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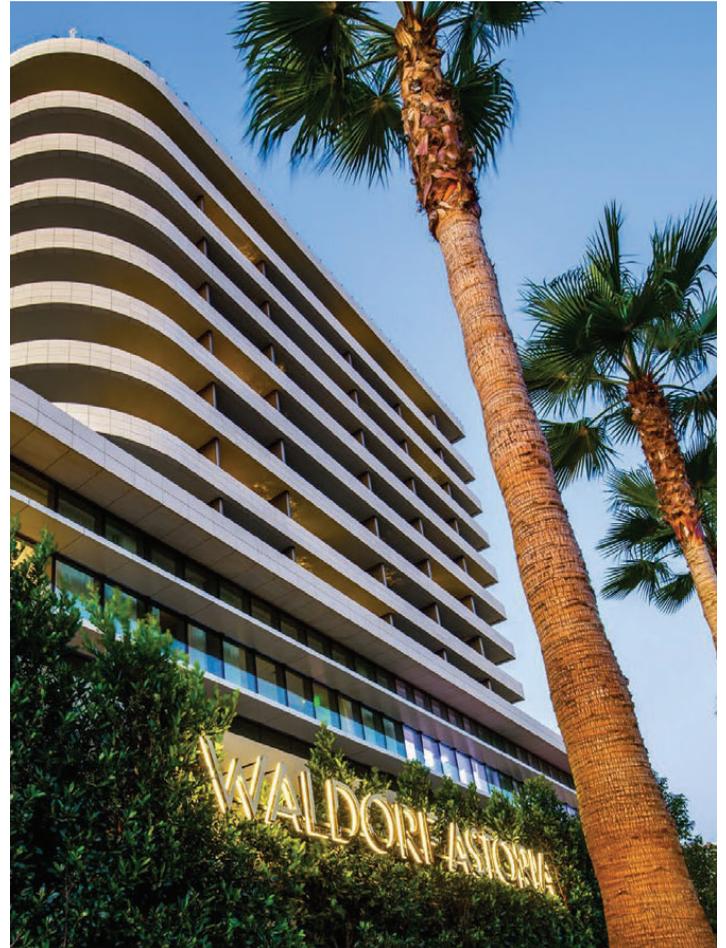
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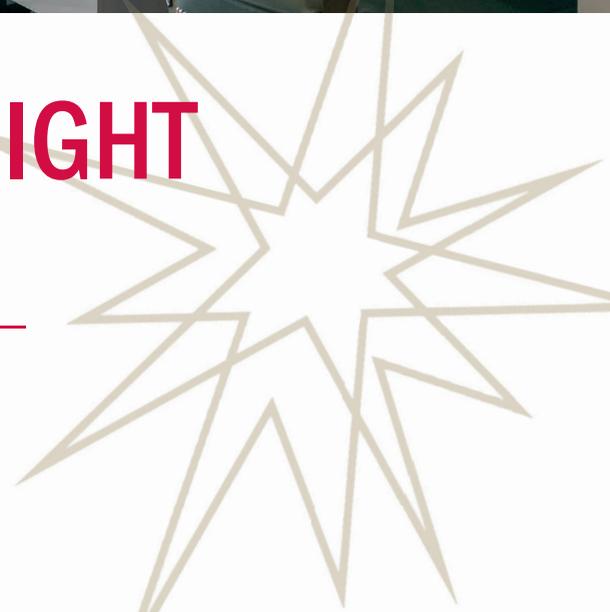




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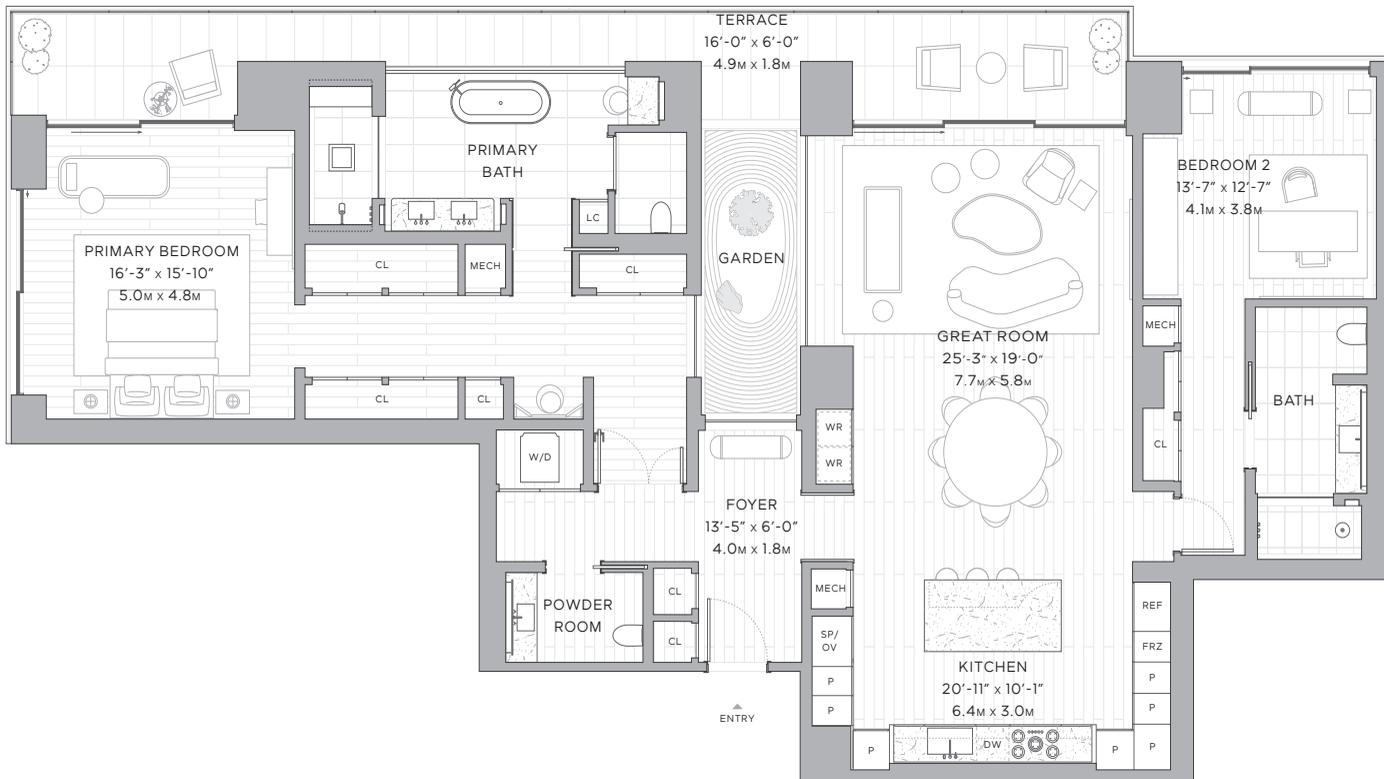


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Season's Greetings! The 2023 Holidays have begun! As we surround ourselves with friends and loved ones, we're reminded of the people who have helped shape us into who we are today. For many, it's the women in our lives, be it our mothers, sisters, daughters, co-workers or friends, who have been our source of strength and guidance, and our greatest influence.

In this issue of *STYLE*, we celebrate outstanding women in our city, past and present. Excelling in a variety of fields, from the arts to the sciences, their voices influence the community of Beverly Hills and the world beyond.

We begin with a few of the amazing women, some behind the scenes, in "The Women of The Wallis" who influence our city's cultural crown jewel.

In "Heddy Lamarr's Beverly Hills Legacy," we tell you the surprising story of how a Golden Age actress, living in Beverly Hills, influenced the ways we communicate and navigate in our modern world.

Weight loss is a hushed, trending topic. Two leading Beverly Hills-based doctors weigh in on Ozempic and similar drugs, and influence the conversation. What you learn in "The Real Skinny on Weight Loss" may surprise you.

Holiday time is synonymous with shopping and movie time! Our curated list of designer "Must-Haves for the Holidays" will undoubtedly influence your wish list, as will our "Top Picks for Holiday Viewing."

And last but not least is our featured cover story of Eva Longoria. In this exclusive interview, the globally-known actress, director, producer, entrepreneur and philanthropist illustrates how she "Redefines Star Power" and influences the world.

A big thank you to my partner, Publisher John Bendheim who, once again, made the near impossible a reality for our featured profile. And to our local and global advertisers who support *STYLE* and our weekly *Courier*, we are forever grateful.

John and I and the *Courier* team wish you every happiness as you share precious moments and fun celebrations with family and friends during this holiday season. And may there soon be peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and throughout the world.

Best Wishes,

LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH, PUBLISHER



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# The Women of The Wallis

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO



DEBBIE ALLEN (FAR LEFT) TEACHING FLAMENCO ON THE PROMENADE TERRACE  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLIS ANNEBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

**I**t might come as no surprise to learn there is a team of strong, powerful and influential women at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. After all, the center exists because of the strong, powerful and influential woman whose name is emblazoned on the building's facade. But behind every great woman, is a great woman, and in the case of The Wallis, there are many. In total, more than a dozen women hold positions on the board. All are dedicated to ensuring the cultural crown jewel of Beverly Hills remains the beacon of inclusiveness and diversity and the globally recognized epicenter of the arts that the city deserves.

Here, we introduce a few of these women, each representing a different facet of the colorful mosaic that comprises The Wallis. Debbie Allen, who needs no introduction, has been instrumental in bringing dance to the center and to the community of Beverly Hills and beyond. As a board member of The Wallis, Executive Director of the Annenberg Foundation (and the right-hand woman to Wallis herself) Cinnie Kennard exerts her influence behind the scenes, keeping in close contact with The Wallis Executive Director and CEO Robert van Leer to ensure the institution receives the support it needs from the foundation. Last month, Daphna Nazarian was named Executive Vice Chair of the board of directors at The Wallis. She has been one of the key figures helping to raise the necessary funds to keep the center's many community outreach educational programs going and expanding.

## DEBBIE ALLEN

Debbie Allen's contribution to the world of dance is indisputable and immeasurable.

To many, she might best be remembered for her award-winning performances as the hard-nosed principal choreographer at a fictional performing arts school in the hit '80s TV show "Fame." But Allen has worn many hats in her career: actress, dancer, choreographer, singer-songwriter, director and producer. She has won six Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe and five NAACP Image Awards, among many others. Allen was appointed by President George W. Bush to represent the United States as a Cultural Ambassador of Dance. She has the distinction of being named a Kennedy Center Honoree with an artist in residence there for over 15 years.

Allen has long been a leader in the arts and has taught and mentored generation after generation from communities that otherwise would not have the support to pursue dance. She also sits on the board at The Wallis and has played an important role in bringing people from every age and background to the city of Beverly Hills together in celebration of dance.

In fact, her influence at The Wallis was there from the very beginning when it was still a post office. Wallis Annenberg had invited her to an initial meeting where conversations were centered around the architecture, and what was going to go where. Allen sat back and

listened before chiming in, "The architecture? Where is the dance studio?"

Years ago, Allen's sister, actress Felicia Rashad, introduced her to Annenberg. The pair later met for lunch and over the course of that meal, Allen shared her plans to build a dance school that would focus on underserved Black and Latino communities. By the time the check came, Wallis had offered a grant to help make it possible. In 2001, Allen opened the Debbie Allen Dance Academy. (Last year, the Academy moved into a new facility inside the Rhimes Performing Arts Center in Mid-City. The 25,000-square-foot space was donated by TV powerhouse Shonda Rhimes.)

Annenberg and Allen remained close over the years, and when plans for The Wallis were taking shape, Allen was asked for her input.

"I think that for me, the most fulfilling thing was to help them understand that the footprint has to be open to the community," Allen said. "When you go to Europe and places all over the world, there are squares everywhere that are busy with people drinking tea or sipping wine while they enjoy performances around them. The Wallis has that footprint in that wonderful terrace that opens itself up to the whole community."

After The Wallis opened, and Allen joined the board, the question was—what to do with that terrace?

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Allen, inspired by those bustling European squares, came up with an idea. She offered to lead a series of free dance lessons covering dance from all parts of the world, like salsa, African, flamenco and hip-hop to the public on the terrace. And Dance Sundays with Debbie Allen and Friends was born.

“We started that program, right out of the box, with no real funding and no real planning. Sometimes that moment of spontaneity in creativity is lightning in the bottle,” said Allen. “And I started teaching those classes, and I was out there in that hot sun sometimes. I was out there on Mother’s Day. My family was so mad at me. They said, ‘Nobody’s going to come!’ That day, I had around 250 people that had bused in from all over to be with me on Mother’s Day.”

Allen encourages all to dance, even when everyone is watching. “For me, the spirit of the dance lives inside everyone. And they just have to let it come out. Let it come out! Don’t be afraid to touch it,” she said. “Dance is the most original of all the art forms. Before man could make an instrument, we were dancing. Before we had language, we were stomping on the ground, jumping and leaping and celebrating life, births, deaths or begging for good weather.”

Dance Sundays remains an enormously popular part of The Wallis’ free summer programming on the Promenade Terrace, which has been expanding ever since. Events like Sunday Funday, a series of family-friendly entertainment such as puppet shows and children’s musicians are now held in the outdoor space. “This is all at no cost to the community other than their time, their interest and curiosity,” said Allen. “That’s what you have to pay. And it doesn’t get much better than that.”

And though The Wallis has its own independent committee responsible for its dance programming, and Allen praises them for their diversity, she certainly has had influence. Allen said she pushed to bring in Black choreographers like civil-rights activist and dance visionary Alonzo King, the gifted Crenshaw-based Lula Washington and Camille A. Brown, whose work, a combination of contemporary and ancestral styles, often explores themes surrounding African American identity.

But for Allen, dance is more than an art form, she truly believes it can save the world.

“I believe dance can lead to solving some of the problems in the world right now,” she said. Then, as if channeling the no-nonsense character that made her famous, she added, “If I could just make everyone dance, I could straighten this mess out, bring them all to the ballet bar and make them ‘hold, and hold, and move’ until they do it right.”

As funding is increasingly slashed from school arts programs, she said now more than ever we need to fill in those gaps left by the lack of political will to prioritize arts education. “This is why we can’t survive without somebody like Wallis Annenberg, and the Wallis Annenbergs of the world, and the Shonda Rhimes of the world, and the people who will help make things possible that the government just doesn’t do,” she said.

As a Culture Ambassador of Dance under President George W. Bush, Allen was tasked with traveling the world from China to Brazil to Cuba to define cultural diplomacy. She discovered that no matter where she went, no matter the issues that were dividing the people of that nation or dividing nation from nation, dance was a common language that transcended everything. It allowed for communication, for people to sit at the same table and begin to understand one another.

“I remember when I was a little girl growing up in Houston, Texas, I couldn’t be in ‘The Nutcracker’ because everything was so segregated. It was the middle of the civil rights era,” she shared. “So, I have an understanding of the price of freedom. I watched all the people, who were my elders, marching in the streets and saw things as a kid that no kid should see. And now it’s happening again. Just when we think we have reached a point of another plateau of success, we slide backward. So, this is why The Wallis is so important, and what we’re doing at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy is so important. What we do has to be measured by the change it makes in people’s lives.”



