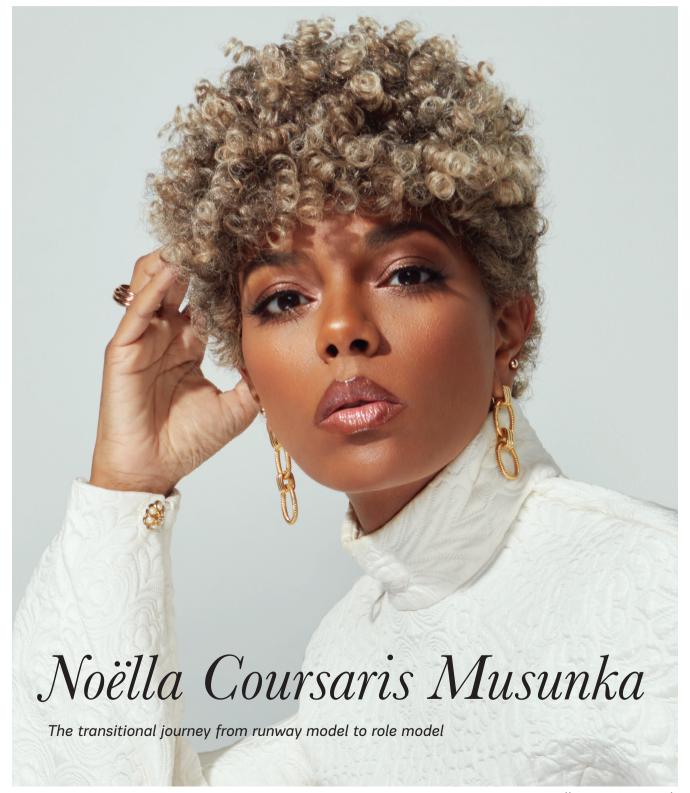


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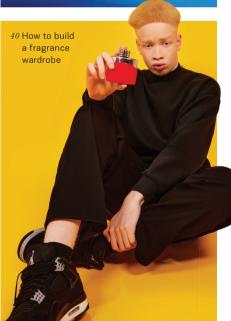
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# 32 The rise of Middle Eastern fashion







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Not-to-be-missed interviews



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# Bulletin with all the industry goss!



# **BRIOGEO**

Nancy Twine is the founder and CEO of Briogeo Hair Care, a leading authority on "green beauty", and the youngest African American to launch a product line at Sephora. The bright packaging and community spirit of the brand has made it one of the fastest growing names in the US.

Read the full interview at spellmagazine.com





Briogeo Superfoods Banana + Coconut Shampoo and Conditioner duo, from £45; Honey Moisture Deep Conditioning Mask, £32

### Interview

# Why clean beauty is becoming more of an expectation in the hair world and the secret behind going viral

So much of my ability to build my confidence over the years came from seeing people who looked like me pursue their dreams and goals. I grew up with a mother who had a successful physician practice, which let me see that I wasn't disadvantaged as a woman or as a woman of colour.

When I worked in a large finance firm as a VP, the nature of working in sales and trading means you come into work each morning and you never know what you're going to get. Markets are constantly moving and changing, and you need to be ready for anything. Working as an entrepreneur is very similar - especially when you're starting out. You wear many hats, and every day at work is completely

different. When you're starting a company. relationship building (in my case, with buyers, manufacturers, investors, and other entrepreneurs) is key to your success.

Honey Bear has become a cult fave because it features an innovative formula that's powered by our unique apple honey complex, which intensely boosts moisture in your hair. Plus, the adorable bear packaging is very social media-worthy - it doesn't look like most of the haircare packaging on the market, and I think people are having a lot of fun with it because of that.

Across the board, clean beauty is continuing to become more of an expectation than just a category -

meaning, hair care brands are prioritising clean formulas. without unnecessary or harsh ingredients, and ramped-up sustainability efforts. The whole hair care industry is going through a fundamental shift because of how consumers are now shopping and thinking about their beauty regimens. Consumers want to support brands that know that preserving our planet is an ongoing and important initiative.

Going forward, I want to be that example for others. I recently launched NancyTwine.com, a content site with a mission to empower other women to succeed in reaching their dreams and goals. I'm very passionate about giving back and helping other women.



# Editor's picks -

Spell Magazine's editor Jemima Cousins highlights the latest launches and hero buys



AARON WALLACE Mango Butter + Black Seed Conditioner, £13



TMPL
Hydrating Face
Moisturiser,
£22



MURDOCK
Textured Hair Cream,
£24



WAR PAINT FOR MEN Tinted Moisturiser,

£24

# Boom in male grooming

Once a marginalised sector ignored by the beauty industry, the tide is turning on black male grooming. Men are taking matters into their own hands with UK entrepreneurs like Aaron Wallace and founders of TMPL, Adam Hutchinson and Raphael Babalola who appeared on BBC's Dragon's Den, disrupting the market with premium products catering specifically for textured hair and all skin types.

# DON'T MISS OUT



**CURL ID**Bamboo Comb,
£10



GR LONDON PARIS
Floral-print
asymmetric skirt,
£550

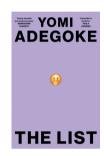


**DESENIO**Ladylike Poster, £25.95

# THE HERO BUYS



MOOD FOOD Hormone Support PMS Gummy, £33



THE LIST
By Yomi Adegoke,
£14.99 at Waterstones



**WAKATI**Oil-infused Cream 250ml,
£10.99



GHD Limited edition Max Styler in Sun-kissed Rose Gold, £209



@foodyfella\_

# Kieran Monlouis

Looking for a new date spot or somewhere to brunch? Kieran, known as the @foodyfella\_, is our first port of call for the hottest restaurants and popular street food haunts in London. His smooth-talking posts take you through each hotspot, from starter to dessert. Check out his review of the Caribbean afternoon tea at Rhythm Kitchen. #yummy



# 5 songs that we're obsessed with right now.



yamstheplaylist

If you like to have your ear to the ground for breakthrough artists, follow @yamstheplaylist. The page delivers infinite scrolls of talented up-and-coming singers, married with throwback clips of iconic moments from the music archives. While you're hooked, check out the Yams playlist on your favourite music streaming platform. You won't be sorry.



**®**Taibataiba

#### Taiba Akhuetie

All hail Taiba Akhuetie, an expert braider and artist proving that braiding hair is not just a skill, but a whole art form. She combines her braiding chops with creative prowess to design striking fashion pieces as well as unique décor. Taiba has braided couture pieces for the likes of Rihanna and rapper Pa Salieu, all the while managing her creative hair brand, Keash.

# WHO TO FOLLOW

Jaded by the same old posts on the 'Gram? Freshen up your feed with these follow-worthy accounts



Ola Majekodunmi

With the rising cost of living making us all feel a little less spendy, confidently navigating your finances can seem like an alien prospect. However, equipping yourself with the right knowledge and tools can give you the financial freedom you need. Ola of @allthingsmoney provides invaluable tips on everything finance, from creating multiple income streams to taking advantage of tax allowances.



Caroline Sande

@allthingsmoney.

Meet Caroline Sande, the travel enthusiast whose profile revolves around - you guessed it - travel, food and general slaying. Caroline spills the tea on affordable travel tips, like flying to Milan for just £23, and logs aesthetic locations across London to help you nail pics for the 'Gram. Check out her travel subscription, The Travel Boxx, for quarterly deliveries of jetsetting travel essentials.

