

SHOT AT SOHO HOUSE NYC BY MIKE YI

LAFM

VALENTINE'S DAY?
HOW ABOUT VDAY
MONTH?

LOVE ME,
OR LEAVE ME

FALL IN LUV
WITH YOUR
SKINCARE

KRISTINA
MENISSOV
IS OUR MODEL
OF THE YEAR

Taso Mikroulis is

Mr February

TABLE OF CONTENTS & STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF:
NINA VARGAS

SOCIAL & WELLNESS:
ANISA MISTRY

BEAUTY EDITOR:
LIZ DIZON

CREATIVE CONTENT:
MIKE YI & ALICIA LEE

OPERATIONS &
CLIENT RELATIONS:
JUANITA PELAEZ & AYA DILAZZARO

AP MANAGEMENT:
KAREN JOHNSON

PR + MARKETING:
JKO AGENCY

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EDITORS NOTE

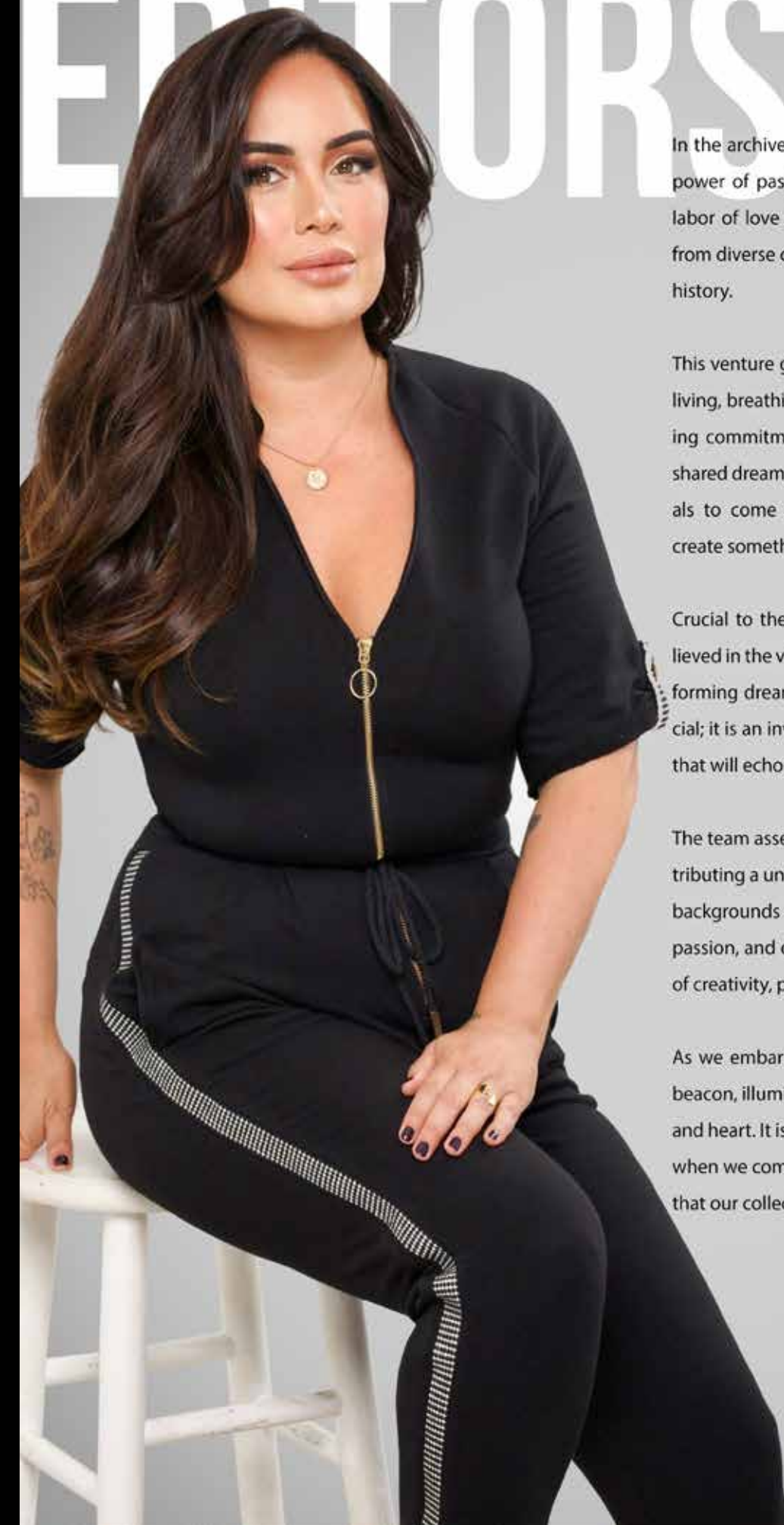
In the archives, there are endeavors that stand as testament to the power of passion, collaboration, and shared vision. Our project, a labor of love brought to life by a collective of gifted professionals from diverse corners of the globe, embodies the essence of creating history.

