That’s the way I went. I went to college for it and I studied acting before that, too. Study and continue to practice.

What has been your favorite role as an actress?

My favorite role is always my next role. I am more excited about making sure that I am working again and that I am challenged by the work. Indra, for example, was a different challenge for me. I didn’t realize how physical she would be. Speaking a different language was also very challenging. I just want to be challenged and that way I think I can continue to be good and continue to work—so my next role is always my favorite.

Who is one actor or actress you’d like to work with and why?

Meryl Streep would be the first one I think of. I worked with her daughter on *The Newsroom* and I was a bit star-struck when I met her. When she shook my hand, I thought, “I’m never gonna wash this hand—this hand has touched Meryl Streep. Meryl Streep’s DNA ran through that hand!” Meryl Streep was quoted in her new biography saying that, “When I heard them call my name, my reaction was that all of the world took a collective sigh and said, ‘Oh no, not her again.’ Being considered the world’s greatest living actress is not a compliment—it’s a curse. It is the bar that has been set that you then have to try to rise above every single time. And it is such a burden for a working actress.” I would be thrilled to work with Meryl Streep because she doesn’t sit on her laurels and she is always trying to be her best.
C

hristina Moses is not only a tremendously successful actress, but she’s also inspirational. After overcoming an innate shyness she’s had since she was little, she decided to pursue acting professionally. Now, she’s starring in the new CW series Containment and the new film How We Met, which premiered at the Dances With Films Festival on June 11. Here, we chat with Moses about her passions, what sparked her love for acting, and the best advice she was ever given.

BY NICOLE RYAN / PHOTOGRAPHED BY QUAVONDO / MAKEUP BY CHECHEL JOSON AT DEW BEAUTY AGENCY

Cliché: You grew up around the entertainment industry. Was there a definitive moment when you knew that you wanted to be an actress?
Christina Moses: I didn’t know what being an actress meant exactly. My father was an acting teacher, writer, and director. I would watch his classes and rehearsal, and then perform them at home. But it wasn’t until junior high that I developed a love for the craft of acting. It took me awhile to convince myself I could go for it and achieve an acting career because I always had a love of academics, but after college, when I was living in New York doing theater, I started to pursue it.

I read that you used to be shy in front of the camera. How did you overcome that?
I was shy in general. I wasn’t comfortable until I knew you. In eighth grade, the general shyness left. I realized I had a much bigger personality that I was just hiding. I knew it wasn’t who I really was. I broke out of my shell and each new challenge helped me overcome that shyness.

You have a lead role in the series Containment. What’s it been like working on this show?
The whole thing is really exciting. The pilot was really exciting. Our director, David Nutter, and Julie Plec lead with heart and are really great with people and connecting people. They assembled an incredible team of actors and crew. Everyone liked the show, idea, and concept. The whole cast was just really genuinely excited, so that was cool to be in that buzz and environment. It’s a family relationship. It’s cool to be a part of a story that highlights the flaws and the virtues of humanity. This epidemic brings out the best and the worst in people.

You are also in the film How We Met. How does working on a film differ from working on a television show? Is there one you prefer over the other?
TV is usually shot on an 8-day schedule, but we shot our show on a 7-day schedule. A 7-day schedule is really fast, so you have to learn to keep up with that pace. Typically with film you have more time, but since How We Met was a low budget indie film, we shot up to 20 pages a day sometimes, which is nuts! But I love to tell a good story, period.

How do you prepare for a new role? Are there certain things you do to prepare yourself to start a new project?
I make sure I really connect to it with my heart. I do research and make up my own relationship to the character and the story. I pull from myself and how I relate to it. It’s an ongoing process. I definitely allow myself to live in the unknown as much as possible. It’s nice to discover what’s happening in the moment.

You’re passionate about creating pathways for female projects in the entertainment industry. In what ways do you believe the entertainment industry must change to be more inclusive of women?
There needs to be more female writers from all classes and backgrounds. We’re so culturally diverse, but that isn’t always represented. In general, we just need more female writers and directors. Female roles are also often in service of men. We need a more diverse representation of women. Bridesmaids was big because it showed women can be funny, too. It’s all about changing the current social conversation, and Bridesmaids is an example of that.

What’s the best advice you’ve ever been given?
Fail. Be able to fail. Go ahead and give it your all and fall on your face. Discover your talent and your passion and go for it. Never be afraid to fail, because failure connects us to each other.
SECRET GARDEN

Photographer: ELLA BELL PHOTO
Makeup/Hair: KIAH TARYN
Stylist: STEPHANIE POLS
Model: MICHELLE D @ NUMA

Hat SIML
Navy duster TOPSHOP
Stripe dress ZARA
Necklace TOPSHOP
Hat SIML
Navy duster TOPSHOP
Stripe dress ZARA
Necklace TOPSHOP
Top H&M
Duster LEITH
Shirt TOPSHOP
Necklace ALDO
Top: SUGAR LIPS
Blazer: A + K DESIGNS
Pants: TOPSHOP
Necklace: H&M
Shoes: RAMPAGE
Sweater H&M
Skirt ZARA
Bracelet VINTAGE
Top CECILE BÉNAC
Skirt, belts, bracelets VINTAGE
Shoes TOPSHOP
Top SUGAR LIPS
Blazer A+K DESIGNS
Trousers TOPSHOP
Necklace H&M
Shoes RAMPAGE
You’ve done it before. I’m talking about spending hours on YouTube watching videos of countless YouTubers performing covers of your favorite songs. Sometimes it takes one video to go viral and the performer ends up being on Ellen. Other times, they happen to get noticed due to a heavy following of their work. The latter goes for 22-year-old Megan Nicole.

Search “Megan Nicole covers Kings of Leon” on YouTube and catch her very first cover video from six years ago in her home in Katy, Texas. She was only 16 years old at the time and it was her father who gave her the idea of posting a cover video.

“I was always playing open mic nights, had a few restaurant gigs here and there, and now there was this new platform in front of me,” Megan shares.

The singing bug bit Megan when she was 10 years old, after her family was gifted a karaoke machine for Christmas. This made her realize she enjoyed singing. Five years after that, she decided to pick up a guitar and write her own songs. “One of the reasons I fell in love with music so much was because I discovered a way to share stories and create in a way I really connected with,” says Megan. She eventually released “B-e-a-utiful” and was swarmed with positive feedback from her loyal followers, and says she couldn’t have asked for a better response.