CINNY KENNARD AND ROBERT VAN LEER AT THE WALLIS  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLIS ANNEBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## CINNY KENNARD

For the past nine years, Cinny Kennard has served as Executive Director of the Annenberg Foundation, and unofficially, as CEO Wallis Annenberg’s right-hand woman. She is also a member of the board at The Wallis.

Her relationship with Wallis Annenberg goes back decades.

“I’ve had the great blessing to work with Wallis on different projects on and off for probably 20 years,” Kennard said. “It’s been a tremendous opportunity to actually learn, working beside her, about philanthropy, impact and leadership. And she’s a great mentor, as well as the boss.”

It was largely due to Wallis and the Annenberg Foundation that The Wallis was willed into existence, thanks to generous grants and donations from both. So, it’s no surprise that the foundation considers the performing arts center one of its key projects.

“The Wallis is its own entity with phenomenal leadership helping to secure amazing artists and entertainers,” explained Kennard. “But Wallis and I sit on the board. We keep very, very close to The Wallis to ensure that Beverly Hills has a flagship enterprise around the arts. The close relationship is something to which Robert van Leer, Executive Director and CEO of The Wallis, can attest. Kennard regularly checks in with him and the pair maintain a close partnership.

“The Wallis and the Annenberg Foundation is a deeply important relationship. And it goes way past the funds that the Annenberg Foundation has given us,” said van Leer. “It is a truly symbiotic relationship, where we both want the best for the center and for its future in all dimensions. And Cinny, in her role at the foundation and as a member of the board, is an important leader in the broader cultural community and as part of The Wallis in Beverly Hills.”

For Kennard, what distinguishes The Wallis from other cultural institutions is its experimental and innovative approach to the arts. The center is often referred to as “the Kennedy Center of the West” because of its multidisciplinary programming, which includes theater, music and dance. Even comedy has a place on its stages. But it’s also somewhat of an incubator where established and emerging talents are given the freedom to explore new ways of expression.

“The Wallis tries to do things that are different. In a lot of ways, it’s a laboratory. It’s a place to try things. And I think that’s what makes it distinct from other places,” said Kennard. “Beverly Hills is known, certainly for its greatness around the world, but honestly it hadn’t been known for its cultural footprint. The Wallis changed that. It is a cultural epicenter right in the middle of Beverly Hills.”

And though it’s located in Beverly Hills, Kennard points out that The Wallis has tentacles that reach far beyond the city’s borders.

“I think what everybody’s most proud of is that on any given day you can see school buses ringing the courtyard around The Wallis, bringing in kids from underserved neighborhoods and communities of color from all over the city for the GRoW program to learn about theater and music,” she explained. “So, it’s not just sitting here serving one

THE WOMEN OF THE WALLIS CONTINUES ON PAGE 42



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# Top Picks for Holiday Viewing

BY NEELY SWANSON



KAIMONA IN "NEXT GOAL WINS"

PHOTO BY HILARY BRONWYN GAYLE, COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

The runaway success of this summer's biggest hit, "Barbie," brought a wide swath of the public back into theaters. Certainly, "Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One" got the summer ball rolling, but this holiday season is different, even though strikes by both the WGA and SAG-AFTRA slowed the momentum. The hope expressed in the massive grosses of "Barbie," a meaningful movie wrapped in a cotton candy wrapper, and "Oppenheimer," a serious film of depth and substance that proved audiences still have the attention span to absorb history when told compellingly, is a major relief, not just for studios but also for audiences who want more than superheroes on the screen. So here we are, on the cusp of winter and a flood of Oscar hopefuls. This year, because of the strikes, is something of an anomaly with release dates pushed and the number of major films that premiered earlier than usual. The box office results have been rather topsy-turvy, especially when you factor in "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," but still dominated by superheroes and testosterone-driven muscle movies, with a little Disney animation thrown in.

A number of interesting films have already opened, and many are still in theaters. Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" was highly anticipated and will begin streaming on Apple TV+ later in the year. Sofia Coppola's recently opened biopic "Priscilla" about Priscilla Presley was nominated for a Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival earlier this year. "The Bikeriders," a gritty road movie based on the book by Danny Lyon stars the immensely photogenic Jodie Comer and Austin Butler and Tom Hardy. Originally scheduled to premiere on Dec. 1, it has been delayed due to the actors strike but is anticipated to open before the end of the year in order to qualify for the Oscars.

Hope springs eternal for the lasting power of the films that are opening just prior to Thanksgiving through Dec. 25.

To the Holiday Season and beyond!

## NOVEMBER

### NOVEMBER 17

"May December" is by the always intriguing Todd Hayes. Through Gracie Aatherton-Yoo, a character based on Mary Kay Letourneau (the teacher who seduced her 12-year-old student), Hayes paints an uncomfortable picture of what happens when she is interviewed by an actress about to play her on screen. Starring Natalie Portman as the actress and Julianne Moore as Gracie, you can expect to be uncomfortable in the black humor universe that Hayes usually weaves.

"Rustin" is the long-ignored story of Bayard Rustin, civil rights activist and leader, and organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. Instrumental in the fight, he was left behind by the leaders he helped because he was gay. Directed by George C. Wolfe and written by Julian Breece and Oscar-winner Dustin Lance Black, the all-star cast, led by Colman Domingo as Rustin, includes Glynn Turman, Chris Rock, Jeffrey Wright and Audra McDonald. This is a must-see for me. Having opened in theaters on Nov. 3, it has just begun streaming on Netflix.

"Next Goal Wins" is from the always off-beat Taika Waititi, this time directing a feel-good movie about the American Samoa soccer team whose claim to fame is their savage 31-0 loss in 2001. Another World Cup is approaching, and a new coach has been hired to turn them around. Michael Fassbender as the put-upon coach is always worth watching. The film is based on a 2014 documentary of the same name.

"Trolls Band Together" is another entry in the Troll world. Poppy (voiced by Anna Kendrick) discovers that her best friend Branch (voiced by Justin Timberlake) was once part of her favorite boy band. They go on a search for the other members of the band facing obstacles all the way (not the least of which is that the other members of the band are not NSYNC).

“The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” is a prequel of sorts. Minus those you love (Jennifer Lawrence) and those you hate (Donald Sutherland), this Hunger Games takes you back to the youth of Coriolanus Snow who would, someday in the far future, become the evil President Snow. But for now, Coriolanus must team up with Lucy Gray to turn the odds against them in the Hunger Games.

“Saltburn,” directed by Emerald Fennell in her sophomore outing, stars the quirky Barry Keoghan (“Banshees of Inisherim”) as an Oxford student out of his depth the summer he’s invited to the home of a very posh classmate. With Rosamund Pike, Carey Mulligan and Richard E. Grant in support, expect eccentricity at the very least.

“Thanksgiving” is Eli Roth’s newest slasher film. Never lacking a sense of humor, Roth’s film is based on a fake trailer he made for “Grindhouse,” his 2007 entry in his favorite genre. Inspired by a Black Friday tragedy, a mysterious serial killer (aren’t they all mysterious?) arrives in Plymouth, Massachusetts to set up his own buffet platter piled high with the town’s denizens. Where will it end?



BARRY KEOGHAN IN “SALTBURN”  
PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM AND AMAZON STUDIOS



JOAQUIN PHOENIX IN “NAPOLEON”  
PHOTO BY AIDAN MONAGHAN, COURTESY OF APPLE ORIGINAL FILMS  
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## NOVEMBER 22

“Maestro” is Bradley Cooper’s controversial biopic of Leonard Bernstein, controversial primarily because of the prosthetic he uses to portray the conductor. Cooper, who acquitted himself well in his feature directing debut with “A Star is Born,” tells this tale through the prism of his complicated marriage to his wife Felicia, played by Carey Mulligan, over a period of 25 years.

“Napoleon” is Ridley Scott’s long-awaited tour de force about the man who has, thus far, eluded all who approached him, whether Marlon Brando, Rod Steiger or Charles Boyer. This larger-than-life character whose rise from obscurity to the height of power is here portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix. The love of his life, Josephine, played by Vanessa Kirby, is a witness to most of his post-revolutionary history. It’s a lot of ground to cover in 2½ hours.

“Wish” is Disney animation’s holiday gift to families. Asha (voiced by Ariana DeBose) wishes upon a star and gets more than she bargained for when the star decides to join her down on Earth. With music by “Frozen” songwriters Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, expect Asha to break out in song.

“The Boy and the Heron” is written and directed by master storyteller Hayao Miyazaki, the renowned creator of “Spirited Away” and “Princess Mononoke.” He tells the tale of young Mahito Maki whose mother has died and father has remarried. Still mourning, he encounters a gray heron on the estate who leads him into an alternative universe filled with magic.

TOP PICKS FOR HOLIDAY VIEWING CONTINUES ON PAGE 50

# Hedy Lamarr's Beverly Hills Legacy

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

Many sirens of the silver screen have called Beverly Hills home. One of the first A-listers, Mary Pickford, took up residence on Benedict Canyon Drive. Greta Garbo, Ava Gardner and Marlene Dietrich lived on North Bedford Drive. While each of these legends has made major contributions to the world of motion pictures, and their influence on pop culture and beauty cannot be denied, there is only one actress whose influence has quantifiably changed our modern world—Hedy Lamarr.

During the height of her fame in the 1940s, Lamarr surreptitiously invented the technology that would make Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS and cell phones possible.

However, it would take decades before she would receive recognition for her contribution. For Lamarr, her legendary beauty was a blessing and a curse. Many would not accept that “the most beautiful woman in the world,” as she had been called, could have brains, too.

Lamarr was born Hedwig Eva Kiesler in Austria, Vienna in 1914 to assimilated Jewish parents. Though Louis B. Mayer, studio head at Metro-Goldwyn Mayer (MGM), had given Hedy her big break and her new name, she was forbidden, as were all MGM contract actors, from speaking about religion. Hedy kept the secret so close that her children whom she had with her third husband (out of six), actor John Loder, never knew she was Jewish until after her death.

While under contract at MGM, Lamarr dazzled in celluloid classics like the 1938 film “Algiers,” “Ziegfeld Girl” in 1941 and Cecile B. Demille’s biblical epic “Sampson and Delilah” in 1949), she began inventing as a hobby. There is not much in the public record about what drove her to invent or even how she did despite her education, the sum of which was middle school and a spell at a Swiss finishing school for girls. Like so many women of her generation, college was not in the cards. Not that she would’ve attended; her sights were firmly set on acting. She quit the boarding school to pursue her dream.

Yet the record shows she did invent. Lamarr told Merv Griffin on an appearance on his TV program in 1969, “I was different, I guess. Maybe I came from a distant planet, but whatever it was, inventions came easy for me.” Thomas Alva Edison had no formal education at all and thanks to him we have the lightbulb. The idea is the thing. And Hedy had a lot of ideas.

She also had a lot of time on her hands to think of them, especially in the evenings after a day on the set. Hedy didn’t like the Hollywood scene, she didn’t drink and loathed going to parties. Instead, she preferred to sit at her home on Roxbury Drive and work on her inventions. The star had a drafting table and light, and all the necessary accouterments installed at her residence and spent her evenings sketching out her ideas. Howard Hughes, with whom Hedy had a close relationship, gifted the actress a miniature version of her home setup. This was put in Hedy’s movie trailer so she could continue her work in between takes. She is also said to have sent Hughes sketches while he was working on building the fastest plane in the world. Lamarr claimed she bought books on the fastest birds and the fastest fish and cobbled the best parts of both in her drawing to Hughes. And, though the implementation of her idea took engineers to connect a few dots, Hedy’s basic concept worked and influenced the design.

Mostly, what we know of Hedy’s inventions during this time is that they were largely inspired by World War II, which was already raging in Europe by 1940. She attempted to create a tablet (akin to Alka-Seltzer) that would turn water into Coca-Cola for servicemen overseas. Even with the help of two chemists that Hughes had lent her, Hedy couldn’t get it to work.



STUDIO PUBLICITY STILL OF HEDY LAMARR FOR THE FILM “ZIEGFELD GIRL” (1941)

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. MACRO, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

HEDY LAMARR’S LEGACY CONTINUES ON PAGE 54

Holidays

BH



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# Must-Haves for the Holidays

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

If there were any doubts that Beverly Hills remains a thriving shopping destination and Rodeo Drive reigns supreme as the most coveted address for luxury retailers around the world, you need only look at the recent roster of expansions. Chanel's new Beverly Hills flagship, years in the making, clocks in at 30,000 square feet, making it the largest Chanel boutique in the country. Balenciaga recently doubled down with a second flagship on Rodeo Drive. And next summer, Gearys will open its new Rolex and Patek Philippe boutiques, the largest in the nation, in the former Dolce & Gabbana storefront.

We celebrate our bustling retail with this curated list of designer must-haves that will take you through the holiday season and beyond. From pumpkin spice-hued items fitting for a family Thanksgiving gathering to products festooned in the festive colors of the holiday season. And from the latest warm and cozy products to help you hunker down at home during precious moments of respite to all-out sparkles for a spectacular New Year's Eve.

## Emerald City

1. Alluring and enchanting, **Bode's** shimmering "Siren" gown is aptly named. \$4,000 at *Saks Fifth Avenue*, 9600 Wilshire Blvd., 310-275-4211 and [saksfifthavenue.com](http://saksfifthavenue.com)
2. The "Palm Angels Keon" jacket by **Moncler** would make even Midas gold with envy. \$2,200 at *Moncler*, 340 N. Rodeo Drive, 424-354-4562 and [moncler.com](http://moncler.com)
3. **Van Cleef & Arpels** 18-carat yellow gold ring with its delicate ribbon of emeralds is like gift wrapping for your finger. \$13,600 at *Van Cleef & Arpels*, 300 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-276-1161 and [vancleefandarpels.com](http://vancleefandarpels.com)
4. Called the "heir" to previous generations of **Patek Philippe** perpetual calendar chronographs, the "5270P Grand Complications" retains the elegance of its predecessors, with its concave bezel, gold markers and distinguished billiard-green dial. Price on request at *Patek Philippe-Gearys Rodeo Drive*, 360 N. Rodeo Drive, #2, 310-887-4250 and [gearys.com/patekphilippe](http://gearys.com/patekphilippe)
5. These stunning sculptural **Ferragamo** sandals belong in a museum, along with the Italian designer's other shoes. Better yet, they belong on your feet. \$2,200 at *Ferragamo*, 357 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-273-9990 and [ferragamo.com](http://ferragamo.com)
6. Around the holidays, these evergreen-hued, crystal tumblers from **Baccarat** look the part but don't pigeonhole them. They're ready for their close-up year round. \$600 (set of two) at *Neiman Marcus*, 9700 Wilshire Blvd., 310-550-5900 and [neimanmarcus.com](http://neimanmarcus.com)

1.



2.



3.



4.



6.



5.