This venture goes beyond the confines of traditional projects; it is a living, breathing narrative crafted with heart, soul, and an unwavering commitment to making a lasting impact. It is a celebration of shared dreams, united efforts, and the remarkable ability of individuals to come together, transcending geographical boundaries, to create something extraordinary.

Crucial to the realization of this project are the sponsors who believed in the vision, providing the crucial support necessary for transforming dreams into reality. Their commitment is not merely financial; it is an investment in the legacy we collectively build—a legacy that will echo through time.

The team assembled for this project is a mosaic of talents, each contributing a unique brushstroke to the canvas of history. From diverse backgrounds and skill sets, they have brought forth their expertise, passion, and dedication. The result is a tapestry woven with threads of creativity, perseverance, and the indomitable human spirit.

As we embark on this journey together, let this project serve as a beacon, illuminating the path for future endeavors rooted in passion and heart. It is a living history—a testament to what can be achieved when we come together with a shared purpose, fueled by the belief that our collective efforts can shape the world in profound ways.



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Elastic Firming



HYALURONIC ACID
SOLUTION

700,000ppm

BIOME-BALL
(Elastic Firming Biome™)

125,000ppm



"EXPERIENCE THE
ULTIMATE DEFENSE
FOR YOUR SKIN!"

HYAESTIC

FOR SKEPTICS, BY INSIDERS.





Photographer: Mike Yi

XOXO, VALERIA







VITABRID C¹²
Wrinkle Serum

Clinically proven to help target fine lines and wrinkles, improve skin discoloration and smooth skin texture while refining pores for firmer, resilient looking skin.



Love **YOUR SKIN**

Embrace the season with a radiant complexion, courtesy of this winters essential skincare picks.



MADECA DERMA
Elastic Firming Microbiome Ampoule

Microbiome Ampoule (the world's first 'elasticity-biome') bring a whole new meaning to the word 'anti-aging. It helps strengthen skin anti-aging and elasticity, aiding in preventing skin aging.



TRINNY LONDON
BETTER OFF

Enjoy a replenishable skincare experience! Time to elevate your cleansing routine with this exfoliating conditioning gel. Its gentle yet effective formula deeply cleanses without stripping the skin, unveiling your natural glow through gentle exfoliation - and it's a true EDITOR'S FAVORITE!

HYAESTIC SKINCARE
BHA 2% Pore Refining

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C.O. BIGELOW
Rose Salve

A versatile balm blended with calming Rose Extract, perfect for healing dry skin patches on the face and body, as well as soothing chapped lips.





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Praise your natural beauty! Using our buildable, weightless, coconut cream foundation, made with natural ingredients, your skin will not only feel soft and hydrated, but it will leave you enjoying a radiant picturesque finish.

This first-of-its-kind formula focuses on using only the best natural ingredients available to promote beauty and skincare as one. Offering a supple feel of a cream foundation in a sleek compact, our foundation is not only buildable, but can be applied both wet and dry, leaving you with a beautiful airbrush finish; but not to worry, though the foundation will blend seamlessly giving you the desired coverage, the weightless product still allows your skin to breathe while looking like skin.

Not sure on your color? Thanks to our formulation, our foundation's technology will heat up to your skin's temperature and adjust itself to give the best possible natural match – up to a three-color difference.



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SMOOCH WORTHY

This season, let your makeup be the kiss of the season itself—elegant, confident, and unapologetically memorable.



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BFF All Day
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● LANCÔME
Hypnôse Eyeshadow Palette
TAUPE CRAZE

Included in a series of compact eyeshadow palettes, each showcasing 5 versatile shades for effortlessly crafting day-to-night looks with a single stroke.

● YVES SAINT LAURENT
Rouge Volupté Shine Oil-In-Stick
Lipstick #44

An oil-in-a-stick, medium-coverage lipstick that provides high-performance color + shine.



● WESTMAN ATELIER
Face Trace Contour Stick

A satin finish that effortlessly blends with ease and intuition; leaving you with gently defined cheek contours.



● YVES SAINT LAURENT
LASH CLASH EXTREME VOLUME MASCARA

A satin finish that effortlessly blends with ease and intuition; leaving you with gently defined cheek contours.

LOVE ME, OR LEAVE ME: THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIORITIZING YOURSELF IN A RELATIONSHIP

In the dance of love and relationships, maintaining a sense of self can often be overshadowed by the desire to please or merge with another. Yet, the essence of a healthy and fulfilling partnership lies in the balance between togetherness and individuality. "Love Me, Or Leave Me" isn't just a bold statement—it's a mantra for those seeking to nurture love while holding space for personal growth and self-respect.