“I could easily still be playing those restaurant gigs and open mic nights like I was,” she goes on to say. “It is still so incredible to me that I have this opportunity to do what I do and that people connect to it. I feel so insanely blessed to be able to do something that I love. It’s funny to me that being a ‘YouTuber’ wasn’t even a thing or something people aspired to do full-time when I posted my first video. So much has changed and evolved, but I think it’s amazing that there is a platform where your voice can be heard and shared with the world through a click of a button.”

YouTube has opened doors for many content creators who would have never been noticed otherwise. From Tyler Oakley to Grace Helbig, and even Justin Bieber, the video-sharing website has done wonders for many. But with numerous uploads each day, it’s sometimes hard to navigate through so much talent in one place. Luckily for Megan, she was able to literally have her voice heard by people all over the world through her video platform, and that eventually got her noticed by Sean “Diddy” Combs’ Bad Boy Records.

When this news released, Diddy was quoted in multiple articles saying, “Megan Nicole is a complete package that I am extremely excited to add to the Bad Boy roster. She is a talented singer, songwriter, musician, and entertainer.”
“One of the reasons I fell in love with music so much was because I discovered a way to share stories and create in a way I really connected with.”
When you scroll through Megan’s YouTube video history, you can watch her grow up over the years and see her progress from video to video. Her viewer count increased while she continued to open herself up to her audience a little more each time she posted a video. She’s tackled some of the more popular songs like Bruno Mars’ “The Lazy Song” to Adele’s “When We Were Young,” which she used to say she’d never touch. “Because… Adele. I really liked it and just made a softer rendition of it,” she explains.

One artist she has still contemplated on covering is Stevie Wonder. “I would really just want to do it some sort of justice!” she says.

From “B-e-a-utiful” to her recent single “Mascara,” Megan Nicole is no stranger to releasing new music without any album or EP attached to it. In fact, her last EP dropped in 2014. So does that mean we can expect new material any time soon? Possibly. “I’m taking my time with this next body of work and making it exactly what I want it to be,” says Megan. “I plan on releasing an EP later this year.”

We do have to take a step back and realize Megan has a lot more on her plate than we give her credit for. For starters, after taking a step away from Bad Boy Records, she created her own record label. She now follows the footsteps of many other successful artists such as Ed Sheeran, Nick Jonas, and Demi Lovato. She hopes to eventually build the label up to where she’d have the ability to sign and develop other artists. “I put that on hold for now, but still have that idea in mind,” says Megan.

Until then, she’s focusing on her personal work, and rightfully so. She says, “The most challenging part of being your own label is the fact that everything comes directly out of your pocket. Every song, every video, every tour. But I do love the fact that I have creative control and I’m able to release music whenever I want.”

It’s no doubt that every decision Megan makes is with her fans in mind. “I not only put all of my energy into creating my own music, but still work on creating covers that I can share with my audience as well,” she shares. “Finding a balance to do both has been challenging at times. I would love to eventually put all my creative focus into my own music, but at the same time I want to share new content, and originals can take more time. It’s a process, but I’m getting better at finding that balance.”

Her consistent hustle has landed her the opportunity to tour and meet her Internet fans face to face. Last September, Megan wrapped up the Sweet Dream tour where she traveled all over North America alongside her opening acts Sammi Sanchez and Alex Angelo. “It’s amazing to connect in person with the people who take the time to watch my videos. I feel extremely blessed to do what I love and have people who support my music,” says Megan.

You’d think having your own record label and pushing out new content on YouTube would keep a girl busy. Not for Megan. According to the YouTube sensation, she has a lot more in store that she’d love to conquer, like acting (she did show off that specific talent in her starring role in Maker Studios’ musical film Summer Forever) and creating her own clothing line.

Currently, Megan is hitting the road with Emblem3 and The Ready Set on the Waking Up tour making multiple stops within North America. Prepare to hear some new music that hasn’t been released to the public, singalongs, and one great acoustic performance.

BY ASHLEY BULAYO

www.clichemag.com
“I love the fact that I have creative control and I’m able to release music whenever I want.”
dream guy

Photographer: QUAVONDO
Assistant: JOHNNY MARTINI
Hair/Grooming: LYSETTE CASTELLANOS
Styling: YESENIA CUEVAS

Shirt JOHN VARVATOS
Jeans JOE'S JEANS
Bracelets & watch JUSTIN'S OWN
Justin Baldoni isn’t your average heartthrob.

Sure, he has abs of steel, a smile that melts hearts, and a laugh and confidence that is so attractive, but he’s also a triple threat. Not only is he responsible for the collective swooning of audiences across the world as Rafael Solano on The CW’s *Jane the Virgin*, but he’s directing and producing with his production company Wayfarer while he takes over the world. Justin Baldoni is a man who can and will do it all.

**BY KEAH BROWN**

Justin Baldoni didn’t always want to be an actor. In fact, soccer was his first love, but before he found the sport, Baldoni acted in his small town’s school play of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* as both Mercutio and Paris at just 12 years old. A self-proclaimed small and “nerdy” kid, Baldoni didn’t get the lead that was reserved for the popular kids. Still, acting gave him something special he never had before.

“I fell in love with it. It was the first time where I got to make choices in front of a group of people and be able to hear their reaction,” Baldoni says. “So if I did something funny, I got to hear them laugh. If I did something dramatic, I got to feel the energy in the place. It was a really cool experience for me.”

When he reached high school, he had to make a decision: theatre or soccer. He chose the latter, sure that his life was heading in that direction. He also ran track and though a part of him always loved performing, theatre conflicted with his sports schedule, so he had to sacrifice one love for the other. His father started the product placement industry in the early ’80s, so Baldoni met actors and saw sets, but he lacked the confidence to see himself in their shoes. He thought that he was awkward, nerdy, and “everything grew at the wrong time.”

Though he never saw himself as an actor, he wasn’t removed from knowledge of the business. In fact, he didn’t start acting again until the age of 20. Once the time came to audition for *Jane the Virgin*, he wasn’t acting at all. Instead, he spent those two years dedicating his time to building his directing career and his production company. During his hiatus from acting, the company shot music videos and commercials, amongst other things, and he thought the company was the career path he was meant to take. Lucky for us, that was not the case.

“I never really saw myself becoming an actor,” he says. “It was never really a possible career path for me, especially when you live in a small town so far away from anything like that.”

On *Jane the Virgin*, Baldoni plays the heartthrob Rafael Solano, who has a heart of gold. He is loyal, loves hard, and has a charisma that Baldoni himself exudes. Rafael has had a world of bad things thrown at him, the kind of fate only realized in a show that loves, respects, and models itself in many ways after the classic Telenovelas: Jane (Gina Rodriguez) was accidentally inseminated with his sperm, so now they share a child; his father was killed by his step mom, an international crime boss who kidnapped his baby; his ex-wife, Petra (Yael Grobglas), took what was left of his sperm, inseminated herself, and gave birth to twins; and to top it all off, Rafael is a cancer survivor, a fact that drew Baldoni to the role.