# Holly Go Lightly



1. Part of the latest Lock collection by **Tiffany & Co.**, these 18-carat yellow gold and round brilliant diamond hoops will secure a place in your heart. \$6,900 at *Tiffany & Co.*, 210 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-273-8880 and [tiffany.com](http://tiffany.com)

2. This season why not swap those Loubie red bottoms for a **Christian Louboutin** red patent leather purse? \$1,390 at *Christian Louboutin*, 477 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-652-5700 and [us.christianlouboutin.com](http://us.christianlouboutin.com)

3. You'll look as if you were poured into this laminated metallic strapless dress from **Dolce & Gabbana**. It's undeniably hot just like liquid gold. \$2,745 at *Dolce & Gabbana*, 248 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-888-8701 and [boutique.dolcegabbana.com](http://boutique.dolcegabbana.com)

4. Spruce up your holiday decor with this ruby red crystal **Baccarat** Christmas tree and bring a little sparkle to the festivities. \$400 at *Gearys*, 351 N. Beverly Drive, 310-273-4741 and [gearys.com](http://gearys.com)

5. Made of sumptuous metallic gold leather, these **RH** jewelry boxes hint at the treasures they hold inside. \$100 at *RH Modern*, 8772 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood, 424-281-1326 and [rh.com](http://rh.com)

6. You could wear these **Gucci** crimson velvet wide-leg pants on a red-eye flight to see the family. But throw on a pair of heels and a silk blouse and presto, you're ready to party. \$1,800 at *Gucci*, 347 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-278-3451 and [gucci.com](http://gucci.com)



MUST-HAVES FOR THE HOLIDAYS CONTINUE ON PAGE 56



EVA LONGORIA, CO-FOUNDER OF CASA DEL SOL, WITH HER REPOSADO TEQUILA, WHICH RESTS FOR FOUR MONTHS. ITS WOODY AROMA EVOKES SOFT VANILLA AND SWEET TOBACCO. TO TASTE, IT HAS NOTES OF WILD HONEY, RAISIN AND BUTTERSCOTCH. PHOTO BY BRIAN BOWEN SMITH

# EVA LONGORIA

## REDEFINES STAR POWER

BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

**T**wenty-three-year-old Eva Longoria, standing on stage in classic pageant regalia, hears her name announced. Two former winners also clad in pageant sparkle, rush to her side, pin a towering rhinestone tiara in her hair, thrust yellow roses into her arms and swing a shimmering sash across her shoulder.

The year is 1998 and Eva Longoria has just been crowned Miss Corpus Christi, Texas.

Though Eva had plans to earn her master's degree in sports medicine having received her undergraduate diploma in kinesiology, one of the prizes that came with her crown was a ticket to Los Angeles to compete in a prestigious modeling and talent competition. By the end of that contest, 28 agents wanted to represent Eva, enabling her to pursue her other passion, acting.

It would take two years before Eva was cast in her first prime-time speaking role, a job that would earn her a SAG card and elevate her from aspirational to bona fide actress. The role was only three lines, but it was opposite Luke Perry, on the hottest show in the world, the pop culture phenomenon "Beverly Hills 90210."

Today, Beverly Hills 90210 is the place Eva Longoria calls home.

Back then, as a struggling actress, it wasn't imaginable for Eva.

"Beverly Hills felt so far. Not in miles, in thought. It was so farfetched." She pauses, realizing the serendipity. "I forgot 90210 was my first speaking role."

By the time Eva settled in Beverly Hills, her accomplishments had defied expectations. But maybe not in Eva's mind. As an actress, producer and director, she has earned 14 awards and 33 nominations, including Golden Globe, People's Choice and Screen Actors Guild Awards. As a global influencer, with 9.7 million followers on Instagram, Eva has earned the world's respect in the entertainment, beauty, fashion, cookware and spirits industries.

And this is just the beginning.

With boundless versatility, passion and talent, Eva uses her influence and insight to overcome the barriers that prevent advancement for minorities, the underserved and the mistreated. Her purposeful mission is to effect real change. Through her foundation and charitable associations, she advocates for women's rights, persons with disabilities and Latinx equality. And, in her spare time, Eva, a seasoned businesswoman, engages in diverse entrepreneurial endeavors.

Focused, determined and driven, she also employs her authentic storytelling to message through her craft. This year, having directed her first highly acclaimed feature film "Flamin' Hot," an "inspirational, feel-good story," Eva, as with many of her projects, used the film as a tool to educate and to provide opportunity.

As the ultimate modern shero, a happily married woman and a new mother, one wonders how does this trailblazing woman of influence do it all?

Long before Beverly Hills, Eva was raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. Her family's roots in the Lone Star State are traced back to 1603 when her ancestor, Lorenzo Longoria, sailed from Spain and arrived in the New World. But it wasn't until 1767 when Eva's 7th great-grandfather received a gift from the King of Spain. It was a land grant of almost 4,000 acres along the Rio Grande, which remained in her family for over a century.

Born March 15, 1975, Eva Jacqueline is the fourth girl behind Elizabeth, Emily and Esmeralda. With her mother, Ella, and her father, Enrique, all have names that begin with the letter "E." Eva explains the family tradition began with her maternal grandmother.

"My mom's mom did that. And my mom chose to continue it. My mom's brothers and sisters all start with an "E." All my aunts, Elda, Elsa, Edna...There's nine of them. Crazy."

Eva was raised Roman Catholic and did not learn to speak Spanish until her mid-30s. When she was young and the darkest skinned in the family, her big sisters would jokingly call her "la prieta fea," a Spanish expression meaning "the ugly dark one." The thought is humorous as she became a world-renowned cover girl.

Eva fondly remembers her childhood on the Longoria farm.

"Growing up on a farm is a gift. I mean, it really is a gift. It gives you an appreciation for nature, animals, gardening and where food comes from. My dad would never let us eat fast food because we grew so many vegetables. He said there was no reason to ever eat out. We would pull carrots from the ground and just eat them. Not even wash the dirt off. We were savages at our ranch. We would run around all day."

It was a different era in the 1980s, before cellphones and video games.

"There was never a choice to stay inside. That was a punishment and the worst thing you could hear growing up on a ranch. It gave me such an appreciation for nature and specifically animals and raising chickens and raising pigs."

Her father taught Eva and her sisters how to handle a gun to hunt. On "Dateline NBC," Eva shared, "I can skin a deer, I can skin a pig. I can pluck a quail. You name it, I've done it."

Giggling, "My first pet was a cow. I mean, it was definitely different."

Eva feels it's essential to raise her son, Santiago, with an understanding and appreciation of nature through taking care of animals. Fortunately, she still has her ranch in Corpus Christi.

One of the biggest impacts on Eva's childhood was her sister Elizabeth, whom everyone called Liza. She is intellectually disabled. Ella Longoria was determined to facilitate the best possible life for her eldest, as well as her other three daughters. So much so, she became a special education teacher providing guidance for the family and enabling her to accompany Liza in public school. Eva has shared in the press, "Growing up with a sister with special needs makes you selfless... you think of others first." She also remembers volunteering annually with the Special Olympics. It helped her form her deep conviction to give back.

Today, Eva's Heroes, a nonprofit organization, founded by Eva in 2006, and based in San Antonio, Texas, puts into practice the lessons learned from her sister. It reflects Eva's compassionate and empathetic desire to enrich the lives of other individuals with intellectual special needs.

Despite Enrique working as a tool engineer and rancher, and Ella working full time, money was tight. Years before Eva's quinceañera, the traditional coming-of-age celebration for Latinas, Eva realized there would be no money for her party. As the story goes, she "swiped" her sister's ID and got a job flipping burgers at Wendy's before the age of 15 to make enough money for her celebration. Her grit, determination and self-reliance were being realized.

At Roy Miller High School, Eva not only played three sports, basketball, track and gymnastics, but she also made the cheerleading



TOP: EVA (TOP) WITH HER SISTERS IN TEXAS  
BOTTOM: EVA (FAR LEFT) WITH HER SISTERS AT CHRISTMAS  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVA LONGORIA

squad and head drum major, a near impossibility all at the same time. These extracurriculars led to a cheerleading scholarship at Texas A&M University in Kingsville. Five years later, after winning Miss Corpus Christi and scoring her first trip to Los Angeles, Eva was excited about visiting Hollywood.

"I remember just wanting to go see the [Hollywood] sign when I arrived. All I wanted to do was live in Hollywood so that when I wrote home to my mom, my address would be Hollywood, California on the envelope."

Finding success was not easy. To make ends meet, Eva worked at an executive search firm. Roles offered to a Latina were few and far between. Her dream was to have a recurring role on a soap opera. But first, she needed a break. "Beverly Hills 90210" was it.

As for eventually living in the coveted zip code?

"It was my husband who wanted to move there. We lived in Hollywood. He was the one because of the show ["Beverly Hills 90210"]. One day he said, 'I want to live in 90210.' When we got married, we immediately started looking there. I have my husband to thank for that."

In 2013, a friend set Eva up on a date with José (Pepe) Bastón, a Mexican-born businessman, and a successful Televisa executive and producer. She shared that by date two she was already swept away. Eva told People Magazine, "He was the most handsome man I'd ever seen. He was so charismatic, charming, sweet and funny." When Bastón proposed to her in Dubai, Eva went to social media, posting photos of the couple with the hashtags, #Engaged #Dubai #Happiness. In a white gown designed by her best friend and bridesmaid, Victoria Beckham, Eva married Pepe during a sunset ceremony at his home in Valle de Bravo, Mexico on May 21, 2016. Three years later, Eva gave birth to their son, Santiago Enrique (Santi), in June of 2019.

The timing of the move to Beverly Hills, the Garden City, with her baby could not have been more perfect for Eva.



EVA AND HER HUSBAND, JOSÉ BASTÓN, ON THE RED CARPET IN JUNE 2023

PHOTO BY EUROPA PRESS ENTERTAINMENT/EUROPA PRESS VIA GETTY IMAGES

“Not only did we move [here], we moved [here] and then COVID happened. To be able to walk during COVID was like a gift. I lived in the Hollywood Hills for so long. There’s no trick-or-treating, there’s no walking anywhere. You have to get in your car and get out. And during COVID, it was such a gift to not only walk outside on beautiful streets, but you could also admire the landscaping and the palm trees. You feel like, OK, this is L.A. living. We really felt this is what people think about when they think of L.A., like this street right here, these palm trees right here. And then you get the beautiful tour of these gorgeous homes. I could just walk and walk and walk and just stare at people’s gardens and people’s fences and people’s doors.”

And like her attraction to gardens, Eva’s character, the sassy, sexy Gabrielle Solis, on the highly successful ABC series, “Desperate Housewives,” was desperately attracted, while married, to her gardener. Eva starred on the show throughout its run, from 2004 to 2012, and received numerous awards and nominations.

Cast in the show more than three years after her first speaking role, it would take another three years before Eva was cast in her first feature film. While on “Desperate Housewives,” Eva starred in the thriller, “The Sentinel,” opposite Michael Douglas and Kiefer Sutherland. She is not shy in sharing her feelings and reflecting on her years of hard work to gain traction in her acting career.

Her roles continued far beyond these few notable ones, and as her star rose, Eva began popping up in high-profile advertising campaigns in both male and female fashion magazines, as well as in many glamorous cover stories in *Vogue*, *People*, *Harper’s Bazaar* and *Marie Claire*. To this day, she is included on most magazines’ “top” and “best” lists. In 2005, she became a spokesperson for L’Oreal Paris and remains featured in their print and TV ads today, 18 years later.

In describing beauty as she’s matured, Eva has a different point of view from when she was younger.

“It’s always wonderful to be called beautiful or be on these lists of most beautiful. And I think it’s cliché to say beauty comes from within, but it really does. If you can exude confidence and intelligence and empowerment, there’s nothing more beautiful on a woman. And that doesn’t necessarily come from makeup and haircare. That comes from knowing who you are. That beauty comes from being empowered in your job, being stable in your relationships. There are so many things that I personally identify with [when it comes to] beauty, and I think it has very little to do with the exterior, but I’m older. I’ve evolved to this place of really understanding and knowing beauty is deeper and has very little to do with the superficial surface.”

As time moved on, Eva broadened her creative energies to include producing projects under her UnbeliEVABLE Entertainment company. She began to direct series episodes and documentaries, with an eye toward one day directing feature films. Satisfying her need to message through storytelling, Eva, as a producer, examined the plight of the migrant farmworkers and their dire working conditions in “Food Chains.” Similarly, “The Harvest,” another UnbeliEVABLE documentary, is told from a child’s perspective about the deplorable working conditions that “tens of thousands of children face” in fields across the United States every year.

By revealing these true-life stories, through the vehicle of film, Eva reminds us, “I don’t speak for the Latino community. I encourage the Latino community to speak for themselves.”

Recently, UnbeliEVABLE Entertainment was folded into the media holding firm, Hyphenate Media Group. This new venture, which Eva co-founded with Cris Abrego, is part production company, business incubator and talent scouting agency.

To further enhance her activism, at the age of 34, Eva returned to school to earn her master’s degree in Chicano Studies at Cal State Northridge.

Aware of the inequities that affect Latinas and wanting to improve their trajectory, Eva created the Eva Longoria Foundation in 2012 with its mission, “to help Latinas build a better future for themselves and their families through education and entrepreneurship.”

Along with its advocacy and research, the foundation has funded educational programs such as STEM workshops aimed at school-age Latinas as well as classes and workshops for Latina entrepreneurs. In addition, the foundation has given \$1.9 million in dispersed loans to 220 Latina entrepreneurs, enabling them to employ and retain more than 600 Latinas.



PHOTOS OF EVA AS MISS CORPUS CHRISTI AND AT HER GRADUATION

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVA LONGORIA

“I just really enjoy it. I love having control of the final product. As a director, you’re in charge of everything. I like having the control of the overall creativity.”

**B**reaking through to that next step to become a feature film director, as a Latina, albeit an accomplished actress, series television director and producer, took confidence, conviction and self-belief.

“It’s definitely hard for women behind the camera for sure. We in no way have gender equity in our industry, but honestly, that’s across all industries. There are very few women on boards, women in corporate America, women as CEOs. With Hollywood, people make the assumption we’re very progressive so Hollywood’s getting it right. We’re not. We’re far from getting it right. And again, if you look at the numbers, we have less women directing TV and film than we had a couple of years ago. So those numbers dictate we’re going in the wrong direction. But how can we be going in the wrong direction?”

Eva advocates that the Hollywood community should course correct and broaden the applicant pool. But first, it has to acknowledge the problem.