At its core, prioritizing yourself is not about selfishness; it's about self-love. It's the recognition that your needs, dreams, and well-being are equally important as those of your partner. This approach fosters a relationship built on mutual respect and admiration, where both individuals are empowered to be their best selves.

Establishing Boundaries

Setting clear boundaries is fundamental in any relationship. It communicates to your partner what is acceptable and what isn't, ensuring that your personal space and values are respected. Boundaries are not barriers to intimacy but rather the guardrails that guide a healthy, balanced connection.

Cultivating Independence

While sharing experiences with a partner can be enriching, maintaining independence is crucial. Engage in hobbies, pursue career ambitions, and nurture friendships outside the relationship. This independence not only strengthens your sense of self but also brings new energies and insights into the partnership, keeping the relationship vibrant and dynamic.

Emotional Self-Reliance

Relying solely on a partner for emotional fulfillment is a heavy burden to bear and can lead to codependency. Cultivating emotional self-reliance involves finding happiness and contentment within yourself. It's about being your own source of support and comfort, which in turn, enhances the emotional health of the relationship.

Communication and Growth

Open and honest communication is the lifeline of any relationship. Expressing your needs and desires openly not only fosters understanding and empathy but also promotes growth and compromise. It's through this dialogue that relationships evolve and adapt, embracing changes as both partners grow individually and together.

In essence, "Love Me, Or Leave Me" is a declaration of self-respect and a testament to the belief that true love flourishes when both partners are allowed to be themselves, fully and freely. By prioritizing yourself, you not only enhance your own life but also enrich the relationship, creating a love that is both liberating and lasting. Prioritizing yourself isn't just an act of self-love—it's a commitment to creating a partnership where both individuals can thrive.

REBOOT YOUR ROOTS

why you need it!

removes buildup

tackles hard water

gives hair fresh start

promotes hair growth

nd.
naturally
drenched

REBOOT.

DETOX SHAMPOO
SHAMPOO

For all hair types

Removes buildup from
scalp and hair

230 mL e / 7.8 fl oz

VITABRID C¹² •
Scalp⁺ Shampoo

A scalp shampoo rich in non-stripping antioxidants. It enhances the appearance and texture of hair, leaving it in its optimal, healthiest condition.

SHIELD AGAINST THE CHILL

Nourish winter-dulled locks with a hydration; and help protect your locks against the cold.



• NATURALLY DRENCHED
Watermelon Dreams

Strengthens the skin barrier by retaining moisture; Softens and smooths the skin's surface.

• COCO & EVE
Like A Virgin

A potent hair treatment, rich in coconut, fig, shea butter, linseed, and argan oil, restores and strengthens hair to its pure virgin state.



• ORIBE
Beach Wave and Shine Spray

Transform your hair from beach to bombshell with effortlessly tousled, touchable waves, and a sun-kissed shine. Say goodbye to salty stiffness as our hydrating glamour spray incorporates luxurious extracts and exotic oils, delivering lush repair and a sultry texture.



• L'Oréal
Precision Pen

Effortlessly address scattered grays, touch up roots, and eliminate gray hair in an instant. The innovative Magic Precision Brush ensures seamless and smooth application, concealing even the most stubborn gray

Oups! is a French expression that is often used in everyday life. During artistic creation process, we believe that inspiration comes unexpectedly. We exclaim "Oups !" when the right moment has arrived, so this is naturally the first sign that others will hear when inspiration lights up. Pearls, symbolising warmth and elegance. Zircon, the vitality of life, are our inspiration muses. The sparkle of these two main materials reveals the fusion of the old and the new, of water and stone, of the classic and the new. We look forward to conveying the holistic fashion concept, the casual chill fashion attitude and becoming the aesthetic balance of the old and new era. We hope that everyone who wears "Oups !" when they look in the mirror will shout out loud "Oups ! Always so beautiful !"



1st Collection

Fragmented Moments

The inspiration for our first collection comes from the designer's personal feelings during the festivities, surrounded by warmth and love. We hope that through nostalgic design we can wave away the nervous emotions of the post-pandemic era, expressing surprise and love and igniting a passion for life.



2nd Collection

Neon Party

The inspiration for the 2nd collection comes from the discotheques of the 80s and continues the saturated neon colors of the 1st collection, which create an ambiguous atmosphere of freedom and joy through their strong visual impact. We love, dance and explore. With this collection, Oups! follows the spirits of disco to forget identity, social rank, diploma and all those restrictive masks and finally find the feeling of a heartbeat.