“I had spent the last almost 2 years doing a documentary series called *My Last Days* where I traveled the country and I told the stories of unique individuals who were living amazing lives, but who were also dying of a terminal illness,” Baldoni explains. “In those 2 years, I had lost a lot of friends, very dear friends, to cancer. And the idea that here I am now jumping back into acting after taking a hiatus and getting to play a character with that life experience felt meant to be.”

Baldoni’s docu-series, *My Last Days*, will be a part of the new digital platform *CW Good* that Baldoni’s Wayfarer Entertainment is partnering on with The CW. *My Last Days* will also air as a three-night television event in mid-August. It tells the story of how to live from the lens of those who are dying. The series will feature six people who do not let their limited amount of time left on earth keep them from impacting others and the world at large.

Rafael is the first character that Baldoni has played in the last 5 years and he’s an important one. Although *Jane the Virgin* tells
the story of the relationships between three generations of Latina women, Jane and Rafael prove that the relationships outside of family are equally important. Jane may be gearing up to marry Michael (Brett Dier), but she is not only the mother of Rafael’s first child, but she is the love of his life. When Rafael loves, he loves with abandon. He’s loyal and ready to protect his family at any cost, and that’s what endears him to the audience, and in many ways, to Jane. He is an underdog despite his riches, a man who wants a family he has never had, and a chance to be the father his father never was. He wants the opportunity to prove his worth to both his naysayers and the people who already believe in him.

“There is this woman that pops into his life when he least expects it and she offers him something he’s never had before,” he says of Rafael’s relationship with Jane. “Jane is a family woman with integrity and heart who lives her life with morals, honesty, and values.”

According to Baldoni, the two characters come from different worlds, but that’s what draws them to each other. “Jane is very much the part of the fabric that makes America so great, while Rafael, to a certain extent, is part of what makes America great and awful,” Baldoni explains. “He is entitled and very wealthy, but at the same time, he provides jobs.”

Baldoni goes on to say that Rafael and Jane’s relationship is almost like a fairytale, which is something many viewers will agree with. “I think the audience roots for them because they see how different Jane is to everybody else in Rafael’s life,” he says. “I hope they can see the love he has for her and despite the crappy things that are happening, how he longs for a family he never had.”

If you can’t choose between Michael and Rafael, don’t worry—Baldoni couldn’t either. He agrees that both Michael and Rafael have great qualities; Michael seems to be a comfort for Jane, a sense of familiarity and home, whereas Rafael is the adventure, excitement, and something refreshing. Though it seems that Rafael has what Michael is lacking and vice versa, the choice in men isn’t an easy one to make.

“If I was in Jane’s shoes, I would’ve picked the person that made me feel the safest, the best. Maybe I would’ve picked Michael. I don’t know,” he says. “I’m not in Jane’s shoes, but I definitely understand that it is a tough choice to make because on the other hand, you have someone who loves you deeply who you have a family with. I understand why it was so hard for her.”

Rafael is more than his romantic entanglements, but they do help shape his character and often motivate his choices. This begs the question: will his love for Jane and desire for family help or stunt his character growth in the future? It’s likely too soon to tell with a show that rivals even the best soap operas with its flare for drama and outlandish (in the best way possible) storylines. By the way of fate, luck, or pure determination, Rafael has always found his way out of sticky situations. He couldn’t give away much, but Baldoni believes that this time should be no different. Baldoni himself doesn’t quite understand how he comes out on the other side of all of the situations he gets in, insisting that he would have turned to God a long time ago. However, he promises that there isn’t anything he would change about his character. He has total faith in Jane the Virgin’s creator, Jennie Urman, and is excited to see where his character goes.

Unlike a lot of his favorite actors, Baldoni says he doesn’t really have a method when it comes to portraying Rafael, choosing instead to garner the emotions Rafael needs to showcase, whether it be anger, sadness, adoration, or a mix of the three, when need be. He tries to make sure that his body and mind are in the right place so he can feel the emotions. In the past, he has tried to use music to get him in the zone, but that method didn’t stick.

When the cameras aren’t rolling, there is no choosing. In the most authentic way possible, the cast is as close as they seem. In fact, Baldoni’s favorite part about the show is getting to work with the people that he loves. He considers his cast mates to be special people who are hardworking and talented.

“I really love, respect, and admire my cast mates. They have incredible hearts and they work very hard,” he says. “They have lots of gratitude. Every day they show up to work and are grateful for their jobs, and I think that, for me, having another family outside of my close friends and real family is special to me.”

If you are worried about a Justin Baldoni-less summer when the season wraps, worry no more. He will be working with his Wayfarer Entertainment production company where he plans to create content that they think “will make the world better.” In fact, he made it a point to say that they’re “not in the film business; we’re in the reminder business.” He has My Last Days coming to The CW in August and the Warner Bros. studio feature film Clouds in production based on the life of Zach Sobiech, which Baldoni is slated to direct and produce. To learn more, be sure to visit wearewayfarer.com.
Suit: CAKE FOR MONARCHS
White dress shirt: COMBATANT GENTLEMEN
Handkerchief: TOMMY HILFIGER
“I think that, for me, having another family outside of my close friends and real family is special to me.”
Wrap top THEORY
Shirt PHILIP LIM
Shoes STEVE MADDEN
the timelessness of the classic

Photographer: OZ JOHN TEKSON
Model: ASHLEY CLARK (Dulcedo Models)
Wardrobe Stylist: CHANEIL FIDELINO
Makeup Artist: KRISH MISTRY
Hair Stylist: TOCHERA HARRY
Slip Dress ANTHONY THOMAS MELILLO
Henley dress ATM
Shoes STEVE MADDEN
Wrap top: THEORY
Shorts: PHILIP LIM
Shoes: STEVE MADDEN
Button up dress PINK TARTAN
Slip dress HELMUT LANG
Shoes STEVE MADDEN
Dress and pants RAG & BONE
Shoes STEVE MADDEN
Button up dress DEREK LAM
Shoes STEVE MADDEN
Sleeveless turtleneck BABATON
Slip dress HELMUT LANG
Shoes STEVE MADDEN
press
play
Larkin Poe
Photographed by Aaron Schorch

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Back to the Roots

Sisters Megan and Rebecca Lovell have been making music together since they were 3 and 4 years old, back when they studied classical violin. Now, the sisters have swapped the strings for electric guitars and formed a duo known as Larkin Poe, a name that belonged to a great, great grandfather way down the family tree (yes, they are descendants of Edgar Allen Poe). Here, Megan Lovell tells us about the making of their personal sophomore album, RESKINNED, and how Elvis Costello helped launch their career—and how he still plays a role in their life.