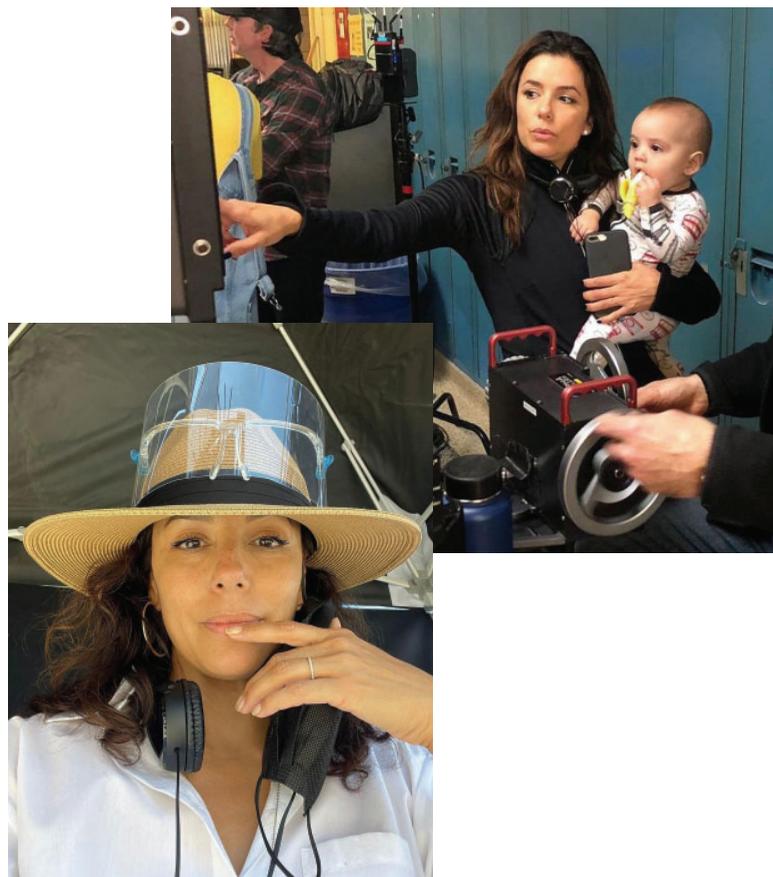
“Why wouldn’t people be more conscious about hiring women? It’s still a problem that we have to address and acknowledge because it’s not going to change. And we have so many amazing female storytellers that should have the same opportunity as men to get their projects made.”

Eva suggests that the cause of the problem is where change must occur.

“I always hire ‘with the lens of other,’ whether that’s a woman, a person of color, a person with a disability, LGBTQ. I don’t think there are people at these studios up in a tower going, let’s not hire women and people with disabilities. I think they unconsciously work with who they always work with. It takes a different mind frame to expose them to a different talent pool. Let’s tap into a different talent pool that is equally talented. Just because you are doing a diversity hire does not mean you’re getting less. In fact, sometimes it makes your movie better.”



EVA (LEFT) WITH DIANE WARREN AND RICHARD MONTAÑEZ IN THE CAR FROM “FLAMIN’ HOT” AT THE HOLLYWOOD MUSEUM  
PHOTO BY ERIC LICAS



UPPER RIGHT: EVA DIRECTING ON THE SET OF “THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE OF ASHLEY GARCIA” WITH SANTIAGO IN HER ARMS  
LOWER LEFT: SELFIE OF EVA ON SET OF “FLAMIN’ HOT”  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVA LONGORIA

This year, in her feature film directorial debut, “Flamin’ Hot,” Eva tells the story of Richard Montañez, the son of a Mexican immigrant and a janitor at Frito-Lay who created the idea for Flamin’ Hot Cheetos. Following her own advice, Eva cast a wide net by offering opportunities and opening new doors. What was her takeaway?

“That I could do it. I think a lot of times, specifically female directors say, ‘I don’t know if I’m ready. I don’t know if I know enough, I don’t know if I can.’ And we go in it with this real vulnerable, insecure position. At least I did. I was thinking, why did I say yes to this? Having that fear of not being ready and then finishing it and going, not only was I ready, I know what I’m doing and I’m good at it! I don’t think men do that. I don’t think men go, ‘I don’t know if I want this shot.’ It’s like they just go, assume the job is theirs and they get it. And so, for me, I think that was the biggest lesson was not only, you can do this, it’s you’re really good at it.”

Proud of the film’s message, Eva offered, “There was even a stroke of love in how we did the cholos... This was his [Montañez] lived experience. These characters were real people. And I think that we really were applauded for how we portrayed Latinos in this film, even to the cholos who are real, complex, beautiful people.”

The film, “celebrated an immigrant story rooted in the United States,” reported the New York Times and was screened with Eva in attendance at the White House with the President, First Lady and 600 attendees. President Biden said, “Opportunity is a cornerstone of our democracy and the American dream. And you’ll see in the film, that’s exactly what the Hispanic community embodies: opportunity, courage.”

This was not the first time Eva was invited to the White House. In 2012, she supported Barack Obama and was one of seven Californians named co-chair of President Obama’s reelection campaign.

Of the many hats Eva wears in the entertainment industry, including as a talk show host and podcaster, the one she would choose to wear first and foremost is as a director.

“I just really enjoy it. I love having control of the final product. As a director, you’re in charge of everything. I like having the control of the overall creativity.”

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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TOP: EVA ON SET WITH SANTIAGO IN A DIRECTOR'S CHAIR  
 MIDDLE: EVA ON SET OF NETFLIX'S "THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE OF ASHLEY GARCIA"  
 BOTTOM: EVA ON THE FIRST DAY OF SHOOTING AND DIRECTING "THE GORDITA CHRONICLES"  
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVA LONGORIA

Pride-filled and passionate, you can feel Eva's commitment to her Mexican culture in just about everything she does. Combining that with her love of family, food and fun, it's no wonder she explored ideas around cooking as an avenue to hone her business acumen, along with her creative talents, in becoming a successful entrepreneur.

Unlike her character in "Desperate Housewives," Eva loves to cook. A talented chef, Eva has authored several cookbooks inspired by her Mexican roots. She even posts about her cooking skills on Instagram, "There's nothing like a homemade meal and sharing memories in the kitchen with your loved ones." Of late, she posts videos that include her son Santiago. "He's been cooking with me since he was two," she told People Magazine. "Nothing brings me greater joy than feeding my family."

Joy inspires laughter, and when Eva recently launched a new cookware line she named it Risa, Spanish for laughter. From the moment

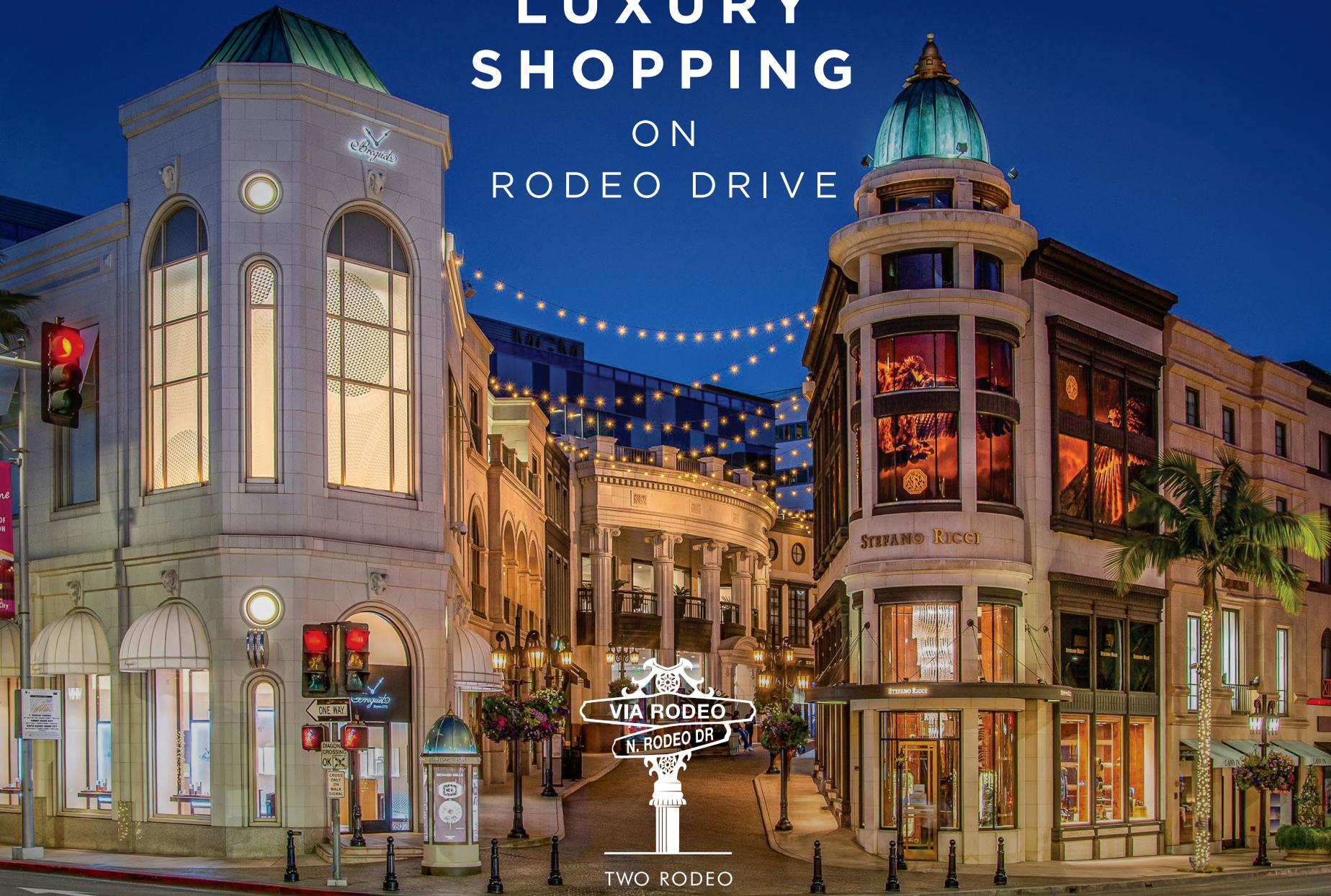
it appeared on the shelves, it received rave reviews in materials, design and storage simplicity. But not all food endeavors have been successful. Beso, which means kiss in Spanish, a restaurant and nightclub Eva created and co-financed, first opened in Hollywood in 2008, and later in Las Vegas. By 2011, the venture had failed, but provided Eva, as a young entrepreneur, with some valuable lessons.

Casa Del Sol Tequila, which Eva calls her "baby," was founded in 2021 by a female-led team "inspired by the magic of golden hour and the legend of the Aztec goddess of agave, Mayahuel." The company touts that among its many distinctive qualities, instead of sourcing whisky barrels from the United States, it uses Cognac barrels from France. This unique aging process results in an extremely smooth liquid with a distinct flavor and aromatic profile.

Despite the fact that Eva had been approached by many tequila companies over the past 20 years, she chose to become a founder of Casa Del Sol.

"[The company] was really honoring the traditions of tequila making, honoring the jimadores [workers] in the fields, honoring the people of Jalisco, making sure people understood how to drink tequila, the tradition of tequila, the art of tequila. It wasn't a money grab. It wasn't a celebrity endorsement. It was a really authentic approach to celebrating the most iconic symbol of Mexico, which is tequila."

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EVA (CENTER) WITH CASA DEL SOL VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS ALEJANDRA PELAYO (LEFT) AND HEAD OF CULTURAL & ARTISAN INITIATIVES MARIANA PADILLA (RIGHT)  
PHOTO BY BRIAN BOWEN SMITH

“And then when I tasted it, I was like, ‘What is this?’ The juice is the best in the industry, hands down. We’re the only portfolio that ages in Cognac barrels, which gives this insane smoothness. Not that it’s a tequila for women, but we have the most women of any company in key positions. We have a female master distiller. We have a female president. We have a female CEO of the distillery. It’s important that we have success. So that the industry itself can put more women in positions of power, and go, ‘Oh, that works. Women can do this job, too.’ All those factors really made it a no-brainer for me to sign on to Casa Del Sol.”

The president of the company, Colbi Corbett, shared, “We looked at the landscape, and we really wanted a strong Latina voice as a co-founder in our business. We wanted to be able to have someone authentic and someone who has real genuine ties to the region. [Eva] is an incredibly savvy businesswoman [and] we looked at [her] as a true business partner. She’s had a ton of successful ventures in front of and behind the camera. And anyone who knows Eva knows about her grit, her hustle, her ability to make things happen.”

As for the company’s female Master Distiller, Carmen Gonzalez Alfaro, Corbett adds, “Less than 11% of Master Distillers in the tequila industry are women. We’re very proud that Carmen is our Master Distiller. When we go to hire, we want to make sure that we’re offering opportunities for women to be successful.”

This year on CNN, Casa Del Sol was highlighted in “Searching for Mexico,” a six-episode series that explores the lesser-known parts of Mexico. Choosing Eva as the journey’s tour guide, Stanley Tucci and the team at CNN made the right choice for a delectable food and travel experience. Eva’s favorite segment is Veracruz, the port gateway between Mexico and the rest of the world.

“I really loved Veracruz. I didn’t have many expectations for it. This was where everything started. This is the port where the conquest

happened. This is where Indian spices came through, Asian spices, Asian cuisine, African cuisine, everything came in through that port. And so, Veracruz is probably the most eclectic state [in terms of] cuisine. It was so beautiful to see the history that had settled there. And I love Mexico City because it has a bit of everything; you can get Jalisco tacos or Oaxaca tacos or Yucatan fish. Mexico City has so much to offer.”

Just as Eva relished exploring her roots traveling Mexico, the holidays give her the perfect opportunity to tap into the traditions, food and celebrations of her culture. Aligning perfectly with what soothes the soul for Eva, it’s a special time in the Longoria-Bastón home.

“We’re a Mexican household, so we do tamales at Christmas. It’s a tradition. You need a whole assembly line to do it. Usually, it’s all the aunts and the cousins, and it takes a lot of people. It’s labor intensive, but they’re so good. I don’t know why we only eat them around Christmas.”

Eva offers that Santiago witnesses the tamale-making tradition and enjoys the fun when her big family gathers.

“And we make a lot of Christmas cookies called pan de bono. That’s been a tradition in my house forever at Christmas time. We make buckets and buckets of them and give [them] out to everybody. Most of our holiday traditions really center around the kitchen.”

As for the New Year’s holiday and resolutions, Eva shares she would like to better her meditation skills.

“My meditation is my workout, so I have an hour every morning, early. I have to get it in because it’s my mental health hour more than my, ‘I’m going to work out to get abs hour.’ For me, it’s really about clearing my head and setting up my energy for the day. But I wish I would meditate longer. I’m inconsistent with my meditation, so that’s what I’d like to do better.”

If Eva’s meditation is her workout, then how does she find peace?

“Well, my family is my peace. Peace for other people may be a spa day. Sometimes they want to escape from their family. But for me, traveling is peace. Traveling with my family [is something] I love to do. I think traveling is still one of the greatest luxuries. It’s just so expensive now. But for me, peace is being with my family. But I also think the biggest lesson to people is you don’t have to do extravagant, expensive things to find peace. It could be a bath at the end of the night. It could be lighting that incense, lighting that candle that hasn’t been lit or throwing in the bath bomb. Use the bath bombs, don’t accumulate them. Use the good china, use the good plates. Don’t save them for a special occasion. Really live that life. Live!”

And as she lives her best life, who has guided her—who has been Eva’s north star, her role model? Who has influenced her and motivated her to move through life as she does?

“I didn’t grow up with celebrity culture. So, if you ask people today, ‘Who’s your role model?’ They’ll name somebody famous without knowing them, without ever meeting them. When you ask me, it’s always my mother, my role model, my example. She taught me about my work ethic. I never have to really look that far to see an example of the woman I want to be. I even think about how much she did when we were young, and that’s what makes me feel like I’m not doing enough. I need to do more.”

