

stellar Q&A

OSHER GÜNSBERG

tv & radio presenter

Interview by TIFFANY DUNK

You've been appointed radio's new love doctor on the Hit Network with Osher's Love Line. What prescriptions are you able to write?

I can write prescriptions for uplifting key changes, mending of heartbreaks by playing a healing song or strengthening of relationships by playing the tune people danced to at their wedding.

Did you ever think helping people find love on radio and TV would be your living when you started out?

I was a roadie when I first started. My job was lifting heavy things and putting pretty coloured lights on cover bands

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while they sang songs about the last plane out of Sydney being almost gone. I thought I would be in a band. This is beyond anything I could imagine.

You go to town on Twitter poking fun at *The Bachelor*. Do the bosses ever rein you in? No. And I would

never satirise *The Bachelor*. I'm just talking about the times it's kind of silly. Like, sure we could have taken an Uber to dinner but, no, we took a helicopter instead. It's kind of silly and fun.

Who's more high-maintenance – Bachelors or Bachelorettes? Me.

I require constant hair and wardrobe maintenance. You can't hide date cards willy-nilly, it takes hours of preparation. The boys and girls just show up.

There's a theory that the reason *The Bachelorette* is shorter than *The Bachelor* is because we don't want to watch women dating multiple men. What are your thoughts?

I can see why people might say that, but I don't think that's the case with us.

If the network ordered 20 episodes of *The Bachelor*, that's what they'd get. If they ordered 20 episodes of *The Bachelorette*, we'd give them 20 episodes. People can read what they want into it, but I'm grateful we got a longer season of *The Bachelorette* this year [than Sam Frost's season], because it's really good.

What has working on the show taught you about women? It's helped me understand how women talk to each other. I had no idea how much speculation went into intentions. "Did

he hold your hand? Right hand or left? How did he hold your hand? How many fingers? Three fingers! Oh, I know what that means." The guy's recollection of that is, "Yeah, we held hands."

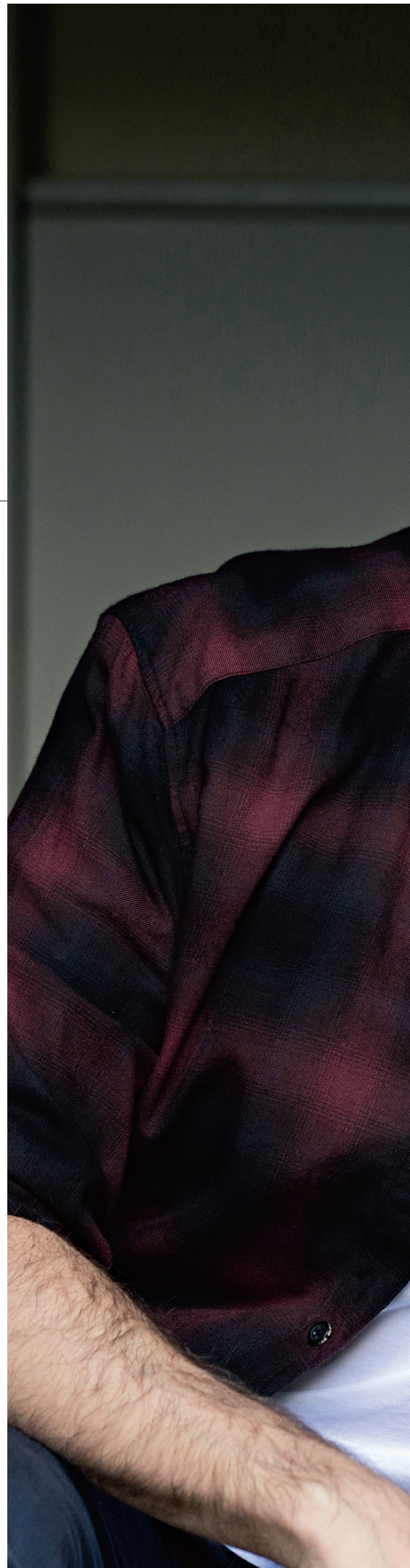
The Bachelor girls are locked in a mansion with only one guy for weeks on end. Be honest, have any of them hit on you? I don't think I've ever been hit on. If I was, I probably didn't notice. And even if I did notice, I'd never do anything about it because I'm there to do a job. There's a line you professionally don't cross. Plus, I was too busy hitting on the make-up artist...