BY MEGAN PORTORREAL / PHOTOGRAPHED BY AARON SCHORCH

Cliché: You have a very unique, fearless sound. What first got you into the roots rock n’ roll scene? Do you have any particular musical influences?

Megan Lovell: Our musical journey has been long and winding so far! We started out as classically trained violinists and pianists at 3 and 4 years old, but our dad was a huge rock n’ roll fan, so we also grew up listening to and soaking up the rock classics: Pink Floyd, Jack White, Fleetwood Mac, the Allman Brothers, and the Eagles, to name a few. In our teens, we put down the violins, picked up guitars, and immersed ourselves in roots music that is, lucky for us, very prevalent in the South where we were raised. Americana, blues, and bluegrass was our life all through our teens. Becoming songwriters is what really began to shape our sound. We’ve always enjoyed experimenting with a lot of different genres of music, but now with all the raw electric guitar and grungy slide guitar, we’ve returned to our first love of rock n’ roll. We’ve landed on roots rock n’ roll; it’s gritty and dirty without losing our roots.
Tell us a little about your sophomore album, RESKINNED. What do you hope is the listener's takeaway from this piece of work as a whole? RESKINNED had an odd way of coming about. Last summer, we were touring Europe in support of our debut album KIN and Universal Europe came out to one of our shows and expressed interest in bringing KIN onto the Universal roster. We were really excited, but, since KIN was already a year old at that point, we wanted to revamp the record to show how much we had grown since recording KIN. Touring and playing big stages like Glastonbury changes you, and in our case we’ve been getting edgier, more rock n’ roll, heavier. Universal was super supportive, and last fall we wrote and recorded five brand new songs and remixed our favorites from KIN into RESKINNED.

We’re really proud of the way it turned out, and it feels great to be putting out material that’s incredibly fresh to us, too... We are very passionate about music and are always pushing ourselves to be bigger, edgier, better singers, players, and performers, and we hope people can hear that change within RESKINNED.

In what way is RESKINNED different from your earlier album and EPs? We started touring when we were 15 and 16 years old and as we have grown and changed as people, our music has grown and changed just as drastically. Even while singing bluegrass ballads in our teens, we harbored a secret love of rock n’ roll and our guitars were just itching to be plugged in. Of all our albums, RESKINNED demonstrates this change in us. It’s the most honest reflection of us as musicians and as people.

Which songs on the album are the most meaningful to you? Did a specific event or experience inspire them? The songs on RESKINNED are much more vulnerable and personal than anything we’ve written before. The songs about heartbreak are, sadly, written from a true place... They say songwriters sometimes sabotage themselves emotionally for songwriting material; could that be true? What I find the most interesting are the songs that ask bigger questions, like “Blunt” and “When God Closes A Door.” These lyrics are inspired by some of the terrible atrocities that have happened across the world lately. Why are these events happening and how can we affect positive change when it’s so easy to feel nothing but cynicism? Lyrics are a way of starting discussions within us.

Do you have a favorite song to perform live? I love performing “Trouble in Mind” live. It’s got saucy lyrics that are fun to sing in homage to the South, strong harmonies, and a bouncy feel that really gets the audience going. We love to see people dancing when we play... And as a bonus, we just performed “Trouble in Mind” on Conan O’Brien, which was amazing, so now I have a flashback to playing my favorite late night TV show every time we perform that song. Incredible memory!

What was it like working with talented producers like Chris Seefried, Justin Warfield, and Wax LTD on the album? We’ve been lucky to work with some of the most talented people within the music business, and the producers of RESKINNED are definitely inspirations. We feel very thankful that they were supportive of our musical direction and didn’t try to change us. We can be pretty stubborn and headstrong about our music, but these folks stuck it out with us. All of the producers had really different production styles and ways of recording, but we feel the album came out with a surprisingly cohesive feel.

You have performed with and opened for Elvis Costello countless times since you first joined him spontaneously on stage in 2007. Looking back, did you think that moment would have such an impact on your career? In what ways has Elvis Costello helped you grow since then, if so? When we joined him onstage for the 2007 Merlefest All-Star Jam, we had absolutely no idea this mysterious person, Elvis Costello, would have such a profound impact on our lives! How lucky and amazing that tiny, insignificant moments can have such a big effect... We’ve seen that over and over in our career. Elvis Costello has been a big champion for us; he’s had us out to play with him regularly over the years and there’s really nothing like watching a true rockstar in action up close and personal. You won’t meet a more knowledgeable, passionate, upstanding person than E.C.

What is one of your favorite memories while on tour? One of my favorite memories lately was getting a call from T Bone Burnett asking us to come to the House of Blues Studios in Nashville, TN to record with Steven Tyler. We met T Bone Burnett through Elvis Costello after he asked us to come in and record on The New Basement Tapes session in L.A.—a wonderful recording; if you haven’t heard it, check it out. After we got the call, Rebecca and I were looking at each other like, “Steven Tyler? Is this seriously happening? Yes.” They brought us in to record on a track that needed some extra instrumentation and we ended up writing the intro riff to the song. Both Steven Tyler and T Bone were warm and welcoming to us... All in all it was a wonderful day, a wonderful memory.

Who else would you love to tour with someday? We have so many musical heroes that we’d love to tour with... Jack White, Dolly Parton, Pink Floyd, Derek Trucks, Paul Simon, Alabama Shakes... The list could go on forever. We also opened for Queen in May, which was a huge honor!

What’s next? Every year we’re able to say “this has been our biggest year yet” and 2016 is shaping up to be no different. We’re excited to be touring with Elvis Costello in May and playing some huge European and UK summer festivals in May and June. We’re also so pumped to have RESKINNED released and being played at radio and plan to tour in support of the album the rest of the year. Most of all, we know we’re gonna meet tons of the coolest fans ever and that’s what touring is all about.
Mexican-American pop singer Sammi Sanchez is a triple threat: she grew up singing, acting, and dancing, and now she’s honing in on releasing her new EP. Here, we chat with her about what inspired her single “Girls Talk,” touring with Megan Nicole, and what it was like working with producers like Koko La Roo (Nicki Minaj) and Melanie Fontana (Justin Bieber). **BY MEGAN PORTOR-REAL / PHOTOGRAPHED BY CROW + ERICKSON**

Cliché: You’ve been pursuing singing, dancing, and acting since a very young age. Right now, singing seems to be the bulk of your career, but are you interested in branching out into dancing or acting more in the future?  
Sammi Sanchez: Yes! Singing has always been my main focus and my passion, but I also grew up in the performing arts; acting, singing, and dancing. I plan on branching out more in the future and tackling all three forms of art.

