



Actor **Kevin Spacey** holds court on watches, the stage and Santa's brother.

BY SHIRA LEVINE

# Space Age

**K**EVIN SPACEY (*The Usual Suspects*, *American Beauty*) has been enjoying a theatrical year. Currently serving as the artistic director for London's Old Vic Theatre, he returned to New York this summer for a turn on Broadway in a revival of Eugene O'Neill's *Moon for the Misbegotten*. In addition, during the SIHH watch show in Geneva, Spacey found time to tread the boards alongside Thandie Newton and Elliot Cowan in a specially commissioned play—*Leo and Lisa*—before a star-studded audience of 1,200. The one-time performance was sponsored by IWC Schaffhausen to celebrate the launch of their new Da Vinci watch collection (you can view the play at IWC's website). We got the chance to sit down, during the event, with the 48-year-old thespian (and ersatz stand-up comic) for some exclusive Q&A.

**Where'd you get your first watch?**

The first timepiece I recall is one my father gave me. He was in the army during World War II, and he bought a Rolex in 1943 in Scotland. It was a beautiful, very elegant watch. He handed that down to me when I was in my teens, and you can bet I wore it. I still have it.

**Was it a daunting task to create Leo and Lisa specifically for IWC while performing on Broadway?**

Well, I didn't write it. I had a playwright. I had a concept that my creative director and I worked on. I went to Morgan, one of our young writers that we have at the Old Vic theater. I believe it is her first paid professional job.

**How do you juggle two plays on two different continents?**

It's been a crazy week—I finished the [New York] performance yesterday, took my curtain call, changed out of my costume on the way to the airport, caught a

**State of the Art**

**IWC Schaffhausen celebrates the launch of their new Da Vinci watch collection.**



sell a story that was not true.

**You've received some critical reviews in the press for your *Misbegotten* performance.**

I don't read the reviews. I mean you get a sense. I used to read them as they came out many, many, many years ago, but I realized that you're suddenly aware of something that, quite frankly, you shouldn't be. [While the play is running] the only voice I can listen to is my director's. When the play is done and over, I sit with a Jack-and-Coke and read them all in one night. And I read them all.

**Will you be sticking with theatre for a while?**

I'm so happy doing what I'm doing right now, it's crazy. I'll be doing theatre for the rest of my life, but specifically with London's Old Vic for another 8 or 9 years.

**What about film?**

The next film is *Fred Clause*, with Vince Vaughn and Paul Giamatti, due out at Christmastime. It's a very funny comedy directed by David Dobkin. Next March, you'll see *21*, about MIT students who learn the art of card counting for blackjack. They head to Vegas and make millions and millions of dollars. I produced that film and play the professor who teaches them how to count cards.

"I KINDA FEEL LIKE THERE ARE FILMS I'VE DONE THAT WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME, AND THAT'S A MUCH MORE SATISFYING FEELING THAN, 'OH YEAH, IT MADE EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS AT THE BOX OFFICE.'"

7:45pm flight to Geneva, and went into rehearsal and staging for *Leo and Lisa*. This morning was spent rehearsing for the filming and tonight we do the performance. Tuesday I am on an early flight back to New York for a 2pm matinee.

**Is there some secret *Ambien* cocktail?**

I hope so! No. I am very used to flying. It's always about what time you are going to land and what time you want to go to bed the night you arrive. I just allow myself to get so tired that I'm able to go out. One Bloody Mary and I'm done.

**What was behind the *Page Six* story of you spending \$450 on skin products for yourself?**

Oh yeah. It was about me buying gifts for Eve and the other girls in the *Misbegotten* cast. I don't know why they thought it was for me. I went into a very nice salon, said I was buying a bunch of products for women, and I guess after I left, someone decided to

**So you enjoy comedy as well as the dramatic.**

Even in some of the darker characters I've played, I've always tried to invest some humor in them. I've always loved comedy—I even used to do stand-up and impressions: Johnny Carson and Jimmy Stewart and all those voices. I've had a couple of chances when I've hosted "Saturday Night Live" to sort of play with that. I adore it. It's great fun.

**I heard you were recently mistaken for singer Phil Collins.**

Oh God it was hilarious! I was with a group of friends and we were in a bar. There was a piano player and at the end of his session he came over and he was just so excited to meet me. He said, "Your music has changed my life."

I looked at him and said, [in a British accent] "Awww thanks. That's great mate. I'm just doing an album." I signed as Phil Collins and he went away. He wanted me to be Phil Collins and I couldn't disappoint him. ♦