

What L.A. Men Can Learn From D.C. Derms

Need to look powerful and youthful all at once? These docs specialize in keeping male politicians camera-ready in ways that aren't obvious

By Meg Hemphill



ACTORS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES TO DISCOVER THAT regular skincare gives them an edge. Tina Alster, founding director of the Washington Institute of Dermatologic Laser Surgery, says male politicians are lining up for treatments. "Men know about Botox, and they're asking for it," says Alster, who also administers Dysport, a wrinkle relaxer that according to some studies lasts longer than Botox. "Politicians come in when a makeup artist points something out — it's about what they can do in the short run for TV. My business picks up in the summer because of the conventions and stays busy until Election Day." Her office on K Street, blocks from the White House, is a hotspot for politicians and pundits seeking treatment for brown spots, sagging skin, frown lines that they diminish with Restylane and Juvederm, nose- or ear-hair growth and beard shadows that are reduced with lasers. Alster, who has treated Rep. Alcee Hastings (R-Fla.) and former Sen. John Breau (D-La.), even has an alleyway entrance to preserve clients' anonymity. As for the major-party presidential candidates? "One or two detoxifying masks should reinvigorate Barack Obama's well-groomed winning mug of '08," says Mike Gilman, founder of The Grooming Lounge, whose flagship spa is in D.C. "Aside from Mitt Romney's 'eyebrows of mass destruction,' the Republican front-runner has emerging worry lines on his forehead — an anti-aging cream may help hide his age and grab back some of the youth vote." Those pesky lines also could benefit from fillers ... when the press corps isn't looking. **PHOTO**

1 DAYTIME LOTION
Nurify & Protect daytime lotion by Colbert MD is antioxidant-rich with vitamin E, goji berries and the Chinese mushroom extract Tremella — a natural source of hyaluronic acid, which purportedly helps lessen the appearance of wrinkles; \$95, at Barneys New York

2 BRIGHTENING SERUM
TNS Essential Serum by SkinMedica has plumping hyaluronic acid and human growth hormone

3 SMOOTHING SERUM
Rx Complex Serum by Le Mieux is a twice-daily serum containing peptides and vitamins E and C. "It minimizes the appearance of broken capillaries and blotchiness," says Michele Tyminski, head makeup artist for TNT's *The Closer*; \$65, at Bellora Spa, Beverly Hills

4 EYE TREATMENT
Advanced Marine Biology eye gel by La Prairie contains red and green algae that is said to smooth and firm — plus caffeine for de-puffing eyes; \$105, at Saks Fifth Avenue

5 FACIAL PEEL
Alpha Beta daily face peel by Dr. Dennis Gross is a two-step peel with alpha and beta hydroxy acids and retinol, which might reduce fine lines. Pundits also love that the vitamin C in it gives them a healthy glow; \$78, dgs skincare.com

6 MOISTURIZING EYE BALM
Suki eye repair balm contains organic carrot-seed, grapeseed and lavender oils to moisturize the eye area; \$38, sukiskincare.com

7 SHAVING CREAM
Age Defying Shave Serum by Skin Authority has tea-tree, lavender, lemongrass and orange oils with licorice-root extract, a natural skin brightener that some dermatologists have used to treat hyperpigmentation. NBC News correspondent Peter Alexander and *The Daily Show* host Jon Stewart apply it before shaving; \$28, skinauthority.com