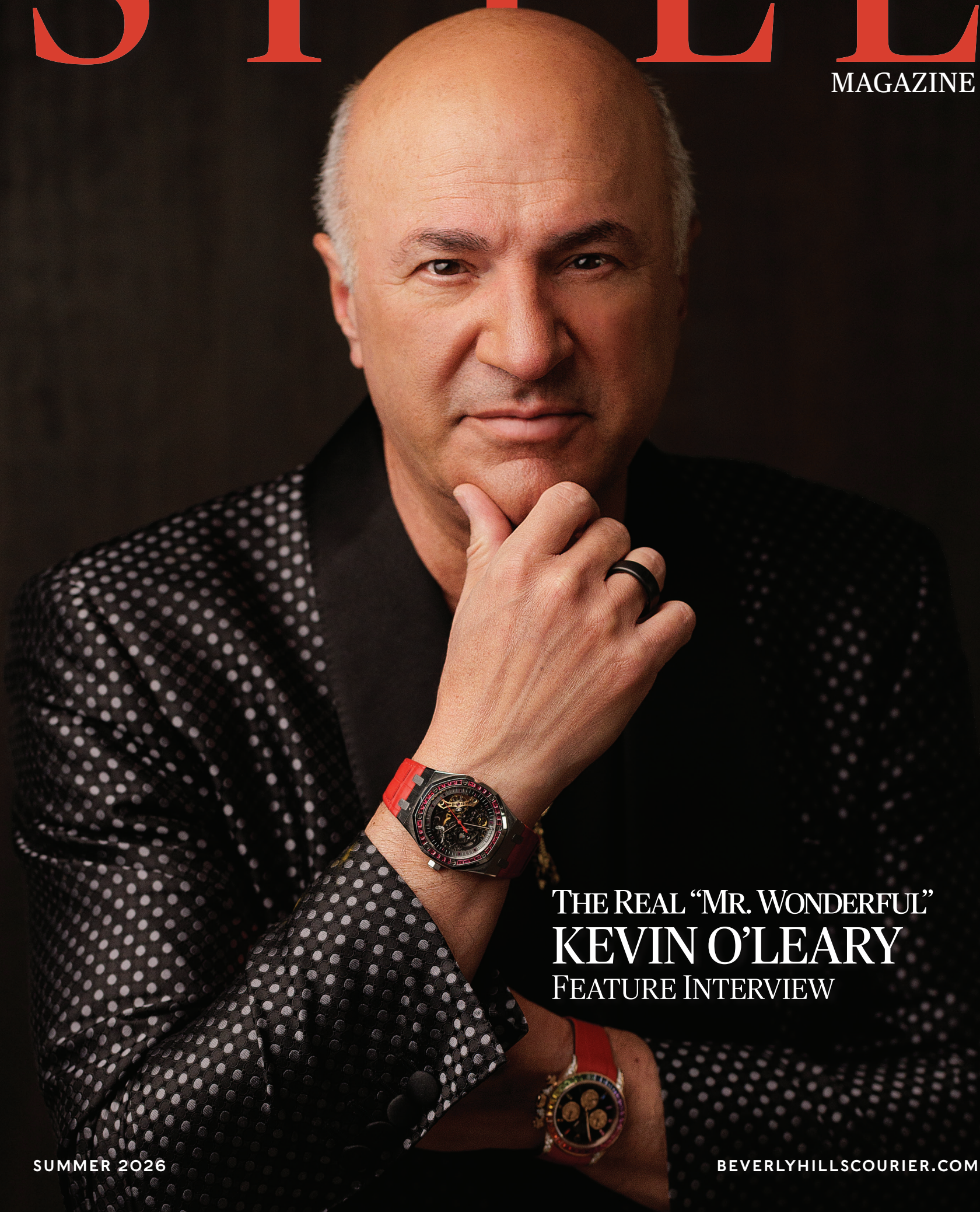


BEVERLY HILLS

STYLE[®]

MAGAZINE



THE REAL "MR. WONDERFUL"
KEVIN O'LEARY
FEATURE INTERVIEW

SUMMER 2026

BEVERLYHILLSCOURIER.COM

A woman with long brown hair is seated in profile, looking out a large window. She is wearing a light blue, sleeveless, draped dress. A black leather shoulder bag with a prominent gold-toned circular clasp is slung over her shoulder. On her left wrist, she wears a gold-toned watch with a metal link bracelet. Her right hand is resting on a wooden table in front of her, which holds a white cup and saucer. The window behind her shows a view of a building with a red-tiled roof and some greenery. The lighting is soft and natural, coming from the window.

Dior





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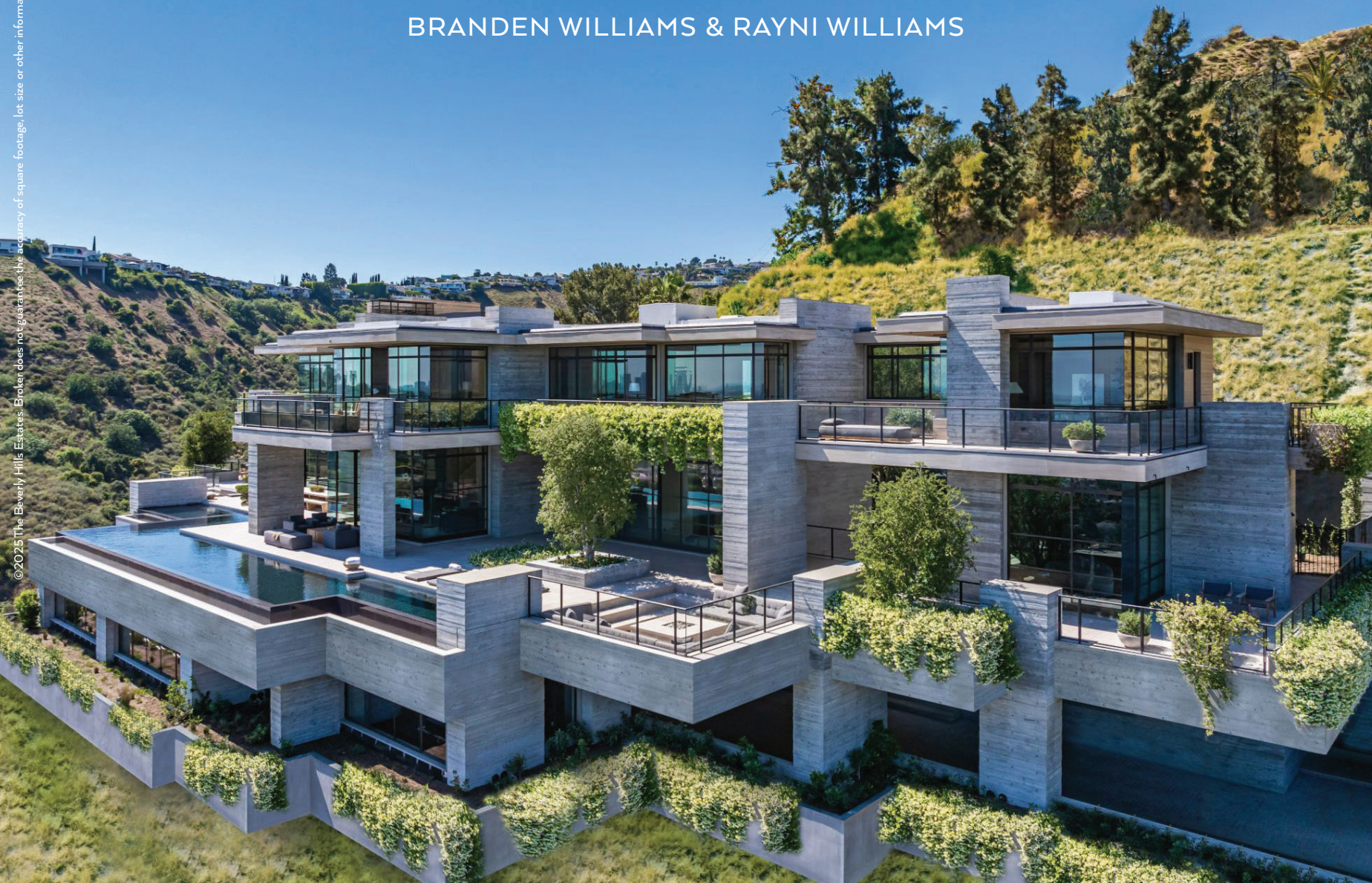
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PHOTO BY SARAH ORBANIC

PHOTO OF JOHN BENDHEIM AND LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH BY SARAH ORBANIC

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JOHN BENDHEIM AND LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

It’s summertime, and all that is “wonderful” in Beverly Hills is in full bloom. The sun-drenched golden streets, with their iconic swaying palm trees, delightfully enhance our manicured neighborhoods. Our parks overflow with energy as our locals take advantage of the vast green acreage—playing sports, exploring playground areas, or experiencing our stunning gardens. Meanwhile, our world-famous shopping districts bustle with new trending excitement, reflecting the mix of our global luxury flagships with our beloved small-town business community.

For an issue as spectacular as this season in Beverly Hills, who better to grace our BEVERLY HILLS STYLE magazine cover than Kevin O’Leary, Mr. Wonderful himself? Calling Beverly Hills his home while shooting his internationally famous television show, “Shark Tank,” he invited us in for a rare, closer look. We are thrilled to share a definitive glimpse of “Who is ‘Mr. Wonderful,’ Really?” From his early entrepreneurial roots to his mega-successes and legendary no-holds-barred frankness about what it takes to succeed, he’s revealed a surprisingly warm side.

Anyone spending time with Kevin quickly learns that he has strong likes and dislikes. That is particularly true about his unique taste in watches. In tribute to this passion of his, we present Carole Dixon’s overview of the most sought-after collectible watches in Beverly Hills. She also writes in this issue about Hôtel Lili, the new boutique hotel from Palisociety for the discerning visitor. Since this season is synonymous with fun in the sun, we present “Summer Chic from the Land Down Under,” in a nod to Aussie style. And, of course, this issue would not be complete without our preview of summer movies.