Do you have any particular musical influences or idols?  
I think I would have to say J-Lo and Rihanna are my biggest influences. I love that J-Lo has incorporated her Latin culture into her brand and how she is a true performer who sings and dances and kills the stage. I also really love Rihanna because she is so edgy and badass. Her vocals are insane and she also dances like no other.

I hear you are fluent in Spanish as well! As a Mexican-American, was it your first language, or have you picked it up over the years? Will you be releasing any original songs in Spanish as well?  
Yes! Spanish was my first language and as I
MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT
KORY BARD

https://itun.es/i6Yw7H8

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http://hyperurl.co/TalkAboutIt

WANT YOUR VIDEO FEATURED IN CLICHÉ MAGAZINE?
started school I began to learn more English and become more comfortable with speaking it. I hope to be releasing some Spanglish songs here soon... add a little Latin flavor!

You've said that your single “Girls Talk” was inspired by your own personal experience. Do you usually draw inspiration for your music from actual events that have happened to you? What is your usual songwriting process?
Yes, “Girls Talk” was something that I actually went through. I tend to usually write from personal experiences. I’ll let my imagination wander and come up with an idea. The process is always different. Sometimes I will think of one word that will trigger an idea or maybe I’ll get a melody first and think of chunks of words and arrange them together to form a song!

What was it like working with talented producers like Koko La Roo, Melanie Fontana, Sam Sumser, and Sean Small, who have worked with some of the biggest names in music today?
They are all such amazing people to work with; I can’t say one bad thing about any of them. They each bring their own amazing energy into the room and it makes it so fun to work with them and easy to vibe together. It’s an honor to work with them.

You have toured and sang with fellow pop singer Megan Nicole. Has she helped you in your career in any way, or given you advice that has helped you grow? What have you learned from each other?
Megan is such a talented sweetheart and I’m so thankful I got to join her on tour! It was so much fun touring with her. She helped me get my first insight into what touring is like. She guided me and taught me all about touring. We were all on a tour bus together the entire time so that was a great bonding experience.

Do you have a favorite song to perform live, and why?
My favorite song to perform live hasn’t even been released yet! Stay tuned... this new music is going to be fire.

If you could collaborate or tour with anyone else, who would it be and why?
I would love to tour with somebody like Zayn or J Balvin. Zayn is just such an amazing artist and I feel his tour would be so sick to be on, as well as J Balvin. I think it would be filled with so much energy and of course some Latin jams!

What are your plans for the near future? Is there an album in the works your fans can look forward to?
Right now I’m finishing up an EP to get ready to release soon. I’m so excited for everyone to hear my new music and I feel that people will love the new direction I’m going in.
Better Than Ever
Although American Idol has officially ended its run, there are a few names that still resonate with you after all these years. Kelly Clarkson, Chris Daughtry, Jennifer Hudson... Oh, and now, Haley Reinhart. She blew up the Internet and pulled on your heartstrings when she performed the much slower rendition of Elvis Presley’s “I Can’t Help Falling in Love With You” during an Extra Gum commercial. But don’t stop listening just yet. With her new EP Better out now, Reinhart leaves us all wanting to hear more and more of her voice. BY ASHLEY BULAYO / PHOTOGRAPHED BY CASEY CURRY

Cliché: Let’s start from the very beginning. What was your life like growing up and how did your childhood help you decide music will be your career path?

Haley Reinhart: I was a little flower child, traveling with my parents’ band around Chicago land. I got to hang out with the adults and get up on stage once I got the guts... around 8 years young. Music has always been my happy place. I was lucky enough to learn the “good stuff” at an early age and carry those eclectic influences over and into my own writing.

With you being born and raised in Chicago but now living in Los Angeles, what’s something you wish Los Angeles had that Chicago has?

Hmm... Bob Chinn’s, Comiskey Park aka The Cell, more genuine folk, humid summer nights, all the colors of fall, and of course, my family and friends. L.A.’s alright though.

You had HUGE success on American Idol and since you were a mentor on the last season, what was it like for you to be on the other end of the spectrum? What advice would you have wanted to give your young American Idol self, after knowing what you know now?

It was neat bringing it full circle. I could relax and laugh a lot more this time around, that’s for sure. I always wanted to go back and mentor contestants, so I’m honored they asked me to do so. My advice would be to take more videos, so I could remember more of the unique experiences.

For someone going onto a competition show and eager to get in the music industry, what’s something they should be prepared for that they would never expect?

Expect a grueling schedule and a million opinions floating around you... At the end of the day, you gotta go with your gut.

It took me a while to realize you’re the voice that covered some of my favorite songs with Postmodern Jukebox!

How did that collaboration come about? What song do you wish to cover in the future?

Nice! They asked me to sit in with them at a club, “Hyde,” in L.A. It’s been magic ever since. We just filmed another video a few days ago, shot in Raphael Saadig’s studio. It’s oh so dreamy and so very special.

Since you did tour a bit with them overseas, what did you learn while being on the road with them that you may want to remember for your upcoming tour?

Alone time is a thing to be cherished. So is a good shower, and sleep. [Laughs] Sightseeing is a must; put down the electronics.

Congratulations on your sophomore album! Since there’s a 4-year gap since Listen Up!, what can your fans expect to hear on this new one?

It’s funky, it’s rockin’, and it’s real. I think there’s a tasty sound bite for everyone! I’ve written all the material with some amazing writers, producers, and friends. I’m ecstatic to get it out there.

With your album being released independently, is there a specific reason you wanted to go that route rather than through a record label? I’ve rebuilt my team over the last few years. I think every artist should go indie at least one point in their career. I may find a happy home eventually, but this project (my baby) was all me! And although it can be quite the struggle at times, that makes me even more proud of the finished product that is Better.

Since this will be your very own headlining tour, how has the preparation process been? Will anyone be joining you on stage?

I’d love to get my pops up at Lincoln Hall (June 14) in Chicago. We’ll see! I start rehearsing with the band in a few weeks, and I’m so amped! Expect to hear some raw grooves and soulful vocals.

We have to talk about the viral commercial that crushed everyone’s heart: The Story of Sarah & Juan from Extra Gum. How were you approached with that opportunity and did you have any idea of how much of an emotional rollercoaster it would be?

