

ESSENCE

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S ISSUE



100 WOKE WOMEN

HOW WE RISE UP, SPEAK OUT AND PUSH THE MOVEMENT FORWARD



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MAY 2017



Best in Black Beauty

It's that time again! We've rounded up outstanding products and people making their mark in the beauty game

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN HENN

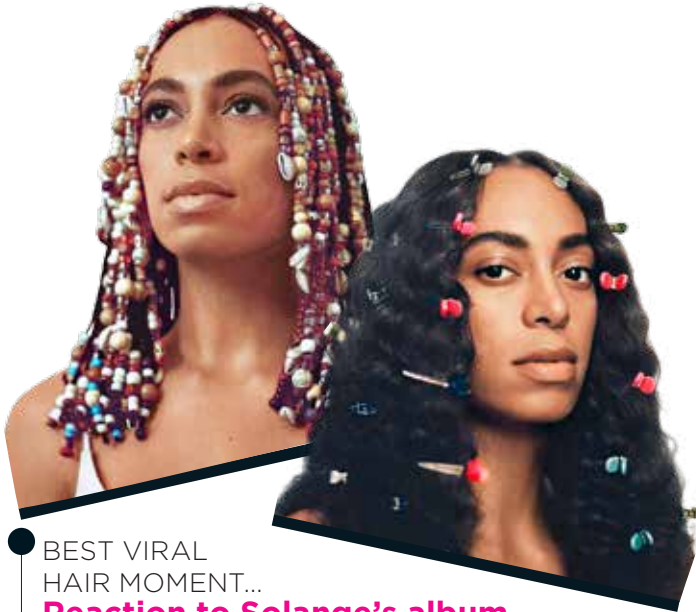
MUST-HAVE DAILY INDULGENCE...

Fragrance

Clockwise from far left: **Byredo** Bibliothéque Eau de Parfum (\$255, byredo.com); **Memo Paris** Eau de Memo (\$275, Neiman Marcus); **Carolina Herrera** Good Girl Eau de Parfum (\$115, 2.7 oz, Macy's); **Marc Jacobs** Mod Noir Eau de Parfum (\$90, 1.7 oz, Sephora).

BEAUTY

BEAUTY : AWARDS



BEST VIRAL HAIR MOMENT...

Reaction to Solange's album

In late September 2016, the singer blessed the world with standout dos, crafted by hairstylist Nikki Nelms, in celebration of her third studio effort, *A Seat at the Table*. From wearing Patrice Rushen-inspired braids to the duckbill-clipped locks everyone tried to re-create, Knowles delivered music and mane moments we'll never forget.

DARK SPOT BUSTER...

IT'S A TIE! Urban Skin Rx & SkinMedica

Gone are the days when dark spots were a roadblock to an even complexion. We can't get enough of these tone correctors that lessen pigment issues for women of color.

Urban Skin Rx Even Tone Cleansing Bar (\$28, urban skinrx.com); **SkinMedica** Lytera 2.0 Pigment Correcting Serum (\$154, skinmedica.com for locations).



Lacy Redway



Sir John

ARTISTS OF THE YEAR...
LACY REDWAY & SIR JOHN

These pros are responsible for the looks of some of the hottest celebs on the scene. From Sir John's flawless makeup for Beyoncé and Kelly Rowland to Redway's perfected tresses for Alicia Keys, Uzo Aduba and Solange, the two gurus make sure the stars always shine brightly on the red carpet.

MASCARAS THAT TRULY PERFORM...

Lancôme & CoverGirl

The magic is in the wand. No matter your budget, if you're looking for impressive lashes in a swipe, these don't disappoint.



Lancôme Grandiose Extrême (\$32, lancome-usa.com); **CoverGirl** So Lashy! BlastPro Mascara (\$9, CVS).



Bioré Charcoal Acne Scrub (\$7, Target).

BLEMISH FIGHTER...
Bioré

A combo of powerhouse ingredients—charcoal and salicylic acid—helps this scrub clear up acne while sloughing away dead skin.

