

Howie DOES IT

In near perpetual motion, Howie Mandel comes to a stop – briefly – for Boca Raton's Concours d'Elegance.

BY ELIZABETH RAHE

If he didn't have so much going on, Howie Mandel would be getting into trouble, pulling pranks on unsuspecting victims just like he did in high school. Wait a minute...that's exactly what he does in *Howie Do It*.

"Everything I've ever been punished or expelled for, NBC is paying me for," he says of the hidden-camera prank reality show that premiered Jan. 9.

It's just the latest project for Mandel, who has reinvented himself many times over since he first gained attention in the late '70s with his frenetic stand-up act. He played Dr. Wayne Fiscus in TV's *St. Elsewhere* in the '80s, created and voiced the animated series *Bobby's World* in the '90s and in recent years, he has hosted the game show *Deal or No Deal*. He still does as many as 200 gigs a year, including the Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance on Feb. 22.

C&S: What makes you laugh?

Howie: Real situations, more than jokes. If I hear a joke about two guys and a duck walking into a bar, it doesn't make me laugh as much as a real predicament with a real person dealing with it.

C&S: What are some of the predicaments in *Howie Do It*?

Howie: We have people auditioning to be weather-tainers...reading cue cards with a fire hose blasting in their face. We also have a guy doing singing telegrams as the Funny Bunny...but we send him to a funeral. These shows are fun to do...it feels like a bunch of kids being mischievous. And I get to work with my son, Alex, who is 19. >>



C&S: Alex is joining the family business?

Howie: Like a law firm, Howie & Son. He wanted to be in *Bobby's World*, but I wanted him to wait. As a child you have so little time without responsibility. I told him if he was still interested [in show business] when he turned 18, he could do it. He's in college, majoring in theater. My daughter Jackie is 24, an inner-city teacher, finishing up her master's in urban education. My youngest [16-year-old Riley] is into science and chemistry.

C&S: When you got your Hollywood Walk of Fame star last year, Jay Leno described you as a family man.

Howie: First and foremost. Terry and I have been together for 34 years, 29 years married. I'm just a lucky guy who chose the right person. It's a wonderful thing.

C&S: Is your wife funny?

Howie: I imagine she would have to be. Most of my early life I was surrounded by people who didn't understand my humor. I was asked to leave school. My wife stayed with me and shared my sensibilities. I run everything by her. She is a great partner.

C&S: How do you keep your comedy fresh?

Howie: I hope to be taken off the path, to play off something that happens in the audience. I think of it as a giant party, and I'm the center of attention.

C&S: Concours d'Elegance includes a car and motorcycle exhibition. Are you into cars?

Howie: Right now I'm in a Smart Car. I'm going to put a hitch on it and pull another Smart Car behind me so I can carpool.

Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance benefiting Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County, Feb 20-22; events include airport hangar party, celebrity golf tournament, black-tie gala dinner featuring Howie Mandel, auto exhibition; Boca Raton Resort & Club, 954-537-1010, bocaratonconcours.com.

design

Clodagh, the Irish-born fashion designer turned interior decorator, is known for creating serene environments that invigorate the senses.

Her projects range from the Sasanqua Spa at Hawaii's Kiawah Island to the Landmarc restaurant at the Time Warner Center in Manhattan. And how she has



designed the new W Hotel & Residences in Fort Lauderdale, where residences start at \$960,000.

Her mandate was to create an urban resort, and she did it with romance in mind.

"It's a release from cares – children, pets, you name it," she says. "A hotel room is an escape and should be designed as an escape."

Because it's located on Fort Lauderdale beach, she incorporated sand and sea colors in the bedrooms. She also had fun in the corridors – with beach stone pattern carpet and wall covering on the ceiling that looks like figures are swimming in a pool. On the roof, benches in the shape of alligators surround a fire bowl.

The **W** is at 435 N. Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

– Charlyne Varkonyi Schaub



profile

Venus Williams dominates the tennis court, as usual, but this time she's wearing a Sonia Rykiel back-baring micro-mini dress and stiletto sandals...oh, and a Louis Vuitton sun visor. Williams makes the *Harper's Bazaar* fashion shoot look easy, judging from photos posted on the website for her clothing line, EleVen by Venus Williams. Still near the top of her game, the Palm Beach Gardens resident says she is planning for life after tennis, making personal and professional choices that reflect her interest in fashion and an active lifestyle. In 2007 she earned her associate's degree in fashion design from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, and she recently partnered with Powerade Zero, a calorie-free sports drink that provides hydration, electrolytes and vitamins. Williams says she drinks it during

lighter workouts, when she doesn't need extra energy. Staying trim is essential, especially when one squeezes into curve-clinging eveningwear and practices backhand volleys.

EleVen by Venus Williams, elevenbyvenus.com; powerade.com.

– Elizabeth Rahe



1 Bleu

dining Mark Militello has given up his eponymous restaurants to become executive chef at 1 Bleu and The View Bar at the Regent Bal Harbour. He will also oversee menus for Aqua Soleil spa, catering and room service.

Militello's menus emphasize clean, contemporary flavors using local seafood, high-quality chops and steaks, organic chicken and local sustainable produce.

Fresh-made pastas and risottos share the menu with main plates, including signature Militello seafood dishes such as crispy skin yellowtail snapper in bouillabaisse with fennel and shellfish. For The View Bar, the chef has designed a menu of small and shared plates, to be enjoyed indoors or on the ocean-front patio overlooking Haulover Inlet.

1 Bleu and The View Bar, The Regent Bal Harbour, 10295 Collins Ave., Bal Harbour, 305-455-5460.

– Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

design Palm Beach's own Schlesinger family says it is – gasp – bringing a New York-meets-South Beach vibe to the island's staid sands with the April opening of The Omphoy Beach Resort. Along with



panoramic Atlantic and Intracoastal views, the resort will feature a restaurant by renowned chef Michelle Bernstein, a mind-body spa by exhale and elegantly simple, earth-and-ocean interiors by designer Leslie Schlesinger. Leslie's son, Adam, CEO of the family's Obadon Hotel Group, says The Omphoy offers a fresh, young, unpretentious alternative. "We are creating something Palm Beach has never seen," he says. Obadon has made a habit of acquiring boutique hotel properties and reinventing them through renovations and partnerships with hot chefs and spas. Its current quartet of properties includes Palm Beach's Brazilian Court Hotel, Coconut Grove's Mayfair Hotel & Spa and Miami Beach's The Traymore Hotel, expected to open in March.

The Omphoy Ocean Resort, 2842 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, 561-713-2020, omphoy.com.

– Elizabeth Rahe

leisure Aerialists slicing through the air on ribbons of chiffon. Contortionists performing spine-defying feats. Acrobats throwing breathtaking tricks. Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy brings an exotic theater experience to Hard Rock Live Jan. 20-25. However, the Broadway show was created just up I-95 in Cirque Productions' 20,000-square-foot Dream Studios in Pompano Beach. Founded by Neil Goldberg in 1993, the company contracts with performers from all over the world, including The Mongolian School of Contortion, The Acrobatic Training Center of Beijing, The Sports Acrobatic Association of Poland, The Moscow Circus and others. Recruits work with coaches, choreographers and artistic directors to develop their skills for the company's productions. Fantastical costumes and



props, also created at the Pompano studio, bring the jungle to life in this colorful show, which blends European and American circus artistry and Broadway music and theatrics.

Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy, Jan. 20-25, Hard Rock Live, Hollywood, tickets from \$35-\$65, ticketmaster.com, hardrocklivehollywoodfl.com.

– Elizabeth Rahe