

STAR CENTRAL

OCTOBER 2022

ONE ON ONE WITH
EVA MARTINS



KATHERINE GEREN

Meet one of the rising stars
to watch out for in 2022

Photographed by: Pedro Virgil

4 FACE-TRANSFORMING
MAKEUP TIPS & TRICKS
THAT WORK

THE HYPE IS OFFICIALLY OVER...

TINDER FATIGUE

IS THIS THE END OF THE
DATING APP ERA?

ALL HAIL
Sheridan
MORTLOCK

THE NEWLY CROWNED MISS EARTH AUSTRALIA 2022

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Sheridan Mortlock

Find out more about one of the queens to watch out for in 2022



AMBN

AUSTRALIAN MILLIONAIRES BUSINESS NETWORK



OPENING REMARKS



Let's face it, things don't often go according to plan - for instance, who would've thought this Covid pandemic would last this long?? Honestly, my younger self would have had a hard time believing how things always seem to work out. But it almost always does right? This is our 17th year of publishing StarCentral Magazine, a fulfilling life project. But, in case you didn't know, it was born out of job loss and drastic change in an uncertain time. In this issue, we're featuring the recently crowned Miss Earth Australia 2022 - Sheridan Mortlock. Wishing you all a happy, and healthy October, feel free to reach out for any story suggestions. God Bless...

Mike Ilagan
Managing Director



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High-fashion shoot with Miss Earth Water Australia: Riley Aston

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Katherine Geren Pg. 12



EDITOR'S NOTES

I can't believe that there's only a few months left in 2022! When faced with the end of a year, some could look at that end with sadness or even with frustration. This is especially so when you look back at your year with the view of remembering what you DIDN'T do.

But what of the things you did do?

Why not remember those? The nights you spend with family or friends, laughs shared with co-workers, moments that made you cry or think. All of these may seem like little things but to others, because of their life's hardships, those moments we take for granted, to them...is priceless. So, look at your 2022 in the right frame of mind and I bet it was amazing! My wish and prayer for all of you is that your 2022 will be another fantastic year!

Victoria Abella
Editor-in-chief

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Eva Martins Pg. 16



NOVEMBER 12 2022

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HIGH-FASHION PHOTOSHOOT WITH MISS EARTH AUSTRALIA 2022

Photographed by: Pedro Virgil

Featured Models:

Miss Earth Australia 2022: Sheridan Mortlock
Miss Earth Water Australia: Riley Aston
Miss Earth Fire Australia: Robyn Russell
Miss Earth Air Australia: Naomie White
Miss Earth Charity Australia: Himaya Wijayaweera

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Model: Sheridan Mortlock



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Photographed By: Pedro Virgil
Model: Himaya Wijayaweera



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Model: Robyn Russell

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Model: Naomi White

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RISING STAR SPOTLIGHT: MEET KATHERINE

GEREN

Latin actress, writer, and producer Katherine Geren was behind the pilot series "Elisa's Almost Thirty" that follows 'Elisa' (played by Geren) who on the brink of turning thirty meets a father she never knew existed, throwing her into a quarter-life crisis after learning her newly moved-in father is sleeping with her roommate. This new show is in the vein of BRIDESMAIDS meets "Emily in Paris."

"Elisa's Almost Thirty" has been fully cast and in addition to Katherine it stars Ryan Carnes ("General Hospital"), Matt McKane (40 Year Old Virgin, Knocked Up, Superbad), Manson Mathews ("Sorry Not Sorry"), Selita Ebanks (Victoria's Secret Angel), and onboard, Raquel Gardner ("Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D") is set to direct, with Emmy-nominated DP Matt Valentine who is known for "The Office," "Parks & Recreation," "The Bridge", "Entourage," "Shameless," and "Chicago Fire," and legendary 5x Emmy award-winning cinematographer Don Morgan. The show is expected to be taken out to cable, streaming, and broadcast networks in the fall, and production wraps at the end of August.