4rd Collection

Summer Days By The Island



The 3rd collection is inspired by the fashion esthetics and color chronicles of ancient Egypt, lingering in the boundless desert and the glittering waters of the rivers, let yourself be enchanted by the brilliance of gold and the sparkle of precious stones. We crown girls with different cultures in this new upcoming year 2023 to embrace an undefined and multicultural fashion attitude.



The sea breeze is warm, the blue waves swirl; The love of the opal, the joy of the maiden; coral like a mountain, pearl like a stone; Anemones dance, jellyfish breathe; The stars around the beautiful moon, fade in the night...The new season includes opal elements to show the natural spirit and vitality of the ocean. The soft colours and decorative details speak to the imagination of the island summer, and with the moonlight of the tides and the overwhelming beauty of the sea, Oups' design poetry is laid out like a painting.

LITTLE REMINDERS TO DO BETTER EVERY DAY. TO LOVE MORE. BE KIND. &
CHOOSE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE IN A WAY THAT MAKES YOUR HEART HAPPY.
IT'S NOT JUST JEWELRY. IT'S A LIFESTYLE.



wear love wherever you go



**SAND
& STONE
JEWELRY**



Photographer: Mike Yi // HnM: Chris Lanston

FALL IN LOVE WITH

Taso Mikronlis





In a candid interview, Taso Mikroulis shares insights into his multifaceted career, blending the worlds of acting, music, and entrepreneurship with a remarkable sense of purpose and passion. His journey, marked by significant accomplishments and challenges, offers a unique perspective on personal growth and professional development.

Inspired Beginnings

Mikroulis's acting career was sparked by an early fascination with the film "Warlock," captivating him with the transformative power of performance. Acting served as a refuge from insecurities, allowing him to explore different identities and ultimately embrace his true self. This therapeutic journey through acting highlighted the importance of self-acceptance and purpose.

The Role of Music

Parallel to his acting, music played a crucial role in Mikroulis's life, serving as a pure form of self-expression and emotional release. This creative outlet complemented his acting, enriching his personal and professional growth. Mikroulis's background in music and acting significantly influenced his approach to his weight loss business, emphasizing empathy, understanding, and a deep connection with clients.

Embracing Entrepreneurship

Mikroulis's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish several ventures, including Ideal Health, Aion Aesthetics, and The Kiki app. His transition from an unsatisfying system to entrepreneurship was driven by a desire to control his destiny and maintain his passions. Mikroulis's story is one of resilience, showcasing his journey from facing challenges to achieving a standard of living that aligns with his values and aspirations.

Overcoming Challenges

Mikroulis has faced and overcome significant challenges in his career. In music, a diagnosis of bilateral sulcus vocalis forced him to recalibrate his relationship with singing, focusing on songwriting and production. In acting, dealing with rejection taught him resilience and the importance of viewing auditions as opportunities for growth. As a business owner, the early challenges of Ideal Health motivated him to focus on the impact of his services, driving innovation and persistence.

A Unified Approach

Mikroulis's approach to pressure and deadlines emphasizes prioritization, teamwork, and self-care. He highlights the importance of breaking down tasks, leveraging the strengths of his team, and taking moments to recharge. His success is attributed to resilience, creativity, empathy, communication, leadership, adaptability, and a strong work ethic. Collaboration and teamwork in a professional setting are built on respect, openness, mutual support, and flexibility.

Motivation and Adaptability

Motivated daily by gratitude and the milestones he has set for himself, Mikroulis remains committed to growth in both his acting and entrepreneurial endeavors. He shares experiences of adapting to unexpected changes, emphasizing the importance of resilience and learning from every situation. Maintaining a healthy work-life balance, Mikroulis sets clear boundaries, ensuring that his professional achievements do not overshadow his personal well-being.

Building Relationships

Mikroulis prioritizes strong relationships with clients and colleagues through availability, listening, and embedding the essence of Greek hospitality in every interaction. He views the future of acting and theater as an opportunity to create personal and unique experiences, emphasizing the importance of authenticity and connection.

Advice for Aspiring Actors

For those aspiring to succeed in acting, Mikroulis advises rigorous training, persistence in auditioning, effective networking, and staying true to oneself. He emphasizes the importance of continuous learning and resilience in the face of rejection.

Partnership and Support

Working with his partner, Dr. Akis Ntonos, Mikroulis highlights the balance between their personal and professional lives, focusing on open communication, mutual respect, and shared successes. They support each other by celebrating achievements, listening, and managing emotional needs, fostering a strong bond that withstands professional challenges.

