

Dental duo fixes Hollywood's grins

NEW YORK (AP) - Smiling before the camera, a Tinseltown tradition, requires teeth of pearly white perfection.

Dentists Gregg Lituchy, 38, and Marc Lowenberg, 51, know how to make a celebrity smile. The list of celebrity clients at their Central Park office includes Courteney Cox, one of NBC-TV's "Friends," and star of "Scream 2."

Cox has been booking routine checkups since 1984, the year she was discovered in a Brian De Palma video, "Dancing in the Dark," with Bruce Springsteen.

Ron Eldard, formerly of television's "Men Behaving Badly," once bumped into fellow actor Jason Patric ("Speed 2: Cruise Control") in the waiting room. Both were there for a cleaning (which might be an incentive for some of us plebes to show up for regular visits).

Supermodels Cindy Crawford, Christy Turlington and Amber Valetta book appointments with Lituchy and Lowenberg. Paul Reiser of "Mad About You" and film actress Ellen Barkin are former patients.

Actress Julianna Margulies has been a patient for years. "She came to me right before she went out to Los Angeles to do the pilot for 'ER,'" Lowenberg said. "I didn't charge her for X-rays because she was an aspiring actress."

Usually, celebrities just need routine dental work. But sometimes, the pathway to beauty is filled with bonding, bleaching - and more.

"When you're watching TV and you see these incredible smiles, I would have to guess a lot of that is porcelain veneers," Lituchy said. "It's the Mercedes of smiles. It's predictable, it lasts, and it's an expensive luxury for yourself."

Porcelain veneers - which can cost up to \$20,000 - can beautify every tooth visible to an adoring public. And Lowenberg said he'll "go to any length to attain perfection."

So whose perfect smile is the result of dental artistry?

"Everybody goes to the dentist

"You can't have a more intimate relationship with someone than when you're working on their mouth."

MARC LOWENBERG
celebrity dentist

and has no compunction saying they go to the dentist," said Lowenberg. "But people in the limelight want people to believe that whatever they have, they were born with."

Singer/daytime television host Kathie Lee Gifford ("Live With Regis and Kathie Lee") is the only celebrity he could recall who has admitted having a touchup. And she's not one of his patients.

What attracts celebs to this dynamic dental duo? How about this? If you make a visit to the dentist entertaining, the entertainers will come. "Patients who are overly anxious can have reflexology on their feet or hands, or a shoulder massage," Lowenberg said.

Besides the usual dental paraphernalia, the Lowenberg/Lituchy offices are equipped with overhead television sets and VCRs. "During dental work, most patients watch E! Entertainment Television or MTV," Lowenberg said. "For a long procedure, they'll watch a movie."

Lowenberg and Lituchy have been creating "smile make-overs" together for seven years. They're best friends, but true closeness, they said, comes with their patients.

"You can't have a more intimate relationship with someone than when you're working on their mouth," Lowenberg said. "In between drilling, you share what's going on in your life."

Jazz hall at Lincoln Center to symbolize art's excellence

■ The theater will feature 1,100 seats and space for rehearsals, recordings and teaching facilities.

NEW YORK (AP) - The Yankees have Yankee Stadium. Theater has Broadway. Opera has the Met.

But where do you put jazz in a city full of musicians and music lovers?

Under an agreement announced Tuesday, a 1,100-seat concert hall would be built not far from Lincoln Center as the headquarters for the world's largest jazz organization, Jazz at Lincoln Center.

The project, estimated to cost as much as \$88 million, would

extend the boundary of the Lincoln Center performing arts complex to the edge of Central Park. The as-yet unnamed theater would also include space for rehearsals, teaching and recording.

The theater is expected to be completed late in 2001.

It "will stand as an example for people all over the world what a hall that swings is about - because that's what we're going to do up in there, swing," said trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, the artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

"This is not just about a building for jazz," added Gordon Davis, the group's board chairman. "This is about a symbol ... of excellence and civilization and the importance of this music as America's most original art form."

The hall would be on the site

occupied by the New York Coliseum, a 42-year-old building that became obsolete once the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center opened in 1986. It has long been a target of developers who covet the location in midtown Manhattan not far from Carnegie Hall and Times Square.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which owns the site, is considering five proposals to redevelop the site. Most call for hotels, TV studios, movie theaters and retail shops, but the jazz hall deal will require at least some of the bids to be revised.

The developer will be responsible for spending up to \$45 million to build the shell of the jazz facility, and then convey the property to Jazz at Lincoln Center at no cost, possibly in a lease.

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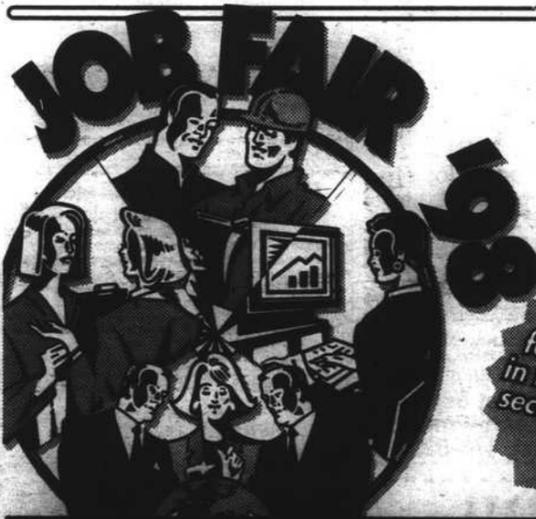
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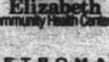
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