Katherine is a California native, who grew up in the Silicon Valley attending one of the most academically competitive high schools in the country. She decided to take her dreams down south to Los Angeles to pursue a career in acting and writing. After a successful 6 years of working as an actress in national TV commercials for companies such as Target, Honda, Wells Fargo, and Lexus just to name a few, she decided she wanted to tackle telling her own stories. Her debut short film, Amelia's Story won fan favorite at the Danny Elfman Rabbit and Rogue LA Film Festival, and her follow-up short film, Behind Her Eyes can now be streamed on Amazon Prime. StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Katherine to discuss her journey in the industry and here's what went down:

Can you tell us more about yourself? How did you get started in the entertainment industry?

My first encounter with the entertainment industry was when I was scouted to model in a local mall fashion show. I was still in High School at the time, and playing sports was of utmost importance; so I chickened out on the opportunity, but the seed was definitely planted. Then, when I moved to San Francisco for college I got scouted by agents and photographers while walking the streets of San Francisco. The first time I brushed it off as a fluke, but then it happened two more times; making my interest peak, I didn't have internet in my apartment yet, so I went to the local library to look up the agencies and found them to be reputable so I set up some appointments and ended up signing with a really great commercial agency in San Francisco. I had no idea there was a genre of modeling for "commercials" and it opened my eyes to how amazing and vast the industry really is. I started to work regularly and made more money than my friends in college, so I decided to drop out (to the horror of my parents) and move down to Los Angeles to really make a career out of it. I loved everything about the process; auditioning and meeting the clients, then working on set and creating an entire world in a mere few hours. Creating a vision that someone had in their mind and making it a reality. I knew I had found my home. Then it was the icing on the cake to see my work on a screen or in a store. I also loved how close everyone got on set, I have made some of my closest and lifelong friends from working on set with them. Something about being together for 8-12 hours together really makes you get to know people on a very personal level.

What do you like most about acting?

I love being able to express and convey deeply passionate emotions through the art of storytelling to convey the human condition to other people; to make others feel something, and to perhaps connect in such a way that it makes the viewer question the world in ways they hadn't thought of before.

How different is it to act in a movie and produce a movie? And which one do you prefer?

Vastly different! To be a producer one must be available to all others 24/7 (literally). You must be completely at will to the production—whatever the production needs you have to be able to deliver at a moment's notice. On the other hand, acting is deeply personal, and to be honest, for me, while prepping on set, I would much rather be by myself or with my scene partners and listening to music and getting into the space of the character. While producing my most recent project, I brought on an amazing Line Producer, Larry Kaster, who was my producing rock throughout the shoot. I told everyone on set that all production needs must go through Larry when I am acting, as being pulled out of character for production needs can be very distracting to an actor's performance. I honestly love both, but for very different reasons. They are both deeply satisfying and rewarding, however, acting will always be my number 1.

What are your weak points when it comes to acting? How do you try to improve them?

I am so thankful for my mentor, and acting coach, Raquel Gardner, who directed Elisa's *Almost Thirty*. She and I have such an amazing relationship and I trust her guidance like no other. She completely transformed the way I work as an actor. I am very much a perfectionist and before I started to train with Raquel, I very much wanted every one of my performances to be "perfect" which is such a weird, unquantifiable statement to make. She saw right through me and broke down why I felt the need to perform this way, as it was making me too rigid in my performance and too unwilling to commit fully to the moment. Once I broke down those emotional barriers and felt confident enough to be "imperfect" I saw an acting performance like I had never seen before in myself. I am now fully committed to my performance meaning I let everything that I have rehearsed go and really listen and play off my scene partners allowing whatever emotion comes up to come through—instead of forcing things. I can't begin to describe the freedom it has allowed me, it truly feels like I am living the moment instead of "acting" it. Raquel is AMAZING!

What are your strong points as an actor?

