

The Greats
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THE GREATS



Neil deGrasse Tyson

Stellar astrophysicist, director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City and baritone host of "StarTalk." The second season of the late-night cosmos-themed show premieres this month on National Geographic Channel.



Cindy Crawford

All-American supermodel, Taylor Swift's "Headmistress" and the face that launched a thousand beauty marks, whose new coffee-table book, "Becoming," chronicles her life and career in fashion.

Take Two

A dual review of what's new



Arachnid Clock

An 18-karat gold-plated timepiece by MB&F, inspired by a Louise Bourgeois sculpture (\$18,000, mbandf.com).

When I think of spiders, I don't think of timekeeping devices. If the legs at least did a little jig on the hour or something, then the spider would be helping you keep time.

I'm not a fan of spiders, but I wouldn't mind having this one. When I see a real one, I don't scream or freak out — I just call for my husband or my son. I don't know what they do with them. Don't ask, don't tell.



Anti-aging Zapper

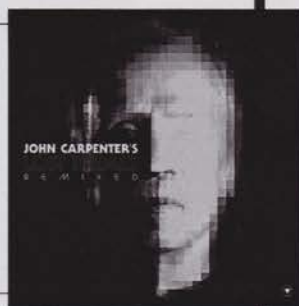
Ziip, a nano-current facial device that increases collagen production (\$500, ziipbeauty.com).

If putting electricity through your face makes you beautiful, I'm afraid of the future: "We just discovered ultrasound for these scientific applications. Let's put that on your face!"

As a 49-year-old woman, if you put "anti-aging" on something, I'm in. You could put "anti-aging" on the spider clock, and I'd rub it on my face. That said, I would rather pay people to do stuff like this for me.

Spooky Music

Electro remixes of compositions by the horror movie director John Carpenter (\$16, sacredbonesrecords.com).



No music is inherently scary. Though I suppose there's Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, which is famous for being in "The Phantom of the Opera." But on its own, it's just kind of fun.

I'm not into techno, but I went to a club in Ibiza recently and maybe it was the tequila, but when Avicii came on I was like [slurring], "This is the greatest!"



Bread Plate

By the London illustrator and ceramic artist Charlotte Mei (\$55, charlottemei.com).

There are plenty of things that make me think of a face — the grill of a 1950s car, for instance — but bread isn't one of them.

I pretty much never eat bread, but this is the face I make when I do. It would be hard to eat anything juicy off it because it's flat. I guess it's good for toast, although that seems a little cannibalistic.

Versace Sandals

Shower slides for wearing outside (price upon request, 888-721-7219).



They seem comfortable, but if I'm going to wear a fancy pattern, it would have to be some piece of the universe. You know, stars, planets, moons. Then it might make a nice pairing with my vests and ties.

The ones I got were acid-green and I'm really not a fancy dresser. I grew up in the Midwest. I thought Gunne Sax was a designer label.