On behalf of John and our dedicated Courier team, thank you for your unwavering loyalty and support. It remains our greatest privilege to connect our community and bring you the local news that matters most. Wishing you a radiant summer season filled with the very best of health, happiness, and all the magic Beverly Hills has to offer!

LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH, PUBLISHER AND WRITER

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the
BEVERLY HILTON



Standing the Test of Time: How Beverly Hills Has Become a Global Watch-Collecting Capital

BY CAROLE DIXON



GREUBEL FORSEY TOURBILLON
PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTIME

The watch market has grown from a niche passion into a global collector base that actually cares about movements, provenance, and the slow accumulation of pieces that will, literally, stand the test of time.

Beverly Hills sits at the center of this cultural movement. The epicenter is Rodeo Drive's "watch corridor," anchored by GEARYS Rolex and Patek Philippe boutiques, along with long-standing staple Westime. The area has become a quiet barometer of collector confidence, where waitlists form within hours of a Geneva auction announcement, and nearby estate sales feed a growing demand.

According to Statista Market Insights, the global watch market generated revenue of \$126.9 billion in 2025, and the United States is the single largest national market, generating an estimated \$21.8 to \$22 billion.

Phillips has already reported a staggering \$10 million in advance of all the season's live auctions, on the heels of its third 100% sold-out watch auction so far in 2026. But where does one start collecting, or how do you develop your current archival pieces, making sure to make all the right moves for the right reasons?

LOCAL STALWARTS

As the president of Westime in Beverly Hills, Greg Simonian is a household name in the world of fine horology. The stunning Simonian

family-owned flagship on Rodeo Drive carries brands from TAG Heuer to TUDOR, and an exclusive partnership with Richard Mille CPO (certified pre-owned). Simonian, who recently returned from the Watches & Wonders show in Geneva, has witnessed a shift in typical collecting.

"As expected, the most requested brands are Richard Mille, Rolex, and Patek Philippe," Simonian told the Courier. "But what I find most interesting are the independent brands like MB&F, H. Moser, or Greubel Forsey that are quickly emerging. Many watch collectors these days are more interested in the savoir faire behind independent watchmaking."

"What's fascinating is that we are no longer speaking about a niche passion but a truly global cultural movement," Leigh Safar, Sotheby's global head of important watch collections, told the Courier.

"Collecting has matured. Today's collectors are younger, more informed, and far more intentional. There is a pronounced shift toward discernment over volume. Collectors are refining, not just acquiring. We're seeing a strong appetite for scholarship—people want to understand why a watch matters," said Safar. She also noted that "geographically, the market has become beautifully decentralized." And perhaps the most telling aspect is "There is a growing appreciation for individuality. Collectors are increasingly drawn to watches that tell a story—whether through design, provenance, or sheer rarity."

CURRENT TRENDS

Trends may come and go, but condition is paramount. "I cannot stress this enough!" adds Safar. "Originality, sharpness, untouched dials—these are the hallmarks of true desirability. Then, meaningful rarity. A watch should be scarce for a reason, whether due to limited production, historical context, or technical significance."

Provenance also carries immense weight. "A watch with a story—documented, authentic, and compelling—transcends mere objecthood. And finally, beauty. Emotional resonance. The watch must speak to you."



ROLEX DAYTONA
PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILLIPS

WATCH CONTINUES ON PAGE 34



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Summertime, Summertime, Fun, Fun, Time

BY NEELY SWANSON



June is busting out all over, with tentpoles, romance, animated chaos, family fare and even an occasional film for adults. Lots of sequels, although now they're being called reboots, but part five by another name is still a sequel. Fear not, there is still a bit of originality on the horizon, with some cozy comfort and an occasional superhero to save the world.

Sequels ruled the world in May, kicking off the season with the opening of "The Devil Wears Prada II," "Mortal Kombat II" and "Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu." But that was then and this is now, so sit back, enjoy and make note of what will be on your must-see list.

June Openings

"Masters of the Universe" isn't technically a sequel to the original that premiered 40 years ago; it's a reboot or, as the producers prefer to call it, a reimagining. Skeletor destroyed his universe and Prince Adam of Eternia/He-Man was abandoned on Earth. He's no longer a child but he has lost his edge. He regains his strength and identity under the tutelage of his long-dormant friends. But will he be able to save his universe of talking tigers, spaceships and magic swords? The combination of Adam's earthly persona and his guise as Master blends in the kind of humor and adventure sure to bring in a large audience. Will this be the summer's first blockbuster? The starry cast includes Idris Elba, Alison Brie and Nicholas Galitzine as Prince Adam.

"Power Ballad" is the story of Rick, a none-too-successful wedding singer and his surprising bond with Danny, a D-list boy band star. Once upon a time, Rick wrote a song that he shares with Danny. Recognizing possibilities that Rick doesn't, Danny makes it a hit and leaves Rick in the cold. Rick needs that hit, not just for the money he's been screwed out of but also for his self-esteem. The film stars Paul Rudd as Rick and Nick Jonas as Danny.

"Scary Movie" is back taking on the horror icons of the past. Theoretically this is number six but the filmmakers have just decided to rewind to a new beginning with stars from the past including Anna

Faris, Cheri Oteri and Regina Hall. The presence of Greg, Kim, Shawn, Marlon and Damon Wayans Jr. makes this a family affair.

"Disclosure Day" brings Steven Spielberg back to "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" land. Are we finished as a civilization? Does someone know? Why are they keeping it a secret? More importantly, are you better off knowing or not knowing? Although producers are keeping most of the plot under wraps, expect aliens, government conspiracy and crop circles. The film stars Emily Blunt, Josh O'Connor, Colin Firth and Coleman Domingo.



TOP: NICHOLAS GALITZINE IN "MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE"

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON MGM STUDIOS

RIGHT: NICK JONAS AND PAUL RUDD IN "POWER BALLAD"

PHOTO BY DAVID CLEARY, COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

1. HUGH JACKMAN IN "DEATH OF ROBIN HOOD"

PHOTO BY AIDAN MONAGHAN, COURTESY OF A24

2. "TOY STORY 5"

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXAR

3. CALLUM TURNER AND GEORGE MACKAY IN "ROSE OF NEVADA"

PHOTO COURTESY OF 1-2 SPECIAL

4. MILLY ALCOCK IN "SUPERGIRL"

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

5. OLIVIA WILDE, SETH ROGEN, ED NORTON AND

PENÉLOPE CRUZ IN "THE INVITE"

PHOTO COURTESY OF A24

"Toy Story 5" brings the band back together when Bunny gets a new electronic device, a Lily Pad, upsetting the balance in Toyland. Will tech make Woody and Buzz Lightyear obsolete? They won't go quietly. All the old friends are back to aid in the struggle for creativity.

"Death of Robin Hood" is based on the 17th-century ballad "Robin Hood's Death." We find Robin Hood, late of Sherwood Forest, about to die and trying to come to terms with his violent past. Nurtured by a mysterious young woman, he ponders redemption. It stars Hugh Jackman as the aging bandit with support from the luminous Jodie Comer and Bill Skarsgård as the ever-loyal Little John.

"Rose of Nevada" is infused with the supernatural. An empty ship mysteriously returns to the fishing village from which it disappeared 30 years earlier. Convinced that this reappearance bodes well, two fishermen decide to crew it alone and chase their fortune—a fortune that takes a sinister turn when the boat takes them back in time to when the boat should have returned. Arriving at the village, they are mistaken for the original sailors and are trapped in a malevolent time warp.

June 26

"Supergirl" has gone off-book looking for her true self, losing more than she gains. When dog Krypto goes missing, she's on a mission to rescue him and possibly humanity too. There will be lots of otherworldly villains to fight in order to regain her mojo. Milly Alcock is Supergirl, fighting for the good of humankind, with a healthy dollop of revenge and an occasional assist from David Corenswet's Superman. Matthias Schoenaerts is master villain Krem and Jason Momoa is the mercenary Lobo, for hire to whoever pays him the most. Hope springs eternal that director Craig Gillespie will allow some room for character development.

"The Invite" is Olivia Wilde's directorial debut starring herself, Seth Rogen, Penélope Cruz and Ed Norton in a remake of the Spanish film, "The People Upstairs." When new neighbors move into the apartment next door, uptight Joe and Angela find themselves being seduced by Pina and Hawk, who need fresh talent for their weekly orgy. Conflict and laughs are in order.

"Jackass 5" is yet another installment of Johnny Knoxville's stunts-gone-bad extravaganza. Is there more to say or do here? You be the judge.

July 1

"Minions and Monsters" arrive in Hollywood for their close-up where they create havoc on set. Their monster script about monsters is brought to life when they go on a search for actual monsters. The voices are starrier than ever with Jeff Bridges, Allison Janney, Jesse Eisenberg and Trey Parker leading the pack, and Steve Carell still there as Gru.

July 3

"Young Washington" is based on the early career of George Washington as he led his pre-Revolutionary troops in the French and Indian War. Just in time for the 250th anniversary of our founding, the movie stars newcomer William Franklyn-Miller with Ben Kingsley, Andy Serkis and Mary-Louise Parker in support.

SUMMER MOVIES CONTINUES ON PAGE 40

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



All Things Aussie: Summer Chic from the Land Down Under

BY CAROLE DIXON

When it comes to high-profile Australian labels, the surf-inspired mainstays such as Billabong, Rip Curl, Quiksilver and Roxy spring readily to mind. Now, brands from the Land Down Under have taken on a much more sophisticated edge in everything from beachwear to street chic and evening glam styles. It's a design revolution inspired by the country's dramatic natural landscapes and sustainable roots that perfectly suits the Southern California lifestyle. These brands can help you capture the on-trend "Aussie Chic" look this summer.