Now that I have fully committed to each of my performances I think honestly, I'm just not afraid to look like an absolute idiot. I committed so hard to my character Elisa that I had everyone in tears from the completely outlandish, hilarious, weird, and outright crazy things that came through while performing. I think with comedy in general, you have to learn to let go; to let go of ANY insecurity you may have. We watch comedy because we want to laugh, not to watch a wooden actor stand there too afraid to look stupid.

What have you learned from the directors that you have worked with throughout your career?

I think working with Raquel has taught me the most. Watching her be so fully committed to her work made me only want to commit to mine. She had a vision in her mind and she was able to convey that vision so beautifully that I only wanted to support her vision by doing everything I could to make it come to life. I think noticing how symbiotic an actor-director relationship can be, and if they are on the same wavelength true magic can happen, and it did!

What are some of the difficulties of the acting business?

It is ruthlessly competitive. Back when there were more in-person auditions pre-COVID, it was always a stark awakening going to an audition and seeing twenty other girls who look exactly like you all auditioning for one role. You have to learn to really trust yourself and your gifts and know that whatever is for you, is for you. I had to learn that being my most authentic self was the most powerful gift I could give myself, for it's the only way you stand out.

What's challenging about bringing a script to life?

Ha, so many things! Money? Definitely financing. But also just completing the script. Sifting down to write a fully fleshed story is hard work. It is not easy to write a story that has a cohesive beginning, middle, and end that is engaging to watch on screen. My screenwriting teachers have always taught me to write what I want to see happen on the screen. I really try to remember that while writing; no wasted space, no wasted exposition, and definitely NO telling. I think one should study the craft of screenwriting to really understand the nuance of writing for the screen. Then, once you have your first draft, begin the super fun job of re-writing. Ha, I would say most of writing a script is re-writing. Also, hear it out loud—have your friends and family read it so you can hear the words outside of your head. Listen to how others talk, and emulate that in your script. I watch a lot of reality television for this exact reason.

What do you do when you're not filming?

I spend time with my family and friends. I love my family so much, they mean the world to me. Also, my husband and I like to go on mini outings to fun places when we both have the time. We love getting away to Palm Springs for the weekend, or to Santa Barbara, or Vegas. We also love playing sports together, like soccer, beach volleyball, paddle boarding, biking, hiking, anything outdoors, and being active. We also are huge foodies (he is actually a Sommelier), so we love trying new restaurants around LA. I also love to watch TV and films for research and read scripts for fun. I really love to read scripts while watching the show or movie while reading it at the same time, it really helps me see how words translate on screen. My brain is never not working.

Who have been the most interesting people you've met so far?

Recently I met and got to work with Don Morgan, the 5x Emmy Winning Director of Photography, and Lifetime Achievement Award winner. We are honored to have him be a part of Elisa's *Almost Thirty* as the DP and what an amazing man he is. We can all only hope for a career like Don's and he couldn't be any nicer. He truly is a gem of a person and we are so incredibly grateful and honored. He was an absolute joy to work with.

If someone is going to make your life into a movie, who would play you? Me of course!

What are your future plans? Inside your career or out of it.

I hope to have Elisa's *Almost Thirty* up and streaming very soon, as well as my feature film *The Whistling Trees* in production next year. Hopefully, you will be seeing more of me on the screen next year!





ENTREPRENEUR OF THE MONTH: INTRODUCING EVA

MARTINS

Eva Martins is the founder of the Global Women leadership Academy, a number 1 international and best-selling author, international speaker, executive leader in Fortune 500 Company, and a business owner with a mission to empower women to skyrocket their lives.

She started her career in a male-dominated corporate industry where she soon grasped that if you do not have power, you go nowhere. Eva understood that if you do not have a strong voice, you are not heard. That if you do not adopt a more masculine attitude you will be blocked from excelling. It took Eva more than 10 years of operating in many different leading roles to realize things needed to change.

She now dedicates her energy to empowering other women to step up in their lives through the Global Women Leadership Academy and has trained hundreds of women. Her mission is to drive gender equality at all levels of society and encouraging women to raise their voices and goals, that's why her Leadership Academy to empower women was created.

StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Eva to discuss her journey in the industry and here's what went down:

What are you currently doing to maintain/grow your business?

To start, I remind myself of all women who might need my support, women who are struggling but with a wish to play a bigger game and have an impact in the world. So every day I ask myself if I have done everything I could to reach out to them or I am betraying them for not showing up. I create new content, to provide value on a daily basis, whether through my social media (IG, Facebook, and LinkedIn) or to my mail list or even through the creation of freebies such as ebooks, meditations, digital programs. I believe that by giving we always receive back, so I give as much as I can to support as many women as I can in their own fulfillment journey. I also love interviewing them, asking for feedback, asking in which ways I can support them. It has been a beautiful journey of continuous growth and development for both my business but also at the personal level.

What social media platforms do you usually use to increase your brand's awareness?

I use the main social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

What is your experience with paid advertising, like PPC or sponsored content campaigns? Does it work?

I have been using continuously Facebook ads with great results as I know my audience is there, having a growth rate of over 1000% in the last 6 months. I think paid advertising definitely helps to increase the community and list but only when there is a great value behind and with the right target in mind, those have been my priority.

What is your main tactic when it comes to making more people aware of your brand and engaging your customers?

I use 3 tactics: ads, webinars, 5-day challenges, organic growth through social media and press but also testimonials, especially in the area of personal development and transformation hearing from peers and the impact it had in their life is the most impactful strategy you might have in place and of course ensuring your customers are happy as they would refer to others.

What form of marketing has worked well for your business throughout the years?

The best marketing strategy has been to embody my customer, know exactly their pain points, breathe as they breathe, think as they think, and deeply understand how I can help them. This has helped me develop content of great value, deeply transformational group coaching programs because I deeply empathize with them, with their struggle. So in a nutshell it is customer-centricity in everything I develop, create or envision and always asking myself, how can I bring value to 'her.'

What is the toughest decision you had to make in the last few months?

As an entrepreneur, it is not always easy to have boundaries and relax, especially with COVID having to work from home, so I saw myself working endless hours during the week and weekend and feeling exhausted. So I had to make the really difficult decision to prioritize myself and my self-care instead of my clients which is definitely not natural for me and required determination and focus. Due to this reprioritization I had to reschedule the launch of one of my Global Women Leadership Academy group coaching programs, I had to detox from digital and take care of myself. Now I realize that it is definitely not nice to have as an entrepreneur but a must. The only way to serve others is to serve ourselves first.



What money mistakes have you made along the way that others can learn from (or something you'd do differently)?

I would not say that I have done any money mistakes, as all situations present a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow and I believe our professional life, as well as personal life, is simply a journey of self-growth. I believe I have done the right investments at the right time and I am happy for the mistakes I did as I learned with them; such as investing too much in Facebook ads in wrong audiences, having 600 ladies registered for a webinar but the systems crashed...The problem is that we take events too seriously as a drama, especially if we want to bring high value and maybe having a perfectionistic side, but with a more relaxed mindset, with more fun, everything becomes easier. Having a mindset of abundance, an abundance of resourcefulness, an abundance of support always attracts abundance to us.

What new business would you love to start?

I am soon going to launch the certification side of my Global Women Leadership Academy. My wish is to empower other women to be their own coach or be able to coach others!

If you could go back in a time machine to the time when you were just getting started, what would you do differently?

Nothing as all events were really important to be who I am



now, even the difficult period, they made me the strong and determined woman I have. I would not have the same drive, the same self-awareness without them.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

The best advice I was ever given is to stop trying to change your external environment because the solution is not in them but in us. Our life is a mirror, a reflection of our subconscious mind, the way we think, what we believe, and past experiences. So the solution is to deep dive into it and understand which part of us is co-creating any challenge and reframe it. That's exactly what I teach today in the Global Women Leadership Academy.

What advice would you give to a newbie Entrepreneur setting up their first business?

I would focus on keeping your passion alive. You will encounter endless challenges, whether lack of clients, lack of funds, sometimes feeling like an imposter...so always keep close to your heart your reason WHY and how you can contribute to a better world.