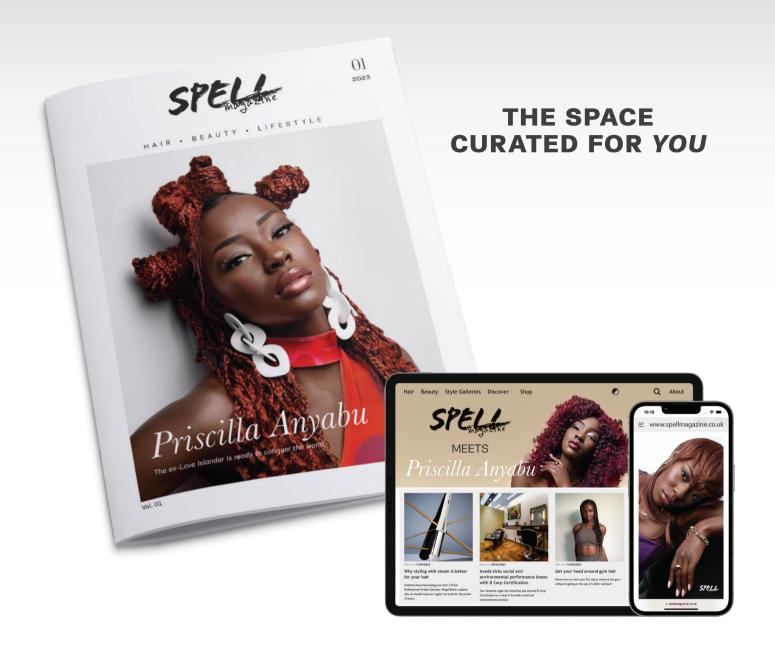


**@micaelasharpdesign** 

## Micaela Sharp

**@traveleatslay** 

Heard of the saying, "one man's trash is another man's treasure"? It could not ring truer for sustainable interior designer and upholsterer Micaela Sharp. The multi-hyphenate sees the beauty in used furniture where others might not, and transforms pre-loved pieces into items worthy of a high-end atelier. A sustainable home does not mean having to sacrifice on style or quality, as Micaela quite clearly proves.



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# SPELL SPOTLIGHT



# THE SCIENCE BEHIND JAMAICAN BLACK CASTOR OIL FOR HAIR

Let's take a closer look at what makes the dark elixir a frontrunner for hair growth

Jamaican black castor oil (JBCO) has been a popular hair care ingredient for several years and is especially revered within the natural hair community. For the uninitiated, you may be wondering if it's worth the hype, so we've outlined some interesting facts about the ingredient.

#### WHAT MAKES IT STAND OUT FROM OTHER HAIR OILS?

Some may wonder why JBCO is more popular than say refined or extra virgin castor oil produced in other parts

of the world. The answer isn't so much to do with location as it is to do with how the castor oil is processed. In Jamaica, they've implemented a technique whereby the castor beans are roasted, which in turn produces a small amount of ash with a higher PH. This may seem of little importance, but in fact, the ash produces alkaline, a powerful scalp clarifier that helps to unclog pores. Alkaline also opens the cuticles to allow the oil to seep through, hence why JBCO enthusiasts profess it works wonders in terms of softening dry strands.

# DOES THE EXTRA DARK FORMULATION MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

If you've ever wondered why JBCO has a unique, dark rich colour, let us fill you in. As previously mentioned, the hue is due to the ash component. By roasting the castor beans, the resultant ash is an integral part of its look and also why the oil is so effective. Compared to ordinary castor oil which is usually pale yellow and has its own individual set of benefits, its Jamaican cousin is dark brown or black – referenced as extra dark. The dark hue signifies its purity and the fact the castor bean has not undergone as much chemical processing.



**CULT CLASSIC**Sunny Isle Jamaican
Black Castor Oil 4oz,
£4.50

# WILL IT REALLY (AND WE MEAN REALLY) MAKE YOUR HAIR GROW FASTER?

One of the reasons why JBCO is highly coveted among naturalistas is the hair growth properties it offers. JBCO is packed with growth-boosting nutrients like vitamin E. Regular use increases the blood flow to the scalp resulting in growth. Additionally, JBCO is packed with protein-rich collagen and omega 6 fatty acids, both renowned for strengthening the hair which encourages those sought-after inches.

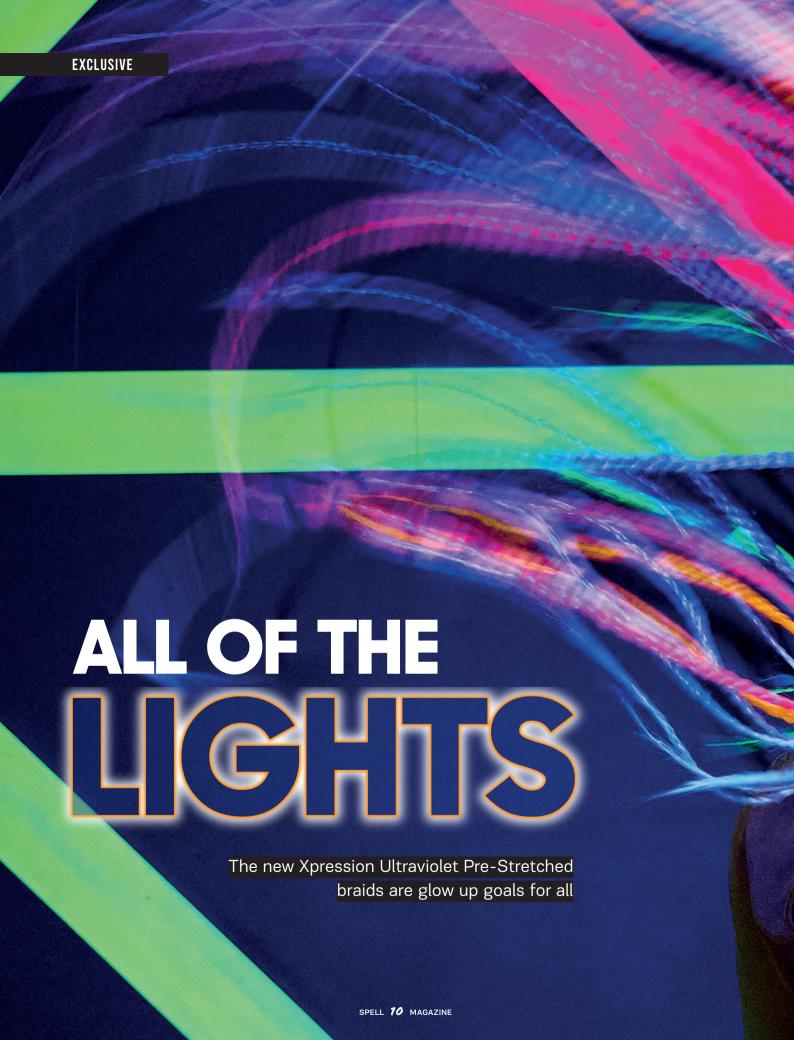
# CAN IT BE USED ON DAMAGED OR CHEMICALLY TREATED HAIR?

The short answer is, yes. Due to its strong antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties the oil helps to combat oxidative stress to the hair and protect it from breakage. It is also commonly used to treat thinning hair and sparse edges caused by tight protective styles such as braids. When applied to the root, the active ingredient ricinoleic acid helps to improve the growth rate.

## WHY IS IT SO GOOD FOR CURLY-TEXTURED HAIR?

Feedback has shown JBCO can be too heavy for hair types ranging between 1a and 3a. To reap the benefits, it's recommended for use once or twice a week. The structural make-up of curly hair – raised cuticles which make it susceptible to breakage and fragility – means JBCO performs well by 'sealing' the raised layers locking in moisture and nutrients that must imparted beforehand.

