

# The summer of



The men of Netflix's *Queer Eye* are here to help New Yorkers get glowing, inside and out. By *Jillian Anthony*  
Portraits by *Taylor Miller*

**“YOUR HAIR LOOKS** fucking sick with that headband,” says Antoni Porowski to his *Queer Eye* castmate Tan France. At their photo shoot, the Fab Five are donning workout gear—rainbow-colored sweatbands, two-pound weights, a Chanel basketball—and setting a tone that’s familiar to fans of the Netflix reboot: Jonathan Van Ness points in awe at Karamo Brown’s exposed abs; Antoni sends a smoldering glance toward Tan and leans in to kiss him before turning away with a laugh; Bobby Berk packs his bike shorts with a little something extra, then asks each guy how he looks. I’m relieved to realize: They really *do* love each other.

*Queer Eye*, which this year released two eight-episode seasons in just over four months, is the show you, your gay roommate, your tween niece and your 65-year-old Republican father are all watching, then rewatching. In

this tumultuous time, it might be *the* show you can count on to bring pure joy back to the weary soul, if only for an episode or, more likely, an hours-long binge. Our experts—Antoni (food and wine), Bobby (design), Jonathan (grooming), Karamo (culture) and Tan (fashion)—march into the homes of diverse Georgians (a devoutly religious black woman in her sixties, a young trans man who recently had top surgery [a double mastectomy], an immigrant bartender worried about fitting in) with the promise to make each one their best self in just one week. Imagine if seven days could sweep away all your flaws to reveal who you were meant to be all along: You’d start out in Kansas on Monday, get hit by the Fab Five tornado on Tuesday and step out of the chaos on Sunday as a goddamn rainbow. They do it every time. And a glimmer of hope flickers deep within the viewer, the optimistic realization that maybe

you, too, could get rid of your emotional baggage and become a better you. Okay, so you may not be seven days away from perfection. But, right this second, we New Yorkers—a rushing, intensely ambitious bunch—could use some help loving ourselves and those around us more. And who better to teach you how than the real-life BFFs and pro confidence-creators of *Queer Eye*? The Fab Five, who are all either bona fide New Yorkers or have spent a lot of time in NYC, spill their best self-care secrets, from the nipple cream you can use as lip balm to capitalizing on the Cloisters as a much-needed city escape. They also each share an influential personal turning point for added inspiration. Whatever you may be going through, let’s tackle it together, one skin-care tip and daily workout reminder at a time. It’s officially the Summer of Loving Yourself! Can you believe?

From left: Karamo Brown, Bobby Berk, Tan France, Jonathan Van Ness, Antoni Porowski

# loving yourself

STYLING: ANDREW GEWICONS; GROOMING: MATTHEW TUOZZOLI; PHOTO ASSISTANT: VICTORIA CHEN; FASHION ASSISTANT: EMILY PETERGILL; LOCATION: DS&D STUDIOS; SPECIAL THANKS: RAG & BONE, ALLSAINTS, NIKE, LACOSTE, HANES, ASOS, REEBOK, FILA, ENGINEERED FOR MOTION, HAPPY SOCKS, GUESS, PRPS, HILFINGER COLLECTION

# Jonathan Van Ness

## GROOMING

**MAJOR TURNING POINT:** “When I wanted to get into gymnastics, they didn’t take boys. They had a class with a trampoline in front of a basketball hoop—like, to dunk—because that made [gymnastics] more boyish. I was like, Oh my god, they still had to veil this to make it masculine. So, there was some kind of shame baked into gender at a young age.”

**ON DEPRESSION:** “I was 25, and I was watching my stepdad pass away from cancer. I was in yoga every day, I was in therapy, and I got on and off medication the same year. When I got off of them, I quit cold turkey. It was, like, six months of psychotic depression. So, don’t do that. If you do decide to get off, definitely wean yourself off. But the biggest thing about self-care is to be gentle with yourself and remember there’s no one way up that mountain. Maybe don’t take advice from this interview about what you should do with antidepressants, because I don’t know you.”



## WHAT’S IN JONATHAN’S BAG?

We put the guys on the spot to show us what essentials they carry around NYC.