MOST COVETED TOOLS...
GAME-CHANGING GADGETS

Technology is taking over our beauty regimens and among our treasured finds are a fiber-woven flat iron, an oscillating makeup brush, a cellulite-busting massager, an ultra-luxe electric toothbrush and a skin-firming face massager.

Clockwise from top left: **InStyler** CeraSilk Styling Iron (\$115, Ulta); **Michael Todd Beauty** Sonicblend Makeup Brush (\$79, michaeltoddbeauty.com); **FasciaBlaster** Massager (\$89, fasciablaster.com); **Philips Sonicare** DiamondClean Toothbrush (\$220, target.com); **Clarisonic** Smart Profile Uplift (\$349, clarisonic.com). »



SOLANGE: CARLOTA GUERRO (2); REDWAY, RYAN MICHAEL KELLY; SIR JOHN, COURTESY OF SUBJECT.



CELEB OF THE YEAR... Alicia Keys

This fearless songstress made a major statement by going makeup-free and we love it. Keys encourages women to “do you” when it comes to rocking cosmetics, and she isn’t afraid to reveal her true beauty to the world. Whether you choose to pile it on or to push your makeup bag aside, her #NoMakeup movement inspires us all.

BRAND ON THE RISE... Flawless by Gabrielle Union

Her hair is always laid and splayed, so we’re thrilled the actress has debuted a signature hair care collection. All ten products are filled with a blend of marula, argan and avocado oils, and under \$30 each!



Flawless by Gabrielle Union Collection
(\$19–\$29, Ulta).

BEST EXTENSIONS... Indique Hair

If you want curly or straight dos, wigs or weaves, this brand has it. Using its 100 percent virgin human hair, you can get a natural look without any fuss.



Farmhouse Fresh Sunflower Honey-Butter (\$30, farmhousefreshgoods.com); **Made Beautiful** PUREifying Rinse (\$10, Sally Beauty); **Clove + Hallow** Lip Glaze (\$13 each, cloveandhallow.com).

CLEAN & GREEN BEAUTY PICKS...

Farmhouse Fresh, Made Beautiful & Clove + Hallow

Those who prefer to keep things clean, natural or organic, need look no further than to these makeup, hair and skin options that are infused with botanicals and eco-friendly ingredients.

BEST HIGHLIGHTER... Jay Manuel Beauty

On a quest for an illuminator that won’t leave your brown skin looking ashy? This gold-tinted powder is pure perfection for even the deepest of skin tones.

Jay Manuel Beauty Filter Finish 3D Illuminator in Paparazzi (\$30, hsn.com).



BEST AT-HOME HAIR COLOR... IT'S A TIE! Clairol & Dark and Lovely

When you’re ready to jazz things up by going blond, purple or somewhere in between, try one of these for a fabulous payoff.

Clairol Professional Flare Me (\$6, Sally Beauty); **Dark and Lovely** Color-Gloss Ultra Radiant Color Crème (\$6, Walmart).

NEW SKIN CARE TREND... Antipollution Products

If you’re a resident in a major city, you can now get more help to protect your skin from harsh polluted air.

Elizabeth Arden Prevage City Smart SPF 50 (\$68, elizabetharden.com). >>



KEYS: FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

SOCIAL MEDIA CULT FAVORITE... PAT McGRATH LABS

The clever strategy of dropping a limited number of awe-inducing shadows had us in a frenzy to get these sparkling pigments, created by glam goddess McGrath, before they were sold out.

(Pictured) **Pat McGrath Labs** Metamorphosis 005 Everything Kit.





BEST SHADES FOR US...

IT'S A TIE! BLACK OPAL & MAKE UP FOR EVER

With formulas that would satisfy even picky pros and colors that work on the milkiest to the darkest of chocolates, these two lines are clear winners.

Black Opal True Color Ultra Matte Foundation Powder (\$11, Rite Aid); **Make Up For Ever** Water Blend Foundation (\$43, sephora.com).



NATURAL HAIR CRUSH...

Yara Shahidi

Not only do we give this starlet major props for staying woke, but we also salute how amazing she looks while doing so. From wash-and-gos to braids and buns, she isn't afraid to rock a new style and own it. We adore her dare-to-be-different attitude and can't wait to see what she's got up her sleeve next.