FLANNEL, Melbourne

Best clothing for men and women

This Australian lifestyle brand, based in Melbourne, is currently making its mark in the U.K. and U.S. with openings that include a boutique on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica, along with outposts on Abbot Kinney in Venice and a dedicated men's store on Larchmont Boulevard, with more to come in the next year.

Women's wear has an upscale bohemian vibe with vintage design details such as lace camisoles, silk dip-dye skirts and raffia leather slides. The men's line takes more of a utilitarian approach with solid basics of lightweight cashmere sweaters, graphic design T-shirts, shorts and island-printed button-down shirts. Fans of the brand include Kate Hudson, Andrew Garfield, Harrison Ford, Jennifer Lawrence, Jake Gyllenhaal, Don Cheadle, Kelly Rutherford and Dustin Hoffman.

Founded by Australian-based husband and wife design duo Kristy and John Lawrence, the couple captures their sense of wanderlust as they regularly explore international cultures from Portugal to Copenhagen, and Marrakech, while implementing impressions from local artisans.

"L.A. feels like a natural extension for us, especially the laid-back, coastal lifestyle vibe," Kristy Lawrence, co-founder and creative director, told the Courier. "FLANNEL is all about clothing that transitions with ease: a silk slip worn barefoot by the ocean, then styled with a tie sandal, a velvet jacket and finished with a red lip as the day moves into night. For us, no city on earth breathes that kind of effortless fluidity as magically as Los Angeles." Flannelamerica.com

WeWearAustralian, New York

Best for a wide range of fashions

Recently launched in New York City with a flagship retail store, Tourism Australia partnered with WeWearAustralian for a U.S. e-commerce platform celebratory launch. Operating on a curated concession model, the space will host up to 35 Australian brands at any one time across fashion, accessories, beauty, art and interiors—including popular labels from Bondi Born to Silk Laundry, Akubra, Viktoria & Woods, and Helen Kaminski. wewearaustralian.com



FLANNEL DRESS

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLANNEL

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LEYA BIKINI FROM BONDI BORN
PHOTO COURTESY OF BONDI BORN

Bondi Born, Sydney

Best for bathing suits

Named after the iconic surfing beach, Bondi Born swimwear is globally beloved for its sculptured silhouettes and premium European fabrics. This synergy of design and environment mirrors why Australia's beaches are synonymous with adventure travel and coastal luxury, from the glistening water to sculpted sandstone cliffs. The pieces are designed to transition easily from water to daywear, making them a must-have travel-ready item. bondiborn.com. Also available locally at The Beverly Hills Bikini Shop thebeverlyhillsbikinishop.com.



NAMI MINI TOTE IN NATURAL CHARCOAL FROM HELEN KAMINSKI
PHOTO COURTESY OF HELEN KAMINSKI

Helen Kaminski, Sydney

Best for beach bags and hats

Grab an oversized, stylish raffia beach bag from this accessories and fashion label with over 40 years of heritage. Launched in 1983 in Sydney with a single handcrafted raffia hat, the brand has grown into a globally recognized name synonymous with artisanal craft and long-lasting style. It has become an American department store staple over the past several years, available at Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's, among other establishments. Fans of the unisex hats include Hillary Clinton, Dakota Johnson, Naomi Watts, Jean Smart, Samuel L. Jackson, Billy Crudup and Brian Cox. Every piece is designed with longevity in mind and guided by a commitment to ethical production, sustainable practices, and the belief that true luxury should be good for both people and planet. helenkaminski.com



LEFT: TWO-TONE POLKA-DOT DRESS FROM SILK LAUNDRY
PHOTO COURTESY OF SILK LAUNDRY
RIGHT: ROUGH RIDER IN LIGHT SAND FROM AKUBRA
PHOTO COURTESY OF AKUBRA



Silk Laundry, Brisbane

Best for capsule summer wardrobe

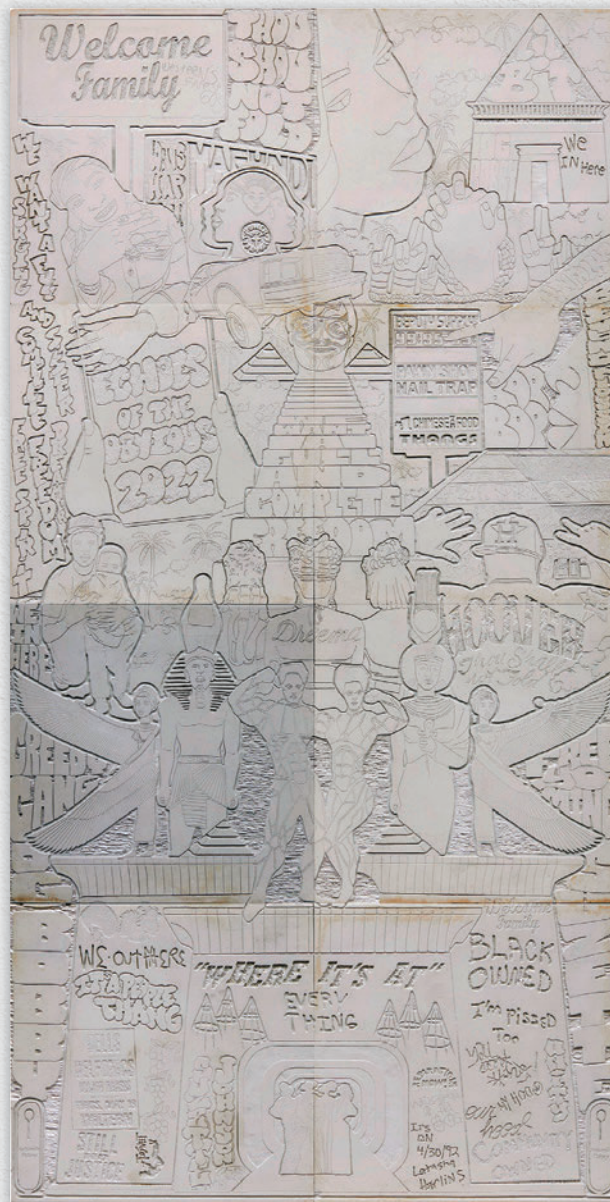
The collection focuses on elevated essentials like bias-cut silk slip dresses, relaxed shirting, and versatile layering pieces designed to move easily from day to evening. The brand's fluid silhouettes and soft palette are perfect for a summer capsule wardrobe, with lightweight pieces that are easy to pack and style. There is also a broader alignment with the Australian and L.A. lifestyle, (including a standalone boutique on Melrose Ave.), with an emphasis on ease and a balance of polish and practicality. silklaundry.com

Akubra, Australian Outback

Best hats for men and women

This heritage hatmaker is celebrated for its durable felt hats, originally designed for sun protection and everyday wear. While that might not sound appealing in the heat, the brand's versatile styles include lighter options that work well for summer wear while still offering coverage. Akubra.com

ALL THINGS AUSSIE CONTINUES ON PAGE 38



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Lauren Halsey

Untitled, 2023

Hand-carved gypsum and acrylic on wood
93 5/8 x 46 5/8 x 3 inches

On display at Beverly Hills Commercial Banking Center.

Collection of East West Bank.

© Lauren Halsey. Image courtesy of the artist and David Kordansky Gallery. Photo by Allen Chen.

Scan to get in touch.



Hotelier Avi Brosh Brings His ‘Pali-vision’ to Beverly Hills With Hôtel Lili

BY CAROLE DIXON



HÔTEL LILI LOBBY CHECK-IN AND BAR
PHOTOS COURTESY OF PALISOCIETY



GUESTS ARE GREETED WITH CHAMPAGNE.

Palisociety encompasses 26 properties around the country and counting, with a strong concentration on the West Coast, including outposts in Westwood and Brentwood, plus two properties in West Hollywood. Hôtel Lili on Lasky Drive in Beverly Hills opened this past spring as the latest accommodation under the brand's umbrella.

Avi Brosh is the dapper CEO and founder of Palisociety (think Stanley Tucci in the hospitality world), who designed and built his first hotel, Palihouse West Hollywood, in 2008. While that original location is now a Soho House, the brand has since blossomed into four pillars of uniquely stylish stays from Palihouse, Palihotel, ARRIVE by Palisociety and Le Petit Pali.

Steps from Wilshire and Santa Monica boulevards, the stately Beverly Hills property just behind The Peninsula Beverly Hills, was originally built as a private residence in 1939. Under Brosh and his team, the property has been reimaged as an intimate 44-room boutique hotel.

The defining characteristics of the Palisociety brand are evident here with an understated sophistication, vintage charm and thoughtful amenities that feel like a home, along with a jewel box lobby bar. The brand takes inspiration from innkeepers of the past, with an approach to comfort, community, and a very hands-on approach with every detail, and Beverly Hills was no exception.

New Jersey native Brosh started in real estate development over 30 years ago on the West Coast, including building private homes in Pacific Palisades, before launching the “Pali” brand in 1998. Brosh recalls that in the ‘80s and ‘90s, Beverly Hills was the center of Los Angeles. “Everything revolved around it from restaurants to shopping. Not to say that that has changed, but Los Angeles has become very dynamic.

HÔTEL LILI CONTINUES ON PAGE 44

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white, off-the-shoulder, long-sleeved dress with a large bow at the waist and a long skirt. She is standing on a stone step against a weathered, textured wall. She is wearing tan pointed-toe pumps.

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KEVIN O'LEARY ARRIVES FOR HIS PHOTOSHOOT AND INTERVIEW
PHOTO BY SARAH ORBANIC

KEVIN O'LEARY

Who is 'Mr. Wonderful,' Really?

BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

“You think you’re special because you can hit a ball? You’re a callow little hustler, Marty. You’re a line item on my balance sheet, and right now, you’re in the red,” says the villainous Milton Rockwell character, artfully portrayed by Kevin O’Leary in the Academy Award-nominated feature film “Marty Supreme.” It’s a line that echoes the cold, harsh style Kevin has perfected on the Emmy-winning reality television show, “Shark Tank.” Referred to as the show’s definitive “breakout star,” he is rarely seen out of his signature uniform, a bespoke suit reflecting discipline, sophistication, and success. Yet one must wonder: Does his merciless attitude reflect the real Kevin O’Leary or is it simply one layer of his clever, personified brand?

The answer is as multifaceted as Kevin himself. Like other wildly successful individuals who have made a mark across a range of disciplines, Kevin’s persona is an amalgam of life experiences, lessons learned and a unique dose of self-confidence that set him on his path from an early age.

“Shark Tank’s” broader global franchise, comprising 54 countries, now in its 17th season, has reached a staggering audience of over 100 million viewers. Kevin sits at the entrance between hopeful entrepreneurs and life-changing capital. He calls himself “Shark Tank’s American Dream Ambassador,” often ripping apart inventors’ balance sheets, or demeaning them with blunt putdowns. However, it’s his formidable track record that lends those bites their sharpened edge.

Kevin first rose to prominence when the educational software company he co-founded, The Learning Company, was acquired by Mattel in a landmark \$4.2 billion deal in 1999. Today, he is one of the most seasoned leaders in the entrepreneurial space.

As a prolific and quick-witted commentator, policy debater and bestselling author, Kevin has mastered the modern “omnipresence” strategy. With over 11 million followers across Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok, he speaks directly to the investor class whose wealth is derived from the capital markets. While his opinions can be polarizing, he is a sought-after expert for his ability to view world events and politics through the lens of capital flow.

Critics contend that his honesty veers into unnecessary verbal attacks. “You’re dead to me” or “Take it behind the barn and shoot it” are examples of him choosing a jagged performative edge over empathy. Do his audiences relish the predictability of the impending pain? Or, perhaps, by hating Kevin for his actions, fans find a way to feel better about themselves.

Whatever the reasoning behind the success, Kevin is a branding genius. He understood early on that humans are biologically attracted to conflict and catharsis. By leaning in to rebranding “meanness” as “honest truth-telling,” his brand didn’t just stick, it thrived. His popularity is unmistakably profound.

The biting irony is that he delivers verbal blows while meticulously polishing his somewhat ironic “Mr. Wonderful” brand. He lectures globally, advising industries, corporations, and universities on capital markets, and the intersection of global policy and business. At the heart of his operations is his “Something Wonderful” platform, which consolidates his “Shark Tank” investments into a unified support system for founders. His portfolio also includes WonderCare, an insurance provider, and his latest ambitious move, the massive Wonder Valley AI infrastructure project.

Additionally, his life experience has granted him the ultimate luxury: the ability to buy, market, and curate the finest the world has to offer. As a collector of “pièce unique” timepieces, vintage guitars, and investment-grade wines to name a few, Kevin has dominated the alternative asset category, earning the reputation for expertise that commands extraordinary respect.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Kevin at The Maybourne Beverly Hills, which has been his “home away from home” while filming “Shark Tank” in Los Angeles. Having studied the many layers of this brilliant, complicated, and deeply respected mogul, I wanted to peel back the “Mr. Wonderful” persona to better understand the machinery of his ambition and what truly makes this extraordinary man tick.

The lobby bar door swings open and Kevin’s entourage enters including friends, business partners and accoutrements. Kevin and his beautiful wife, Linda, quickly follow. As a large blue Tiffany & Co. box is placed center stage on the bar, everyone’s eyes focus on it as if the Crown Jewels were hidden inside.

In a flurry, Kevin lifts the lid and reveals his latest prized possession, a custom necklace built around a 1-of-1 Dual Logoman autograph card, signed by Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant. Tiffany & Co. had mounted it in a heavy white-gold frame and hung it from an oversized Tiffany HardWear-style chain. Set with roughly 100 carats of Tiffany diamonds and 10 carats of rubies, the necklace weighs 2.2 pounds.

Kevin, with his two partners, bought the card in August of 2025 at a Heritage Auction for just under \$13 million. He explains the entire piece is valued today at an impressive \$20 million.

“Cards like this are indexed online based on the sales every night of cards similar to them,” Kevin offers. “Some cards go down, by the way. If an athlete gets into some scandal or something ... But Kobe’s gone. He signed that card, and so I bought it.”

Kevin had the brilliant idea of enhancing its uniqueness with the help of Tiffany & Co.

“They’re not just any diamonds. They’re Tiffany diamonds ... I pitched it to Nicole Weiss (Global Head of High Jewelry). She said, ‘We love it. LVMH loves it. Let’s do it.’”

Within two weeks, it was designed and completed using 3D robotics.

"I have an attitude that I want to do extraordinary things," Kevin shares during the interview. "How many people get to act in an Academy Award-nominated movie?"

It's highly unusual. Even his agents at United Talent Agency were against him reading for the role.

"They said to me, 'We're very scared that you're going to s--t the bed. You don't know what you are doing. We've got a fantastic business with you. Why take a risk?' I said, 'I have to try it.'"

"I didn't know what I was getting myself into, and that was what was attractive about it. If you step out of your comfort zone, you exercise the most important muscle in your body, your brain."

Kevin thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially when it came to working with Timothée Chalamet. Now, Kevin's entertaining new offers and hopes to do one motion picture a year.

"The trouble is I've started at the top. The number one production company, the number one director, the number one actor in the world. Where do I go from here?"

Origin Story

Terence Thomas Kevin O'Leary arrived on a warm July 9th day in 1954 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He was the first of two sons to Georgette Bookalam of Lebanese descent and Irish-born Terry O'Leary. Working in her family's clothing business, Georgette had met and married Terry, a salesman. Unfortunately, the marriage struggled, mostly due to Terry's drinking problem. They divorced when Kevin was 7. Soon afterwards, Terry passed away.

During this difficult time, Kevin was also challenged and traumatized by dyslexia. He felt ashamed in the classroom, unable to do what his fellow 6-year-olds could do.

Worried, Georgette brought Kevin to see two experts on dyslexia at Montreal Children's Hospital. They reframed Kevin's thinking, convincing him he had a superpower. He took the lesson to heart.

"I thought, 'Why am I being ashamed? Why don't I simply challenge these kids who are laughing at me?' I said, 'Watch this. I can read this book in a mirror. Can you do it?' And they said, 'How'd you do that?' I said, 'Well I have superpowers.' And they'd go, 'Whoa, that's crazy.'"

Kevin feels dyslexia and that period in his life taught him how to deal with adversity, and the need to be independent.

A few years later, Georgette married George Kanawaty, an Egyptian who worked for the United Nations as an international civil servant. The family moved to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, where George completed his doctorate in business.

Dr. Kanawaty, today a man in his early 90s recalls, "I remember when we lived in Champaign-Urbana. We had rented a house on a golf course. Kevin was 8 years old. On his own initiative, he went and set a table near the 11th or 12th hole selling cold Kool-Aid drinks to golfers at \$1 a drink. The entrepreneurial talent showed up at that young age."

The family moved internationally throughout Kevin's childhood.

"I had a wonderful life that he provided," shares Kevin. "I've lived in Cambodia, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Cyprus, Switzerland, Germany, France, Japan ... I have a really interesting view of the world today and friends all over the world."

Kevin's global upbringing laid the groundwork for his success, but it was a summer job in Canada that provided one of his most vital lessons. While scooping ice cream to impress a girl, Kevin ran into a tough reality: the power of the owner. When he refused to do menial work for the business owner, he was instantly fired. The experience became a revelation; the world is divided into two camps, those who own and those who serve. He decided right then that he would always be the one in charge.

Practicality Over Passion

Another foundational lesson came from his mother. A quiet and disciplined investor despite their middle-class environment, Georgette offered "tough love" with respect to financial support as soon as Kevin graduated high school. Kevin funded his college education with loans and part-time work.

His stepfather, George, guided with brutal honesty, and offered another key lesson. He told Kevin that he would starve if he pursued his dream of becoming a professional photographer. Convincing him to choose practicality over passion, George pushed Kevin to attend business school. George suggested that Kevin support his passions



TOP LEFT: KEVIN AND SHANE WITH TERRY IN MONTREAL

BOTTOM LEFT: KEVIN AND HIS MOTHER, GEORGETTE AT HIS MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATION

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN O'LEARY

by building a money-making empire that funds them. Recognizing the wisdom in this, Kevin wasted no time making it a reality.

Back in the Maybourne, after modeling his one-of-a-kind “bling” necklace and passing it around for everyone to try on in The Maybourne Bar, Kevin grabs one of his high-end, rare and consciously curated guitars that was brought to our interview. Finding a comfortable chair, Kevin begins to serenade us.

“You realize, as your career advances, the only thing that matters is your reputation. People don’t have to like you or agree with you, but they have to respect you.”

An example was Kevin’s working relationship with Steve Jobs. It was built on respect.

“I did all of his educational software. He was not a nice guy, but he was a genius for what he built.”

Kevin’s The Learning Company was a major third-party publisher of educational titles such as Reader Rabbit and ClueFinders for Apple II, and later the Mac. It helped to cement Apple computers in schools.

“We would fight a lot, but he would always say to me, ‘Look, are we making a ton of money together? Then shut up and just do what I say.’ I would say, ‘OK, Steve, that’s fine.’”



KEVIN O'LEARY DISPLAYING HIS SIGNATURE SENSE OF STYLE AND TALENT ON GUITAR
PHOTO BY SARAH ORBANIC

“I always gut check before I open my mouth, ‘Is this the truth, what I’m about to speak?’”

Signal vs. Noise

He credits Steve Jobs for teaching him an extremely valuable working philosophy, the concept of signal vs. noise. It’s a mental model used to separate meaningful information called the signal, from the noise, which is random, distracting, irrelevant information. The term originated in the field of radio engineering and electronic communication during the early 20th century.