The second piece of advice is to know your customer better than they do, interview them, ask them which are their pain points and they always ask yourself if your product or solution fits their needs.

StarCentral

MAGAZINE

Sheridan Mortlock is a model and influencer who has worked with numerous brands such as Bec+Bridge, Sass&Bide, Alice McCall, Manning Cartell, Seafolly, and many more. After three attempts at the crown, having participated in 2019 and 2020, she was finally hailed as Miss Earth Australia 2022 - which means she will be representing Australia at the Miss Earth International pageant to be held later this year in Manila, Philippines. She is currently studying at the University of Wollongong taking up a double degree in Global Sustainability and Politics.

StarCentral magazine recently caught up with Sheridan to discuss her journey in the industry, and here's what went down:

How did you get into the pageant industry?

The first pageant I ever did was Miss Teen Australia when I was 16. The experience, while fun, completely overwhelmed me! So I wasn't too enthusiastic to try pageants again until I was 19, when I decided I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and push myself to try something new. That's when I joined Miss Earth Australia because I love the message and awareness it is spreading. The protection of our environment is as urgent as ever, and I believe that the more people are aware of what is happening and the actions they can take, the better. I haven't looked back ever since!

Can you tell us three fun facts about yourself?

My family and I traveled around Australia for 14 months living out of a tent. I have also done work experience at the Parliament House in Canberra and worked at a local members' office during one of my summer holidays, and I love languages. In fact, I'm currently learning French and Japanese.

Tell us about your advocacy.

I believe everyone can make little changes in their daily habits to impact the world positively. Whether it be switching from plastic bags to reusable, using a bamboo toothbrush, or shopping local. I am a big supporter of the slowing of fast fashion, and I believe that buying second-hand clothes, or even hiring clothing, is the best way forward.

How do you feel about finally winning the Miss Earth Australia title?

It feels like fate! After I joined in 2019, I wasn't expecting to do another pageant. But after coming runner-up, I knew I had to pursue this further. After two years of COVID and lockdowns, I am ecstatic to finally be crowned Miss Earth Australia and represent the nation on the international stage!

What has been the most memorable experience of being in the pageant industry so far?

It's hard to pinpoint one particular moment. Being part of the pageant industry has opened doors of opportunity that I would never have been privy to if I hadn't participated. Meeting so many different people and getting to experience events such as AGSA are definitely memorable.

What has been the most valuable lesson you've learned while in the pageant industry. This can be about the industry or about yourself.

I didn't realise how much self-reflection and personal growth would come from pageants. I definitely feel as though I fast-tracked working on myself and am surer of who I am as a person because of pageants. Knowing who you are as a person and standing up for your beliefs is a crucial part of not just the pageant industry, but life in general.

Working in an industry whose only emphasis is on the outside characteristics of a person, how have you stayed grounded?

I wouldn't say that the outside characteristics are the only thing emphasised in the pageant community. As mentioned above, what you stand for and are doing to help better the world are definitely looked at. However, whether it be physicality or advocacies, comparison can quickly drain your inspiration and fill you with self-doubt. My biggest tip is to put on your metaphorical horse blinders and focus on yourself and what you're doing in your lane. I don't stalk other contestants' Instagram pages while competing; instead, I put all my energy and time into giving the best performance I can.

Is your family supportive of you being in the pageant industry?

Yes! While the pageant industry is new and slightly foreign to them, they support me in any way they can. I was so grateful that my parents were able to come to the Miss Earth Australia show this year and all of my grandparents. This was not an easy trip for them, and I feel so lucky that my family will fly out to support me and cheer me on while competing.

What are your future plans? Inside pageantry or out of it.