Folks from Wrigley and BBDO wanted me specifically to record my own rendition of the classic love song. I had a feeling the commercial would blow up, but I never expected it to get picked up at radio, completely organically, and chart for 13 or so straight weeks. I’m so grateful to be a part of it and its success.

With your album out now, a tour on the way, and season 2 of F is for Family confirmed, we’re not even halfway through the year yet! What else do you have coming up soon for all your fans to get excited for?

I can’t wait for all this and more! Look out for a new Postmodern Jukebox video and hopefully some more music videos for tracks on my new record Better in the near future!

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YOU’VE SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE in our magazine alongside his four bandmates, but today this feature is all about The Maine’s John O’Callaghan and his latest musical endeavor and side project, John The Ghost. John The Ghost made his apparition by releasing an EP and book titled *Sincerely, John The Ghost* in early April. The 90-page book contains original poetry written by the Ghost himself. O’Callaghan explains that this project is to help him let go of lingering ideas and an opportunity to potentially inspire others to express themselves in whatever ways make them feel alive. Here, we chat with O’Callaghan about his thoughts on vulnerability, recording in his bedroom, and the story behind John The Ghost.

BY IMANI GIVERTZ / PHOTOGRAPHED BY COLE KIBURZ
Cliché: What birthed the idea behind this side project, John The Ghost?

John O'Callaghan: Though it is important to occasionally take it slow in this life, an overabundance of idle time for me allows far too much opportunity for my brain to eat itself. Catharsis is to blame for the birth of The Ghost.

In your own words, who is John The Ghost? He is the idea of letting go.

And in John The Ghost's words, who is John O'Callaghan? He is just a tiny grain of sand on an enormously beautiful beach.

You say that the purpose of this project is to not only help you let go of lingering thoughts, but to potentially inspire others to express themselves in a way that makes them feel alive. So, what makes you feel alive?

I suppose everything that arouses a reaction inside my being reminds me I'm alive. It's easier for me to lose the notion of just how important my "reality" is when I allow negativity to cloud my mind, so lately I've tried my damniest to focus on the aspects of life that bring me joy.

Let's chat about the EP and then the book, both titled Sincerely, John The Ghost. When did you start writing these songs?

To be honest, the writing process as far as songs are concerned never ceases and I hope it never will. These songs are pieces I felt like I just needed to send on their way.

This EP is said to have been recorded in your bedroom. Was there a specific reason as to why you chose such an intimate space rather than a studio? Money tends to dictate much of what we do unfortunately, but I was more than pleased with the sonic quality we achieved in the process. Plus, it sounds super indie when you tell someone you recorded in your bedroom.

I listened to the song "Sour Grapes" when it was first released and then on repeat for a good while. Each time I listened I could hear more and more that it had such vulnerability in it. Was it difficult for you to be so open in the writing and recording process?

Brennan Smiley, who helped co-produce the EP, really helped maintain much of the raw feelings from my demos and urged me to be as candid as I was in those demos in the recordings. The vulnerability complemented the whole thought process behind the project and I think that made it much easier to find comfort in the release.

What would you say the most challenging component about writing and recording the EP was?

Trying to find time in our conflicting schedules was the biggest hurdle. I had the drums done for a few months and then had to leave for the road. My biggest fear was starting the project, going away, then returning with new ears and hating what I’d done, so I just decided to put it off until we had ample time to complete it.

What do you hope listeners get out of it?

I hope they get whatever it is they're looking for.

Along with being a lyrical genius, you're a talented poet that has already released a book of your poetry titled Exaltation back in 2011. Did that book inspire Sincerely, John The Ghost or was Sincerely already in the works back in 2011?

Wow, I’m flattered by your high praise! I believe Exaltation inspired me in more of an empowering way, just as all of my outside projects have. My modest little soapbox has attracted some beautiful folks who give a shit about what I have to say and I would be letting myself down if I said nothing at all.

What does this book mean to you?

This book reaffirms that my future is my own to create and that all of those "you can do anything’s" I dismissed as platitudes in my youth have merit and are preached for a reason.

Is there a future for poet John The Ghost as a spoken word artist or will he stay as a writer? As in, would you perform any of your poetry at shows?

Can’t see myself busting out the turtleneck anytime soon, but I always say… STRANGER THINGS.

Were you ever at all emotionally stretched when writing Sincerely, John The Ghost?

There is always a point when I feel as though I’ve exhausted all ideas. I get to a place in which I know I’m reaching and for intents talking just to talk. When I hit that point, I knew I was done and that’s when I decided to release Sincerely.

What does the future look like for John The Ghost?

I would love to play a few shows at some point once people have sat with the music for a bit. It would be really great to share the stage with the cats that played on the record. For now, I’m just looking forward to the release and anxious to see and hear how people feel about it.

Will we be able to pick up a copy of the book and EP on Warped Tour?

Due to an overwhelmingly positive reaction thus far, it’s looking like we’ll be sold out of the books well before Warped starts. I’ll think about bringing something out, but The Maine is (and always will be) my focus and we have some neat stuff to look forward to this summer!

These songs are pieces I felt like I just needed to send on their way.

Sincerely, John The Ghost
When country pop singer Jillian Jacqueline was working on the single “Prime” off her new EP, she knew she wanted it to be an anthem for everyone. “[It’s] a reminder to enjoy where you’re at, and that youth is just a state of mind,” she tells us. The rest of her EP follows suit and gives off a sunny, youthful vibe, too. Here, we chat about the making of her video for “Prime,” her inspiration while growing up, and her Instagram-famous French bulldogs, Huck and Gus, who make a cameo in her video. 

BY MEGAN PORTORREAL / PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROB NORRIS

Cliché: First off, tell us a little about your life growing up. Did you always know you wanted a career in music?

Jillian Jacqueline: I started acting in plays and musicals when I was really young in my hometown in Chester Springs, PA before my mom took me to NYC to audition for a Broadway show when I was 9. I ended up landing a co-starring role in a Christmas play at the Beacon Theater in New York with Kenny Rogers, which turned into touring with him for 5 years after that. He’s still one of greatest mentors and influences in the music industry.