Kevin believes “There are three things you have to do every day, and that’s the signal. Everything that stops you from doing those three things is the noise. The ratio has to be 80%-20%. I’ve only met one guy in the world who’s 100% signal, that’s Elon Musk. He’s an unusual dude, a little eclectic, but he’s 100% signal. Look at what he’s achieved.”

Kevin believes that working outside of one’s comfort zone is very important in advancing. As he regularly addresses audiences in different industries all over the world, it forces him to prepare and discover new concepts of value.

“I enjoy criticizing policy. When I see stupid policy from stupid politicians, I call it out. I’m not against the person. It’s just their policies are stupid, and it’s going to hurt people. I’m the only person you know that gets to work on every outlet in the media, the left, the right, the middle. I mean, the same day I’m on Fox News, I’m on CNN at night.”

Kevin has been criticized for going too far. When pressed, he admits, “I might have been better saying it a different way. That’s happened before, but I always gut check before I open my mouth, ‘Is this the truth, what I’m about to speak?’”

But sometimes it can be hurtful and he admits that his adult children worry about the negative comments from some of his followers.

“Which one of the 11 million are you worried about?” Kevin asks his children. “The lesson I get to teach is you can’t make everybody like you. It’s impossible. When I read a three-paragraph diatribe of utter hatred and not policy disagreement, just how much I hate you, I think to myself ... What an utter waste of their time. What is their signal-to-noise ratio?”

Citing his children’s feelings on this issue illustrates just how sacred family is to Kevin. As the author of “Cold Hard Truth on Family, Kids and Money,” he views the family with financial pragmatism similar to running a business, requiring discipline, transparency and boundaries. Yet, the irony is hard to miss. While Kevin insists that emotions are bad for business, he is clearly driven by a deep emotional attachment to his own family.



TOP LEFT: KEVIN

PHOTO BY SARAH ORBANIC

TOP RIGHT: KEVIN WITH HIS FAMILY’S SUMMER HOME IN ONTARIO

LOWER RIGHT: KEVIN, LINDA, AND THEIR CHILDREN, SAVANNAH AND TREVOR

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN O’LEARY

Family Before Fortune

Kevin carries two phones, one exclusively for Linda and his two adult children, Trevor and Savannah. He has stated that if the family phone rings, he answers it immediately, even if he’s in the middle of a television taping or a high-level board meeting. Savannah, in interviews, has described him as a “softy” who loves to cook and play guitar.

Forty-plus years earlier, Linda, a 21-year-old classically trained ballerina, met the driven 29-year-old big thinker at a gym in Boston in the 1980s. His charm and charisma won her heart as did their bonding over their shared love of food and wine. They were married in March of 1990 in a simple home ceremony with friends, pizza and beer, reflecting Kevin’s financial philosophy of investing their money even back then.



Thirty-six years later, they share a gratifying life together.

“If you have a successful family and you focus on marriage and you have kids and it works, it can be very rewarding later in life. A lot of people that are young are making mistakes.”

Kevin advises couples in selecting a life partner.

“Don’t move in together until you’re committed because it’s so easy ... before you make it legal. Become married because within a few months, you’re going to find out it’s not that easy. And if you don’t have the bond of marriage, you’re just going to break up.”

Kevin claims most marriages break up due to financial stress.

“Find somebody who has the same financial goals you have. Fifty-plus percent of marriages [fail] ... It’s not infidelity. Most marriages

can survive that, but they can’t survive financial stress because it just destroys the household.”

Hello Prenup is a company Kevin invested in. He explains, “We do prenups for women. It’s all online now. It works very well because it forces financial due diligence on both partners.”

Finding quality family time to spend together and learning how to listen are top priorities for Kevin.

“We have a lake house in the summertime [in Ontario] ... It’s very special family time. We hang out on the dock ... work out, go swimming, take pictures or watch movies. It’s laid back ... The sun sets very late, almost 10 o’clock.”

“The trouble is I’ve started at the top. The number one production company, the number one director, the number one actor in the world. Where do I go from here?”



KEVIN SPORTING MERCH FROM HIS RECENT ACTING GIG, “MARTY SUPREME”
PHOTO BY SARAH ORBANIC

Become the Brand

Kevin’s Canadian summer in 1979 was very different and proved to be a turning point in his life. While pursuing his MBA at Ivey Business School, he took an internship at Nabisco under a “genius” Dutch product manager. Tasked with marketing cat food, Kevin witnessed a masterclass in branding. Even a “nasty” concoction of corn and bacon bits could be sold as a luxury, provided you have the gall to call it soufflé.

Years later, after the enormously successful sale of The Learning Company, Kevin pivoted to media, and instead of a new inventive business, he became the product to market. As a regular commentator on the Business News Network (BNN) in Canada, his style of sharp, clinical, and often controversial responses caught the attention of the Canadian producers of the British show “Dragon’s Den.” Kevin was later discovered and recruited by Mark Burnett, along with fellow Dragon, Robert Herjavec, to launch the American version, “Shark Tank.”

Proving that branding “mean” worked for ratings in Canada, was this the instigator for Kevin’s brand today?

“It’s interesting because there’s a cost to that. A lot of people have never met me, but they don’t like me because of something I said. I don’t feel bad about it. I don’t care. I mean, I know it’s the truth, so I kind of roll on with it. Maybe I’m wired differently. I just don’t give a s--t. That’s the problem.”

During the first episode of “Shark Tank,” after seeing Kevin abruptly dismiss a contestant’s entrepreneurial dreams, Barbara Corcoran turned to Kevin and remarked, “Look at you, Mr. Wonderful! You’re so mean.” Kevin immediately trademarked the name, but switched the sarcastic tone to a truth-teller narrative. His explanation is that he IS in fact Mr. Wonderful, by being brutally honest and preventing founders from losing all of their money. The “mean” guy now had a catchy, memorable name which his fellow “Sharks” promoted each time they referred to him.

Guided by the legacy of his mother and his trust in Linda, whom he wholeheartedly views as the O’Leary family CEO, Kevin’s track record proves he is a strong proponent of women in power.

“I invest in a lot of companies. My outcomes have been extraordinary with women-led companies. I’ve made a lot of money ... They mitigate risk better in the beginning for companies with \$1 million to \$5 million in sales ... They know how to navigate the high-risk nascent period, which is 36 months ... It’s the old adage: you want something done, give it to a busy mother. It’s the idea that they can juggle multiple mandates and they reduce risk.”

Aware of the inequities women in business face today, he offers, “Life isn’t fair. What I find about women CEOs or women founders is they understand life isn’t fair, but they don’t let that get in the way. They deal with it and they move on. I don’t hear a lot of women complaining about the injustice that does exist. They don’t have time to do that.”

Surprisingly, Kevin’s drive for success is not purely financial.

“The whole idea of being an entrepreneur is not about the greed of money, it’s freedom. You want to be free, and you want to do whatever you like. The only reason I’m here with you is I want to be.”

Time Will Tell

While he is widely known for his curated collections of vintage guitars, photography, fine wines, writing instruments, and now sports cards, it is Kevin's horological journey that truly sets him apart. He now focuses exclusively on the world's most significant "pièces uniques" acquired via sacred "covenants" with independent master watchmakers. In exchange for a promise to never sell a piece, he is granted the right to commission a one-of-a-kind masterpiece that rivals even the collections of Middle East royalty.

More fantastical are his rituals in how he experiences his collection, beginning with wearing two watches all the time.

"It's part of my look ... Every day I wear six pieces. Two in the morning, switch at lunch, and then before I go out two more."

After his morning workout routine, he spreads out 30-50 watches of his "untold" number in his collection, each with a different dial. All have red bands, with the exception of a few.

"Pantone 45C (red) is what I use for my bands and most makers know that about me."

Offering me his wrist, he proudly shows me the watch on his right wrist.

"This is a 'pièce unique.' There's only one of them in the world ... Made for me on 'Shark Tank' maybe five years ago by Francois, the CEO of Audemars Piguet. It's a Royal Oak. There's not another one in the world like this."

A Rolex adorns his left wrist.

"They [Rolex] have taken a new step up in the world as master jewelers. They can incorporate stones into a dial like almost no one else on earth can do. I mean, this is the very, very famous rainbow dial where these colors in every rainbow match identically. Do you know how hard that is to do?"

Most important to Kevin is winning over the world-famous watchmakers.

"It doesn't matter how rich you are or how famous you are. If you want to get a watch, for example, from F.P. Journe, he doesn't give a s--t about any of that. He only wants to know, 'Are you a real collector? Are you somebody who will buy the piece, honor the piece, honor the brand, and never sell it?' ... I've had to get on my knees. That makes it even more honorable, more unique."

Another challenge watch collectors and other alternative luxury asset collectors bump into is the high cost to insure the assets within today's archaic insurance model. Most wearable assets are placed under the umbrella of the homeowners policy, and there is little flexibility with respect to appraisal, costs and appreciation.

Recognizing the need, Kevin approached Chubb, the global giant, widely considered the "gold standard" for insurance. They did not believe the market would reflect the need for a white-glove, carve-out company. Kevin asked his 11 million social media followers, many of whom are watch collectors. Chubb would have been impressed with a few hundred positive inquiries. Kevin immediately received 3,800 eager responses. WonderCare was born that day, in partnership with Chubb, a stand-alone platform for collectors to manage their luxury "wearable portfolio."



TOP LEFT: CHEF WONDERFUL

PHOTO BY SARAH ORBANIC

RIGHT: KEVIN WITH TWO MORE OF HIS TIMEPIECES, FEATURING HIS SIGNATURE PANTONE 45C RED BANDS

PHOTO BY DAVID JON PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF KEVIN O'LEARY



LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH AND KEVIN
PHOTO BY SARAH ORBANIC

Winners Embrace Failure

Does everything that Kevin touches or invests in turn to gold? Kevin admits he's had many disappointments.

"In venture investing, 80% fail. Two out of 10 work. I try to put those [the failures] behind me ... I try and tell the entrepreneurs, listen. It hurts. It's important that you learn from this what went wrong in the exit interview."