But she doesn’t do it alone. “I have an amazing tribe of women around me. My best friends of 30 years are smart, independent, incredible women. There’s no truer statement than birds of a feather. Specifically, for young people, who you hang out with is a bigger indicator if you’re going to be successful than whether or not you went to Harvard. I’ve purposely surrounded myself [with] examples of women I want to be.”

“When you ask me, it’s always my mother, my role model, my example. She taught me about my work ethic. I never have to really look that far to see an example of the woman I want to be.”



EVA LONGORIA AND LISA BLOCH SIT DOWN FOR A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW  
PHOTO BY ERIC LICAS

Sharing her time between Beverly Hills, Texas and Mexico is challenging enough. But then to juggle her many business ventures with developing her entertainment projects, advocating for the issues important to her and finding time for her family, it’s hard to believe Eva is as productive as she is. Her assistant, Jessica Peron, shared that those close to her know her secret. She’s the “master multitasker.” Even Steven Forbes at the 2019 Forbes Women’s Summit asked her, “Is there anything you aren’t doing?” Eva jokingly responded, “Well, I don’t sing.”

Despite the importance of family to her, Eva decided to have a child later in life. Having lived for 43 years and then having a child was a big change.

“It’s changed me completely. People sometimes go, ‘Oh my God, your life’s so complicated now that you have a baby.’ And I’m like, ‘No.’ He’s actually simplified my life because you’re no longer the center of your universe...I always felt like, oh my God, I’m going to miss out on that. I have to go there. I should do that. I need to say yes to that. Now, it’s so easy to say no if it really takes away from the time with my son. Time is precious. Time is my greatest resource. And so, for me, it’s been easy to reorganize my life now because he’s such the priority. Everything just falls away. He’s actually simplified my life.”

And then she adds, “Another way it’s changed me is it’s made my philanthropy so urgent. Ever since he’s come into this world, I’m like, we have to hurry up and make the world a better place because it’s scary. It’s a big job, now more than ever. It’s a big job.”

Eva could have sat back and enjoyed the fruits of her fame, or retreated into the bliss of new motherhood, which would have been understandable, but she didn’t. She worked hard to get to where she is, and when she was given the opportunity to finally produce and direct, Eva pointed that lens squarely at the issues affecting Latinos. Beyond founding her charitable organizations, she’s driven to help others get a fair shake. Still, to her, it isn’t enough—she needs to do more.

Given what she’s already accomplished, and leading by example, we can only imagine what that “more” might look like. One thing is for sure, it will come from her authentic desire to effect change for the better.

And that is what makes Eva a proven woman of influence. ●



DAPHNA NAZARIAN

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

community, it's serving a cross-cultural group of people from all over our region."

Kennard said the foundation is also particularly proud of The Wallis' Creative Aging programs, where classes in creative writing and playwriting, tailored to older adults (age 55+), are offered year round. In these group classes, students are guided through a series of short assignments intended to help them excavate memories and life events, learning the power and importance of finding and sharing their voice. The classes culminate in students reading a selected work on stage at The Wallis. "We're really proud of the effort to draw in the aging community to that theater," said Kennard. "It becomes something much more than just a community theater; it becomes something very powerful, offering relevant and powerful programming for the community on a regular basis for all people from all walks of life."

Ensuring female voices are amplified at The Wallis is equally important, said Kennard, but as you might imagine at a foundation run by two formidable women, it's not a directive, it's part of the DNA of the organization. "It's an instinctive part of our thought process to ask, what have we done for women? And what are we doing to make sure women are valued and not devalued?" she said.

Make no mistake, Kennard is a powerhouse in her own right. She began her career in journalism and was a CBS News correspondent in Los Angeles, London and Moscow and won an award for her coverage of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, where she was boots on the ground in Baghdad and in Israel. "I did what so many women in my generation did, which was to just push through it and not let anything stop me. I put my head down and did the work," she said.

For her part, Kennard is willing to do what she has always done, put her head down and do the work, alongside her mentor and boss. "We are two women working together in this enormous analog universe," she said. "And I'm extremely proud of being part of a duo that's female."

## DAPHNA NAZARIAN

Daphna Nazarian had a long successful career as an architect before joining the board at The Wallis. She worked for a firm specializing in the revitalization and preservation of historical landmarks in Downtown Los Angeles and later helped develop and remodel residential estates in Bel-Air, Brentwood and Beverly Hills. In 2012, she started her own interior design company.

Recently, Nazarian was named Executive Vice Chair of the board of directors. Van Leer said he is pleased Nazarian accepted the role, "Daphna has been instrumental in her fundraising efforts, and she is deeply passionate and committed to The Wallis and the Beverly Hills community, as a longtime resident," he said. "Following her years of service and dedication as Co-Chair of Development on the board, we've decided to expand Daphna's role with the position of Executive Vice Chair."

Nazarian was first approached and asked to join the board at The Wallis during the pandemic. For her, the decision to devote her time to the arts center was a deeply personal one.

"I was asked to join the board at a very challenging time in my life. It was a time when I didn't have a lot of my own passions and creativity that I had when I was a driving force within my field," she explained. "Surrounding myself with people who had the passion and excitement for their art, and surrounding myself with people who are talented in areas that I'm not, such as music, really became a healing source for me and gave me the strength to find my balance in life."

Nazarian is largely tasked with raising the essential funds to ensure the center is maintained and can implement its most important and fundamental programs like GRoW, which includes outreach to about 50 community schools all over L.A. County each year.

Once a year, Nazarian spearheads an annual gala, but despite the fanfare and glitz, fundraising means asking people for money. "I used to be very shy and initially I thought there was no way I could do it," said Nazarian. "But I believe so strongly in the mission of The Wallis so there was no way I could say no."

Nazarian not only took on the responsibilities, she found she was really good at it. After all, raising money for causes is something that Nazarian grew up with as her family has a rich legacy of philanthropy.

She was 11 years old when her family fled Tehran, Iran during the revolution of 1979. They escaped to America and settled in Beverly Hills. "When we moved here, it was supposed to be very temporary. And within a short while, it became very evident that because we were Jewish, we could not go back," she said. "Iran was our home, then all of a sudden, we weren't accepted. We didn't belong. Sadly, this issue of antisemitism is still relevant all around the world."

In Iran, her mother was heavily involved in charity work from helping the women's suffrage movement there to raising money for orphanages. Once in this country, both her mother and her father wanted to give back, and they focused their efforts on the arts and aiding Jewish organizations. Her father started several different foundations. One gives free loans to Israelis coming out of their compulsory military service so that they can afford college.

Her parents also instilled in her and her siblings a deep appreciation for the arts. She recalls her father once telling her, "You don't have to become a musician or a concert pianist, but music is there for you when you need it. If you're upset or hurt, music is going to be your companion." When she started Girl Scouts in Iran, her father gave her a gift, a book by Marc Chagall. "As an 8-year-old in Iran, what did I know of Marc Chagall? But that became my first introduction to the world of the arts," she said. "And he wrote in it, 'Whatever you do in life, make sure you always take in the beauty that life affords you around you.'"

Nazarian used these anecdotes to underscore what she feels is perhaps one of the most important missions of The Wallis, exposing children to the arts, especially as arts programs are cut from schools all over the country. "Through the arts, children and young adults are exposed to subjects like social justice and racial issues. They learn new ways to deal with pressures within their communities from lack of education to police brutality or antisemitism. They are also exposed to different cultures. And [The Wallis] does more than expose other cultures, it celebrates and values them. All of this makes it easier for me to go out and say, 'We need help, we need support. Everyone's support adds up.'"

Ultimately, for Nazarian, what these programs do is create a healthier and more tolerant community. "Hopefully, we've given these children an outlet, they won't drop out of school, they won't resort to violence. They'll learn to express themselves in healthy ways and accept and embrace other cultures, and they will extend it to other people so it becomes a ripple effect. And that's the purpose of The Wallis, to create bigger and bigger ripples." ●



## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S ULTIMATE SHOPPING DESTINATION

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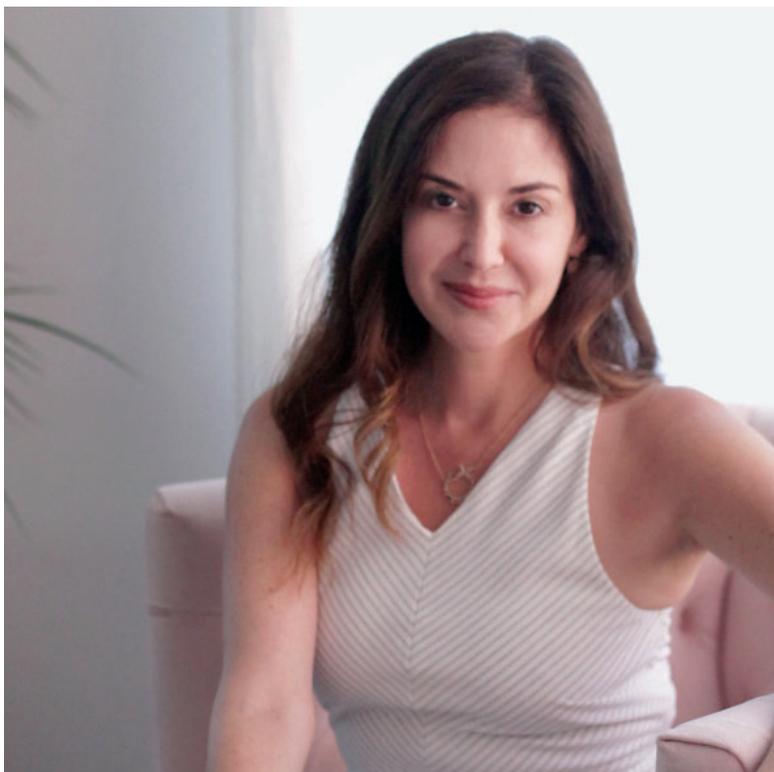
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Quality is



# The Real Skinny on Weight Loss

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO



DR. SUZANNE WALLACH  
PHOTO COURTESY OF DR SUZANNE WALLACH



DR. NANCY RAHNAMA  
PHOTO COURTESY OF DR NANCY RAHNAMA

Doesn't it seem these days that we all know someone (or someone who knows someone) who is on Ozempic or any number of its cousins? Or, we've listened with a raised eyebrow to those people who have dramatically lost weight, seemingly overnight, claim they aren't on the weight loss drug and simply changed their diet and started exercising. Then, there are the celebrities who plaster social media with selfies showing off their impossibly reduced waistlines and swear it's not Ozempic. Last year, when Kim Kardashian lost 16 pounds in three weeks to fit into a dress worn by Marilyn Monroe for the Met Gala, she said she owed her new silhouette to daily runs and a sauna suit.

As the world looks to Beverly Hills to set beauty trends, two prominent and highly respected Beverly Hills-based doctors, Dr. Nancy Rahnama and Dr. Suzanne Wallach, are working to set the record straight, and leading the charge in influencing the conversation around Ozempic and semaglutide.

Rahnama is an internist and board-certified obesity medicine specialist, practicing bariatric medicine with a weight loss clinic on Bedford Drive. She earned her medical degree from the University of Southern California, with an internal medical residency at Cedars-Sinai and completed her training with a fellowship at the University of California Los Angeles to earn a subspecialty in clinical nutrition.

Armed with nearly a decade of experience with weight loss drugs specifically, Rahnama has appeared on television news programs, such as NBC's "Today" show, and in print for newspapers including the Wall Street Journal to spread her message. It is quite simple: if you are taking Ozempic and you're not a diabetic, obese or medically overweight, you are likely doing yourself more harm than you realize.

According to Rahnama, "Most people taking Ozempic who do not fall under the FDA requirements for the drug, meaning they don't have type 2 diabetes, or a body mass index (BMI) greater than 30 or a BMI greater

than 27 with a comorbidity like high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes are abusing the drug."

Abuse sounds like a strong word, but she said she feels strongly, "We need to start calling it what it is—'abuse' in order to differentiate between those who actually need the drug and those who don't."

And for her, the distinction needs to be made, not just because of the shortage of Ozempic, which made headlines last year when it was exposed that millions of Americans who did not qualify for it were taking the drug, eating up the supply meant for diabetics. "People who are abusing [it] are far more likely to develop the serious side effects we're hearing about in the news," she said. The dangerous physical side effects that have been reported, so far, range from intestinal blockages to stomach paralysis.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Ozempic, a brand name semaglutide, for patients with type 2 diabetes back in 2017. Semaglutide, a synthetic form of a naturally occurring hormone called glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), assists the body in making more insulin, which lowers blood sugar levels for people with diabetes. But early trials showed the drug led to significant weight loss, because it also slows down the emptying of the stomach, causing people taking it to feel full faster and eat less. The results were so dramatic that the pursuit of bringing a semaglutide for weight loss specifically kicked into high gear.

In June 2021, the FDA approved a semaglutide for obese and overweight patients with at least one weight-related condition (such as high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, or high cholesterol) under the brand name Wegovy.

Last year, the FDA approved Mounjaro, a combination of GLP-1 and GIP (gastric inhibitory peptide). While approval of the drug for weight loss use is pending with the agency, many doctors commonly prescribe it off-label for their overweight patients.

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PREFILLED OZEMPIC SINGLE-USE INJECTION PENS  
PHOTO BY NATALIAGH/DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM

“I had one patient who...told me she finally had the confidence to go on a dating app... She had never been on a date before.” –Dr. Rahnama

Rahnama explained that while GLP-1 medications have been around for 15 years in one form or another and many such as Trulicity are prescribed by doctors today, many physicians still don't know how to prescribe it, and they don't follow up with patients afterward.

“Many doctors, like your average primary care physician, haven't been educated on how to administer the drug. They don't know what the appropriate dosages are. They lack a deeper understanding of nutrition and don't properly monitor patients after they begin taking it,” she said.

When doctors prescribe Ozempic to people who don't fit the FDA criteria for the drug, they often get the dosage wrong because the pharmaceutical guidelines they would normally rely on don't apply. It becomes trial and error. According to Rahnama, the wrong dosage can lead to gastrointestinal issues, which can be so severe they require hospitalization.

If a doctor is administering Ozempic and sending you on your way, you may be unaware of the potential risks from the lack of follow-up. There are several reasons why checking in with patients taking Ozempic is crucial. For one, whenever you lose weight, not all of it comes from fat; you actually lose some muscle and bone mass. Ozempic speeds up that process and is especially of concern in older patients where bone density is already an issue. According to a study done by the New England Journal of Medicine, when researchers looked at a subgroup of 140 participants who fit the FDA criteria for taking Ozempic, they found on average, participants lost about 15 pounds of lean muscle during the 68-week trial. The mean age of participants in that study was 52.

At Rahnama's clinic, patients are required to get their body composition checked to be sure that the weight they are losing is fat and not bone or muscle. They are also required to have lab work done every week or every other week to see whether any other medications the patient is taking should be tapered off. As you lose significant amounts of weight, your blood pressure or

cholesterol might go down, so the medications taken to control those issues should also be reduced. Rahnama wants to catch this and course correct along the way. “Most doctors don't know how to do this monitoring. I don't prescribe the drug unless the patient has committed to a three- to four-month treatment plan while they're using the drug,” she said.