1. **In his M0851 leather bookbag:** (m0851.com)

2. **Ouai hair oil** (theouai.com)

3. **Peter Thomas Roth 24k gold face mask** (peterthomasroth.com)

4. **Shu Uemura air dry/blow dry perfecter** (shuueamuraartofhair-usa.com)

5. **Cover FX cream concealer** (coverfx.com)

6. **Elnett hairspray** (lorealparisusa.com)

**DAILY ROUTINE:** “I work out in the morning every day. Sometimes it’s straight cardio, sometimes it’s weights, sometimes it’s yoga. If I don’t work out in the morning, I will harm the shit out of everybody—myself, you and the people trying to talk to me, honey.”

**HOW TO HANDLE DIFFICULT NEW YORKERS:** “I don’t quote the Bible often—and I won’t quote it now because I don’t know exactly what it says—but there’s something about turning the other cheek. But when people are mean to your friend, that’s when I go crazy. I will rip their hair out.”

**HAIR TIP:** “If you sleep with your hair down, it’s sandwiched between your shoulder and your body for eight hours at 98.6°F every night. So, you want to loosely gather it in a top knot. Your ends won’t get tangled, and your hair will get shinier.”

**PERFECT SELF-CARE DAY IN NYC:** “I walk around the Upper West Side, go to my Equinox, have two badass, gorgeous joints rolled and meet my friends for brunch. After that, I’ll go get a mani-pedi and maybe an afternoon Bloody Mary and take a little Central Park stroll. Maybe I would pop over to Le Bain ([standardhotels.com](http://standardhotels.com)) for, like, two drinks—nothing crazy—then come home, have a massage and watch *Westworld*.”

# Bobby Berk

## DESIGN

**MAJOR TURNING POINT:** “I was maybe six at the oldest, and I really enjoyed getting in there and painting. So, I don’t know if it was necessarily a turning point, but it was kind of a telltale sign of what was to come. I knew at a young age what I enjoyed in design.”



**ON COMING OUT AND BEING REJECTED BY HIS CHURCH:** “Having something

that’s such a deep, integral part of your life for your entire childhood and into your adolescence, and then, all of a sudden, one day the people around you decided to judge who you are, when you were no different the day before. It leaves scars. Scars that, honestly, I don’t think I’ll ever get over. I would say, for me, the chapter of religion is closed.”

**GUILTY PLEASURE:** “Ben & Jerry’s Americone Dream.”

**RULE FOR THE MODERN MAN:** “I think a man should definitely be helping in the home.”



There are so many places in our country where it's kind of thought to be a woman's place, and it shouldn't be. Guys should be doing laundry, doing dishes. It should be equal."

**HOW QUEER EYE CHANGED HIS LIFE:** "I'm always thinking about how what I'm doing is affecting the people around me. As a New Yorker, you have to be that way. I've always been the one to call people out when they're not being that way, but, like, I can't now. [There would be a] video of me preaching and not of what just happened which caused me to preach. I have to mind my own business a lot more than I used to."

**PERFECT SELF-CARE DAY IN NYC:** "Spending time at the Cloisters ([metmuseum.org](http://metmuseum.org)), which most people in Manhattan clearly don't realize is in Manhattan. Honestly, to make it in the city, especially to make it in the city for years and years, you need to get away. You're detoxing from fighting to get down the street, fighting to get in the elevator, fighting to get on the L train and not fighting to get on the L train because it won't run anymore. I saw a T-shirt today that said ARRIVING TRAIN 5 MINUTES, NEXT TRAIN 1.5 YEARS. Even going to Governors Island ([govisland.com](http://govisland.com)) can help—you feel like you're going back in time."



INSET PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY TAN FRANCE

## Tan France

### FASHION

**MAJOR TURNING POINT:** "My friends in Salt Lake City set me up on a dating site called Connections. My future husband, [Rob France], saw this picture of me and was like, 'You don't look like you're from around here.' My response was, 'No shit, Sherlock,' and we started a conversation. Ten years later, the rest is history."