For tips on how to use Sunny Isle JBCO or to shop the collection, visit spellbeauty.com









Photography by Glenn Larkby. Hair by Aisha Ibrahim using Xpression Ultraviolet. Make-up by Natasha Wright. Styling by Nicole Ranger. Art direction by Jemima Cousins.



# for Carnival

Plan to make the pilgrimage to Notting Hill Carnival? Here's everything you need, from head(dress) to toe

If dancing your way through west London to bashment and soca sounds like your thing, then Notting Hill Carnival is calling for you this August! Over two million people attended last year's event, and 2023 is set to be just as popular. Taking place over the Bank Holiday weekend, the capital's biggest street party will be, as always, packed full to the brim with Caribbean music, food and fashion, so make sure you dress to impress. But trust us when we tell you not to wear your new white trainers – instead, Crocs' Hiker

Xscape are the perfect comfy and toeprotecting dancing shoe!

When packing your carnival bag, there are a few essentials to consider that will help make your experience safer and more fun. A reusable water bottle is a must, as is a quality sun cream, hand sanitiser and a power bank (in case you drain your phone battery by capturing all your favourite moments on video). Once your non-negotiables are sorted, no carnival look is complete without the perfect pastel hair

piece – try the X-Pression Ultra Braid Pre-Stretched Pantone in ice pink and green – face jewels, lip gloss and an out-of-this-world manicure á la I Scream Nails.

Most importantly, bring your carnival spirit! Whether you plan to dance all weekend or eat your weight in dumplings, everyone is encouraged to take part and soak up the good vibes.

Visit *spellmagazine.co.uk* for more summer essentials.

# **SWEET TALK**



MAC Squirt Plumping Gloss Stick, £22

# **HOT STUFF**



COSRX
Aloe Soothing Sun Cream,
£18

# **GLITTERATI**



I SCREAM NAILS
'Cosmic' and 'Moon Gold' Nail Polish,
£14.99

# **POWER UP**



RAPID GO Wireless Power Bank, £59.99

# **FOOT WORK**



CROCS HIKER

Xscape Animal Print Clog,
£69.99

# **IN SAFE HANDS**



MAD BEAUTY
Hand Sanitizer in Cherry,
£2.50

# **PASA PASTELS**



X-PRESSION
Ultra Braid Pre-Stretched in Ice Pink
Ice Green and £4.99

# **COOL OFF**



**BLACK+BLUM**Black Japanese Binchotan Charcoal
Filter Water Bottle, £12.99

# TREAT FOR THE EYES



BARRY M Sun Goddess Face Jewels, £4.99





Clip-in Glam



Mielle Organics

**NEW** 

**ARRIVALS** 

Brands just landed



Urban Pre-Looped



Feme Wig



Hot Lips



X-Pression Ultraviolet



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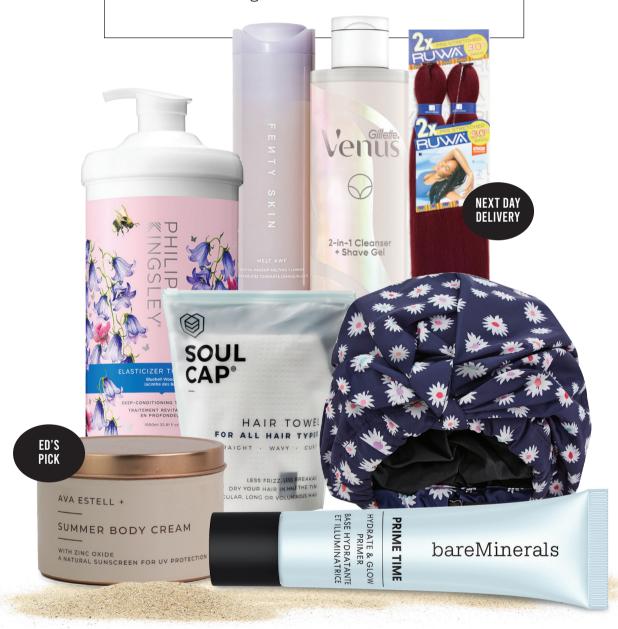
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# LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY SHOP

Want to avoid hair-mares and beauty blunders while travelling? Journey with these summer essentials to guarantee some fun in the sun



Clockwise from top left:

PHILIP KINGSLEY Elasticizer Bluebell Woods, £105; FENTY SKIN Melt AWF, £25;

VENUS 2-in-1 Cleanser Shave Gel for Pubic Hair and Skin, £10; AFRICAN COLLECTION Ruwa £4.49;

ONLY CURLS Shower Cap, £16; BAREMINERALS Hydrate & Glow Primer, £30;

SOUL CAP Hair Towel, £18; AVA ESTELL Summer Body Cream, £14.99





Take the Afro Lace Wig to new style heights by having it cut and groomed to suit you. With texture so real, you'll forget you're wearing a wig!

> Available in six coily to kinky natural styles

# THE TEXTURE TAKEOVER

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# enlightenment

International model and philanthropist Noëlla Coursaris

Musunka reflects on building a purposeful life and empowering

others in the face of adversity

At just five years old, Noëlla Coursaris Musunka was forced to leave her widowed mother in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to live with relatives in Switzerland and Belgium. Rising triumphantly from the ashes of a turbulent childhood, she carved out a space for herself in the modelling world and took to the global stage as the face of Agent Provocateur, among other iconic brands. Then, at the age of 18, she revisited her home country – a visit that

sparked a vision for change in a region struck by poverty and lack of opportunity for girls.

Now, Noëlla is celebrating 15 years of empowering Congolese girls through Malaika, a not-for-profit organisation that provides free primary and secondary education and health programmes. Here, she talks to Spell about bridging the gap between modelling and philanthropy, working with brands who give back, and the power of education.

Photography by Luke Nugent. Hair by Pashcan'el Mitchell. Assisted by Aisha Ibrahim. Make-up by Rashida Blair. Styling by Deborah Latouche

# WHAT DOES BEING A PHILANTHROPIST MEAN TO YOU?

It means using my skills, knowledge, time and influence to empower those who are disadvantaged, for whatever reason. That has meant giving back to communities in my native country, the DRC, out of the education I gained as a child living in Europe. My mother sent me there to live with relatives because she couldn't afford to keep me, and though my childhood was extremely tough, I was able to get an education. When I visited the DRC at the age of 18. I could clearly see that this opportunity opened up the world to me.

# YOU FOUNDED MALAIKA 15 YEARS AGO. WHAT'S BEEN YOUR FONDEST MEMORY TO DATE?

There have been many! It was incredible when we opened the doors to our new building for the first time and saw our students coming in. At that moment, it felt like my dream had come true little did I know what we would achieve over the next decade and beyond. Recently, a powerful memory for me was formed at our first graduation for the students from our technical classes that we launched for boys and girls in partnership with the Caterpillar Foundation and Congo Equipment. The students learned mechanics and electrical engineering, and during the graduation, a father of one of the students handed his son a flower as he received his certificate. It was a picture of how education can change the lives of many, not just the student who has received it.

# THE FIRST COHORT OF GIRLS ARE SET TO GRADUATE THIS SUMMER FROM THE MALAIKA FOUNDATION. WITH THE MALAIKA SCHOOL BEING ALL ABOUT EMPOWERMENT, HOW ARE THESE YOUNG WOMEN EQUIPPED TO FACE THE CHALLENGES TODAY?