Despite the headlines, many are undaunted in their pursuit of a slimmer figure. “I can't believe some of the requests I see,” Rahnama said. “And there have been a few times where I've seen a patient and said, ‘No,’ and they've gotten quite upset. I've explained to them how taking the medication could only cause more harm than benefit because they don't have any weight to lose!” Often, they leave angry and search for a doctor who will give them Ozempic.

It's something Dr. Suzanne Wallach is all too familiar with, and she wants this to change.

Wallach is a licensed marriage and family therapist and the owner and Clinical Director of Suzanne Wallach & Associates and SoCal DBT. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Ottawa University, her master's degree in clinical psychology from Phillips Graduate University and her doctorate in psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She specializes in personality disorders, with a subset that covers eating disorders, substance abuse and trauma.

While she has notably been featured in the press in her native Canada and has weighed in as an expert across a wide variety of mental health issues, Ozempic is a relatively new issue. And it's one most don't immediately connect with mental health. However, as a therapist, she is privy to the secrets many of her clients wouldn't share with their best friend—like taking Ozempic. She has begun to speak out publicly about the psychological fallout she is witnessing firsthand from the obsession with the weight loss drug.



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“My practice is in the middle of Beverly Hills and half of my clients, none who need it, are on Ozempic,” said Wallach. “It’s to the point where I almost don’t know anyone who isn’t on it. All my friends are on it, therapists on staff here are on it. I went to see my doctor, who is based in Beverly Hills about hormone replacement therapy, and he asked me if I wanted Ozempic. And I weigh 105 pounds.”

So how is everyone getting their Ozempic?

“It’s just so incredibly easy to get it here,” said Wallach. “My Beverly Hills clients, again these are not overweight people, tell me they get it from their doctors, who are also in Beverly Hills. I had a client who, when she couldn’t find Ozempic in California, had her doctor fill the prescription for it in Arizona, and then she had a family member ship it back to her in Beverly Hills.”

Some clients have turned to the internet to purchase it online from compounding pharmacies or they get compounds administered at med spas. Compounds, semaglutide cut with various other additives, are not FDA approved and the agency warns against using them. Because they’re unregulated, you have no idea exactly what you’re injecting into your body.

“What I’ve really noticed with my clients is that their doctors don’t take them off of Ozempic, and they’re terrified to go off of it because they don’t want to gain the weight back,” said Wallach. “It’s fueling body dysmorphia and leading to eating disorders. I had a client come in and say, ‘I only had two pieces of edamame yesterday. It was great!’ And I’m telling them, ‘You can’t survive on two pieces of edamame. That’s not okay. If you weren’t on Ozempic, I would be sending you to treatment for an eating disorder!’”

Wallach warns of the effect not eating has on the brain, “When you’re not eating, whether willfully in the case of anorexics, or simply because you’re not hungry because you’re on Ozempic, you are starving your brain and it becomes malnourished. Your prefrontal cortex doesn’t work correctly so you can’t reason correctly, and then depression and impulsivity are more likely.”

However, the ease of acquiring Ozempic has led to unexpected and heartbreaking outcomes. “I have adolescent clients who don’t fit the criteria on Ozempic. One is 12 years old and the other is 14 and they don’t want to be on it. They tell me it makes them nauseous and sick, but they’re on it because their parents had an issue with their weight and put them on it. I remember when that happened, really pausing and thinking, this is really getting out of control.”

Wallach believes misuse of Ozempic is only going to get worse. “I think it’s a combination of the media, the celebrities who are so obviously on it, and add to that doctors that are willing to prescribe it to people that don’t need it. And when you have that combination, and it becomes so permeated and acceptable here that you have parents willing to put their children on it who don’t need it, I think it’s going to get worse,” she said.



MOUNJARO SINGLE-USE INJECTION PEN  
PHOTO BY TANOVAK/DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM

On the other hand, Rahnama said she’s watched Ozempic transform the lives of her obese and overweight patients.

Prior to these drugs, the treatment was simply diet and exercise. “This misconception has created a lot of frustration in people who have struggled with obesity, and it obviously has not solved the problem because obesity is now affecting almost 50% of Americans,” said Rahnama. “Many people don’t realize what overweight people have to struggle with their entire lives,” she said, before rattling off a list of problems that come with obesity, “sleep apnea and liver disease and having to take a slew of medications—blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, gout and joint pain.”

What’s more, Rahnama said these patients are prone to depression and anxiety and often lack the self-confidence to do many of the things most of us take for granted.

“I had one patient who, after several months of appropriate dosage and careful monitoring, lost a significant amount of weight. She came into my clinic all smiles; she told me she finally had the confidence to go on a dating app and she was giddy and blushing when she told me that she met someone special. She had never been on a date before.”

Another patient of Rahnama had wanted to pursue a new career, but he was terrified of even applying for jobs because he dreaded the in-person interview. After treatment, he had the confidence to go out on interviews and he reported back to Rahnama that he had scored his dream job.

While successes like these from adults are moving for Rahnama, the most touching changes come from her adolescent patients.

Obesity in children skyrocketed during the pandemic. And the numbers were staggering. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “A study of 432,302 children, ages 2 to 19 years, found the rate of BMI increase nearly doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to a pre-pandemic period.”

Early this year, the FDA approved semaglutide in patients 12 years or older with a BMI in the 95th percentile or higher for their age and sex. Rahnama says treating these patients is one of the most rewarding parts of her job.

“If you think about it, you can determine a child’s entire future by being able to help them control their weight at a young age,” she said. “Just imagine how limited their life might be because they’re struggling with obesity. Not only does it affect how they feel and how they function, but it also negatively impacts them emotionally. And that emotional impact causes trauma that can hinder them for the rest of their lives.”

“One of my young patients was finally able to go on a roller coaster that she wasn’t ever able to go on because of her weight, another was finally able to excel in tap dancing because she loved it but was limited by her weight. I think that’s a celebration in itself; you’re not just changing their bodies, you’re changing their lives.” ●



WEGOVY, AN FDA-APPROVED SEMAGLUTIDE FOR WEIGHT LOSS  
PHOTO BY MAURICENORBERT/DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM

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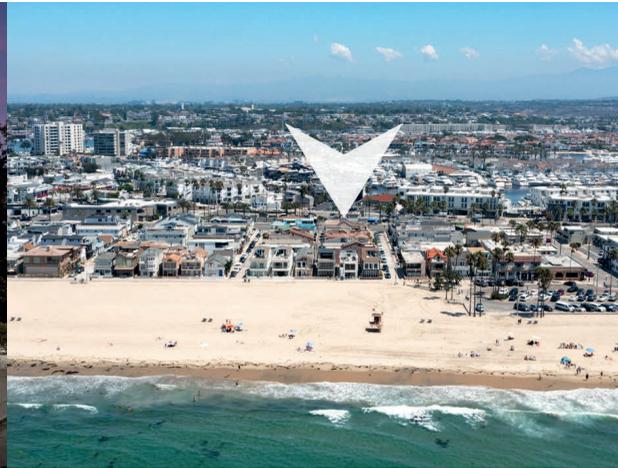
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- R.H. | Orange County

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1.



## DECEMBER

### DECEMBER 1

“Candy Cane Lane,” although streaming exclusively on Amazon Prime, deserves mention for no other reason than its star, Eddie Murphy. Definitely aimed at joining the Christmas genre club, mayhem ensues when a rogue elf casts a spell on the family.

“Shayda” stars Zar Amir Ebrahimi (who was so good in “Holy Spider”) as the survivor of an abusive husband whose life is turned upside down when the Australian judicial system gives that husband visitation rights, and he schemes to take their child back to Iran.

“Silent Night” is there for you fans of revenge thrillers. Directed by John Woo, there will be blood.

“Godzilla Minus One” – because nothing says the holidays like a retro Japanese monster movie. This is the 37th film in the Godzilla series, if you’re counting.

2.



### DECEMBER 7-8

“Leave the World Behind,” written and directed by Sam Esmail, based on the brilliant novel by Rumaan Alam, is a view of a coming apocalypse set on Long Island where race, class and privilege take front and center. With Julia Roberts, Ethan Hawke and Mahershala Ali, one has high hopes that it can capitalize on its stars and underlying material. Streaming on Amazon Prime after a short theatrical run that began on Nov. 22.

“Poor Things,” winner of the Golden Lion in Venice, is a much talked about Frankenstein-style film, this time where a young woman, played by Emma Stone, is brought back to life by an eccentric scientist after her suicide and then escapes to a life of debauchery and self-discovery. There will be sex.

“Zone of Interest,” based on the Martin Amis novel, written and directed by Jonathan Glazer, is about Rudolf Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz and his wife Hedwig as they strive to create an idyllic life for themselves next to the camp. Winner of the Cannes Grand Prix, it stars Sandra Hüller who is this year’s must-watch actress. Hüller starred earlier this year in Justine Triet’s Palme d’Or winning “Anatomy of a Fall,” an absolute must-see.

3.



### DECEMBER 15

“Wonka” – the prequel. How did he become the go-to guy for the Oompa Loompas? This will be difficult to pull off, but the cast is first rate with Timothée Chalamet starring as the young Willy Wonka, along with Olivia Colman, Hugh Grant and a slew of other excellent British actors in support.

“American Fiction” is a film that comically approaches the acceptance of “style” over substance. When a serious and incisive Black writer’s book is lost in the acclaim for a shallow tome called “We’s Lives in Da Ghetto,” he decides to write his own outrageously stereotypical novel, under a pseudonym of course. Starring the always terrific Jeffrey Wright, Sterling K. Brown and Issa Rae, directed by Cord Jefferson, the highly regarded television writer in his feature debut, also wrote the screenplay based on the Percival Everett novel “Erasure.”

“Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget” is a film about a chicken named Ginger who has found peace at last for her brood after escaping Tweedy’s farm. But chicken-kind is still in danger, and Ginger and her team must break back into the farm to save them. Look for it to stream on Netflix after its theatrical release.

1. EMMA STONE AND MARK RUFFALO IN “POOR THINGS”  
PHOTO BY ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA, COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES  
2. TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET IN “WONKA”  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES  
3. ISSA RAE AND NICOLE KEMPSKI IN “AMERICAN FICTION”  
PHOTO COURTESY OF ORION PICTURES, INC.

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Set within a picturesque London cityscape, iconic scenes from the film are displayed on screens alongside all-star singers and a live orchestra. LA's quintessential holiday tradition brings together friends and loved ones in an awe-inspiring winter wonderland, where film and live action seamlessly intertwine!

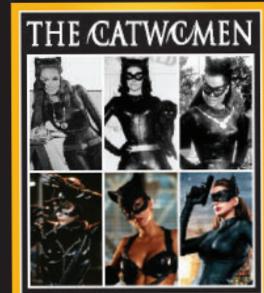
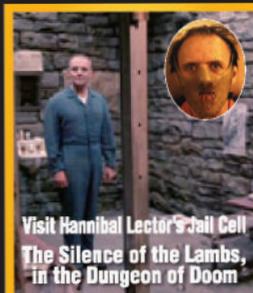
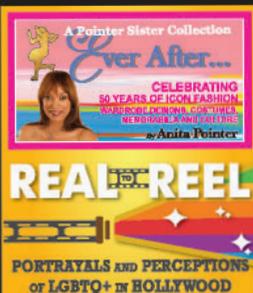
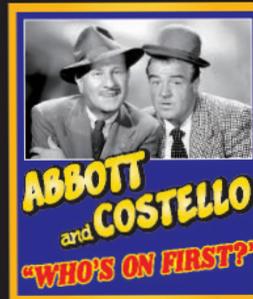
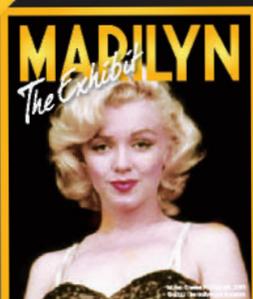
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## DECEMBER 20-22

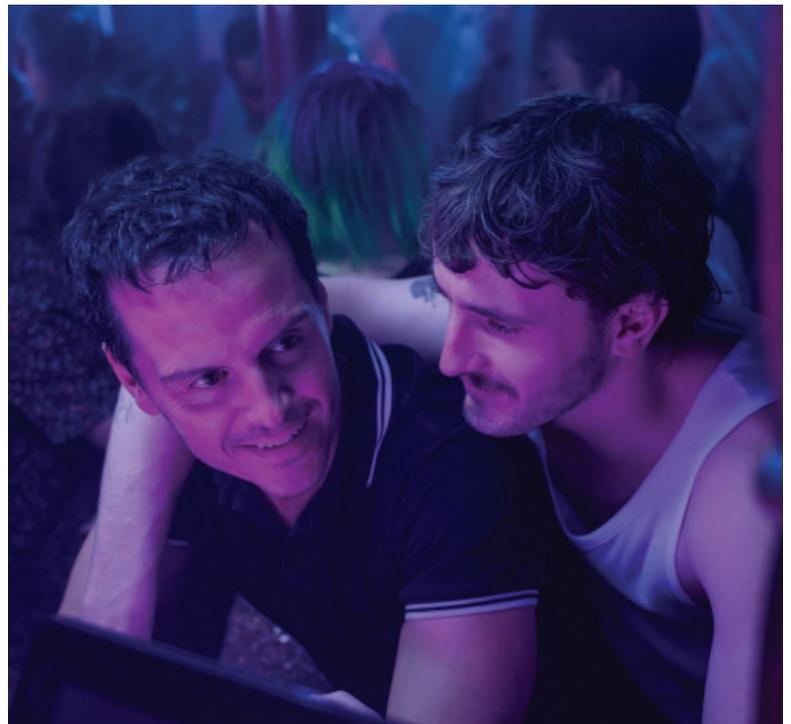
“Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom” is back. Jason Momoa as Aquaman/Arthur Curry must join with King Orm (Patrick Wilson) to protect their kingdom. Returning with him will be those below sea and earthbound inhabitants played by Nicole Kidman, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Dolph Lundgren and yes, Amber Heard, with a special appearance by Ben Affleck as Batman.

“The Iron Claw” is, on the surface, a wrestling movie about the Van Erich brothers who dominated the sport in the 1980s. But they face difficulties inside the ring and out. This starry cast includes Zac Efron, Jeremy Allen White and Lily James.

“Rebel Moon—Part One: A Child of Fire” is the latest film from the directorial wand of Zack Snyder, best known for “Man of Steel” and “Army of the Dead.” When a peaceful colony on a fictional moon is threatened by a warring army, a mysterious stranger in their midst may be their best hope for survival. Watch for this to stream on Netflix in the near future.

“All of Us Strangers” is the film I’m most looking forward to. A romantic fantasy, of sorts, a chance encounter with a mysterious neighbor leads Adam back to his past, finding his parents alive, just as they were when he last saw them. A bizarre encounter because they died 30 years before. Starring Andrew Scott, Paul Mescal, Claire Foy and Jamie Bell— the cast alone makes this a must-see.

“Migration” is an animated holiday gift to the kids. Think “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” but with ducks.



