

### BEVERLY HILLS + COSTA MESA FRESH START

As **Bally** unveils a gleaming renovation to its South Coast Plaza boutique (thanks to David Chipperfield Architects) and the reopening of its Rodeo Drive outpost this fall, the brand ushers in an unprecedented era in luxury. Colorful velvet tuxedos to celebrate the occasion are on hand in Beverly Hills. 340 N. Rodeo Dr., B.H., 310-271-3310; 3333 Bristol St., C.M., 714-557-1914.

bally.com



# FORWARD THINKING

Swiss brand Audemars Piguet has introduced its most complex watch yet, the 2015 Royal Oak Perpetual Calendar. Encased in steel or gold and glare-proofed sapphire crystal, the high-powered clock masterfully articulates the day, date and month—even through leap year. The sleek modern design holds a "Grande Tapisserie" pattern, gold hour markers and Royal Oak hands in two pink-gold styles and another two in steel.

audemarspiguet.com



## TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Doug McKenzie, Magician

Since mastering his first trick at the age of 6, Doug McKenzie has carved out a niche for himself as one of the world's most in-demand magicians, performing around the world for everyone from Harrison Ford and Lenny Kravitz to royalty and Silicon Valley billionaires. There's no such thing as a typical day for this sleightof-hand master, who, in addition to his for-hire gigs, regularly consults as a producer for television shows and live performances featuring some of the biggest names in his field, including David Blaine and Dynamo. When he's not working on a concept he dubs Magic 2.0 with tricks involving social media platforms and cutting-edge technology (Apple Watch, drones), McKenzie can be found skydiving out of planes and hot air balloons—and thinking of ways to incorporate magic into his jumps while he's at it. Here, the illusionist shares what's up his sleeve. dougmckenzie.com; @dougmckenzie.

What are some of your signature effects? A person leaves the room with a deck of cards, shuffles them, and places any card they like into their pocket without looking at it. When they return, they receive a text message from someone who is hundreds of miles away that reveals the name of their card, despite

not having seen it themselves or showing it to anyone else. On a larger scale, I have an effect where I'm able to change the New York City skyline. I once performed it on a whim whilst sitting at a red light for a cabdriver in the car next to me. The stoplight changed for him to go and he just sat there in disbelief, blocking traffic.

Is there a favorite piece of magic you like to perform? I have a lot of magic where I reveal very personal pieces of information that people are merely thinking of; sometimes it's their ATM PIN code, the name of a friend they haven't thought of in years, or even a secret that they have never told anybody. When the magic is as personal as that, you really get a sense of how powerful it can be.

What are you currently working on? I have a keen interest in drones and have a lot of magical ideas with them. For my purposes, the technology isn't quite there yet, but drones are here to stay and I like to be ahead of the curve.

What's an easy trick to impress

What's an easy trick to impress the ladies? If magic was easy, it wouldn't be that impressive. If, however, you're looking for a cheap trick, then puppies, roses and ice cream are always a good place to start. Continued on p.128

#### TRICKS OF THE TRADE

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Any advice for magicians starting out? Stop practicing in front of the mirror, and go out and perform. You'll learn a lot more about your magic and yourself that way.

Has anyone ever fooled you? I was once in London at a members' club called Tramp. The guy who ran the place had this amazing ability to create a knocking sensation on my toe despite standing on the other side of the room, well out of reach. To this day, I have no idea how he did it.

Who is your personal magic hero, and why? There was an amazing mentalist named Chan Canasta who was very active during the 1950s and '60s in the United Kingdom. He once convinced his BBC television audience that he could remotely turn off all of the television sets around the U.K., and then proceeded to do so. Viewers from all around the country called the channel to complain the next day and Chan Canasta made national headlines. I love that! At the end of his career he became an artist in the more traditional sense and took up painting. I have tracked down a number of his pieces and they hang on my wall for daily inspiration.

I never leave home without... A deck of cards in my left pocket and my iPhone in my right.

What do you love most about your job? Unlike most other art forms, magic can be performed anytime, anywhere, and can be easily appreciated by people of all ages and backgrounds, even if they don't speak the same language. I have always used that to my advantage.

Is there such a thing as magic? Absolute-

ly. Magic lives in the mind. You can create true magical moments for people that cannot be explained in any other way. •

#### **CUT ABOVE**

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"It's so funny. It's a show about how excruciating life can be sometimes. I sit through most of it going, 'No, no, no.' But I relish it at the same time."

It's perhaps not the most expected choice for a man who seems to embody the suave qualities of say, a modern 007. Instead, he, like all of us, has an inner Larry David. But *Curb Your Enthusiasm* is also the quintessential send-up of Hollywood show business, a world in which Owen, who resides in London, gets to dip his fancy-sneaker-clad toes into every now and again. Surprisingly, the actor has shot only one film in Los Angeles. "Years ago, when I was very young," he says, somewhat cryptically, adding: "I don't talk about that film."

Did "that film" happen to also star Halle Berry? "Yeah," he says, with a knowing chuckle.

He has reason to laugh: The English Midlands native has come a long way from the critically panned *The Rich Man's Wife*, a 1996 blink-and-you-missed-it psychological thriller.

"When I first started, if [a British actor auditioned] for an American movie, you were always going up for a bad guy, and then it kind of opened up," Owen recalls. "The whole film market is so much more international than it used to be. People can be from anywhere now. It wasn't like that when I was young."

Still, Owen has managed to have a long and varied career. Projects like *Croupier*, Mike Nichols' *Closer*, *Sin City*, the futuristic *Children of Men* and now *The Knick* have illustrated the full range of his acting chops, cemented his heart-throb status, and turned him into a sartorial model for stylish men everywhere.

"I've always liked clothes," he says, adding that he selects all of his outfits himself rather than working with a stylist. "I could never have someone tell me what to wear. Not in my life, no."

That's not to say he doesn't occasionally embarrass his teenage daughters, Hannah and Eve. "I once wore—which I loved—a green velvet jacket to some event and my kids were appalled," he recalls. "It looked great. They were young. They didn't know."

Hannah plans to follow in the family business: She was just accepted into the foundation course in acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, which Owen himself attended in the 1980s. "She's going to have a little look: It's two terms, and then she'll take stock and decide if she wants to apply full time to drama school," he says.

So there's still time to stop her yet?

"I wouldn't," he insists, laughing that hearty Clive Owen laugh. "She's actually really good, and I've had too good of a time." •

#### **PLAY ON**

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President Obama bestowed him with the 2012 National Medal of Arts. He's been happily married to singer Lani Hall for 41 years. His work with the Tijuana Brass and Sergio Mendes helped introduce Latin music to North American audiences.

Of course, there are also the multiple Grammys, critical acclaim and platinum plaques. Not to mention the tens of millions he's donated to educational and environmental foundations and institutions. Yet his vital spark remains rooted in the same thrills of creation that have always propelled him.

"You never know where you're going to go—whether it's with art or with music. There's always something you can try to work out," Alpert says, smiling. "Dizzy Gillespie was a friend of mine and he told me something I'll never forget: 'The closer you get, the further it looks.'" •