Those who blame external reasoning are not learning from the failure.

"Some will say this to me: 'Well, the market changed or our competitor did this or something happened external, but never do they say it was me. The ones that are going to be successful look inward and say, 'What did I do wrong? What mistakes did I make and what did I learn from them?' Because they're the ones I want to invest in again. But the ones that always blame external reasons, they're frigging losers. They don't get it ... You have to embrace failure, make it part of your DNA, and don't let it happen again."

He believes founders or company heads should know their weaknesses.

Kevin offers, "I know what I am good at, and I know what I'm not good at ...

I'm a terrible logistics guy. I hate widget management. And if you think you're good, you better prove it to yourself every month ... I say that to myself every morning, 'I am the very best. No one can beat me ...' That's my attitude. That's how I motivate myself."

Linda confirms Kevin has always been extremely confident. "In a smaller way. But everything was smaller back then. Everything is bigger now."

"The whole idea of being an entrepreneur is not about the greed of money, it's freedom. You want to be free, and you want to do whatever you like. The only reason I'm here with you is I want to be."

Today, Kevin the self-made, entrepreneurial titan, mentors future generations on the brutal realities of searching for success, freedom and leadership. While his persona is a masterclass in "wonderful" modern branding, the engine of his success is his absolute conviction.

When asked if total trust in his own messaging is the secret, Kevin is unequivocal.

"People don't follow you if they don't believe you know where you're going. It's that simple ... I lead with blind faith that I'm right." ●

#1

Boutique Brokerage in California
by Volume in 2026

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Carolwood Estates closed
\$5 Billion in sales in 2025

#1

Brokerage Based in Beverly Hills
by Volume in 2026

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The greatest collections are not built purely on logic, but on passion guided by knowledge,” said Safar.

COLLECTING ADVICE

According to Safar, the watches that endure financially and culturally hold significance, rarity, and desirability. Watches produced in small numbers, those with unusual configurations, remain highly sought after, and it’s not dictated solely by price point.

“A humble watch with exceptional originality can be far more important than a more expensive but compromised example,” said Safar. “Increasingly, we are also seeing strength in independent watchmaking—pieces that reflect creativity, craftsmanship, and a distinct point of view. Because in the end, a great watch is not merely something you own. It is something you understand, appreciate, and ultimately, pass on.”

Safar’s most important advice is to buy with conviction, not with haste and to network. “The best collectors are patient. They study, they compare, they wait for the right example. I would also encourage collectors to build relationships with specialists, with auction houses, with fellow collectors. And above all, collect what you love. Markets will fluctuate; tastes will evolve, but passion endures. If you assemble a collection rooted in authenticity and personal meaning, you will never go wrong.”

CHRISTIE’S DEEPENS GLOBAL WATCH NETWORK

In its 260th anniversary year, Christie’s in London recently appointed Tom Heap, senior specialist, watches, further enhancing its global watches network and expertise. Heap works closely with Christie’s international watches team to deepen relationships with collectors, secure important consignments, and contribute to the global sales calendar.



THE TORTUE BY CARTIER
PHOTO COURTESY OF CARTIER

PATEK PHILIPPE
PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILLIPS



VOUTILAINEN OBSERVATOIRE
PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILLIPS

NEW ETERNITY BY TIFFANY
AVENTURINE DIAL WATCH
PHOTO COURTESY OF TIFFANY & CO.

Heap said that collectors have always loved watches that tell a story—whether it’s a revival of a classic design, a limited edition, or a piece with historical significance. “What’s new is the growing focus on independent watchmakers like F.P. Journe, Kari Voutilainen, and MB&F, whose pieces combine technical brilliance with rarity,” he told the Courier. “At the same time, neo-vintage watches from the 1990s and early 2000s are becoming increasingly popular as younger collectors enter the market, drawn to designs that are both collectible and wearable.” Case in point, Oscar-nominated actor Timothée Chalamet has recently taken a partnership role with Urban Jurgensen in Copenhagen.

ENDURING CHARACTERISTICS

Heap noted that collectors are always seeking condition, rarity, and provenance, and a watch should possess one or more of these characteristics. “A good example of this would be neo-vintage Patek Philippe pieces with unusual dials, as well as slightly more obscure references and early series. We can see this now through collector interest in 3970 and 5004 adjacent references.”

As one might expect, celebrity-owned or endorsed pieces hold a certain cachet for a collector as well. “Certain icons continue to dominate the collecting landscape: classic references from Patek Philippe, Rolex, Cartier, and Audemars Piguet—particularly early examples of iconic and significant models such as the Rolex ‘Paul Newman’ Daytona, Cartier Crash, and Patek Philippe ref. 1518,” added Heap. “Watches previously owned by notable figures or with strong historical connections also command significant attention and enduring value.”

RECENT WATCH BOOM

Heap has seen a huge boom in watch collecting in recent years. For many, the gateway was sports models and stainless steel, such as pieces from Rolex, Audemars Piguet and Patek Philippe. “I think we are seeing a general graduation and maturing of taste, looking toward independent watchmaking with makers such as F.P. Journe, Rexhep Rexhepi, and

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Charles Frodsham, which characteristically have higher levels of finishing, striking design and lower production numbers.”

NEW TO THE LUXURY RETAIL MARKET

As for flagship brands in the luxury market, Louis Vuitton recently unveiled a new horological masterpiece in the form of La Fabrique du Temps, which aims to shatter conventional watchmaking aesthetics with its exploration of color and movement. The Tambour Taiko Arty Automata embarks on new adventures through contemporary high watchmaking, with unique horological automata and grand feu enamel. Taking inspiration from the house’s numerous artist collaborations, the dial design is characterized by the vibrant interplay of shape and form.

For pure bling, Swiss-made Eternity by Tiffany is a new watch in 18-karat white gold with an aventurine dial and handset with 12 diamonds of 12 different cuts from round brilliant, baguette, cushion, Tiffany True®, marquise, Asscher, heart, pear, oval, emerald, triangle, and princess, totaling 512 diamonds of more than six total carats.

Cartier’s traditional watchmaking blends into a sleek new design. The iconic Roman numerals have been preserved, but the classic guilloché pattern on the dial has been replaced by an embossed motif. The classic railroad minute track has been transformed into a line of dots, paying homage to a historic watch from 1922 that featured a dotted line on the bezel. Lastly, on the graphic, minimalist dial, Cartier’s secret signature has been integrated into a stroke of the numeral X. There are five new versions available in combinations of polished yellow gold, rose gold, white gold, and diamond-set.

COLLECTING UPGRADE

With more than 25 years of experience in the luxury and pre-owned timepiece market in Beverly Hills, Seth Grossman has built a reputation as a trusted expert among collectors and high-profile clientele.

Grossman launched Global Trading while still in high school, selling collectible Swatch watches from the 1980s. In 2004, he expanded into luxury timepieces by founding Essential Watches, where he cultivated a global customer base. Most recently, Grossman embarked on an expansion of 90210 Watches, opening its new location last spring on Camden Drive in Beverly Hills. “I’m thrilled to be opening our first brick-and-mortar shop in the vibrant Beverly Hills Triangle,” said Grossman. “This location allows us to provide a more personal, hands-on experience for our clients while continuing to offer some of the most exceptional watches in the world.”

Here you can find everything from a vintage Cartier to antique pocket watches, along with the holy trinity of Rolex, Audemars Piguet and Patek Philippe. According to Grossman, the top-selling brand is definitely Rolex. “Steel Rolex sport models specifically are our bread and butter.”

Grossman’s clientele includes entertainment executives, prominent attorneys, physicians, celebrities, and dedicated watch collectors. “I’m offering competitive prices even though we are in Beverly Hills because I’m serving the world,” Grossman told the Courier. “Everyone is online, and I have global customers searching for the best prices, and they are educated on the timepiece market.”

PRE-LOVED MARKET AND A PODCAST

For unique entry-level brands, the shop sources a variety of inventory through trade deals with loyal customers. “They have pre-loved their timepieces but are ready for an upgrade or just a change of wrist scenery,” said Grossman. This includes brands such as Panerai, Breitling, IWC, TUDOR, and TAG Heuer, among others. “Our clients might trade in something like three watches at a time to get a single watch they’ve had their eye on for a while.”

Grossman is willing to take any brand on trade as long as it’s Swiss-made or a Grand Seiko made in Japan. “I have a strong network of dealers all over the U.S. and the world who I can reach out to at a moment’s notice to fill an order for an exceptional timepiece like an A. Lange & Söhne, Vacheron Constantin, or Greubel Forsey,” he added.

Another aspect of Grossman’s business is consignment. “I love offering my customers consignment so that they can make top dollar when we finally get that specific customer for that unique watch. That way, I don’t have to take anyone to the cleaners, and both my selling



F.P.JOURNE, CHRONOMÈTRE À RÉSONANCE
PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILLIPS

customer and my buying customer are happy. The seller is satisfied to get the most out of their watch, and the buyer is happy to have found such a unique watch in the heart of Beverly Hills. It can be a great option for both lower-end pieces that aren’t in demand and also for extremely high-end pieces that might take a while to move due to the smaller customer base.”

For a deeper dive, Grossman and his team host the “Essential Watches Podcast.” The popular show blends engaging “watch talk” while showcasing some of the rarest timepieces in the world and has grown to more than 250,000 subscribers on YouTube. Recent guests include passionate watch collector and comedian Jay Leno, who also came to the store opening this past April in Beverly Hills.