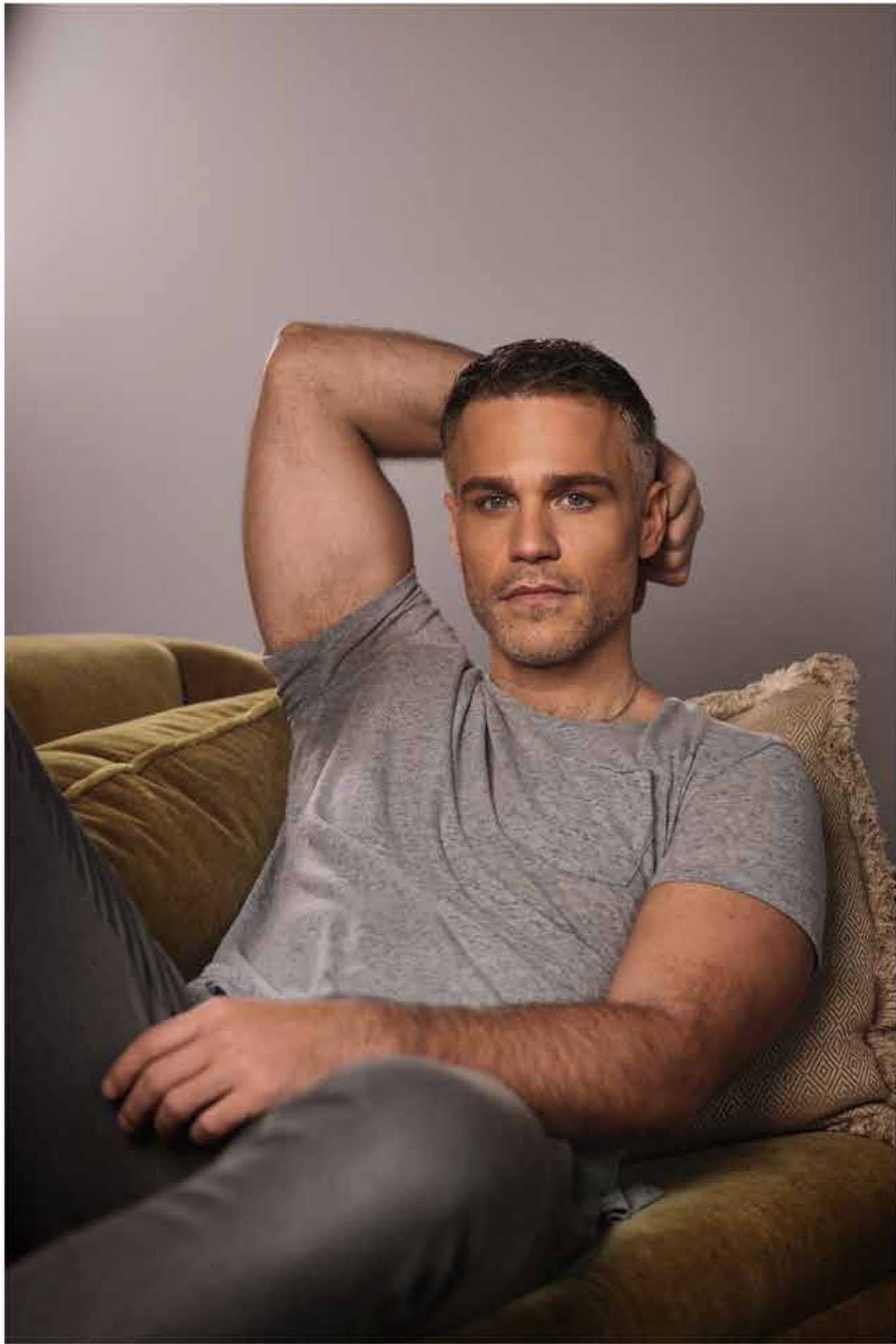
Conclusion

Taso Mikroulis's journey is a testament to the power of integrating one's passions and skills across different fields. His story encourages individuals to pursue their interests with determination, adaptability, and a deep sense of empathy, proving that success is not only about achieving personal goals but also about making a meaningful impact on others' lives.









WINTER ELEGANCE: UNVEILING THE CHIC TRENDS OF 2023

As the winter winds usher in a new year, fashion enthusiasts are embracing a delightful array of trends that seamlessly blend warmth with style. The winter fashion landscape for 2023 is a captivating fusion of timeless classics and innovative twists.

Oversized Silhouettes: This season, oversized coats, chunky knit sweaters, and roomy trousers take center stage. The fashion-forward embrace of volume provides both comfort and a bold, statement-making aesthetic.

Luxurious Textures: From sumptuous faux fur to plush velvet, the textures of winter 2023 evoke an air of opulence. Expect to see outfits adorned with tactile elements that not only provide warmth but also elevate the overall look with a touch of luxury.