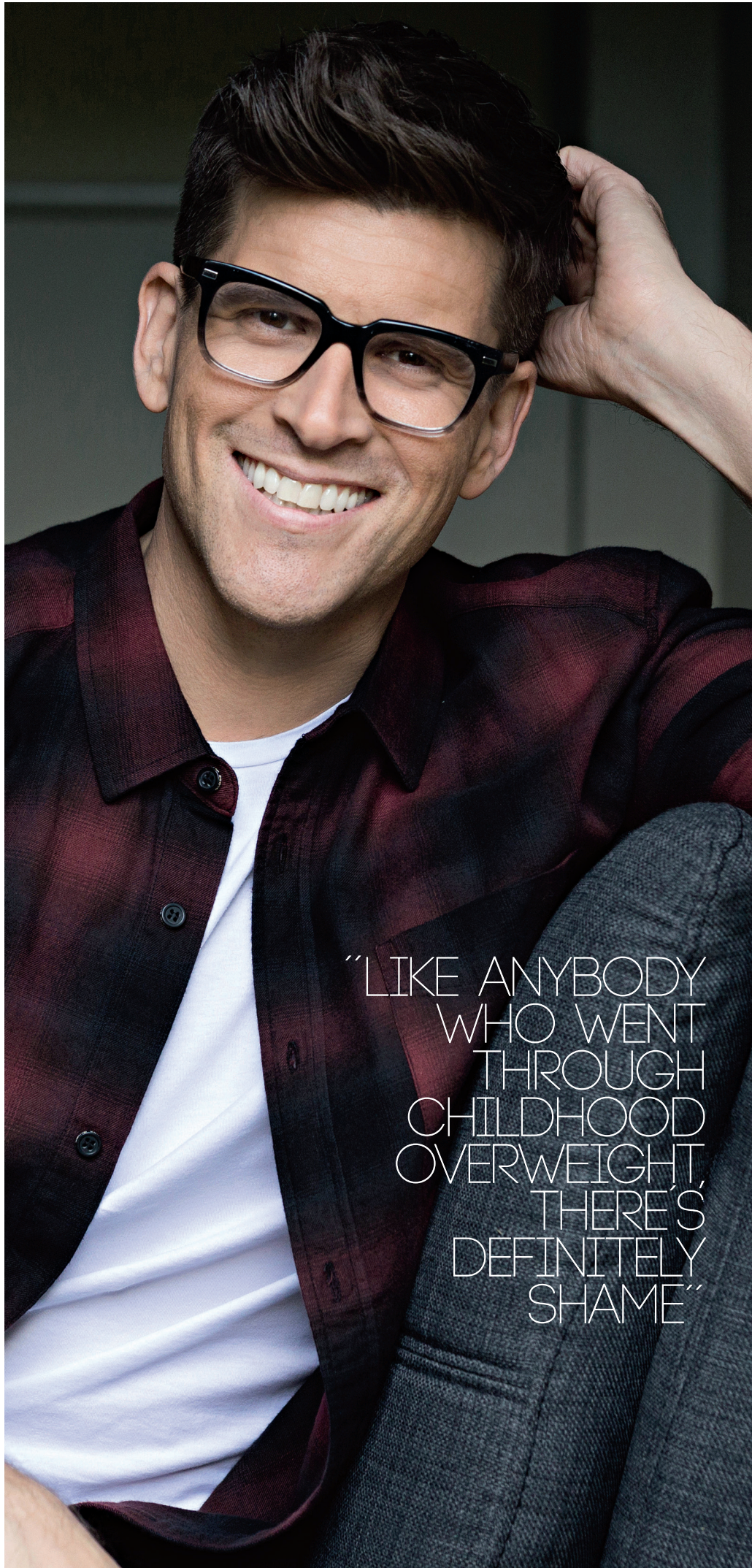
Speaking of your make-up artist fiancée, Audrey Griffen, the big day is looming. Are you a groomzilla?

No, I'm fine. I think I'm like most other grooms, saying, "What am I wearing and when do I have to be there?"

How involved will Griffen's daughter Gigi be in the wedding?

PHOTOGRAPHY: ELIZABETH ALLNUJT





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I'm not just making a commitment to Audrey in front of everybody we love and care about. I am absolutely promising Gigi just as much as Audrey. I knew that was what I was asking for when I asked Audrey to marry me and, my word, I'm hopefully going to make it a very special day for both of those lovely ladies.

You've got a failed marriage to Noa Tishby behind you. Do you think you could be a good husband to Griffen without having made those mistakes? I think it was Louis CK who said, "No good marriage ends in divorce." I'm very different now and I work hard every day to be a good person. I'm grateful for everything I went through because it has allowed me to have this relationship. I wouldn't have what I have today without having gone through it.

Do you ever get sick of living and breathing love? No! Because one thing the world needs more of is love. Love for each other, love for people we haven't met yet, love for our country, for our community, our environment. Love for what we have. And love for ourselves.

You've said loving yourself took time. Why? When you're a kid, whatever insecurities you have or weird stuff happens to you gets really burnt into your brain. All you need is a little trigger - a smell, a glance, someone or something similar - and it can all come flooding back. The next thing you know, you're a fully grown, mortgage-paying human, being told what to do and how to react by an [inner] eight-year-old.

What triggers that eight-year-old? Like anybody who went through childhood or adolescence overweight, there's definitely shame and embarrassment - you never forget the look in a bully's eyes when they're nipple crippling you so hard they draw blood. That stuff, as much as you try to get past it, is still there. It left me with weird thought patterns that I still have to deal with as an adult, which kind of sucks.

You helped your *Australian Idol* co-host James Mathison with his recent run for parliament. Would you run yourself? I'd love to work in lobbying, especially in the areas of mental-health support and clean energy. But when it comes to debate, I tend to turn people off. I get worked up and passionate really quickly; I need to work on that. James is a calm, calm man.

Instead you just get to spread love... If I can find a way to spread love in the houses of parliament, you bet I'll do it. ★
The Bachelorette premieres at 7.30pm, Wednesday, September 21, on Network Ten.