COLLECTING WHAT YOU LOVE

“Collecting is ultimately about passion,” said Heap. “It is an exciting moment to explore watches from celebrated icons to hidden gems and discover pieces that speak to you personally. While provenance, originality and condition matter, what makes a collection truly special is the connection you feel to each watch. Whether it’s your first acquisition or part of a long-term pursuit, the joy comes from learning the history, appreciating the craftsmanship and enjoying the narrative each piece carries. In short, collect what you love!” ●

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Viktoria & Woods, Melbourne

Best for sunglasses

Known for their women’s fashions in neutral palettes and relaxed fabrics influenced by art, architecture, and nature, the brand is also a standout in the sunglasses category. Offerings include an array of sculpted glasses with frames in glossy or tonal finishes from black to tortoise or gold, with UV-protective lenses to look stylish at the beach or in the city. viktoriaandwoods.com.au

FRANKIE4, Brisbane

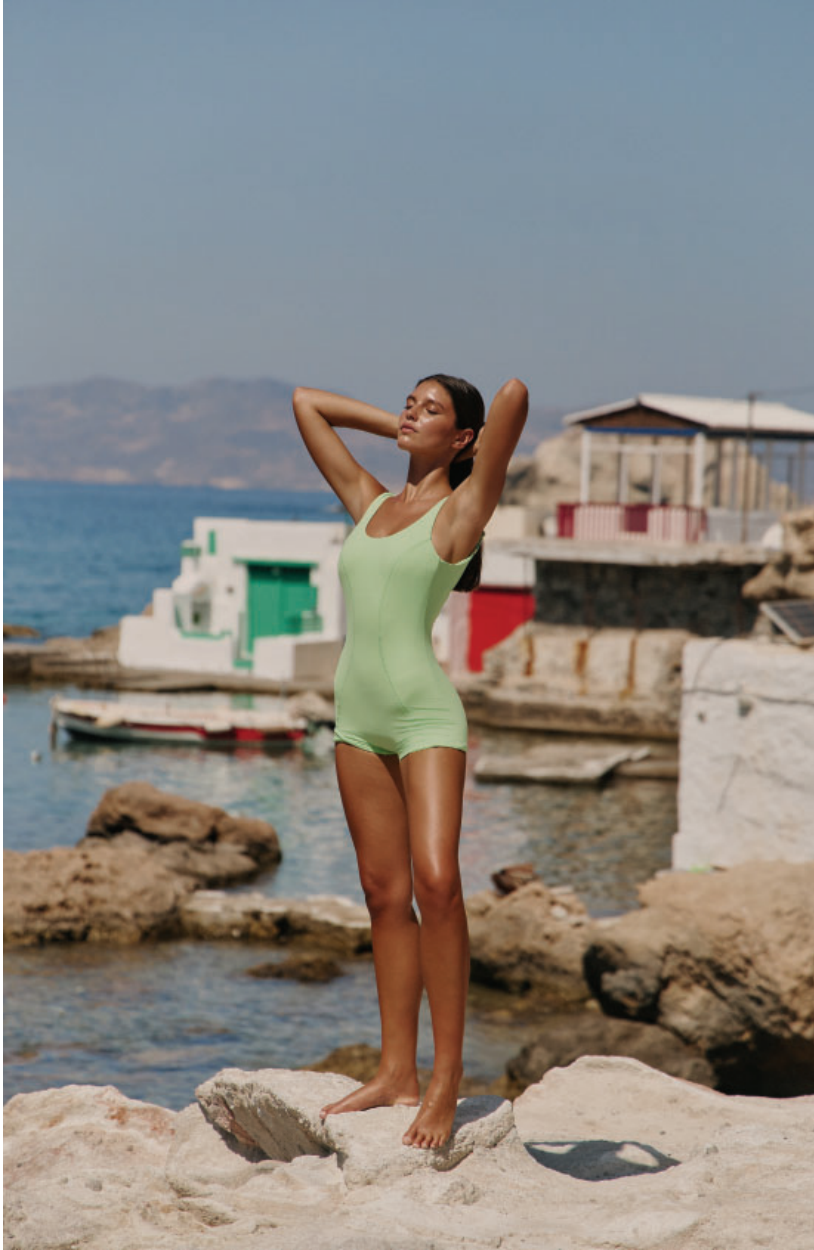
Best for eco sandals

This award-winning, fashion-forward, B Corp-certified footwear label was designed by women, for women. The product is rooted in podiatrist-founded history and cutting-edge engineering. Launched over a decade ago, the brand now has a huge following for its range of styles, from sandals to slides and sneakers. Its e-commerce platform has expanded to nine brick-and-mortar stores, including a flagship U.S. store in Seattle, along with outposts at Nordstrom and on Amazon. Frankie4.com

SHEILA, Melbourne

Best for activewear

Founded in 2023 by Clare Barrins, SHEILA is an Australian swimwear-meets-activewear label made for land, life and sea—from swimming to hiking and brunching. Designs feature UPF 50+ for sun safety and environmental sustainability and eco-friendly GRS-certified recycled nylon, sourced from discarded materials like fishing nets and plastics. Based in Melbourne and Menlo Park, California, the brand is dedicated to inclusivity, honoring every shape, size, and style. sheilathelabel.com



Zimmermann, Sydney

Best ready-to-wear for women and kids

Beloved by celebrities on and off the red carpet, since the 1990s, the brand’s floaty dresses and sunwashed palettes mirror L.A. coastal lifestyle and effortlessly chic glamour. Don’t overlook ready-to-wear, swimwear, resort wear, accessories, and the best espadrilles in the game, along with an adorable kids’ collection, all at the Melrose Place location. zimmermann.com

Goldfield & Banks, Sydney

Best for botanical scent

Australia’s first luxury perfume house was founded by French perfumer Dimitri Weber. The brand showcases rare native botanicals such as desert woods, coastal florals, and aromatic resins in refined, high-end fragrances. Each scent is designed to evoke a specific Australian environment, blending French perfumery craftsmanship with uniquely Australian ingredients. Available at Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman and goldfieldandbanks.com.



TOP RIGHT: CELESTE IN LIME FROM SHEILA

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEILA

LEFT: DEON CAMEL STUD SANDALS FROM FRANKIE4

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANKIE4



RATIONALE, Victoria

Best for tinted sunscreen

The brand's proprietary Zinc Fusion Technology makes its #3 The Tinted Serum Broad Spectrum SPF 50+ a top choice for the Southern California sunshine. The serum also evens out the skin tone while leaving a glowing, transparent finish. Made in Victoria, it is available at Neiman Marcus and Bloomingdale's in Century City. us.rationale.com



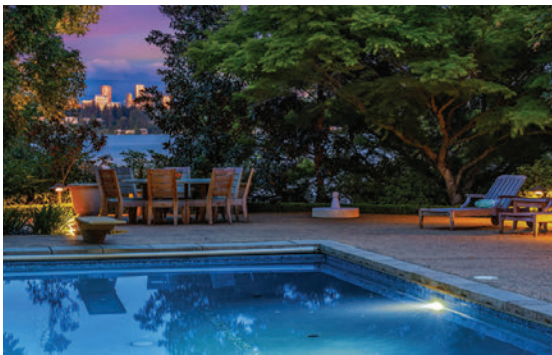
Lava Art, Global

Best for beauty at the beach

Born in Australia, this global brand is known for its innovative compact cushion foundation, combining lightweight, full coverage and long-lasting wear. Every product is paraben-free, vegan, and skin-friendly, crafted with ingredients and packaging that prioritize the planet. Lava Art's product line is designed for all skin types, with buildable coverage designed to enhance skin's natural glow. lavaart.com

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July 10

“Moana,” the live-action film follows the trials of young Moana (Catherine Laga’aia) who has been chosen to save her land from the evil that lurks far out in the sea. She must find the shape-shifting Maui (Dwayne Johnson) and convince him to help her save the world and her people. Based on the animated film of the same name.



July 17

“The Odyssey” is the much-anticipated Christopher Nolan film, and that’s reason enough to see it. This is the classic Greek tale about Odysseus’ difficult journey of many years trying to return home to his beloved wife Penelope. The Trojan War is over, but now the most difficult journey begins as he and his men face otherworldly struggles, fighting a one-eyed giant, a six-headed serpent, cannibals, the intoxicating Sirens and the evil Circe. Shot entirely in IMAX, this ode to grown-up films must be seen on the big screen. It stars Matt Damon as Odysseus and Anne Hathaway as Penelope. Lending support are Zendaya as goddess Athena, Tom Holland as Telemachus, the son of Odysseus and Penelope, Charlize Theron as the dangerous Circe and a raft of other stars including Jon Bernthal, Benny Safdie, John Leguizamo and Lupita Nyong’o.



July 24

“The Dink,” a sports comedy, follows a former, but now washed-up, tennis pro at a small club that is going under. Determined to save his country club he must enter a (gasp) pickleball tournament. In the process, though, he might earn the respect of his unimpressed and eternally disappointed father. The film stars Jake Johnson, Ed Harris, Ben Stiller and Mary Steenburgen, among others.

July 31

“Spider-Man: Brand New Day” returns with Tom Holland, along with Zendaya, Sadie Sink and Jon Bernthal in support. Peter Parker, now an adult, has removed himself from the Spider-Verse. He must now reinvent himself so he can save the world. The bad guys have had a field day in his absence. Does this spider have one more life cycle? In addition to Holland’s return as Peter Parker, Mark Ruffalo is back as Bruce Banner/ the Hulk. Zendaya is Peter’s new love interest, MJ.

“End of Oak Street” and a horrific cosmic event threatens suburbia. Denise (Anne Hathaway) must lead her family (played by Ewan McGregor, Christian Convery and Maisy Stella) to safety when their whole street and neighborhood falls off a cliff and is transported to a place unknown. In order to survive, they must stick together, listen to mom and find their way back from this terrifying place filled with scary creatures.



August 7

“One Night Only” exists in a universe where there is only one night a year when premarital sex is legal. The question posed is whether one night is enough to connect, fall in love and begin a life together. Of course, this all revolves around forbidden sex, so one needs to ask if the bond is closer or looser if everything happens in one day. Although there were few plot details available and no trailer, you’ll have to fill in the giant gaps. The cast, however, sounds very promising, led by Monica Barbaro and Callum Turner with Molly Ringwald and LeVar Burton in support.

