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AFTER TRAVELLING THE WORLD AS NUDE BY NATURE'S GLOBAL BRAND AMBASSADOR CLINT DOWDELL IS BACK HOME IN GEELONG, RELISHING FAMILY TIME AND EXCITED FOR HIS NEXT CAREER MOVE, WRITES TESSA HAYWARD

PASSION and creativity are the two things that drive Clint Dowdell.

He knows that without them his career opportunities in the beauty industry would not have come to fruition.

Instead he was able to travel the world as the global brand ambassador for leading Australian mineral makeup brand Nude by Nature for 10 years.

Returning home to Geelong earlier this year from London due to COVID-19 saw Clint reassess where his career was going.

The 39-year-old laughs as he explains how he is back living with his parents in Lara after 22 years out of home, but couldn't be happier.

"It has been a terrible time for so many but for me it was like a 'stop, check'. I can honestly say I have not been this happy in a long time," he smiles.

Clint grew up in Lara, before moving to Melbourne at age 17.

He studied drama and dance at Deakin University, reflective of his younger years

creating home movies and even a cooking show.

"I was always creative, whether it be acting or performing. I loved graphic design, just anything creative," he says.

With a group of like-minded people he started Red Cabbage, a theatre company in Melbourne that created large-scale installation-based pieces.

This included doing a massive performance piece for the opening of the Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival in Melbourne in 2006.

"It was an amazing creative-centric time of my life," he says. "We had it for about 10 years. We'd take time off work to do it, but then work three jobs in order to fund the time off.

"It was incredible, you got to speak to things you were passionate about and love. As long as I am being fed creatively, I am happy."

Clint moved to Sydney 10 years ago and was working for Mecca Cosmetics — after working as a model for Coty, a global beauty company,

during their fragrance launches.

He became Mecca's national fragrance specialist in Sydney, thanks to his experience in

the fragrance world.

However it wasn't just fragrance that had Clint hooked on the beauty industry.

"I am such a nut for anything in the beauty space. I absolutely fell in love with skin, fragrance and makeup and I got really entrenched in it all," he says. "One thing Mecca does really well is training. I really got indoctrinated into that world."

It was while Clint was working at Mecca that he met the man who started Nude by Nature.

"He shopped with me and was like 'you're great, you should come and work with me' and I was like 'no, I love it here'," he recalls.

But as time went on Clint decided to jump ship and started working for Nude by Nature.

He feels so lucky to have been their global brand ambassador, a role that allowed him to do everything. He was able to work across product development, marketing and sales.

"When I started, Nude by Nature was just starting to rise but was still a moderately small brand. Now it is the number four overall brand at

Mecca," Clint says.

When the brand launched overseas five years ago Clint relocated to London to bring it to life.

He was travelling the world hosting launches, educating and training staff and producing and starring in a lot of Nude By Nature's TV ads.

He was also its global makeup artist, a role that his theatre involvement came in handy for.

Clint, while he may not have any official makeup training, has learnt on the job.

"I was doing theatre makeup for years and when I was at Mecca I got thrown in the deep end as I had sold out an entire event for NARS with an international makeup artist, and one of the other makeup artists was sick on the day so



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I ended up doing it," he says.

"I love people and I love engaging with people. My gift was always finding out what people want and giving it to them."

With makeup Clint starts by finding out how his clients want to feel.

"A lot of women when you take their eyebrows off are like 'don't look at me' and I'm like 'it's going to be a bad result if I don't look at you'," he laughs. "At the end you become a friend but also help them feel amazing. It gives them confidence."

And his biggest tip is not to follow trends.

"Follow what is actually good for your skin and don't cover everything. The most beautiful thing about people is themselves, not their lipstick or foundation," he says. "Work to your skin, don't overdo it. Do your makeup so that you look like the best version of yourself."

Clint knew Nude by Nature was the right brand for him to work with as its philosophy was all about striving for good.

"I love making someone's skin look and feel good. I want someone to walk into a room and have people say 'wow your skin looks amazing', not 'wow your foundation is really well blended'," he says.

Clint was on hand to launch Nude by Nature in the UK, Europe, Canada and Hong Kong.

He says it was "absolutely amazing" travelling to those countries.

While in Canada, Clint says he was stopped in the street constantly by viewers of the morning show *City Line*, which he featured on regularly.

"Every 10 metres it would be like 'hi Clint, I saw you on *City Line*', it was a very community-centric show," he laughs.

After 10 years Clint was ready for a change so finished up with Nude by Nature in January of this year. He came back to Australia to visit

family and friends before travelling back to London to start a new job with a skincare company. However, it all fell through because of COVID-19.

"The best option for me was to come home. A few opportunities came up but everyone was

saying 'after COVID-19'," he says.

"It was an interesting time. I'd been living this fantastic and glamorous life travelling the world and now I'm 39 and back living with my parents.

"There was a question mark of what to do next."

Through the boredom of the global pandemic, during which Clint thinks he "finished Netflix", he needed to stimulate his brain so bought a camera, lighting and backdrops and created a home studio.

He also studied a couple of courses on content creation through the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

"I'm very good at marketing and social media. I can be the talent, I can write a script, the only thing I couldn't do was produce it so I started looking at how I could become a one man show," he enthuses.

He decided to launch Clint Dowdell Creative to explore his artistic side in photography, video production and business strategy.

And in what seems to be a full circle moment for Clint, he is studying film again but this time at the SAE Institute in Melbourne.

In his post-COVID-19 life Clint is hoping to further develop Clint Dowdell Creative, while also having time to work on passion projects, like a short film he is currently working on about the acceptance that can come when someone comes out as non-binary, gay or other identities.

Clint is glad to be working on several different projects and is thrilled to be able to reconnect with his family and friends in Geelong.

"The cafe culture in Geelong has turned out really well. I'm a massive coffee nut and spend a lot of time at King of the Castle," he says.

Follow @clintdowdellcreative and @clintdowdell on Instagram.

**"WORK TO YOUR SKIN,
DON'T OVERDO IT. DO
YOUR MAKEUP SO THAT
YOU LOOK LIKE THE BEST
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Clint Dowdell travelled the world as Nude by Nature's global brand ambassador, but is now enjoying time at home in Lara with his family. Photos: Instagram



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Clint Dowdell has embraced the Geelong lifestyle after years travelling the globe. Photo: Peter Ristevski

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