In our house, we pretty much only listened to country music when I was growing up, although, as I got older, my parents shared the music of Carly Simon, Jackson Browne, Carole King, James Taylor, The Beatles, and others with us (my three sisters and I) that expanded our tastes into other genres. But truly, the first artists that ever made me want to sing were Patsy Cline and Elvis Presley. I bought box sets of all their greatest hits and sat in my room for hours in the summer learning every nuance of every vocal. My sisters and I started a band when I was about 11 that became our whole lives; touring, writing music, recording, etc. for several years. We called ourselves The Little Women Band and mostly played gigs around New York City where we had moved...
in the early 2000s. We were probably the only kids wearing cowboy hats and boots singing country music in Greenwich Village. [Laughs]

For those who aren’t familiar with your music, how would you best describe your sound?
Someone once described it to me as “neon country” and I kinda love that. It’s a really cool thing to realize all of your influences and experiences with music growing up become this melting pot of sound and it’s something you can’t really control; it just comes out of you, and if you trust it, it feels real and right and genuine. So, as I began concentrating on writing songs for my first solo project, I found myself drawing from all my love of what Sheryl Crow, Third Eye Blind, Patty Griffin, and Patty Loveless had all done on records I learned from. I guess it’s just my version of country, but it feels very lyrically eclectic and sonically more pop-driven than most other country on the radio.

“Prime” is such a fun, catchy single! Was there something in particular that inspired you to write it?
YES! Feeling happy wherever you are is SUCH an important thing. I’m trying to learn and live every day of my life. It’s easy to get caught up in the ticking time bomb that life can be, worrying about what I wish I’d have done or what I want to do in the future, and forget that this moment is the most powerful and beautiful thing I’ve got. So, “Prime” is my anthem for everyone, including myself, who needs a reminder to enjoy where you’re at, and that youth is just a state of mind.

Tell us about the making of your music video for “Prime.” What inspired the production? We’re loving the retro look!
Thank you! Oh my gosh, that video was just a bunch of vivid colorful dreams I had. I’m a very visual person; I love music videos and how they tell the artist’s story through a mini-movie. When I first got together with the director, P. Tracy, we both brainstormed on ideas and looks and vibes and got on the same page with the perspective I was going for. I had this idea that I wanted it to look trippy and psychedelic, but also super grungy and fun and true to my life. It’s kinda like looking through a kaleidoscope and all of the weird stuff, like the Pepto Bismol lollipop and the paint being thrown on the stereo were all things that just came to my mind. I think being artistic is a huge part of being an artist. It’s a whole other aspect of creativity we can share with an audience. I love that.

You feature your two French bulldogs in your video as well—and I hear they’re pretty Instagram famous. Are they a big part of your life? Do you think they’ll be popping up in your videos more often?
[Laughs] Huck and Gus are my tiny adorable gremlins, and yes, they are slightly Instagram famous. Check them out @huckandgus. Somehow their page has taken off and now has 50,000 followers. Not quite sure how that happened, but I guess puppies make people happy! And yes, I have a feeling they’ll be making many more cameos because, let’s be honest, I like my dogs more than I like most people.

Tell us about the EP as a whole. How did you select the songs? I’m seeing a bit of a “growing up” theme throughout, but did you have a particular theme or process in mind when writing it, or did it just happen that way?
Good question, and something I hope other people notice as well. My narrative for the EP definitely has a “growing up” aspect and also a direct, self-aware confidence because most of these songs came as a result of me becoming more comfortable in my own skin, moving through my 20’s and feeling more in tune with myself, more powerful than ever in being myself and being honest and feeling okay to say what I wanted to say. Also, I think there’s a storyline there about stereotypes that became evident as I was putting the EP together. With “Slacker,” “Birds and the Bees,” and “Kids These Days,” I wanted you to hear those themes and ideas in a different way, to shed light on the subject in an unusually bold way.

Which song means the most to you, if you had to choose one? Which song came to you the easiest?
Hmm... “Kids These Days” means so much to me because it encompasses a lot of different thoughts that I’d been wanting to get off my chest for a long time. It’s simple but feels sacred, and maybe that’s because everybody can relate to it, young or old, and it’s the song that resonates with so many and the experience of growing up and feeling generational changes.

I wrote “Birds and the Bees” with my producer Tofer Brown and a great L.A.-based writer named Fann and we wrote it in about two hours, pretty quickly, and didn’t overthink anything. It all just sort of fell out effortlessly and felt so fun the entire time.

If you could collab or tour with any artist, who would it be and why?
I would die and go to heaven if I ever got to sing with Bryan Adams, because he’s Bryan Adams. As far as touring, I think Sheryl Crow would be amazing, just to get to hear her sing those iconic songs every night.

She’s one of the best and a huge inspiration to me as a female artist.

Since you are based in Nashville, what is your favorite thing about the city?
The people. There are some of the kindest, most interesting, creative, and driven people in this city that I have ever met. I’m blown away by the energy the people bring to this place and it’s such an exciting time to be living here making music.

Any plans or goals for the rest of this year?
Playing shows. So many more shows. And finishing my full-length record. I can’t wait for you to hear it! Stay tuned for that.
Sky’s the Limit

A llow us to introduce you to the latest act to try their hand in both singing and acting: Skyler Day. But let’s be clear: this isn’t her first rodeo! Skyler has been creating music for quite some time now while juggling acting. In fact, she put out an EP back in 2014 and she’s still going strong, promoting it with a brand new music video on the way. Here, we talk with her about her upbringing, her experience making music, and what she has planned for the future. BY ASHLEY BULAYO / PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRIAN LEGOO

Cliché: How did you get started in the music industry?
Skyler Day: I started singing when I was extremely young, but I was 6 when I started performing outside of my grandparent’s living room. I would sing in school plays, church, county fairs—any place that would have me. I discovered songwriting when I was 10 years old, but it was when I picked up guitar at 14 that I really began writing songs. Being able to accompany myself and create music entirely on my own was such an incredible feeling. I think that independence allowed me to write more freely and dig deeper into the personal stuff.

What was it that influenced the musical direction you wanted to go?
I grew up in Georgia listening to country music, so that has definitely influenced my style a lot. The songwriters of the late ‘60s and early ‘70s, especially Carole King (she is the queen!), have also inspired me. I’ve always been interested in music that feels stripped down, tells very personal stories, and puts the lyrics first. I’m so obsessed and hyper aware of the lyrics in songs that I literally can’t fall asleep to anything but instrumental music!
MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

YANG-BABY BOLOMAN DER KAISER

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WANT YOUR VIDEO FEATURED IN CLIChÉ MAGAZINE?
Your EP *Between the I and the You* came out in 2014, but you’re continuing to promote it. I saw that you’re filming a music video for “Ian’s Song” now, but first off, what was it like for you to put your EP together?

It was equal parts amazing and terrifying! At that point, my music only lived on voice memos in my phone and the videos I would post on my YouTube channel, so it was very exciting to record these songs the way they sounded in my head and put it out into the world.

Did you have any guidance or was it all a brand new experience where you picked up things along the way?