Malaika is a leadership school as well as offering a comprehensive primary and secondary curriculum. We encourage and equip the girls to be changemakers in their communities and beyond. They have the opportunity to take part in extracurricular activities

like girl scouts; they can play sports, create art and perform theatre. All these subjects build confidence and allow self-expression, which is







Students at Malaika are encouraged to become changemakers in their communities

empowering. The girls also benefit from teaching via experts and professionals from around the world. They are engaged learners who participate in discussions and are asked their opinions. They mentor and support one another and are made to feel valued and important by the staff. They have access to digital skills education and technology. This is essential for being safe, informed, and equipped to live and thrive in our new digital age.

## HOW DID YOU BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN BEING A 'FASHION MODEL' AND 'ROLE MODEL'?

I think that my personal story and connection to the DRC helped. I wasn't an outsider coming in and providing what I thought were the answers. I came to offer what I had gained myself: education and empowerment. Then,
I listened, and we have continued to
listen to the needs of the community.
I have always lived out my values in my

work as a fashion model, in that I work for brands that give back and have sustainable values. We have partnered with many amazing brands to raise money for Malaika, including Roksanda, Piaget Georgia Hardinge, and HURR (a fashion rental platform).

# YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE SO WIDE-REACHING. HOW DOES IT FEEL TO LOOK BACK AT YOUR YOUNGER SELF THROUGH THE LENS OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS?

I feel proud. My childhood was not easy, but I held onto hope and believed in myself that I could gain a good education and then build a career and a happy life. That took a lot of inner strength. So many hurdles have been jumped to get to where we are today, and when I look back at my younger self, I feel so grateful for my team. I could not have done it without them.

# WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION FROM?

I am a proud mum of two, and JJ and Cara inspire me every day. And again, my team is a huge support and has achieved so much to make Malaika what it is now. I am inspired every time I visit DRC and

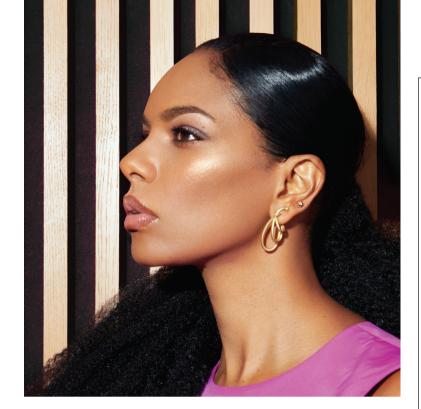
Africa to spend time with the people in the community, and the students at our school and community centre. They face so many challenges in their lives, but they press on and have so much resilience. Seeing them achieve things they never thought they would gives me the strength to keep going when things get tough.

# COMPARED TO WHEN YOU STARTED OUT, DO YOU THINK THE FASHION WORLD IS IN A BETTER PLACE?

Yes, absolutely. When I started out, I felt like I stood out as being the only woman of colour in certain campaigns. But now, I am often one of many. Nowadays, it's more about personality, too, as opposed to just being about how you look. It's been incredible in recent years to see women with different body types,







disabilities, women of a certain age, and women of colour on the covers of fashion magazines. There is still more work to be done, but I am pleased to see the progress that has been made and the incredible women who are in diversity roles making these changes and breaking glass ceilings.

# IN THREE WORDS, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR HAIR?

Fun, versatile, vibrant.

## WHAT DOES A GOOD HAIR DAY LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

My hair is in good condition and is styled in a way that represents me and the role I'm playing that day. If I'm relaxing with my family at home, that might be a simple ponytail. My daughter loves to advise me on my hair and try out products and styles with me. If I'm on a fashion shoot, I might wear my hair in a beautiful afro, or sleek and straight.

# YOU'RE ALWAYS TRAVELLING, SO WHAT DO YOU DO TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR BEAUTY ROUTINE?

I have some staple products that help me take care of my skin and hair while I'm travelling, and it means I don't need to take every single product I might use if I were at home. Even if I'm tired and short on time, I try to always clean my face at the end of the day, use a good toner, and moisturise. It's also handy to have some sample-size products

to take with me on the plane so I can do my skincare routine whilst going from A to B. In addition, I trim my hair every four months and try to get some sunshine when I can!

# DO YOU FOLLOW FASHION AND BEAUTY TRENDS THAT GO VIRAL?

I have always followed my own nose when it comes to style and beauty. I love to express my African heritage and wear bright and vibrant colours, whether or not they are on trend. I do notice things that are going around social media though, and sometimes it will influence my choices, but I don't actively look to follow trends. I would rather buy something that is recommended by a friend, or something I've discovered on a shoot.

# LASTLY, DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR THOSE ASPIRING TO MODEL TODAY?

If you have a distinguishing feature, try to wear it with pride, as having an 'edge' can help you stand out. Plus, you will not enjoy a career that comes from hiding who you truly are. Be yourself and don't let a 'no' get you down; keep pushing and believe in yourself. Also, network as much as you can! You'll be surprised by how many opportunities can come simply from meeting new people and showing an interest in them.

Discover more about Malaika www.malaika.org



Want Noella's coveted coiffure look?







# FEED YOUR INNER PRODUCT JUNKIE

From the most up-to-date beauty innovations to the perfumes that will define your summer, browse our latest must-haves!

# **BEAUTY INNOVATION**

The beauty industry never stands still when it comes to innovation. This season's launches are addressing hot topics like convenience, sustainability and wellbeing. Take, for example, the Zuvi Halo Hair Dryer. It uses 'LightCare' technology to dry hair without stripping it of moisture or hiking up the leccy bill. A fan of dry shampoo? MAC has cleverly taken the concept and applied to the new Lash Dry Shampoo Mascara Refresher. Finally, for those looking for a multi-tasking primer but with a hint of *je ne sais quoi*, the Lottie London Bubble Tea Primer features a blend of nourishing ingredients to enhance your glow, whether you're wearing it with make-up or without.



MAC Lash Dry Shampoo Mascara Refresher, £22



LOTTIE
Bubble
Tea Primer,
£9.95

# TOP 3 BRANDS FOR GUMMIES

ZUVI

Halo Hair Dryer,

£329



**REBROW**Brow Gummies,
£20



STARPOWA Hair. Skin. Nails. Vegan Gummies, £19.99



NATURESPLUS Turmeric Circumin Gummies, £16.95

When it comes to the health of your skin, hair and nails, an inside-out approach is key. Vitamin gummies are a convenient way to boost your nutrient intake on top of a well-balanced diet – and much easier to ingest than pill-form vitamins. Take the Rebrow Brow Gummies (£20), for example. Best taken as part of the RE:BROW twomonth programme, these gummies contain biotin, zinc and vitamin C - everything that's needed to grow fuller, healthier eyebrows. For those concerned with more than just brows, Starpowa's hair. skin. nails. Vegan Gummies (£19.99) burst with flavour while boosting prime beauty zones. Finally, NaturesPlus Turmeric Circumin Gummies (£16.95) have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, which can help to reduce breakouts and even out skin tone and texture.

# Before After Courtesy of Milk Makeup **AIRBRUSH**

# **CHARLOTTE TILBURY** Airbrush Flawless Setting Spray,

£28

**LAURA MERCIER** 

Translucent Pure Setting Spray, £33

# **MILK MAKEUP** Pore Eclipse Setting Spray, £29



**ROAM** Skin Tone Condoms. £14.99

Following in the footsteps of inclusivity powerhouses Nubian Skin and Fenty, businesses are turning their attention to other popular products where skin tone ranges are currently lacking - for instance, condoms. Roam has created the world's first Skin Tone Condoms (£14.99 for a pack of 12), and they're not just a gimmick. Triple tested and free from unnecessary chemicals, these condoms are both safe and sexy!