ANDREW SCOTT AND PAUL MESCAL IN “ALL OF US STRANGERS”  
PHOTO BY PARISA TAGHIZADEH, COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

## DECEMBER 25

“The Boys in the Boat,” directed by George Clooney and based on the best seller of the same name, is the ultimate underdog story about the ragtag rowing team from the University of Washington during the Depression. Joel Edgerton leads the cast.

“The Color Purple” takes the 2005 Broadway musical based on Alice Walker’s novel and brings star power to bear. Produced by Steven Spielberg, Quincy Jones, Scott Sanders and Oprah Winfrey, the latter three also produced the Broadway musical upon which this is based. The heat in front of the camera is impressive with Taraji P. Henson, Colman Domingo (who’s having quite the year), David Alan Grier and Fantasia Barrino, to name just a few. It will be wonderful to see the multitalented Danielle Brooks (“Orange is the New Black”) reprise her role of Sofia from the stripped-down 2015 Broadway version of the musical. She will amaze you.

“Ferrari” takes a critical year in the life of Enzo Ferrari, 1957, and the Mille Miglia (the 1,000-mile race) and explores the factors he had to overcome personally and professionally. Directed by Michael Mann, you can expect great visuals and hairpin turns for both the humans and the cars. The A-list stars are Adam Driver as Ferrari and Penelope Cruz as his wife, with Shailene Woodley and Patrick Dempsey in support.

So, start your engines and get back into those theaters. Happy viewing! ●



TARAJI P. HENSON IN “THE COLOR PURPLE”  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

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“I was different, I guess. Maybe I came from a distant planet, but whatever it was, inventions came easy for me.”

At one of the rare Hollywood parties she did attend, Hedy met George Antheil. He was an accomplished composer who had come to Hollywood with his wife in the hopes of scoring movie soundtracks. George also had experience working as a certified inspector of artillery ammunition at a U.S. armory in Pennsylvania. Hedy's first husband owned a munitions factory in Austria, and she would often listen in on his discussions with German military officials who came to their home. This common interest is what likely drove Hedy and George to strike up a friendship, according to Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes, who spent years researching “Hedy’s Folly,” the definitive book on Lamarr’s inventions. “I think Hedy looked around and when she heard of George’s ammunitions background, she just said, ‘You’ll have to do.’” And Lamarr was relentless in pushing her ideas forward. George said of Hedy, “All she wants to do is stay home and invent things...She calls in the middle of the night because some idea hit her.” For Lamarr, in George she had finally found someone who was willing to look past her looks and listen to her. She once told a reporter, “A man does not try to find out what is inside. He does not try to scratch the surface. If he did, he might find something much more beautiful than the shape of a nose or the color of an eye.”

Lamarr and Antheil designed three inventions during their partnership, but one would change the world.

Outraged by the German U-boats that marauded the Atlantic, targeting passenger vessels and killing all on board, Hedy was desperate to find a way to stop them. Her initial idea was for a radio-controlled torpedo. Then, realizing an enemy could simply intercept the signal and divert the missile, she came up with the idea of frequency hopping. If the torpedo was guided by a radio signal and that signal would constantly and randomly switch frequencies, an enemy wouldn't be able to intercept it, not long enough to change the course of the weapon before the frequency shifted again.

Lamarr enlisted Antheil to put her idea into practice. They worked long hours together, so much so that Hedy offered him and his wife to move into her house to expedite the completion of the patent for their invention. But when Antheil's wife came to visit and saw that every window in the house overlooked the pool, she asked him if Hedy swam in it. She did, and legend has it Lamarr preferred to do her laps in the nude. That put a quick end to the matter. Antheil would stay in Hollywood, with his wife. Though there is nothing to suggest there was ever a romantic relationship between George and Hedy, it's not difficult to see why Antheil's wife put her foot down.

George was stuck making the daily trek to Beverly Hills, where he and Hedy would sketch out concepts for their frequency-hopping device in her living room. The crux of the design, it is thought, was inspired by player piano scrolls, which play tunes by interrupting sound in a pattern. In the case of frequency hopping, the pattern would be random. Antheil had experience with piano scrolls; he synchronized 16 of them to create his orchestral masterpiece called “Ballet Mécanique.” For their device, it would be more like 88 piano rolls working in tandem.

When Hedy and George thought they had it, they brought their concept drawings to the National Inventors Council. They were blown away. Believing it could actually work, American inventor and member of the council, Charles Kettering, connected the unlikely inventors to a physicist at Caltech, who designed the electronic device based on their concept drawings.

Lamarr and Antheil were granted their patent, U.S. Patent Number 2,292,387 for their design, called the “Secret Communication System” in 1942, and they presented it to the U.S. Navy free of charge. The Navy took one look at Hedy and said, “Thank you,” and stuck it in a filing cabinet, but not before stamping it “Top Secret.”

And that was that. It was forgotten.

Hedy was told if she really wanted to help America win overseas, she should go out and kiss for war bonds. And though she wasn't an American citizen, the Austrian native deeply loved this country, so she did. At the Hollywood Canteen set up to entertain the troops, she sold smooches, as well as autographs. Lamarr is credited with raising \$25 million for America's war effort, amounting to over \$343 million today.

Many years later it was discovered, that in the mid-50s, the Navy had unearthed Lamarr's patent, and shared it with a subcontractor to create sonobuoys, bobbing devices that could detect submarines below the water and transmit their locations to passing airplanes above. In 1962, the Navy adapted Lamarr's technology during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and all of the U.S. ships sent to blockade the country were outfitted with frequency-hopping devices. A decade later, the devices were used in the surveillance drones that flew over Vietnam. Today, U.S. Milstar satellites, designed by Lockheed Martin, employ the technology in protecting the most sensitive military communications, including nuclear command and control messaging.

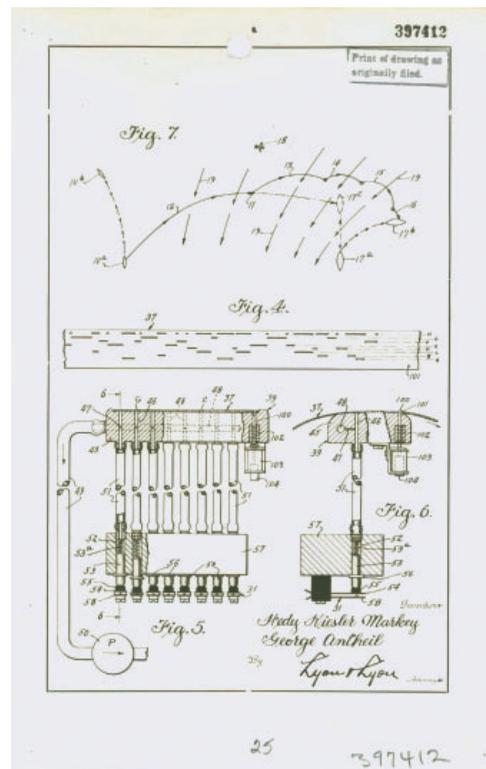


HEDY LAMARR IN “THE HEAVENLY BODY” BY MGM (1944)  
PHOTO COURTESY OF EMPLOYEE(S) OF MGM, PUBLIC DOMAIN,  
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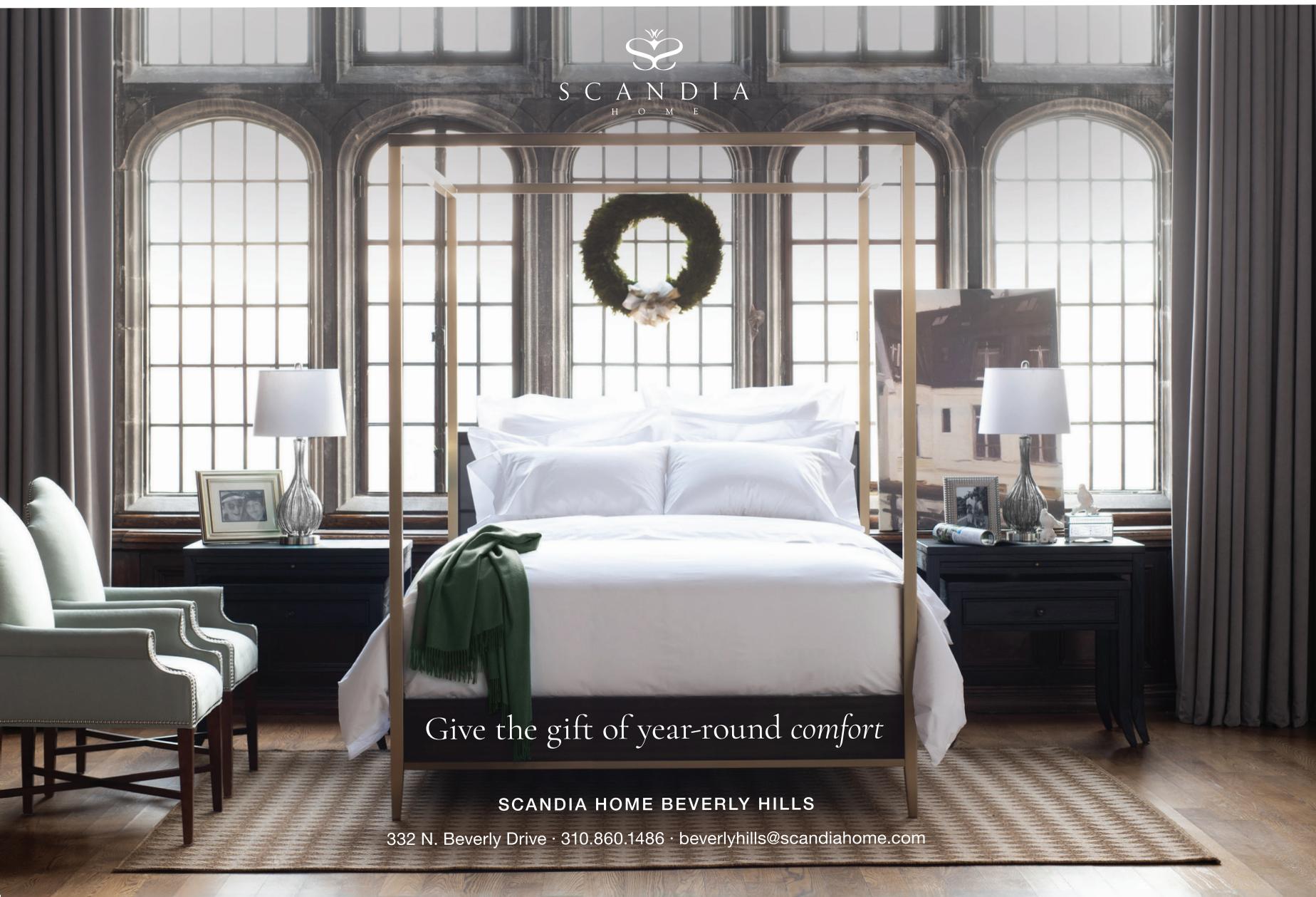
After the U.S. military released the patent, it became available to the private sector. That's when the communications industry came across the patent and began applying frequency hopping, using digital signals instead of radio waves, first in GPS systems, and later in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. Each requires a receiver to be able to hop from one digital signal to the other to create a seamless connection.

And though Hedy's contribution was lost to time for decades, in 1997, she was honored by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, after one of its members discovered the patent and made the connection that the "Hedy Kiesler Markey," to whom it was granted, was the legendary actress Hedy Lamarr. On all official documents for the patent, Lamarr used her second husband's surname, Markey, because she thought it would be taken more seriously. Although Lamarr passed away in 2000, she was inducted posthumously into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014 for the development of her frequency-hopping technology.

By 1997, when Lamarr was first recognized for her invention, she would not go out in public and sent her son to accept the award. During the acceptance speech he gave on his mother's behalf, his cellphone rang. It was Hedy, so he answered it and put it on speakerphone for the crowd. She wanted to know how it went. Her son told her, "It's still going, Mom. I'm kinda in the middle of it." The crowd gave her a standing ovation. Privately, however, when Lamarr was told of the award, she quipped, "It's about time." ●



PATENT CASE FILE NO. 2,292,387, SECRET COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, INVENTORS HEDY KIESLER MARKEY AND GEORGE ANTHEIL - DPLA - 128FO22CFD9421AA10DE72958A7EDF90 (PAGE 37)  
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# Starry Nights

1. Forget clay, this Star of David dreidel from Gearys is made of crystal and will add an elegant spin to your Hannukah holiday spread. \$45 at Gearys, 351 N. Beverly Drive, 310-273-4741 and [gearys.com](http://gearys.com)



2. Sequins on sequins—this Badgley Mischka dress, with its flower applique and hidden boned bodice, sparkles on overdrive. \$550 at Saks Fifth Avenue, 9600 Wilshire Blvd., 310-275-4211 and [saksfifthavenue.com](http://saksfifthavenue.com)



3. “The Princess Necklace” by Harry Winston is dripping with white diamonds, cushion-cut sapphires and icy aquamarines, totaling a whopping 186.22 carats. It was inspired by a piece commissioned for a young royal princess in 1977. Price on request at Harry Winston, 310 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-271-8554 and [harrywinston.com](http://harrywinston.com)



4. With an ultra-lightweight aluminum Dior and Rimowa carry-on suitcase, the fashionable frequent flier can rush to any gate in style. \$4,400 at Dior, 309 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-4700 and [dior.com](http://dior.com)



5. The curved banana heels on these silver Tory Burch Mary Janes give the otherwise youthful shoe a grownup, modern look. \$358 at Tory Burch, 366 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-274-2394 and [toryburch.com](http://toryburch.com)



6. Because there’s never enough room in the fridge when you’re throwing a bash, chill the bubbly in this chic silver Crate & Barrel beverage tub (which also comes in gold and rose gold). \$120 at Crate & Barrel, 438 N. Beverly Drive, 310-247-1700 and [crateandbarrel.com](http://crateandbarrel.com)



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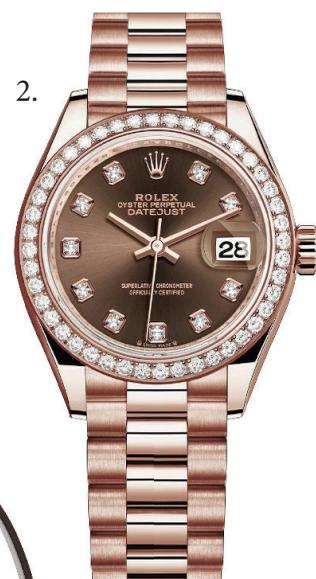
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# Spice Route

1. Classic suede loafers by **Gucci** get the pumpkin spice treatment in this autumn hue, but they also come in black and dark brown leather for the less fashion-forward gentleman. \$920 at **Gucci**, 347 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-278-3451 and [gucci.com](http://gucci.com)