Rich Jewel Tones: Winter wardrobes are awash with rich jewel tones such as emerald green, deep burgundy, and royal blue. These vibrant hues add a pop of color to the snowy landscape and exude sophistication.

Layering with Leather: Leather takes on a new role this winter, becoming a versatile layering piece. Whether it's a leather blazer paired with a cozy knit or leather trousers under an oversized coat, this trend adds an edgy flair to cold-weather ensembles.

Statement Accessories: Accessories play a pivotal role in elevating winter outfits. From oversized hats and embellished gloves to statement scarves and bold boots, these eye-catching additions bring personality to every look.

The winter fashion trends of 2023 are an ode to self-expression, allowing individuals to navigate the chilly season with elegance and flair. So, as the snowflakes descend, let your wardrobe be a canvas for creativity, embracing the warmth of fashion that resonates with the spirit of the season.

AFD.HEALTH TRANSITIONS TO SWELL MEDICAL, USHERING IN A NEW ERA OF FAMILY-CENTRIC HEALTHCARE

AFD.health proudly announces its rebranding as SWELL Medical (SMed), marking a strategic shift towards a more personalized and family-centric approach to healthcare. Effective January 18th, 2024, SWELL Medical (SMed) embodies a profound dedication to providing compassionate care that reflects the values of family and community, the official platform will be available to the public on February 1st, 2024 at SWELLHEALTH.CARE.

Named after each of Dr. Laura Purdy's children, Sam, William, Eleanor, Lydia, and Laura, SWELL Medical (SMed) represents a new chapter in telehealth innovation, prioritizing a family-oriented experience for all users. Dr. Purdy's vision for SWELL Medical (SMed) is to create a healthcare enterprise that is not only accessible and reliable but also fosters genuine connections and a sense of belonging.

"SWELL Medical is more than a healthcare service; it's a commitment to revolutionizing the way families access and experience medical care," expresses Dr. Laura Purdy. "Our focus on personalized telehealth excellence aims to provide a comforting and consistent healthcare experience for every individual, embodying the values of compassion, accessibility, and inclusivity."

SWELL Medical's Five Core Principles:

Direct Interaction with Real Medical Providers: SWELL Medical ensures users have direct access to qualified medical professionals, fostering trust and authenticity in every interaction.

Specialization in Therapeutic Communication: In addition to medical expertise, SWELL Medical professionals prioritize empathy and understanding, offering a therapeutic partnership tailored to individual needs.

Familiarity and Consistency: Prioritizing continuity, SWELL Medical emphasizes building lasting relationships between users and their trusted healthcare providers.

Accessibility and Convenience: Operating 24/7, SWELL Medical offers seamless access to medical advice and care, ensuring continuity of care regardless of location or time.

Inclusive and Stigma-Free Virtual Care: Embracing health equity, SWELL Medical dismantles stigmas associated with seeking healthcare, offering an accessible and comfortable option for users of all ages.

SWELL Medical (SMed) invites everyone to join in this transformative journey, where personalized, convenient, and compassionate healthcare takes center stage, regardless of life's twists and turns.



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www.drlaurapurdy.com

The logo for SWELL medical, featuring a stylized heart shape to the left of the word "SWELL" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with the word "medical" in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font below it.



Model Of The Year
KRISTINA MENISSOV

Creative: Nina Vargas
Photographer: Mike Yi
HnM: Liz Dizon
Stylist: Juanita Pelaez
& Aya Dilazzaro

Location: Omni Berkshire NYC





Our Model Of The Year

Kristina Menissov's journey from Kazakhstan to the glamorous covers of Vogue and other prestigious fashion magazines is a tale of resilience, determination, and breaking barriers. Starting her career in Los Angeles in 2017 as a single mother, Kristina has transformed her life's challenges into stepping stones for success, embodying the spirit of perseverance and empowerment for women everywhere, especially immigrants, single mothers, and those of mixed ethnicities.

From Dreams to Reality

Despite her initial dreams of becoming a model, Kristina faced doubts about the viability of modeling as a career while dedicating her time to studying opera singing. It wasn't until she moved to Los Angeles, with a newborn in tow, that she took the plunge into modeling, driven by necessity and the encouragement of her Instagram followers who supported her through her journey of motherhood and immigration.

The Path to Recognition

Kristina's "I did it" moment is still on the horizon, as she views her current state as being on the verge of "I am doing it." Her journey is marked by continuous growth and the anticipation of a pivotal year ahead in 2024.

Lessons and Inspirations

The toughest lesson for Kristina has been the realization that she is her own savior, a lesson that has instilled in her a fair sense of independence and self-reliance. Her biggest source of inspiration is her son, who motivates her to persevere and strive for success against all odds.