It was definitely all brand new for me, so I was thankful to have an awesome producer/co-writer, Steven Solomon, leading me through it. He had my back through the whole process and always made sure that what we were making was honest and from the heart.

What made you want to make the video for “Ian’s Song” now, rather than 2 years ago?

I think releasing my music was such a big step for me and letting that have its moment was important. I tend to take my sweet time with things, especially when it comes to music. I never want anything I put out to feel contrived. And now I finally feel ready to put a visual to the music.

You’ve been an actress long before you became a singer. Many have dabbled in the two, but for you, what has been the best and/or hardest part juggling the two?

Time! I try my best to put equal time and energy into music and acting, but it can get tough. There have been plenty of times when I’ve scheduled a music gig, but then booked an acting gig that shoots out of town on the same day. It can be hard to balance, but there are also a lot of instances where the two worlds intersect. I love when that happens.

If you could guest star in any show, but as a singer rather than an actress, what show would you want that to be?

My first thought was “GAME OF THRONES!!!” But that would make no sense… [Laughs] For music, definitely *Nashville*! The music on that show is incredible.

What’s the significant difference between performing on stage versus acting in front of a camera or live studio audience?

Performing on stage, you are just you. There is no veil. It’s more personal because you’re singing about your own experiences and the audience knows that. With acting, it’s someone else’s words and circumstances that you are using to express your emotions. Even though you might be pulling from your own experiences, which can be extremely emotional, to the audience you are that character.

Do you think acting, in some way, helped you calm your nerves when performing on stage or did it all feel natural to you when you played your music live for the first time?

I think acting has helped me a lot with performing and being comfortable in front of crowds, but I definitely still get nervous! You get another take if you mess up on set, but you have to roll with it if you mess up on stage.

Your brother seems to be musically inclined as well! Have you guys ever thought of collaborating and making music as a brother/sister duo, sort of like Good Charlotte or Echosmith?

My brother, Dalton, is a brilliant musician! I love making music with him. We performed and wrote songs together all the time when we were growing up. We have both started doing our own thing, but putting music out together is never off the table.

When you’re writing your music, what’s the most important message you want to get across to your listeners?

All I want is for my music to make people feel something. So, for me, that means I have to be as honest and real about what I’m feeling when I’m writing. If it’s not authentic, I think people can sense it. It’s the best thing in the world when someone comes up to me after a show or writes to me on Twitter and says that my song touched them because they have been through the same thing and felt the same exact way. That connection is priceless.

Aside from landing awesome acting gigs, what can our readers expect in regards to your music? Should we get ourselves ready for a full length album or maybe a mini tour?

You can definitely keep an eye out for the “Ian’s Song” music video and new music to be released! I’m looking to get back in the studio very soon. I am also in the midst of producing a short film with one of my best friends that will feature new original music as well!
MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

MY’KEY ISO

soundcloud.com/mykeyiso

WANT YOUR VIDEO FEATURED IN CLICHÉ MAGAZINE?
I'll have to admit: when I first discovered the up-and-coming band The Stolen, I found myself blasting their eclectic sound at max in my car. The pop-punk Jersey boys have a sound that perfectly combines Cliché faves The Maine and The 1975 with a twist of '90s rock and modern pop, all mixed into four incredibly talented musicians. The Stolen dropped their latest EP *I'm So Dead* in April along with an aesthetically pleasing music video for one of the five songs off the EP, “Can’t Get Enough.” Here, frontman Dom Cuce filled us in on who The Stolen is, their spring tour, and songwriting.

**BY IMANI GIVERTZ / PHOTOGRAPHED BY KENNY LEWIS**

Cliché: For those who haven’t heard you guys yet, can you give us a rundown on who The Stolen is and what your band is about?

Dom Cuce: We are a four-piece band from Old Bridge, NJ. We originally formed in 2005 playing cover songs of our favorite bands at the time. After years of playing together, we started writing our own songs and touring year round.

**What was it like to record your latest EP, *I'm So Dead***?

The recording process for this record was a little different than what we have done in the past since we recorded a large portion of it ourselves. We tracked guitars with a guy named Mike Oettinger up in Union City, NJ, and then we tracked drums and vocals ourselves at a studio in Red Bank, NJ. Our guitarist Rob mixed the entire record and then we had it mastered by Robin Schmidt. Again, it was a lot different than the recording process in the past.

**How has the response been from fans since you put out the EP?**

We’ve gotten an amazing response from our fans! Whether it’s through social media or them coming out to a show and singing along, the response to the new music has been great. We can’t thank them enough.

**Who writes the songs in your band? Is it a task for one specific person, or do you all jot down lyrics as a collective?**

When writing music, our process is a little different. Rob (guitar) will come to us with some lyrics and some chords on guitar, and if we are all vibing it, we go to work on the song, all making it our own. In my opinion, it’s a good way to create music because now we have four people throwing their ideas in and it allows us to create something we all love.

**We love how your sound has an alternative rock/R&B feel, especially in your single “Can’t Get Enough.” Who or what influences your sound?**

We take influence from so many bands and artists. I think it shows in the music we consume. In the van, we will listen to literally everything, and when I say everything I mean it. [Laughs] You’ll catch us listening to so many different artists from so many different eras and they all have an influence on the music that we create.

**You guys just wrapped up a spring tour. What was that experience like for you?**

The tour was amazing! It’s always a good time for us and we always look forward to going out on the road and seeing our fans.

**Speaking of touring, when can we catch you on the road again?**

Most likely this summer!

**What are some goals you guys have for the future of The Stolen?**

I would say to tour as much as we can and keep making music that is true to ourselves.

**How can we keep up to date with all that you’re doing?**

We are on every form of social media, so everyone could follow us there to stay up date.

We always look forward to going out on the road and seeing our fans.
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Dress ALLURE THE BRAND
Blouse ATMOSPHERE
Scarves MILANÓWEK
Belt VINTAGE
FLOWERS OF THE CITY

Photographer: ALEKSANDRA GALERT
Model: OKSANA POPIELA (More Models)
MUA: KLAUDIA KOPER
Hair: ANETA RAGUS
Stylist: MARTA STROŃSKA
Assistant: LUCA DI GESARO
Dress: ALLURE THE BRAND
Belt: VINTAGE
Scarves: PARFOIS, DENI CLER, VINTAGE
Shoes: STYLE SHOES
Bottom Dress: HAND MADE BY SIMONE PARIS
Middle Dress: VINTAGE
Top Dress: H&M
Dress TK MAXX
Shoes ATMOSPHERE
Shiffon cardigan SUZY SHIER
Scarves VINTAGE
Dress ALLURE THE BRAND
Blouse ATMOSPHERE
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