# **SET THE TONE**

Long gone are the days when hairspray would double up as a make-up setting spray. Now, it's a golden rule for our favourite finishers to fix and set, but also care for our complexions. Charlotte Tilbury's Airbrush Flawless Setting Spray wards away pore blockage, while locking your look in place for 18 hours. Laura Mercier's innovative plant-derived Translucent Pure Setting Spray delivers a lightweight, hydrating formula that defends against environmental pollutants. For those with oily to combination skin, Milk Makeup's Pore Eclipse Setting Spray blurs pores and controls shine with a matte, alcohol-free formula.



# IN THE BAG

No beach holiday is complete without the ideal hold-everything bag, and AAKS have size and style down. Founded by Akosua Afriyie-Kumi, the brand's wares are handcrafted using Akosua's favourite weaving techniques by the women of Ghana. Not only will these timeless pieces make you the most stylish sunbather, but you will be able to use them year after year, thanks to the choice of durable woven raffia and other high quality natural materials, including leather and wool. Pictured here is the Oroo Natural bag, a medium-sized tote that screams 'beach day', but could also pair well with a colourful office look.



Photography by Chris Bulezuik. Hair by Emy Roccabella. Make-up by Grace Hayward



**RETRO REBOUND** 

Love it or hate it, the traditional mullet has been revamped. Newly crowned as the 'mullet quick weave' it's turning heads worldwide. TikTok searches for the throwback cut have amassed 11.8 million views as women (and men) try to master the glue cap style. As is the case for any weave, the foundation is important but what really sets this look off is the layered cut, which can either be customised or achieved using the recommended brands below.



# style summary



U-PART Dome Cap, £2.75



SALON PRO Hair Bonding Glue, £1.99



PREMIUM PLUS HH Tara 27 Pieces, £14.59



**OUTRE** Batik Duo Malaysian Bundle Hair, from £48



BEDEW Vellus Hair Remover, £1.99



SCHWARZKOPF got2b Glued Blasting Freeze Spray, £5.50



# WHAT THE STYLISTS SAY



Pashcan'el Mitchell Session stylist at Blue Tit salon

"Wigs and weaves are a great gateway into creating cuts we wouldn't necessarily do on our own hair. The mullet is a bold look, and you can afford to play it up or down. We're seeing women go for an exaggerated length at the back or experimenting with texture by going curly. The thing to bear in mind is this shouldn't be treated as two separate cuts. The finish needs to be worked in, cut and shaped so everything is in synergy."



Dionne Smith Celebrity hairdresser

"Quick weaves have been around for decades but it's always important to remind people of the fundamentals, especially if they're attempting a DIY job. Make sure you get a wig cap that's a good fit for your head shape and size. Always use a bonding glue that's made for human hair weaves and wigs and follow the instructions carefully to avoid ghastly mistakes."





# WANTED

We identify the six best human bulk hair for braiding

# THE RISE OF Middle Eastern Fashion



From Egypt to Oman,
Middle Eastern designers
are taking the spotlight
on the global stage

No longer just a source of inspiration for the fashion industry and beyond, the Middle East is a bustling hub of design talent. Hot on the tails of established Lebanese luminaries Flie Saab and Zuhair Murad, there are countless emerging designers from all areas of Southwest Asia and North Africa to London who are lighting up runways across the globe with distinct contributions to contemporary fashion. It's a very exciting time for the region, and for the industry itself, so we put the spotlight on the emerging labels to have on your radar.

# **PHERAHS**

Created by art collector Ferah Sancak, PHERAHS offers a range of bags and scarves influenced by art and history. Motifs including galloping horses, suns and wolves are present throughout the brand's designs, reflecting the purposeful symbols that appear in traditional art. Through fashion and accessories, PHERAHS aims to transfer cultural knowledge across generations.

pherahs.com





# **MOUSHE DESIGNS**

'Unconventional' is the name of the game for Moushe Designs, with jewellery ranging from puzzle-shaped ring sets to bracelets adorned with encrusted dice. Standing out even more is the brand's use of upcycled packaging and low volume production, allowing consumers to enjoy the sustainability and uniqueness of their pieces.

moushedesigns.com

# **BOVENUE**

Adore classic handbags? This London-based Saudi Arabian brand fuses modern design with a hint of nostalgia. With structural shapes inspired by the bag collection of the founder's grandmother, Bovenue's pieces truly stand the test of time not only through design, but also through the use of high quality natural materials.

bovenue.com









# SHEWAK DESIGNS

Shewak Designs questions convention, with unorthodox garments such as the 'swirl sandal' – a double-heeled statement shoe – and the 'signature 3 sleeve hoodie'. The studio's fashion line, titled 'endswithNS', is built on the concept of materialising organised chaos, speaking to those who prefer to express themselves outside the confines of a box.

shewakdesigns.com

# **TURANA ATASH**

Producing modest swimwear and resortwear that can be worn by all, designer Turana Atash's namesake brand takes Western beach style and develops it with the Middle Eastern view in mind. What results is a luxurious range of designs that empower the wearer, from full coverage swim tops to streamlined one-pieces made for taking on the surf.

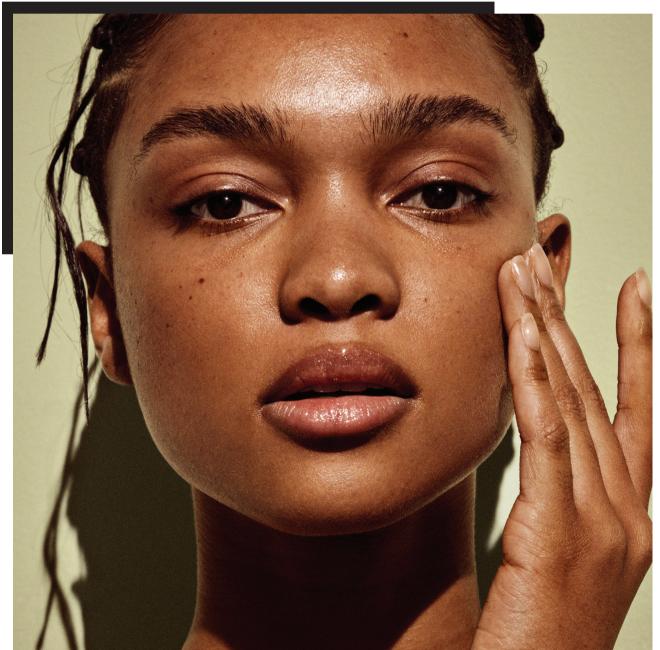
turanaatash.com





# Does influential beauty come at a high price?

With costs spiralling, is it time to stop trying to keep up with your favourite beauty influencers? We add up the cost and show you ways to save



Sourtesy of Fenty Beauty

The cost of living is increasing at its fastest rate in four decades. But while many of us are saving the pounds to pay rent and buy basic foods, the lucky few are reserving their disposable incomes for other priorities – namely keeping up with today's increasingly high beauty standards.

In a now deleted post by Marissa Banks, late last year the TikTok creator published a rant about beauty maintenance, detailing how she spends £1.5K each month to avoid looking like an "ogre", in her own words. This eye watering sum is spent on salon visits, lash care, manicures and other indulgences deemed by Banks to be essential care.

In her controversial spill, she expressed: "females will not want to be seen if their nails, lashes and hair are not done." She continued: "Why would you put yourself in a predicament to be seen as a tramp, an ogre, basically a pest to society?"