After the Miss Earth pageant wraps up (if I haven't won), I plan to finish my double degree in Global Sustainability and Politics. I have two more years of full-time study left, so I want to push through that and then see what other doors of opportunity await me on the other side.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: PEDRO VIRGIL

ALL HAIL
SHERIDAN
MORTLOCK



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PHOTOGRAPHED BY: PEDRO VIRGIL



PHOTOGRAPHED BY: PEDRO VIRGIL



PHOTOGRAPHED BY: PEDRO VIRGIL

Tinder Fatigue

AN ILLUSION OF ABUNDANCE

“Dating is a probability game. A game that involves shedding your socially acceptable façade and opening up your heart to a person and asking that them to love you with warts and all. However, in the modern era of digital inter-webs, there is an abundance of potential mates waiting for you at your fingertips.”

By: Jenny Hu

Dating is a probability game. A game that involves shedding your socially acceptable façade and opening up your heart to a person and asking that them to love you with warts and all. However, in the modern era of digital inter-webs, there is an abundance of potential mates waiting for you at your fingertips through apps such as Bumble, Tinder, Coffee Meets Bagels, and Hinge. All at your disposal. However, to the individuals who are seeking love and a relationship, it can be challenging to navigate in the ebbs and flows of Tinder surfing.

A Paradigm Shift: From Being Family & Marriage oriented to An “I Don’t Need Nobody” Focus

I would say that the majority of the relationships that exist in your social circles are narrowed down to two things; being at the right place at the right time. If you dated early in your teens or met your significant others at university, then you are probably the lucky ones. But for the rest of us, online dating is our best bet.

According to Jean M. Twenge, an American Psychologist who researches the dating patterns of Gen X (1995-2012) in her book, *iGen*, she stated that there is an abrupt change in teen’s behavioural and emotional states around 2012, where smartphones reign supreme. According to Twenge, there is an upward trend towards individualism, instead of starting a family.

“In general, relationships conflict with the individualistic notion that “you don’t need someone else to make you happy — you should make yourself happy. That is the message iGen grew up hearing.” *Jean M. Twenge, American Psychologist and Author of iGen*

As a result of “I Do Not Need No Man to Make Me Happy” paradigm shift, there is a rejection towards the traditional notion of commitment and relationships. The emphasis on being an independent woman was ingrained within me ever since I was a young child. The sentiment was echoed within my female friendship circles.

We were encouraged to be career-oriented and make a legacy for ourselves, instead of thinking about marriage and relationships in high school. (So, I was reverse-engineered socially when I was younger. Very grateful to my mother for instilling these values.)

When prioritising dating and relationships become second place to my career, it has become more of an add-on, instead of a soul-search. According to two of the founders of Tinder, Sean Rad, and Justin Ma-teen, “the app was designed to challenge and supplant online dating websites by offering a more fluid experience. Tinder was designed to ‘take the stress out of dating’, being a type of ‘game’ that requires less time and emotional investment to play.”

It is encouraged in this day and age, to explore your options, rather than just find someone and stick with them for the rest of your life. Dating in your twenties is especially hard because, as a young adult, you haven’t found your footing yet. I ask myself that question too, How am I able to keep a relationship if I’m not stable myself? Therefore, I needed to work on myself a lot. With the excuse of being busy and being career-oriented, I actively avoided pursuing long-term relationships, rather seek for casual relationships. (Not anymore, because I realised how sad and unfulfilling they are in the end.)





tinder

Barry Schwartz, author of "The paradox of choice: Why less is more?", said that what's modern about modern society is that we have the ability to exercise one's freedom, and to do so, we have to maximise choice.

"The reason for this both that freedom is, in and of itself, good, valuable, worthwhile, essential to being a human, and because if people have freedom, then each of us can act on our own to do things that will maximise our welfare, and not one has to decide on our behalf. The way to maximise freedom is to maximise choice." - **Barry Schwartz, The Paradox of Choice**

Now, how does Barry Schwartz's concept, Paradox of Choice factor into mobile online dating, you may ask? Isn't it good to have an abundance of candidates at your disposal?

Well apparently, it creates the opposite effect. The more candidates that gets presented to anyone via the online dating apps, the more desensitised they will get.