Collaborations and Achievements

Kristina's career has seen her collaborate with prestigious fashion houses such as Cartier, Chopard, Balmain, Saint Laurent, Roberto Cavalli, and more, marking her presence in the international fashion scene. Her work has graced the pages of Vogue Mexico and Latin America, Harpers Bazaar Vietnam, Glamour Bulgaria, Elle Arabia, and Forbes, among others. A highlight of her career was launching a capsule collection with the NYC-based fashion brand Marcella, an experience that allowed her to explore her creativity beyond modeling.

Beyond Modeling

In addition to her modeling career, Kristina is pursuing her passion for singing, with upcoming singles produced by the renowned Andrew Lane. Balancing her professional and personal life is a challenge she embraces, finding excitement in the constant juggling of responsibilities.

A Day in the Life

Kristina's days are filled with the joys of motherhood, the demands of photoshoots, and the pursuit of her varied interests, from fitness and singing to studio time and other projects. Her discipline and dedication shine through her daily routine, highlighting her commitment to her career and her role as a mother.

Inspiration and Motherhood

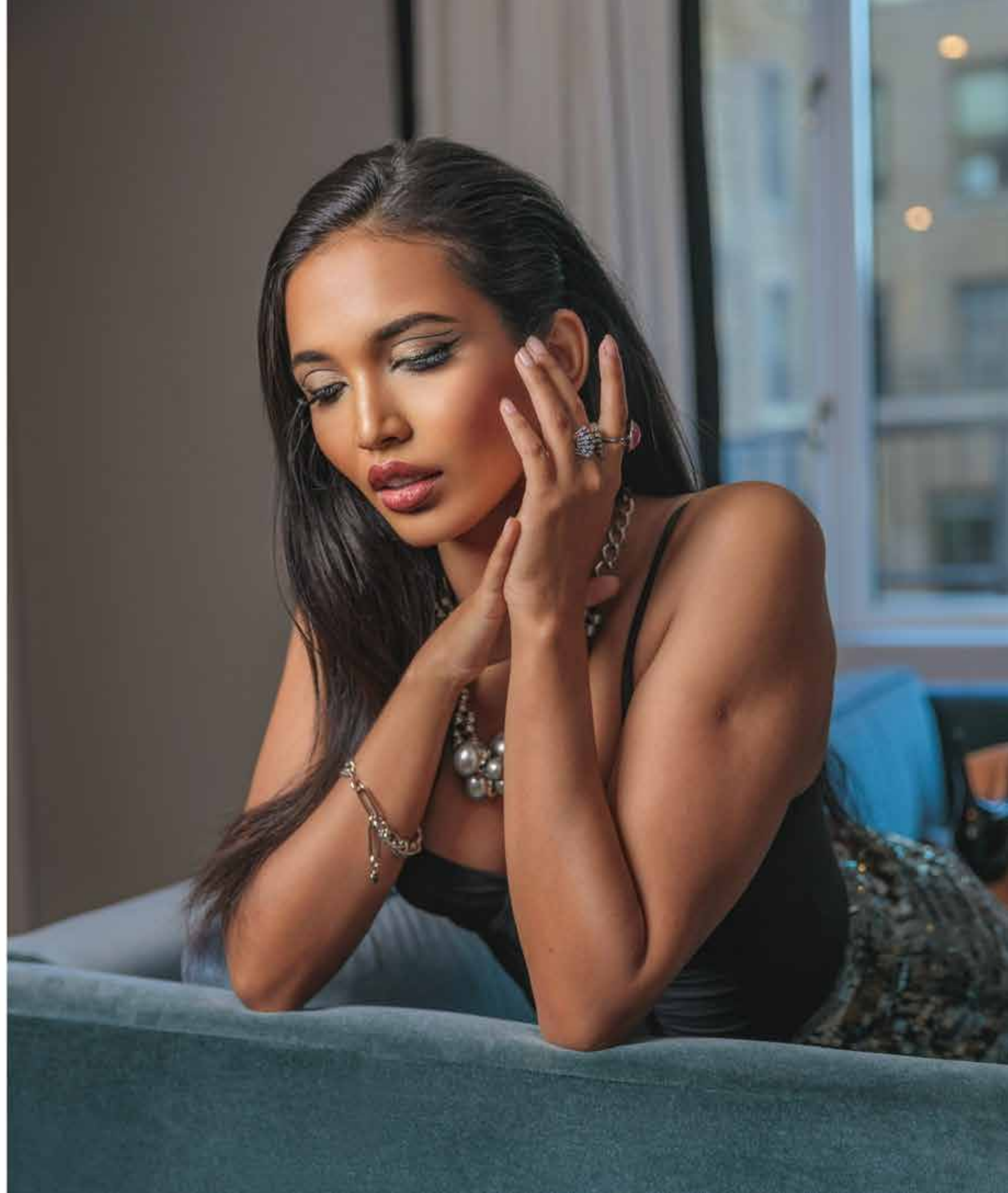
Kristina's message is clear: never ignore your inner voice and stay true to your path. Motherhood has played a crucial role in shaping her discipline and drive, proving that with love and determination, any challenge can be overcome.