While many women attend regular beauty appointments as a form of self-care, social bonding and even female empowerment, others may argue that these kind of expenses are frivolous – particularly in today's uncertain economic climate.

In response to Banks' TikTok video, users expressed their shock, comparing her beauty bill to their monthly income. Others questioned her self-confidence, surmising that her obsession with aesthetics is a cover-up for her insecurities.

Undoubtedly speaking from a place of privilege, Banks seemingly forgot to take into consideration that her audience may not find it possible to keep up with her recommended beauty regime, and as a result may suffer from feelings of inadequacy. According to an analysis by the Royal Society for Public Health, young people who use social media for more than two hours per day are more likely to report poor mental health and increased psychological distress. This has even been given the name 'FaceBook depression'

"ONLINE PEER PRESSURE, UNREALISTIC
REPRESENTATIONS OF BEAUTY (FOR
EXAMPLE, PHOTOSHOPPED SELFIES) AND
THE FEAR OF MISSING OUT (AKA 'FOMO') ARE
TO BLAME FOR TRIGGERING DEPRESSION OR
EXACERBATING EXISTING CONDITIONS"



by researchers who suggest that online peer pressure, unrealistic representations of beauty (for example, Photoshopped selfies) and the fear of missing out (AKA 'FOMO') are to blame for triggering depression or exacerbating existing conditions.

#### Where are we at now?

The cost of living crisis is changing the beauty landscape. More than half of the nation (51%) admit their biggest stresses are due to personal finance struggles, with 48% feeling more stressed in 2023 than they did last year.\* A staggering 61% of those who responded admit to worrying about the little things in life, with over half of the nation (54%) admitting they struggle to destress during their daily routine.

That being said, for every influencer pushing unattainable beauty budgets, there are five more showing you how to care for your hair, skin and nails without having to sacrifice the necessities or impacting your mental health.

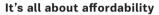
Oluwaseun, self-confessed stylist and outfit repeater, shows us thrifting done right. Her tours around goldmine preloved shops and sample sales prove that, with a keen eye (and sometimes sharp elbows) you can get your hands on premium and one-of-a-kind pieces for much, much less.

YouTuber Hannah London's affordable drugstore make-up tutorial is a mustwatch. Using products that cost no more than £10 each, Hannah creates a full-face look that could be mistaken for a completely premium beat, taking the fear out of costly make-up bag restocks. Head on over to TikTok and @\_theali.house recreates trending looks like the iconic 90s two-tone lip combo using only two products. Using the Nyx Professional Makeup Slim Lip Pencil in Espresso and e.l.f. Lip Plumping Gloss in Pink Paloma which cost less than £10 - a bargain! The throwback style comes to life with just a few swipes.

# (DON'T) FORGET ABOUT THE PRICE TAG

We know that self-care rituals are good for the soul, however they're not always great for the purse strings. Here are five money-saving tips for your beauty regime

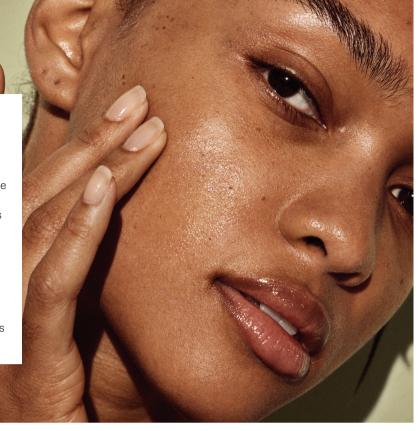
- 1 Keep an eye out for multi-use products
- 2 Get the most from beauty gift sets
- 3 Fall in love with a beauty mini
- 4 Swap salon treatments for DIY
- 4 Take advantage of in-store and online offers



The rise in living costs doesn't mean beauty lovers have to compromise on quality or value by, for example, reverting to buying throwaway cosmetics. Instead, savvy consumerism is expected to become an art and a necessity. Quality and performance-driven beauty can be delivered at affordable prices, but this year, customers will want, need and get even more for their money.

Searches for #makeupdupes total 252.4M views on TikTok to date, showing that shoppers are searching for more affordable alternatives for their favourite products. But the fact that these searches are taking place on a user-generated video platform, rather than Google, shows that makeup lovers are turning to - you guessed it - other make-up lovers to find out whether a low-cost product is worth their time, rather than trusting the word of a brand. Meanwhile, almost nine out of 10 shoppers look for sustainability credentials in their beauty and personal care purchases; this can be seen through the success of the Recycle at Boots scheme, which has banked over one million product empties.

With affordability and eco-friendliness currently leading consumer spending trends, it's not an entirely baseless prediction that, in 2023 and beyond, beauty that aligns to sustainable and ethical values will come as standard, not at a premium.



# **BEAUTY BILLS**

# The Spell team reveal their most lavish beauty expenses

\*Alexa play Destiny Child Bills, Bills, Bills



# **Editor**

"I paid just under £400 to have my hair dyed blonde by a celebrity hairdresser. Luckily it was mates' rates and well worth it."



### **Social Media Executive**

"One time I paid £60 to get my nails and feet done. It did have a design but the most I would pay is £30."



## **Editorial Assistant**

"Before my holiday I paid £90 to have hybrid lashes installed. The technician didn't do a patch test and I had an allergic reaction. I had to take them off the next day – I was so upset."

# Beauty on a budget

Save on salon visits with these at-home solutions



#### **CANTU**

Protective Styles Hair Bath and Cleanser, £9

Hair baths are changing the wash game and paving the way is Cantu Protective Styles. Achieve a deep salon-style cleanse at home for wigs and weaves with this apple cider vinegar and aloe soak designed to remove stubborn product buildups and leave strands box fresh.

#### **LEIGHTON DENNY**

Glazed Expression Nail Polish, £12.50

If there's one way to look expensive, it's with a great manicure. Save on the expense of a trip to the nail salon by opting for Leighton Denny's Glazed Expression Polish. It gives you that coveted glazed doughnut look without the price tag.

#### **E.L.F COSMETICS**

Halo Glow Highlight Beauty Wand, £9

Plane tickets, hotel bills and tourist taxes can all add up. So why not get a sun-kissed glow without stepping foot in an airport by swiping e.l.f's Halo Glow Highlight Beauty Wand across your cheekbones, nose and brow bones.

#### COSRX

Full Fit Propolis Lip Sleeping Mask, £22

Improve the appearance of lips (literally overnight) without costly treatments. Cosrx's lip mask is a bedside essential, allowing you to greet the day with soft, moisturised lips thanks to an infusion of honey and shea butter.

#### **AMIKA**

Perk Up Plus Extended Clean Dry Shampoo, £16

Hair in need of a refresh, but don't want to commit to a full wash? Save time on styling, washing and amenity bills with this dry shampoo. Absorbing excess oil with arrowroot powder and balancing the scalp with mandelic acid, it extends time between washes without feeling gritty.

# **IAMPROUD**

Body Proud Bright Boost Body Cleanser, £9.95

Make the most of shower time with this lightweight cleansing solution. Featuring exotic lotus and seaweed, the formula brightens the skin while utilising fragrance technology to boost your mood. Grab your loofah and buff away dead skin at the same time for double the benefits.