"One effect paradoxically produces paralysis rather than liberation. With so many options to choose from, people find it very hard to choose at all. The second is that if we manage to overcome the paralysis and make a choice, we end up second-guessing ourselves and wonder if we can find something better."

Although with me, I never had the nerve to date a lot of people simultaneously. Rather, I pick one person that I have a great conversation with and see what happens from there until the relationship runs its course. Apparently, I was doing dating wrong. I was supposed to keep my options open and talk to other people to foster ongoing connections, rather than focusing on one. Sometimes, I was naïve enough to believe that the other person was only talking to me, but in actual fact, they are also keeping their options open. It left me cynical in the end as I realised dating has always been a number's game, rather than an avenue to meeting people and cultivating relationships.

Pronk and Desnissen, who are Dutch psychologists explain that having an extensive amount of choice can produce adverse effects and is actually detrimental to your life - it causes "Tinder fatigue."

"There is some indirect evidence that having more choice in the domain of dating also has negative consequences. For example, when asked to pick the best partner, access to more partner profiles resulted in more searching, more time spent on evaluating bad choice options, and a lower likelihood of selecting the option with the best personal fit. Likewise, when a choice set increases, people end up being less satisfied with their ultimate partner choice and more prone to reverse their decision."

Although, to the folks who are looking for something serious, finding a partner with high compatibility is low, which unintentionally creates an illusion of 'abundance.'

Generally, romantic relationships are hard, no matter what avenue you decide to take. Dating apps just make it easier to meet someone. Finding someone who has the right intention and compatibility as you, can seem improbable. You can find anyone attractive- when you have your initial meeting- the way they dress, the scent of the clothes, and their physique. The problem with dating apps is that they reduce a person to just merely a picture and three-line bio and only take a swipe to message and meet a person. It's low effort and efficient.

When in actuality, it requires time and commitment to get to really know someone's heart and soul of a person. Due to our (former) fast-paced lives and constant busyness, dating apps may be a good avenue to meet people, however, it makes us cherish relationships and commitment less, trading them out for non-committal casual hookups.

Although my days of swiping may be over, for now, it won't be long until I download the app again.



SNEAK PEEK: CELEBRITY HOMES UNLOCKED

KANYE WEST'S

ORIGINAL BACHELOR PAD

Kanye West's first home in the Hollywood Hills, where he lived for almost 15 years, is for sale. Its clean and sophisticated architecture and jetliner views are the vibes that seem to be abundant in Kanye's style. It is listed at \$3.699 million.

It was in 2003 that West emerged as both a solo rap artist and producer and began to chart both simultaneously. It was when 'Slow Jamz' went to No.1 across all three Hot 100, R&B, and Rap charts, becoming West's very first chart-topping song. It was also the year Kanye bought his charming bachelor pad for \$1.75 million.

With hardwood floors, high ceilings, smooth Venetian plaster and abundant natural light, Kanye's former house is complete with ocean and city views from every room. It is filled with sun-drenched formal living spaces, a media room, a primary suite and an ensuite bedroom with a deck. The veranda begs for candle-lit dinners overlooking the twinkling city lights below.

West's interest in architectural style has always been as strong as his interest in music and fashion, all of which he places under the umbrella of creativity and art. Minimalistic and somewhat stark in poured concrete and clean lines, West's preferred architectural-style preferences seemingly have not changed much from his original bachelor pad 18 years ago to the \$57 million Malibu Beach house he recently purchased. Kanye's new house was designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando constructed with 1,200 tons of poured concrete and 200 tons of steel reinforcement.

Forty-four-year-old West hit the ground running in 2004 as an award-winning rapper with his album *The College Dropout* and has never had time to look back. His rap music has gained him wealth and status, but astute in the ways of the world, Kanye branched out into business, fashion designing, singing and record producer. Now divorced from Kim Kardashian, both admired and vilified for his outspoken opinions, Kanye will likely remain a popular voice and style-setter long into the future.