MUST-HAVE INGREDIENT FOR MOISTURE...

Hyaluronic Acid

This lubricant is your key to increased skin hydration. It is packed with moisture, has huge plumping properties and is available at all price points.

Peter Thomas Roth Water Drench Hyaluronic Cloud Serum (\$65, peterthomasroth.com); **Rodan + Fields** Active Hydration Serum (\$108, rodanandfields.com); **Cetaphil** Rich Hydrating Night Cream (\$20, Walgreens).



BEST SYSTEM FOR STRAIGHT HAIR...

KeraCare

If you like having options when it comes to your mane, here's the solution you've been searching for. Created for natural girls who occasionally like going straight, this botanical-filled three-step system makes blowouts and heat styling a breeze. And you don't have to worry about ruining your curl pattern.

KeraCare Thermal Wonder Collection (\$3-\$13, select Sally Beauty stores).

WORTH THE SPLURGE...

Tom Ford, Kérastase & Sunday Riley

These luxury finds are pretty to look at and get the job done—they can perfect your pout with gorgeous color, smooth flyaways, nourish dry strands and hydrate dry skin day and night. You'll be glad you invested in these treats.

BEST EDGE TAMER...

Creme of Nature

Creme of Nature With Argan Oil From Morocco Perfect Edges Black (\$5, Walmart).

Tom Ford Shade & Illuminate Lips in Nikita (\$60 each, tomford.com); **Kérastase** Aura Botanica Concentre Essentiel (\$58, kerastase-usa.com); **Sunday Riley** C.E.O. C+E antiOXIDANT Moisturizer (\$65, Sephora). »



SHAHIDI, FROM LEFT: J. COUNTESS/GETTY IMAGES; KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES.



AGELESS WONDER...
Angela Bassett

Though years have passed since we first met this enchantress, her beauty has stood the test of time. We applaud you, Ms. Bassett, for being a solid example of "Black don't crack."

BARGAIN GOODIES...
Not Your Mother's, Nubian Heritage & L'Oréal Paris

Keep your wallet happy with budget-friendly brands that offer major payoff.

Not Your Mother's Kinky Moves Curl Detangler (\$7, Ulta); **Nubian Heritage** African Black Soap Facial Wash (\$13, nubianheritage.com); **L'Oréal Paris** Infallible Paints Liquid Eyeliner (\$10, CVS).



L'Occitane Almond Milk Concentrate (\$50, usa.jocitane.com); **Jo Malone London** Star Magnolia Hair Mist (\$50, jomalone.com); **Too Cool For School** Dinoplitz Lip Balm in Spilled Wine (\$15, Sephora).

FAVORITE FOREIGN IMPORTS...
L'Occitane, Jo Malone London & Too Cool For School

These global brands are gaining lots of fans stateside with their luxurious ingredients and genius formulas that yield fantastic results. They're certainly welcome here.



BREAKOUT BEAUTY STAR...
@melaniin.goddess

Senegalese-born model Khoudia Diop took Instagram by storm after participating in the viral diversity campaign The "Colored" Girl Project. Now we can't keep our eyes off her deep mocha complexion.

BEST CURL DEFINER...
Carol's Daughter

When it comes to styling curls and coils, definition is a top concern. Carol's Daughter products are often the go-to for many naturalistas, and this Pracaxi Nectar collection is no different. It keeps hair in place without weighing down your spirals.

Carol's Daughter Pracaxi Nectar Curl Twisting Custard (\$14, carolsdaughter.com).