**PERFECT SELF-CARE DAY IN NYC:** "Antoni and I like to take a workout class together whenever we're in the city. Then, we'd go for brunch, and then I would probably take a nap. I would grab coffee, then go shopping in Soho. I would hit up Sandro ([us.sandro-paris.com](http://us.sandro-paris.com)), the Kooples ([thekooples.com](http://thekooples.com)), Diptyque ([diptyqueparis.com](http://diptyqueparis.com)) and CB2 ([cb2.com](http://cb2.com)). For dinner, I would go to ABC Kitchen ([abchome.com](http://abchome.com)), or the Nomad ([thenomadhotel.com](http://thenomadhotel.com)) for their chicken. And I would finish up the night with dessert in bed, watching TV."

**GO-TO PRODUCT:** "Lanolin nipple cream. You have to try it! Put it on [your lips] before bed and then first thing in the morning."

**ON WEARING A STATEMENT SHOE:** "I prefer a Chelsea boot or a desert boot. I think it's very metropolitan. It's easy to dress it up or dress

### WHAT'S IN BOBBY'S BAG?



- 1. In his Lotuff No. 10 weekender bag: ([lotuffleather.com](http://lotuffleather.com))
- 2. Bose noise-cancelling headphones ([bose.com](http://bose.com))
- 3. Orange Theory heart monitor ([orangetheoryfitness.com](http://orangetheoryfitness.com))

- 4. Intelligent Nutrients Lip Delivery Nutrition ([intelligentnutrients.com](http://intelligentnutrients.com))
- 5. Ole Henriksen Pure Nurture facial water ([olehenriksen.com](http://olehenriksen.com))
- 6. S'well water bottle ([swellbottle.com](http://swellbottle.com))

### WHAT'S IN TAN'S BAG?



- 1. In his Beara Beara leather backpack: ([bearabeara.co.uk](http://bearabeara.co.uk))
- 2. Apple AirPods ([apple.com](http://apple.com))
- 3. Bally gray leather credit-card wallet ([bally.com](http://bally.com))

- 4. Altdoids ([wrigley.com/ea](http://wrigley.com/ea))
- 5. Barton Perreira Ascot sunglasses ([bartonperreira.com](http://bartonperreira.com))
- 6. Raspberry Quest Bar ([questnutrition.com](http://questnutrition.com))

it down. I think an actual *shoe* shoe, like a brogue or an oxford, can look a bit dated, and a sneaker is too casual. A boot is a great transitional shoe for anywhere in the world to look cool and look like a city boy."

**NEW RULE FOR THE MODERN MAN:** "It's just as important for a man to make as much of an effort as his partner, whether it be male or female. Gone are the days when the wife makes the effort and the guy just slums out as if what he's wearing is just fine. That's not okay. Know your proportions. You've heard women talk about balancing out their bodies for 60 years. I think, now, general retail is giving men the freedom to really make an effort and show that they're creative with what they're wearing."

**THE SONG THAT UPLIFTS HIM:** "No Tears Left to Cry" by Ariana Grande. It's on repeat, and it's driving my husband insane."

**HOW QUEER EYE HAS CHANGED HIS LIFE:** "I can't go out in the streets in New York without being stopped numerous times, which is wonderful that people want to tell me how I have impacted their life. I get to go to work every day with people I fucking love. And my husband is still my husband, and my friends from Salt Lake are still my closest friends. So, yeah, some things have changed, but I think the most important parts of my life have stayed very much the same."



# Antoni Porowski

## FOOD AND WINE

**MAJOR TURNING POINT:** “When I was around 18, I got kicked out of my parents’ house, and I wasn’t allowed to take anything with me. I slept on YMCA towels for a whole semester in university before my father found out and bought me a mattress. I felt really free because I was finally living on my own, but I was also really depressed because I had nothing. There have been moments in my life that have been a mix of high and low, of understanding what freedom is and the cost of freedom.”



**ON SCRAPING BY IN THE CITY:** “When I was studying at the Neighborhood Playhouse, I would overdraw my bank account and not have enough money to buy groceries. But I also discovered how to cook with very limited resources.”

**GO-TO PRODUCT:** “REN’s & Now to Sleep pillow spray—it’s like chloroform.”

**ON THE INTERNATIONAL BOND OF FOOD:** “After the passing of my personal hero Anthony Bourdain, I’ve been reflecting a lot on his influence on food culture. He made street food from around the world, that most of us have never heard of, accessible. Whether you’re a broke-ass student or a professional hosting lavish dinner parties, food is there for all of us to enjoy and share.”