West's former bachelor pad with spectacular views is co-listed with Myles Lewis at Compass and Skye Louise Lamb at Premier Realty Services.

Source: www.compass.com

Photo Credit: Jack Spitzer | Source: TopTenRealEstateDeals.com





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CORRECTING THE MISTAKES OF *Makeup past*

By Chi de Jesus

One of the nicest things to do is go down memory lane by looking at your old photos to remember the wonderful moments of past occasions. But how many of you out there have found yourself looking at photos of yourself with your face lighter than the rest of your body or appearing a bit grey or ashy? This total buzzkill is what usually happens when you aren't careful putting on make-up. So, what should you do?

Let's identify the culprits first. These make-up eyesores commonly happen with the application of three products – foundations, concealers and face powders. Aside from the incorrect application, chemical contents and other ingredients can be contributory to deconstructing your beautiful face.

THE GRAY FACE. This happens to a lot of women who usually like their foundation colours lighter than their actual skin colour. (That's why whitening products are a smash hit in Asia.) Remember that you have to know your undertones first to better guide you in choosing your foundation colours – some may have cool undertones, some warm and others neutral. Applying a foundation that is not within your skin tone range, makes your face look ashy or grey, especially with flash photography.

SOLUTION: Learn how to identify your actual skin tone. The easiest way to do it is by looking at the veins on your wrist – if its blue, then you have a cool undertone and if its green, you have a warm undertone.

THE WHITE FACE. So, you've seen the photos from your cousin's garden wedding last spring and you notice a white face standing out from the crowd – yours. Though you remembered a lot of people appreciating your make-up, you wonder why this happened?

THE REASON: Sunscreen. Check if your foundation or concealer has titanium dioxide or zinc oxide. These components protect the skin by reflecting the rays of the sun – it does the same to artificial light from flash photography.

SOLUTION: Do not use make-up with sunscreen when there's a guarantee that there will be flash photography. If you can't do away with it, make sure that your foundation is evenly applied to skin that's exposed. Remember that your neck, chest and sometimes your shoulders are still considered part of what make-up should reach in situations like this.

THE BLOTCHED FACE. This is a result of make-up flashbacks caused by powders with the component silica – effective in diffusing light. It can be found in powders used for finishing the make-up look like the HD powder. In flash photography, this powder reflects light making the areas where it was applied more pronounced than the rest of the face making it appear a bit blotchy.

SOLUTION: The statement "less is more" applies to this make-up innuendo. These powders may be a good life diffuser to the naked eye hiding imperfections and mattifying the skin but could stand out in a make-up look with flash photography. Apply sparingly – only to necessary areas and if you feel you've just went to town with it, get a clean powder brush and start brushing the face to knock off excess powders before it fuses with the skin.

THE SHINY FACE. Yes, the healthy glow will always be in. But glowing is different from looking shiny, bordering on oily. This is caused by using too much shimmer from highlighters. The statement that "if your highlights can't be seen from the moon, you haven't applied enough" may have spread when the products went viral with every beauty social media influencer using it and attesting to how fabulous they look.

But unless it's a look for a music video or a sci-fi movie that you're making, I suggest you refrain from using it as a face powder. Too much highlight makes the skin look tired and sagging especially in summer. Again, "less is more". There's still time to update those momentous photos with new memories wearing the correct make-up. So start practicing and updating your products because it's never too late to do it the right way.

Source: *The Australian Filipina*





Here's a behind-the-scenes look at a recent photoshoot Miss Earth Australia did at Hunter Valley. We took photos at Nightingale Wines, Villas & Restaurant, and worked with StarCentral Magazine to put the photoshoot together. A big thank you to Vicky Chew of Millionaires Alliance for sponsoring the entire trip. Here are a few of the images we captured courtesy of Dave Choo.



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a wide-brimmed white hat, a white short-sleeved dress with ruffles, and brown boots, is sitting on a sand dune. She is holding a brown crossbody bag and sunglasses. The background shows a beach with waves and a blue sky with light clouds. Two wooden posts are visible in the sand.

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