#### **BREAD**

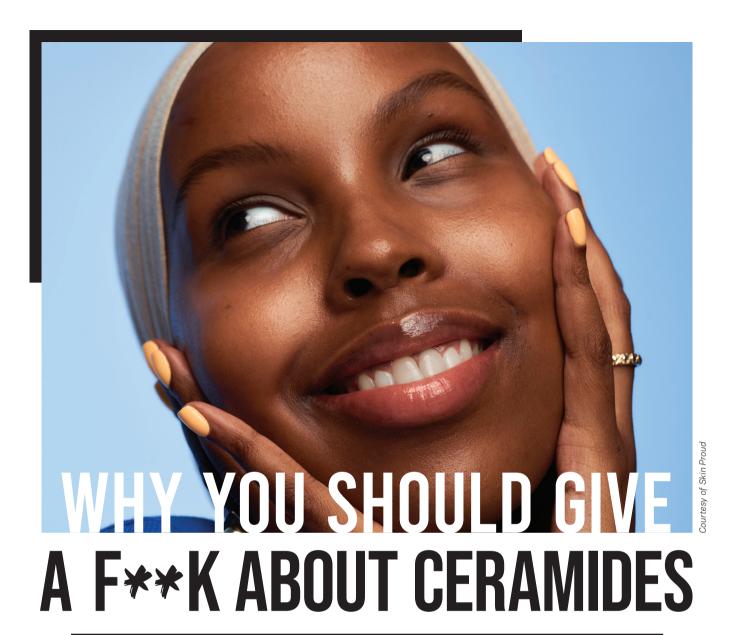
Beauty Supply Hair-Oil: Everyday Gloss, £13

Ideal for 3c to 4a hair, this oil helps to uncover soft and supple curls and coils. The formula features collagen and elastin-enhancing vitamin C, as well as starflower oil, which strengthens hair to prevent breakages. With this bottle, a little goes a long way!

## **SALON REMI**

Brazilian Body Wave, £46.14

These human hair extensions are ready to dye, meaning you can lift, balayage, dip dye (and more!) to your heart's content. Premium quality, yet affordable, the Salon Remi collection really delivers salon standards for less.



# Move aside niacinamide, this summer's star skincare ingredient is ceramides

Skincare moves as fast as fashion these days. Just like the 'It bags' of fashion, there's a new ingredient to covet every other week if you believe TikTok and the gram, meaning yet another product to add to your bathroom shelf. But sometimes something truly ground-breaking cuts through the noise. Last year it was niacinamide which had the beauty world abuzz, and in previous years we've been riveted by retinol (quite rightly too). So, what's the superingredient for 2023? Having flown largely under the radar, give a warm welcome to ceramides. "This year we're going to see a rise in 'ceramide centric' products," says skincare expert Jane Scrivner, "thanks to their ability to keep our skin barrier healthy and balanced, seal in moisture and prevent oxidative damage. Ceramides are a fantastic nourishing and rebalancing ingredient, suitable for all skin types."

#### WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

Ceramides sound like a miracle all-rounder, but how do they work? Scrivner explains the science part. "Ceramides are lipids (also known as fats) that naturally make up 50% of your skin. Ceramides are the glues that hold our skin cells together, helping to lock in moisture, keeping your skin hydrated, and keeping out pollution, environmental damage and infection." What happens if there's a lack of skin ceramides? "Not having

enough ceramides has been linked to inflammatory skin conditions like acne, eczema, psoriasis and rosacea," Scrivner answers. "They're a great replenishing ingredient to rebalance your skin's barrier for healthier skin that you can feel more confident and comfortable in." There are different types of ceramides, natural and synthetic, that are generally used in skincare. For example for dry or irritated skin, experts suggest looking out for a formula with ceramides 1, 3, or 6-II.

## OK, HOW DO I USE CERAMIDES?

Scan the high street beauty stores and you'll see ceramides everywhere. Most prominent will be on the skincare shelf, and front and centre will be

# **CERAMIDES** at a glance

- \* Restores the skin barrier
- \* Locks in moisture
- \* Protects the skin
- \* Reduces visible signs of ageing
- **★** Helps with inflammatory skin conditions

CeraVe, a brand that hails ceramides as its skincare hero, using a blend of three essential ceramides (the previously mentioned ceramides 1, 3, and 6-II), fatty acids, and other lipids to help restore the skin's natural barrier. Sensitive eyes need not worry, either. "Protecting your eye area with ceramides and antioxidants is crucial." insists Dr Ifeoma Ejikeme, the founder and medical director of award-winning Adonia Medical Clinic, "It makes up around one third of the epidermis (the upper layer of the skin) and helps the skin to stay moisturised."

# IS IT SUITABLE FOR ALL SKIN TYPES AND ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Dermatologist Dr. Jenny Liu who works closely with CeraVe, and runs the popular @derm.talk Instagram account, suggests everyone can benefit from including ceramides in their skincare routine, "especially those with dry and sensitive skin" she adds. This is because, "when ceramide levels are reduced, it can lead to irritated skin." Ceramides are generally considered safe for everyone to use and as with all ingredients, it can take time for the full effects of the product to materialise. Some users, particularly with combination or oily skin, may find ceramides quite heavy on the skin but there are lighter formulations on the market nowadays. And don't worry if you're concerned that ceramides could impact other ingredients in your beauty regime. It's worth noting that it's completely safe and effective when pairing with peptides, AHAs, BHA, hyaluronic acid, azelaic acid and all types of antioxidants.

# **MAKING THE CUT**

Ceramide-focused beauty products to strengthen and soothe



## **GROW GORGEOUS**

Sensitive Ceramide Rich Hair and Scalp Mask, £25



**BYOMA** 

Moisturizing Gel Cream SPF30. £13.49



SKIN PROUD

Serious Shade SPF50. £16.95



**CERAVE** 

Skin Renewing Eye Cream, £13



**MAKEUP REVOLUTION** 

Lip Swirl Ceramide Gloss, £4.99



**AVANT** 

Multi-Defense Ceramides Protecting Veil, £51.80



**BRIOGEO** 

Don't Despair, Repair! Leave-In Treatment, £28



**SCIENTIA** 

Plumplex Cell Renewal Youth Serum, £34

#### CAN I USE CERAMIDES ON HAIR?

Absolutely, experts say. Grow Gorgeous are big fans of adding ceramides to their sensitive scalp range. Ceramides protect hair against water loss and subsequent damage (much in the way they do for skin). They're not the only hair care brand to be ceramide loyalists. Look closely at your existing products and you might already be using ceramides. Some are naturally occurring, such as hemp seed oil, kukui oil, sunflower oil, wheat germ oil, safflower oil and grapeseed oil or synthetic, often labelled as 2-oleamido, 1-3 octadecanediol. If you have relaxed your natural hair recently, it might be worth stocking up on ceramide-infused formulas to fortify your strands. The same can be said for natural hair that is straightened regularly or is exposed to heat.

#### THE BOTTOM LINE

Great for everyone, all skin types and everywhere top to toe, ceramides are here to stay. And if you don't already use it in your current your hair and beauty regime, we think you'll find it a worthy addition!



Invest in fragrances for different occasions

When creating your fragrance wardrobe, a good place to start is tailoring your scents to special occasions. Events like weddings, holidays and anniversaries are perfect to select a unique fragrance to transport you back to your special day, time and time again. Investing in a staple day time and night-time bottle is also an easy way to switch up your signature scent. Working a 9-5? Opt for something sweet but subtle for the office. Date night on the horizon? Invest



Need a hair freshener?

RUKA Hair Perfume, £25

in a long-lasting eau de parfum they won't forget. To help you narrow down your special scents for every occasion, why not try the Fragrance Match quiz on the The Fragrance Shop website? Experts have made it simple to find your ideal matches by answering a few simple questions. You'll then receive a curated edit of fragrance suggestions based on your answers, making it easier than ever to build your scents and sensory wardrobe.

