

STYLE & FASHION

20 ODD QUESTIONS

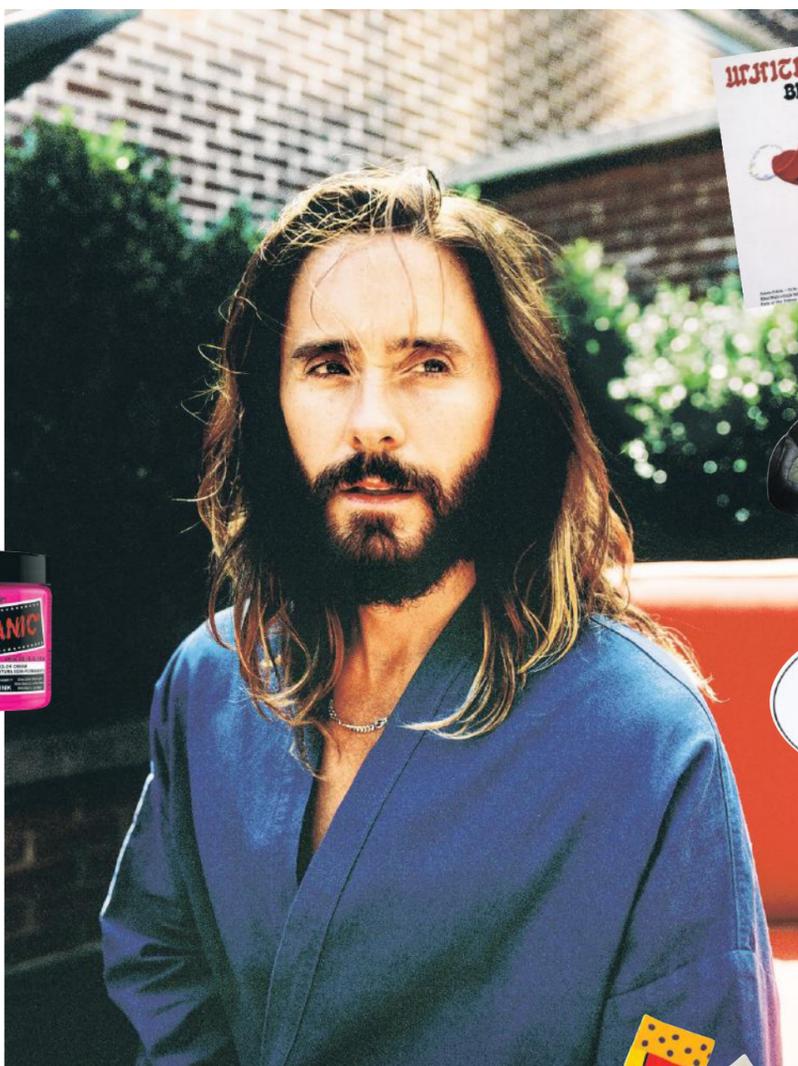
Jared Leto

The multi-hyphenate and self-proclaimed 'grandpa' on beauty, business and how he gets in the mood for the festive season

COMMITMENT doesn't scare Jared Leto—at least not when it comes to bringing his characters to life on screen. The shape-shifting Los Angeles actor shed over 25 pounds to assume the role of a heroin addict in 2000's "Requiem for a Dream." Seven years later, he packed on weight to play John Lennon's murderer in "Chapter 27." For 2021's "House of Gucci," his prosthetic-enhanced Paolo Gucci transformation was so convincing that Al Pacino didn't recognize his co-star.

Off camera, however, Mr. Leto looks unchanged, almost as fresh-faced at 50 as he was when fans first met him as Jordan Catalano in '90s TV show "My So-Called Life." Though he scoffs at the idea of a beauty routine, this October Mr. Leto—an avid investor who was keen to add co-founder to his résumé—launched Twentynine Palms, a lifestyle brand that offers products including shower and skin-care essentials, and is named for a town near California's Joshua Tree National Park, where he often rock climbs.

Recently, the multitasking Method actor also wrapped a new album with his band, Thirty Seconds to Mars, dyed his hair Pepto-pink and revealed he'll be producing and starring in a biopic about the late Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld. A bona fide fashion darling, Mr. Leto has long been something of a muse to Alessandro Michele, the creative director of Gucci since 2015 who recently announced his departure from the Italian brand. Mr. Leto, whose flowing locks lend him an uncanny resemblance to Mr. Michele, was absent from the latest Gucci show, which featured 68 sets of twins. When asked why he didn't appear on the runway alongside his doppelgänger, Mr. Leto quipped: "How can you miss me if I never go away?" Here, he shares his love of hats, heinous socks and holiday songs.