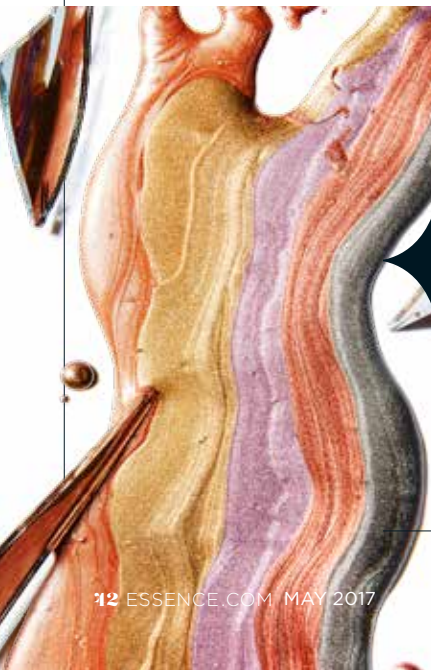
BEST ANTIAGING LINE...
IT'S A TIE! Olay & Dermalogica

When you want to banish wrinkles, one of these two brands should be your first choice. No matter your sign of aging, you're bound to find a formula that will help you retain that youthful glow.

FAVE BLACK-OWNED BRAND...
Briogeo

Our love affair began when we first saw this Black-owned line in Sephora, but the impeccable formulas are what keep us loyal.

Briogeo Scalp Revival Charcoal + Tea Tree Scalp Treatment (\$32, Sephora). >>



MUST-WEAR MANI TREND...
Chrome Nail Polish

The salon-applied chrome polish that started the craze goes on like magic. Fortunately, these metallic versions are equally as captivating and come at just a fraction of the cost.

Sally Hansen Color Therapy (\$7 each, Walmart); **Essie** Mirror Metallics (\$9 each, essie.com).

BASSETT: JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY IMAGES; DIOP: JOEY ROSADO/ISLAND BOI PHOTOGRAPHY

Transform your lip look.

NEW
COLOR
sensational
SHAPING LIP LINER

Make lipstick last. Stops feathering and smudging.



Define: outline, fill in with lip color



Contrast: line + fill with contrasting shades.



Volumize: draw vertical lines, fill in corners. Add lip color.

14 creamy new shades.

colorSensational
 SHAPING LIP LINER

MAYBELLINE
 NEW YORK

BEAUTY : AWARD



Kevyn Aucoin

The Molten Metals Lipstick (\$30 each, Sephora).

BEST METALLIC LIPS...

KEVYN AUCOIN

We're totally willing to give up our matte lip obsession for this lineup of wearable iridescent hues. Whether you're looking for a bronze to keep things neutral or a deep purple to make a statement, this brand's got you covered.

KID-FRIENDLY FAVORITE...

Baby Dove

There's no doubt that Dove is embraced by the entire family. And its new line for baby will keep your precious little one's skin nourished.

Baby Dove Rich Moisture Top to Toe Wash (\$6, 13 oz, Walmart).



GAME-CHANGING PRODUCTS...

Cantu, Cover FX, Curls, Colgate & DevaCurl

Launches of the past year were all about innovative formulas, and these picks certainly fit the bill. Our faves include a dry co-wash that conditions and refreshes, an invisible gel sunscreen, a hair oil that promotes hair growth, a teeth whitener that brightens beyond the surface and a micellar water cleanser that rids scalp of gunky buildup for weightless curls.

Cantu Refresh Apple Cider Vinegar Dry Co-Wash (\$5, Walmart); **Cover FX** Clear Cover Invisible Sunscreen SPF 30 (\$45, Sephora); **Curls** Blueberry Bliss Hair Growth Oil (\$12, select Target stores); **Colgate** Optic White Radiant Toothpaste (\$7, Walgreens); **DevaCurl** Buildup Buster (\$28, devacurl.com).



BLOGGER WE CAN'T STOP WATCHING...

Ellarie

She has more than 1 million followers on Instagram, so it's obvious you love her just as much as we do. Vibrant blue lipstick? Check. Perfected winged liner? Check. She does it all, and we're so here for it.

HEAD-TO-TOE SAVIOR...

SheaMoisture

From hair to skin to makeup, SheaMoisture is the ultimate multitasker and keeps women of color at the top of its list!

BRAND/CELEB COLLAB...

Palmer's & DJ Khaled

It's no secret that celebrity partnerships are a hot topic and even hotter sellers. When DJ Khaled joined forces with this ash-buster favorite, we knew it was going to be a hit.

Palmer's DJ Khaled x Palmer's Cocoa Butter Lotion (\$7, 8.5 oz, palmers.com).



ELLARIE, COURTESY OF SUBJECT