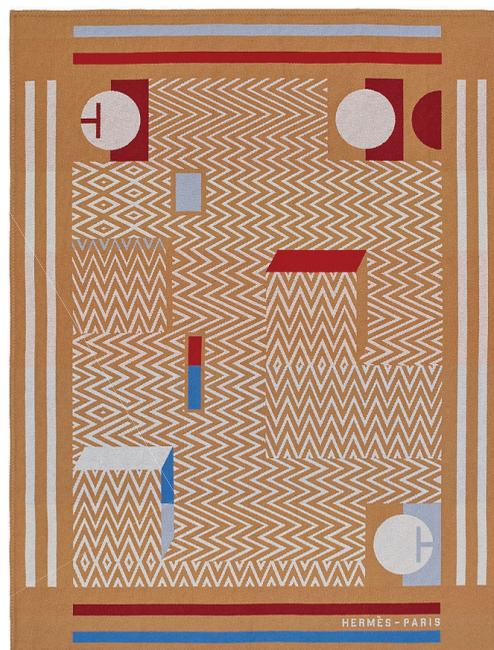
2. The **Rolex** Lady-Datejust, famously worn by Grace Kelly, gets a revamp in the latest model. It now comes in the watchmaker's signature Everose gold with a chocolate dial and diamonds. \$41,900 at **Gearys Rolex Boutique**, 360 N. Rodeo Drive, #1, 310-887-4200 and [rolexboutique-rodeodrive.com](http://rolexboutique-rodeodrive.com)



3. In shades of brown, rust and gold, the multicolor embroidered "Mon Tresor" **Fendi** bucket bag is reminiscent of the changing fall foliage. \$1,950 at **Fendi**, 201 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-623-3420 and [fendi.com](http://fendi.com)



4. Italian designer Gianpaolo Pagni reimagined the 1974 book "Species of Spaces" by French writer Georges Perec for this **Hermès** Merino wool and cashmere blanket. Perfect if you're of the homebody species and your space is curled up on the couch in front of the TV. \$14,300 at **Hermès**, 434 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-278-6440 and [hermes.com](http://hermes.com)



5. The **Montblanc** "Patron of Art Homage to Albert Limited Edition 888" fountain pen honors Prince Albert and his legendary romance with Queen Victoria. Its solid 18-carat gold skeleton overlay is inspired by the Crystal Palace, which Albert built and the color is a tribute to the tartan that Albert had created himself for Balmoral Castle in Scotland. The cap ring bears the engraving of "Albert" and their wedding date just like a wedding band. \$9,300 at **Montblanc**, 8500 Beverly Blvd., #757, 310-854-0049 and [montblanc.com](http://montblanc.com)



6. A drawstring waistband comes in handy after holiday binging, but these cashmere **Louis Vuitton** joggers are stylish as well as comfy. \$2,590 at **Louis Vuitton**, 295 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-0457 and [us.louisvuitton.com](http://us.louisvuitton.com)



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Completely redesigned and carefully crafted, this home features open spaces and Fleetwood pocket doors throughout, seamlessly connecting the interior and exterior spaces and providing the ultimate California lifestyle. Situated on one of Trowsdale's most sought-after streets, the property boasts breathtaking city and ocean views from nearly every room, setting a new standard for luxury and quality. The renowned contractor, Gordon Gibson, ensured the highest level of craftsmanship. The architecture is a captivating blend of mid-century clean lines and contemporary elegance, creating a harmonious and welcoming atmosphere that maximizes space and proportions. This private and gated residence is equipped with state-of-the-art Crestron home automation, offering effortless functionality and top-notch security. From the frameless glass garage doors to the elegant Calcutta gold kitchen counters and backsplash, every detail was carefully considered. The zero-edge pool houses a floating spa, adding to the property's charm and luxury. This newly redesigned home in Trowsdale is truly a masterpiece of sophisticated and thoughtful design.



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# Warm and Fuzzies

1.



2.



5. Add a touch of warmth to any room with these decorative amber and smoke-colored glass bottles by **Polspotten**. \$340 (set of 4) at **Neiman Marcus**, 9700 Wilshire Blvd., 310-550-5900 and [neimanmarcus.com](http://neimanmarcus.com)

6. Elevate your pizza game with this portable wood-fired pizza oven from **Solo Stove**. It comes with everything you need for wood burning, as well as a propane option and a Cordierite pizza stone for the nights you're too tired to fire it up. \$500 at **Nordstrom**, 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., 424-204-1177 and [nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com)

3. Adorable. Do we really have to say any more about this fleece teddy bear jumpsuit from **The North Face**? OK, it also comes in a hoodie version and both styles are available in baby pink. \$80 at **Saks Fifth Avenue**, 9600 Wilshire Blvd., 310-275-4211 and [saksfifthavenue.com](http://saksfifthavenue.com)

6.



4. After a night of kicking up your heels on the dance floor, you'll want to kick off your shoes and slip on these shearling **Brunello Cucinelli** slippers. \$1,595 at **Brunello Cucinelli**, 220 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-724-8118 and [brunellocucinelli.com](http://brunellocucinelli.com)

3.



1. If you're going to disappear into a hoodie, shouldn't it be this luxe version from **Louis Vuitton**? It's made of plush cotton toweling in a gorgeous shade of teal and is embellished with the brand's iconic monogram motif. \$2,750 at **Louis Vuitton**, 295 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-0457 and [us.louisvuitton.com](http://us.louisvuitton.com)

5.



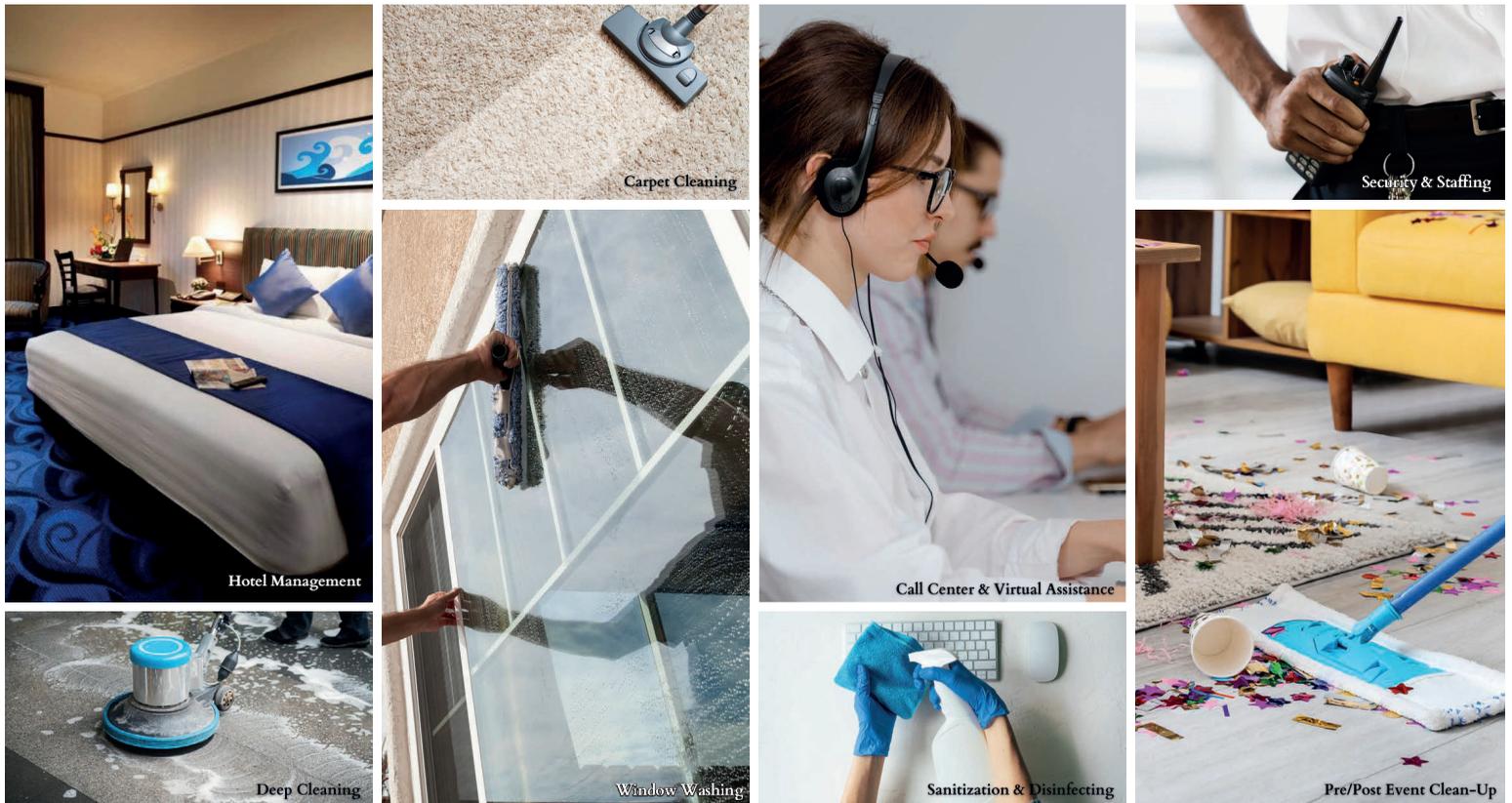
2. What's a family game night without an epic game of **Clue**? This version from Detroit watchmaker **Shinola** reimagines the old-school mansion as a creepy hotel and comes with hand-illustrated character cards. \$395 at **Gearys**, 351 N. Beverly Drive, 310-273-4741 and [gearys.com](http://gearys.com)

4.



# WELCOME TO THE VARSOBIA GROUP OF COMPANIES EXPERIENCE

MULTIFACETED COMPANY FOCUSED ON GROWTH, PROFITABILITY, CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT



The VARSOBIA Group of Companies: Your One-Stop Shop for Business Solutions



ANGELO VARSOBIA  
Chief Executive Officer

The VARSOBIA Group of Companies is a multifaceted company focused on Growth, Profitability, Customer Service, and Employee Development. A brilliant business model created by Angelo Varsobia, CEO of The Varsobia Group of Companies.

Angelo arrived in Los Angeles, California in 2000. He worked three jobs in order to support himself and his family, who were immigrating to the United States. From working as an accountant by day and janitor by night to bartending on the weekends, Angelo did not have time to waste. Angelo took all of the work experience he gained over the last twenty-plus years and turned it into a brilliant business model that aims to provide solutions to Hotel & Hospitality Sector, Airports, Banking & Financial Sector, Restaurants, Entrepreneurs, Government Sector, Hospitals, Real Estate Agents, Retail Sector, Educational Facilities, Stadiums/Convention Centers, Telecommunications, Travel & Transportation --- while simultaneously creating jobs for residents throughout California and Nevada. Who else would you choose for your hotel, restaurant, or office needs over someone who has worked behind the scenes? There is no need to deal with multiple vendors. With us, you get **one point of contact**.

Under VGC, **Premier Property Preservation LLC (PPP)** was established in 2017. The company landed its big break in 2018 by providing janitorial services for seven **Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)** sites in Los Angeles. By 2019, PPP went from cleaning 7 locations to 30 locations, which consisted of **deep cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting services**. Its reputation eventually spread to Las Vegas, Nevada, where it provided over 50 janitors to the Las Vegas Convention Center.

In 2020, when the world faced uncertainty, fear, and change, PPP took on some of the city and state's most significant issues and provided major solutions. It was through the innovative approach to use a call center and virtual assistants during the pandemic that made it possible for PPP to win the **LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District) contracts**. With this feat, the company was able to surpass one of the top janitorial competitors in the United States. This milestone could not have been possible without Angelo's leadership and his team's innovative approach. Using this momentum, PPP secured all the DMV locations in Los Angeles County and the LAUSD contracts with over **1,100 schools!** Most importantly, their service to all LAUSD locations made it safe and possible for schools to reopen their doors. Schools were also in desperate need of staff, and PPP demonstrated remarkable abilities and reliability by hiring over **200 food service employees** with the expansion of **Varsobia Call Center Services**.

**Premier Property Preservation LLC** prioritizes the well-being and safety of their employees without compromising the efficiency of their work. They take great pride in all they do. Their staff goes through a **Live Scan Background Check** to ensure the safety of your business and to give their clients peace of mind.

The VARSOBIA Group of Companies is composed of the following: **Premier Property Preservation LLC, Varsobia Home Care Services, Varsobia Home Builders LLC, Varsobia Hospitality LLC, Varsobia Property Management & Realty Services, Varsobia Call Center, Varsobia Enterprise Inc., and Varsobia Foundation Inc.** They stand in partnership with Regal Acquisition, Music Arts International, Distinctive Construction, Komuna Inc., and, most recently, ReV Up Events.

*Everyone is welcome to experience The VARSOBIA Group of Companies. Join them at the next **RevUp Real Estate Event, April 26-27, 2024, at the Ahern Event Center in Las Vegas, Nevada!***

## CLEANING SERVICES

- Exterior/Interior Cleaning
- Carpet Cleaning
- Floor Stripping and Waxing
- Power Washing
- Exterior/Interior Window Washing
- Deep Cleaning, Sanitizing & Disinfecting/ Covid Response
- Pre/Post-Event Clean-Up
- Move-In & Move-Out Ready
- Hotel/Air BnB Housekeeping
- Maid Service
- Kitchen Hood Cleaning
- Trash Haul & Debris Removal
- Rooftop Debris Removal/Rain Gutter Clearing
- Repair, Renovation & Maintenance
- Remodeling & Restoration

## STAFFING, RECRUITING & MORE

- Janitors
- Hotel Housekeepers
- Armed and Unarmed Security Guards
- Parking Attendants and Traffic Guides
- Food Service workers
- Call Center Agents and Virtual Assistants

## SUPPLIES

- Bio-Degradable Cleaning Supplies/Kitchen/Restaurant Consumables and Disposables (Catalog available upon request)
- Office Supplies and Office Furniture



SCAN ME!



@pppreserves | (818) 796-6033 | 16380 Roscoe Blvd. Ste. 101, Van Nuys, CA 91406 | premier@pppreserves.com

# Toast of the Town



1. These timeless, Art Deco “Radiator” hoop earrings by **David Webb** are made of 18-carat gold and platinum, ornamented with black enamel and brilliant cut diamonds. \$36,500 at *David Webb, 9500 Wilshire Blvd., 310-858-8006 and [davidwebb.com](http://davidwebb.com)*

2. This ornate lambskin purse by **Dior** brings new meaning to the phrase “clutching your pearls”—in a good way. The style is also available in six other shades from sky blue to seashell pink. \$6,600 at *Dior, 309 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-4700 and [dior.com](http://dior.com)*

3. Move over, James Bond! This **Saint Laurent** single-breasted tuxedo jacket with satin lapels will leave the ladies shaken and stirred. \$4,590 at *Saint Laurent, 469 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-271-4110 and [ysl.com](http://ysl.com)*

4. Former dancing queens will steal the scene in these crystal-studded platforms from **Prada**. \$2,150 at *Prada, 343 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-278-8661 and [prada.com](http://prada.com)*

5. From designer **Pamella Roland**’s Anniversary Collection, this party dress, topped with Champagne-colored sequins at the bodice and fading to cascading tiers of black tulle, says celebration. \$4,995 at *Saks Fifth Avenue, 9600 Wilshire Blvd., 310-275-4211 and [saksfifthavenue.com](http://saksfifthavenue.com)*

6. If Prince Charming were to have left his slipper on the steps of the castle, it would belong to this pair of velvet tassel loafers by **Tom Ford**. \$1,490 at *Tom Ford, 346 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-270-9440 and [tomford.com](http://tomford.com)* ●

TEQUILA  
**CASA DEL SOL**





**LOUIS VUITTON**