METHOD MAN Clockwise from above: Jared Leto at the Bowery Hotel in New York in September; Bing Crosby's "White Christmas"; Karl Lagerfeld in 2011; La Sportiva climbing shoes; Mariage Frères's Carré d'Or; a view of the Hidden Valley Nature Trail in Joshua Tree National Park; a Worth & Worth straw hat; 'atrocious' socks like the ones Mr. Leto gives as gifts; Manic Panic Cotton Candy Pink hair dye

My childhood heroes were: David Bowie and Andy Warhol. I went through all kinds of phases as a kid but I don't think of [my style] as eccentric. I just like what I like.

I don't get hung up on: fashion. For me, there's not a lot at stake. I have many other things in my life to stress about and I let the fashion stuff be frivolous, fun and free. I don't mind a beautiful disaster every so often.

I always wear: a straw hat. And I always will. I'm outdoors a lot, so if I'm hiking or near the water, it just works. Worth & Worth makes an interesting version but I'll also take a \$5 hat from 7-Eleven.

My other go-to accessory is: a fanny pack. It's convenient. You buckle in and you're ready to go.

The first time I met Karl Lagerfeld: I told him, "I'm going to have to play you in a movie at some point." He put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Only you, darling, only you." He was a fascinating person and there aren't too many of those around.

I do not have: a beauty routine. My life is too inconsistent and I have authority issues. Life changes. We change. That's OK. We don't have to be so strict about things.

I DIY my: hair color. It's hon-

estly pretty easy. It doesn't take a genius to slop on some Manic Panic in Cotton Candy Pink. I keep it OG. It worked when I was a teenager and it works now.

Twentynine Palms is: a town where you can enter Joshua Tree National Park. I go to the park to rock climb, explore and get lost. I'm always struck by its beauty. I did a two-week silent meditation there. I've always found [the desert] really inspiring and creative. It's a great place to go and clean the hard drive, so to speak.

My favorite climbing spot: in Joshua Tree is Hidden Valley, but I climb anywhere that's challenging. I've climbed at least a thousand routes in that park. You can climb historic routes, make your own or just

wander around and scramble [a type of climbing].

Besides safety gear, I never climb without: a chalk bag in case my hands get sweaty. My buddy Alex Honnold also makes a harness that I use, and my other buddy Tommy Caldwell makes the best trad climbing shoes in the world with La Sportiva.

My closet is: a suitcase and a hotel room. I always pack quite a bit of food with me wherever I go because I like to eat really healthily. Two of my favorite snacks are fruit jerky and popcorn. I like to have some consistency when I'm rolling around the planet.

I'm a proponent of: sleep. I bring the same pillow with me when I travel. That helps a lot.

My favorite gift to give and receive is: socks. You've got to get a pair of socks or it's not the holidays. The more atrocious they are the better.

At the top of my holiday playlist is: "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby or Frank Sinatra. As soon as Halloween ends, I'm listening to Christmas songs, especially the oldies.

I recently binge-watched: "The Alcàsser Murders." It's a Spanish true-crime series. The other thing I recommend is "Carmel: Who Killed Maria Marta?"—about an Argentine murder. Trust me, watch it.

My guilty pleasure is: Mariage Frères in Paris. They make the world's best desserts. You can't go wrong but I always get the [dark chocolate and caramel]

Carré d'Or. It's unbelievable. They know what they're doing.

My first job: besides selling drugs was working as a dishwasher at a BBQ restaurant when I was 12 years old for \$2.50 an hour.

The best business advice I've ever received: was from David Geffen. He told me that nobody ever went broke selling too early.

Everything is great about: getting older. There's really only one problem and that's the [decline of] the physical body, which is inevitable. From one grandpa to everyone else out there, [aging] is a beautiful thing. I wouldn't change it for the world.

—Edited from an interview by Amber Kallor



Mr. Leto (right) and his doppelgänger, ex-Gucci designer Alessandro Michele, at the 2022 Met Gala in New York.

PETER FISHER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (JARED LETO); ALAMY (ALBUM); JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK; GETTY IMAGES (KARL LAGERFELD); LETO AND MICHELE; ISTOCK (SOCKS); MARIAGE FRÈRES (CARRÉ D'OR DESSERT)