**ON PICKING A SCENT:** “I’m a very sensory person. There’s a deodorant I wear

called Baux, from L’Occitane, that is super nostalgic because it reminds me of being in Greece in the summer. When I put it on, I’m immediately taken back to that feeling of having salty skin and hair from the ocean and the taste of fresh fish.”

**PERFECT SELF-CARE DAY IN NYC:** “I would meet my friend Klaus [Biesenbach, director of MoMAPS1] in the West Village, grab an iced coffee, go up on the High Line, then walk all the way to the East River. I would get very hungry, so I would go to Maialino ([maialinonyc.com](http://maialinonyc.com)). [Chef] Danny Meyer is a New York legend. He has a suckling-pig pappardelle with arugula. They roast a whole pig every night and reduce the juices into this rich sauce. Then, I’d go to 8th Street and get a pedicure. I’d finish off with a *Mind of a Chef* episode.”

WHAT'S IN ANTONI'S BAG?

- 1. In his Mismo M/S Express backpack: (mismo.dk)
- 2. Fellow Barber everyday tonic (fellowbarber.com)
- 3. Byredo travel perfume case (byredo.com)
- 4. Mophie universal batteries (mophie.com)
- 5. The Untethered Soul: The Journey Beyond Yourself (untethersoul.com)
- 6. RXBAR maple sea salt (rxbar.com)



Watch the Fab Five read nice tweets about each other at [timeout.com/nyqueereye](http://timeout.com/nyqueereye).



INSET PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY KARAMO BROWN

WHAT'S IN KARAMO'S BAG?

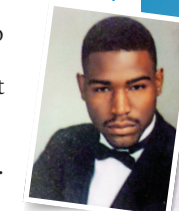
- 1. In his Herschel duffel bag: (herschel.com)
- 2. Microsoft Surface Pro tablet (microsoft.com)
- 3. Beats headphones (beatsbydre.com)
- 4. H&M satin bomber jacket (hm.com)
- 5. Acupressure massage ring
- 6. Ariel EDGE Plush hot/cold eye mask (arielpremium.com)



Karamo Brown

CULTURE

**MAJOR TURNING POINT:** “High-school graduation was a very pivotal time when I said, ‘No more. Everyone needs to know who I am.’ I wasn’t going to go to college feeling as if I needed to segment who I am. I was scared that people would reject those parts of me. And once I let that go, I told myself, ‘I don’t care if you reject me. I love myself. My family loves me, my friends love me. Your negativity or lack of compassion does not matter to me.’”



**ON COMING OUT:** “I grew up in a Caribbean home with first-generation American parents, and there’s a Jamaican reggae artist that used to be popular back in the ‘90s called Buju Banton. There was a song that was extremely popular called ‘Boom Bye Bye,’ and the lyrics say, ‘Boom bye bye in a batty boy’s head’—a ‘batty boy’ is a homosexual—and the next lyrics are ‘Rude boy no promote no nasty man—dem haffi dead.’ So, the whole song is about killing gay men. I remember going to family parties and people singing the song and dancing to it and the internal damage that had on me. Somewhere around that time I knew it was either fight or flight. I was like, Ignorance like that, I have to fight against it. Because if I don’t fight against it myself, then ultimately I’m saying that behavior is okay for the next generation.”

**TIPS FOR CIVIL DEBATE:** “It can’t be you versus them. If there’s a family member who you feel says ignorant things about women, LGBTQI

people, people of color, people living with disabilities, you need to know how to have that conversation, because saying, ‘I’m going to lock the knob and go to my room’ doesn’t help the problem. It only allows them to feel confident about what they’re doing.”

**NEW RULES FOR THE MODERN MAN:** “Check in, curiosity and cry. Every day we can check in and say, ‘How am I doing?’ Because we start thinking everything needs to be about work and surviving because that’s what the culture tells us. The second rule is, Are we curious? We get into routines and habits, and when that happens, we start resenting ourselves and our lives because we’re not experiencing anything new. Thirdly, my role on the show is to fix that inside and allow men to have spaces where they feel comfortable to have a cathartic cry. And I take pride in that because it releases so much they’ve been holding in.”