A Milestone Achievement

Kristina's recent accomplishment of purchasing her first property in Los Angeles is a testament to her hard work and determination. Her story is a beacon of hope and inspiration, proving that with dedication and perseverance, dreams can indeed become reality.

Kristina Menissov's journey is a powerful reminder that no matter where you come from or what challenges you face, with hard work and a belief in oneself, achieving your dreams is possible. Her story is not just about her success in modeling and music but about empowering others to follow their dreams and never give up.









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REDEFINING SUCCESS: THE RISE OF WOMEN CEOs AND EVOLVING NARRATIVES

In the modern landscape, women are rewriting traditional narratives about success, with an increasing number choosing paths that lead to boardrooms rather than confining themselves to domestic spheres. The surge in women CEOs reflects a powerful shift in societal perceptions, breaking free from outdated stereotypes.

As more women ascend to leadership roles, the business world witnesses a diversity of perspectives and innovative approaches. The increase in female CEOs not only signifies progress towards gender equality but also demonstrates that women can excel in traditionally male-dominated sectors.

However, it's crucial to recognize that the rise of women in leadership doesn't diminish the importance of other choices. The shift towards more women CEOs doesn't devalue the role of stay-at-home moms or those pursuing alternative paths. Rather, it emphasizes the importance of individual choices and the freedom for women to navigate their own unique journeys.

The evolving landscape reflects a broader understanding of success—one that accommodates diverse aspirations and choices. Society benefits from embracing a spectrum of roles, fostering an environment where women can thrive both in the corporate world and within the nurturing spaces of their homes, creating a more inclusive and supportive future for all.

STANDARD WORMWOOD DISTILLERY CREATES THE FIRST FULL COCKTAIL BAR ALL MADE IN-HOUSE

Before the US legalized wormwood - the infamous herb associated with absinthe - in 2007, childhood friends Taras Hrabowsky and Sasha Selimotic were already using it to distill complex fine spirits. Utilizing the naturally abundant Artemisia Absinthium growing on Hrabowsky's family's farm in upstate New York, the two took advantage of what was, essentially, a blank slate when it came to defining new methods of distillation. Now, almost 20 years later, Standard Wormwood Distillery is quietly upending tradition. Located at Industry City in Brooklyn,, the small-batch distillery's team of only four stocks and operates an entire cocktail bar using only its own house-made spirits, cordials, and bitters.

"Our cocktails taste like nothing else because they can't be made anywhere else," Selimotic said, leaning on a bartop of French and American oak wrapped in iron and copper. "To run our bar, we make four spirits, two vermouths, two aperitivi, and an amaro, alongside hundreds of bitters and macerations."

A traditional cocktail bar designs its drinks around pre-existing spirits, but Standard Wormwood Distillery takes the opposite approach, crafting the spirits for their cocktails. Signature cocktails like the Coyote, ranging from earthy and smoky to vegetal and minty, belies the years of practice it took to imagine and create its constituent parts. For classic cocktails like the Sazerac, they pare down and reconstruct the spirit, aromatics, bitters, and absinthe from scratch to produce a version unlike any other.

After nearly two decades of experimentation, Hrabowsky and Selimotic have produced a series of firsts: the first wormwood rye, the first wormwood gin, the first wormwood agave spirit, and the first wormwood rum, to say nothing of their cordials, cocktails, and house-made bitters.

"We have the range to either adhere to tradition or depart from it," Hrabowsky said. "We choose to create our version of what cocktails and spirits can be, beginning to end, regardless of categories."

Visitors are invited to try a well-rounded selection that includes:

Wormwood Rye - Wormwood Gin - Wormwood Agave
- Wormwood Rum - Wormwood Amaro - Rose Aperitivo - Dry Wermut (vermouth) - Meadow Aperitivo - Bitter-Sweet Wermut

Ranging from locally sourced ingredients grown on the family farm to obscure and eccentric herbs and ingredients, Standard Wormwood Distillery's ever-expanding seasonal menu of libations is approachable for both the casual and informed taster alike. The uplifting synergy of modern wood and stained glass architecture establishes a warm inviting atmosphere in which to relax and savor the moment.

@standardwormwooddistillery



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west coast cool
MEETS EAST COAST BOLD

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