1. CATHERINE LAGA'AIA IN "MOANA"

PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY

2.MARY STEENBURGEN AND JAKE JOHNSON IN "THE DINK"

PHOTO COURTESY OF APPLE

3. TOM HOLLAND IN "SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY"

PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

4. EWAN MCGREGOR, CHRISTIAN CONVERY, MAISY STELLA AND ANNE HATHAWAY IN "END OF OAK STREET"

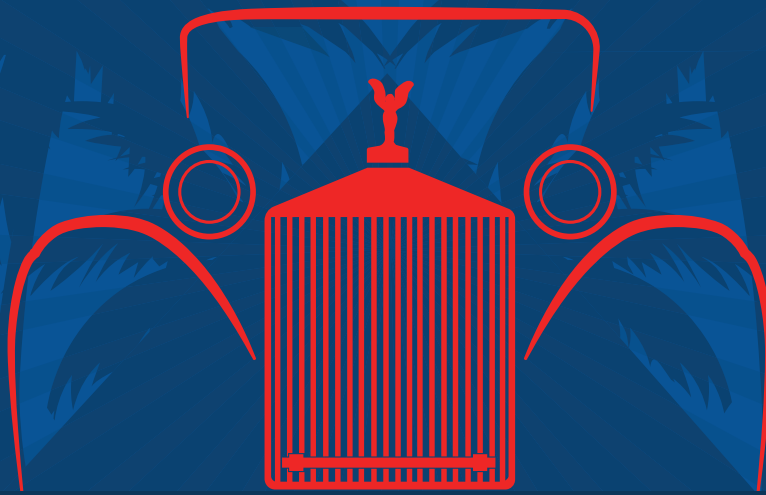
PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES



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August 14

“Paws Patrol: The Dino Movie” finds our intrepid pups on an uncharted island full of dinosaurs. Dino Island is the greatest discovery ever! But it’s under attack from an active volcano that has been triggered by thoughtless miners. Our little four-pawed friends and their young master must save the planet.

August 21

“Insidious: Out of the Further” is the fifth in the “Insidious” franchise. Expect haunts, apparitions and evil. Lin Shaye is the only original cast member returning. This is from horrormeister producer Jason Blum so you know what to expect.

“The Rivals of Amziah King” focuses on family, bluegrass music, Oklahoma and the ruthless (their word, not mine) honey industry. When his estranged foster daughter returns unexpectedly, he welcomes her back and strengthens their relationship by bringing her into his business. External forces will try to interfere with this new bond. It stars Matthew McConaughey with the kind of cast that makes this intriguing, including Kurt Russell, Scott Shepherd and Jake Horowitz.

“Mutiny” is murder, conspiracy, billionaires and thrills all wrapped into one package. After witnessing his billionaire boss get murdered, Cole needs to get out of the tight frame that has been constructed around him. In the process, he uncovers an international conspiracy and must save himself and the world. Starring Jason Statham with Adrian Lester in support.

“Cliffhanger” is a reboot of the 1994 original starring Sylvester Stallone, who was slated to star in the sequel. This reimagined film of the original movie now stars Pierce Brosnan as Ray Cooper, a mountaineer who owns a luxury resort in the Alps. Visited by his two daughters, Sydney and Naomi, and their friend, the son of a billionaire, they are attacked by a ruthless band of terrorists. Naomi, played by Lily James, escapes and must find a way to rescue them. It is beautifully filmed in the Dolomite Mountains of Italy.



August 28

“Coyote vs. Acme” was originally a story written by Ian Frazier for “The New Yorker.” It posited that because Acme products always failed Wile E. Coyote in his pursuit of the Road Runner, he should sue. He hires a high-powered lawyer to take his case. Featuring a basket full of Warner Bros. cartoon characters, including Bugs, Daffy and Elmer, Will Forte as the lawyer and a slate of other live-action actors working with the animated witnesses to this potential miscarriage of justice.

“Finding Emily,” a British Rom-Com of the “meet-cute” variety, finds our hero in love with an Emily he met while he was playing a gig in a pub. Unfortunately, he wrote her number down incorrectly and he desperately wants to find her, believing that true love always finds a way. He enlists the help of a psychology student whose college project is to prove that romantic attachments cause madness. They will spark a campus-wide search for the elusive Emily, last name unknown and phone number missing a digit. That the boy is an idiot is only part of the fun. Spike Fearn is our woe-begone lover and Angourie Rice is the psych student with lots of Emilys in support.

“The Dog Stars” is Ridley Scott’s latest post-apocalyptic thriller. The world has been infected by a deadly virus and few have survived. An adaptation of the book by Peter Heller, the overall themes are loneliness, survival and human connection. Hig, living with his faithful dog and his friend Ranley, goes off-book when he discovers there may be other survivors. Can mankind be saved? It’s Ridley Scott, so you never know. It stars Jacob Elordi, Josh Brolin and Margaret Qualley, enough reasons to risk it all.

September 4

“How to Rob a Bank,” the title tells the story, but not all of it. It’s crime in the TikTok era where fame is more important than fortune. Well, maybe not entirely because we’re talking about a bank heist. Our modern-day cyber robbers are a diverse group of social media-savvy criminals who confound the police and the FBI by posting their real-time robberies for all to see, sowing havoc along the way. It is directed by David Leitch (“Bullet Train”), with an all-star cast including Zoë Kravitz, Nicholas Hoult, Anna Sawai, Christian Slater, John C. Reilly and Pete Davidson. Thrills and chills and possibly a few laughs for Labor Day weekend.

With an El Niño on the horizon, there’s no better place to come in out of the heat than a movie theater. Pass the popcorn, anyone? ●



1. “PAW PATROL: THE DINO MOVIE”

PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND SPINMASTER

2. JASON STATHAM IN “MUTINY”

PHOTO BY DAN SMITH, COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

3. STEPHANIE HSU AND WILL FORTE IN “COYOTE VS. ACME”

PHOTO COURTESY OF KETCHUP ENTERTAINMENT

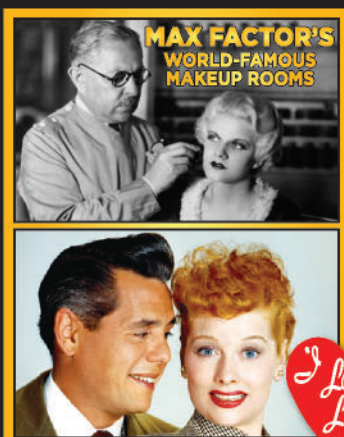
4. SPIKE FEARN AND ANGOURIE RICE IN “FINDING EMILY”

PHOTO COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES

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Everything from Santa Monica to Downtown now has all these communities with their own personality.” But why, in an area with no shortage of luxury accommodations, was this the right time for a pied-à-terre-style hotel in Beverly Hills?

“You know, my first apartment was right down the street on Spalding,” Brosh told the Courier. “It was a little studio apartment on the second floor. I considered myself the luckiest person in the world to be able to live in Beverly Hills in the late ‘80s. When you live in Beverly Hills and you’re a part of the community, especially when you’re young, it gets under your skin. It just becomes part of your DNA.”

Brosh added to that sentiment, “If you’re a hotelier and you live in Los Angeles, the dream is to have a hotel in Beverly Hills. Can you think of a better place to do it? But for us, we only do a very certain kind of hotel. We do things that are a little smaller, a little bit more neighborhood-centric, very curated and things that are about the neighborhood and not about welcoming people necessarily that are looking for a grand, opulent experience.”

In this ZIP code, where the average hotel room can run upward of \$1,000 a night, Brosh is looking at visitors who might not necessarily be on vacation but may have local businesses in the area or meetings in town. “We’re here for people that are coming to Beverly Hills to use it in a way that perhaps is a little bit more about tapping into the community.” His vision was to create a neighborhood-style hotel that has all the same attention to detail, guest services and hospitality, but at a human, and neighborhood scale, along with a much more attainable price point. (Rooms start at \$325 per night.)

The inspiration for the design was for guests to feel at home and comfortable, but when they walk outside, still be at one of the best locations in Beverly Hills. “I really wanted to do something that felt solid and to give it a sense of permanence; we really focused a lot on draperies to give it that sensibility.”

Yes, the draperies have a rich texture, particularly the crimson-colored selection in the bar-lounge area where you can linger on a soft leather sofa and sip complimentary lemonade in the afternoons, or a glass of Champagne at check-in. Throughout the common areas and rooms (from various levels of King to Suite), you will find tasteful touches of striped fabrics, velvet pillows, wallpapered ceilings, black-and-white marble-tiled floors, and vintage telephones. Every room is meticulously stocked with a Grind espresso machine, gourmet snacks, a wine selection, and wildly popular Antipodes artisan bottled mineral water imported from New Zealand, along with Diptyque bath

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amenities and Bellino Fine Linens. While there is no full-service sit-down restaurant on-site, guests can order breakfast, lunch and evening bites from room service, and the lobby bar is open to all with creative martini cocktails and truffle potato chips, among other tipples and treats.

Brosh wanted to focus on something that felt very sophisticated but approachable, and not a throwaway or of the moment. “I wanted to create something that had a sense of history and longevity and a sort of a seriousness to it, and a sense of luxury that people, I think, are looking for when they come here, but that still had all the things that we are known for with mixing, matching, and creating that Pali-sensibility that is a signature element, but we did it in a way that felt mature.”

In the end, Brosh is leaving behind a legacy in his old and still cherished neighborhood. “This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be able to create a hotel that is more accessible, but doesn’t compromise on design, style or location. Even though it’s a very modest building, I was trying to overlay more sophisticated textures and fabrics and surfaces that I felt would do the city of Beverly Hills proud.”

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TOP: KING GUESTROOM
 LEFT: ENSUITE BATHROOM
 RIGHT: ON-SITE WORKOUT ROOM



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