# Narrow down your favourite fragrance notes

Just like fashion, fragrance can change with the seasons. Spring is all about fresh citrus, and with summer comes floral and fruity aromas. Autumn, we see a transition into woody scents and winter boasts warming, heavier spices. However, a well-rounded wardrobe doesn't always need to hit every fragrance family. If you're a lover of floral scents, try branching out into notes of rose, jasmine, peony and daisy. If woody fragrances are more your style, delve into notes of oud, vetiver and patchouli. When it comes to pinpointing a signature scent, it is purely a subjective experience. Factor in what appeals to your senses, elevates your mood and accentuates your personality.

#### Know your ideal number

With the number of brands and variety out there, it can be easy to go overboard when building your collection (trust me, we've all been there). Most fragrances last between one to three years, so creating a handpicked selection of a few means none go to waste. Try narrowing it down and create a capsule wardrobe around your desired number. We recommend starting at six and building it up if you need.

# SCENTS OF OCCASION

With a bit of perfume prep, create a sensory impact or lasting memories



for brunch
PHLUR
Solar Power,
£96



for date night

FENTY

Eau De Parfum
75ml,
£115



for weddings

AESOP

Eidesis
Eau De Parfum,
£140



for festivals
PACIFICA
Tahitian Gardenia
Spray Perfume,
£24



for holidays

ZADIG & VOLTAIRE

This Is Us!,

£84



for the weekend

ISSEY MIYAKE

L'eau D'issey

Pour Homme,

£51

## Store your fragrances correctly

Storing your scents correctly allows you to get the most out of your fragrance wardrobe for longer. Tuck away your olfactory treasures and keep them out of direct heat and sunlight. It may be tempting to add your fragrances to your bathroom shelf, humidity can affect perfumes, causing chemical reactions to occur. Most fragrances last between one to three years, so a handpicked selection of a means none go to waste.

# Building a fragrance wardrobe on a budget

When it comes to investing in a variety of fragrances, depending on your taste, it can become quite expensive. The Fragrance Shop subscription service, scentaddict, allows you to choose from over 700+ luxury scents, delivered straight to your door for only £12 a month. The perfect option if you're looking to try new fragrances and build your collection.

# SPELL MEETS Soundbites

Catch up on our latest interviews at spellmagazine.co.uk



# DARKWAH Non-binary content creator

"Make-up brands can try harder to show more types of people using and wearing make-up. It's really that simple. It's not only AMAB (assigned male at birth) people who look like James Charles who enjoy and wear makeup. The more we see something, the more it is absorbed. It's quite simplistic, I know. But it's just how we are as humans."



BESA MUSAMA
Founder of Kutemwa Skin

"A self-love day for me would include getting up early and having my morning quiet time and journaling session with a cup of coffee. Having a good healthy home cooked meal. Getting some exercise at the gym or doing a fitness class. Then doing some self-care like getting a manicure and pedicure, going to the hair salon or a spa. For me, self-love is all about having time to relax and do things that make me feel happy and healthy."



ANGELA C. STEVENS Co-creator for Cantu Protective Styles by Angela

"Yes, there are brands that have protective styling lines but they don't cater for the needs of those who have locs or wear braids and weaves. By developing Protective Styles, what I wanted to do is take you through a journey of everything you need, whether that's when your installing your style, wearing the style or taking down the style. Those are three different experiences. I'm so proud this range covers all bases and has everything you need."

ADEOLA GBOYEGA AND JOY ADENUGA Pro make-up artists

"Both Joy and I are passionate about beauty and we're really committed to educating others on how to create beautiful skin with makeup. Being granted the opportunity to collaborate on the Flawless Face edit really fits in with this. I am frequently asked how I create my signature flawless base and it definitely begins with having the right tools. Subsequently, I have selected the brushes that I tend to use regularly; they're everything you need to create a flawless base, whether you are a beginner or professional make-up artist."

Scan the QR code to read the full interviews



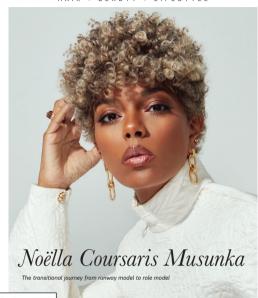
# SLITTLE SHOP BLACK THE PRODUCTS FEATURED BOK-MONTH'S ISSUE

# WHERE TO FIND SPELL

SPELL

02

HAIR • BEAUTY • LIFESTYLE





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## **BEAUTY**

AESOP aesop.com

AVA ESTELL uk.avaestell.com

**BAREMINERALS** bareminerals.co.uk

BARRY M barrym.com

BYOMA spacenk.com

**CERAVE** lookfantastic.com

CHARLOTTE TILBURY charlottetilbury.com

COSRX lookfantastic.com

E.L.F COSMETICS superdrug.com

FENTY harveynichols.com

GILETTE VENUS boots.com

I SCREAM nails spoiledbrat.co.uk

ILIA sephora.co.uk

**ISSEY MIYAKE** theperfumeshop.com

LAURA MERCIER lookfantastic.com

**LEIGHTON DENNY** leightondenny.com

LOTTIE LONDON lottie.london

MAC COSMETICS maccosmetics.co.uk

MAD BEAUTY madbeauty.com

MAKE-UP REVOLUTION revolutionbeauty.com

MILK MAKEUP milkmakeup.com

MOOD FOOD zitsticka.co.uk

NATURE PLUS natureplus.com

PACIFICA cultbeauty.co.uk

PHLUR phlur.com

**REBROW** rebrow.co.uk

SCIENTIA scientiabeauty.com

SKIN PROUD iamproud.com

STARPOWA starpowa.com

ZADIG & VOLTAIRE theperfumeshop.com

## **HAIR**

AARON WALLACE byaaronwallace.com

AMIKA loveamika.co.uk

**BATIK** spellbeauty.com

**BEDEW** bedewskin.co.uk

BREAD farfetch.com

**BRIOGEO** sephora.co.uk

CANTU superdrug.com

CURL ID curlid.com
GHD ghdhair.com

GOT2B boots.com

**GROW GORGEOUS** lookfantastic.com

**ONLY CURLS** onlycurls.com

OUTRE spellbeauty.com

MURDOCK murdocklondon.com

PHILIP KINGSLEY sephora.co.uk

PREMIUM PLUS spellbeauty.com

RUKA rukahair.com

**RUWA** spellbeauty.com

SALON PRO all good hair retailers

SALON REMI spellbeauty.com

 ${\bf SENSATIONNEL} \ {\bf spell beauty.com}$ 

**SOUL CAP** spellbeauty.com

SUNNY ISLE spellbeauty.com

TMPL tpml.care

WAKATI boots.com

WAR PAINT FOR MEN warpaintformen.com

X-PRESSION spellbeauty.com

ZUVI farfetch.com

# **EXTRAS**

AAKS aaksonline.com

**BLACK+BLUM** lemonsalt.co.uk

**BOVENE** bovenue.com

CROCS crocs.co.uk

DESENIO desenio.co.uk

GR LONDON PARIS grlondonparis.com

MIPHIOLOGIA miphologiajewelry.com

MOUSHE DESIGNS moushedesigns.com

PHERAHS pherahs.com

 ${\bf PINKO} \ {\it pinko.com}$ 

RAPID GO journeyofficial.co.uk

ROAM superdrug.com

ROKSANDA roksanda.com

SABIRAH sabirah.co.uk

SAMANTHA SUI samanthasiu.com

SHEWAK DESIGNS shewakdesigns.com

THE LIST waterstones.com
TURANA ATASH turanaatash.com

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