

STARHILL

A Gallery of Rich Experiences

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

*Of feasts, fashions
and top chefs*

CHA TIME

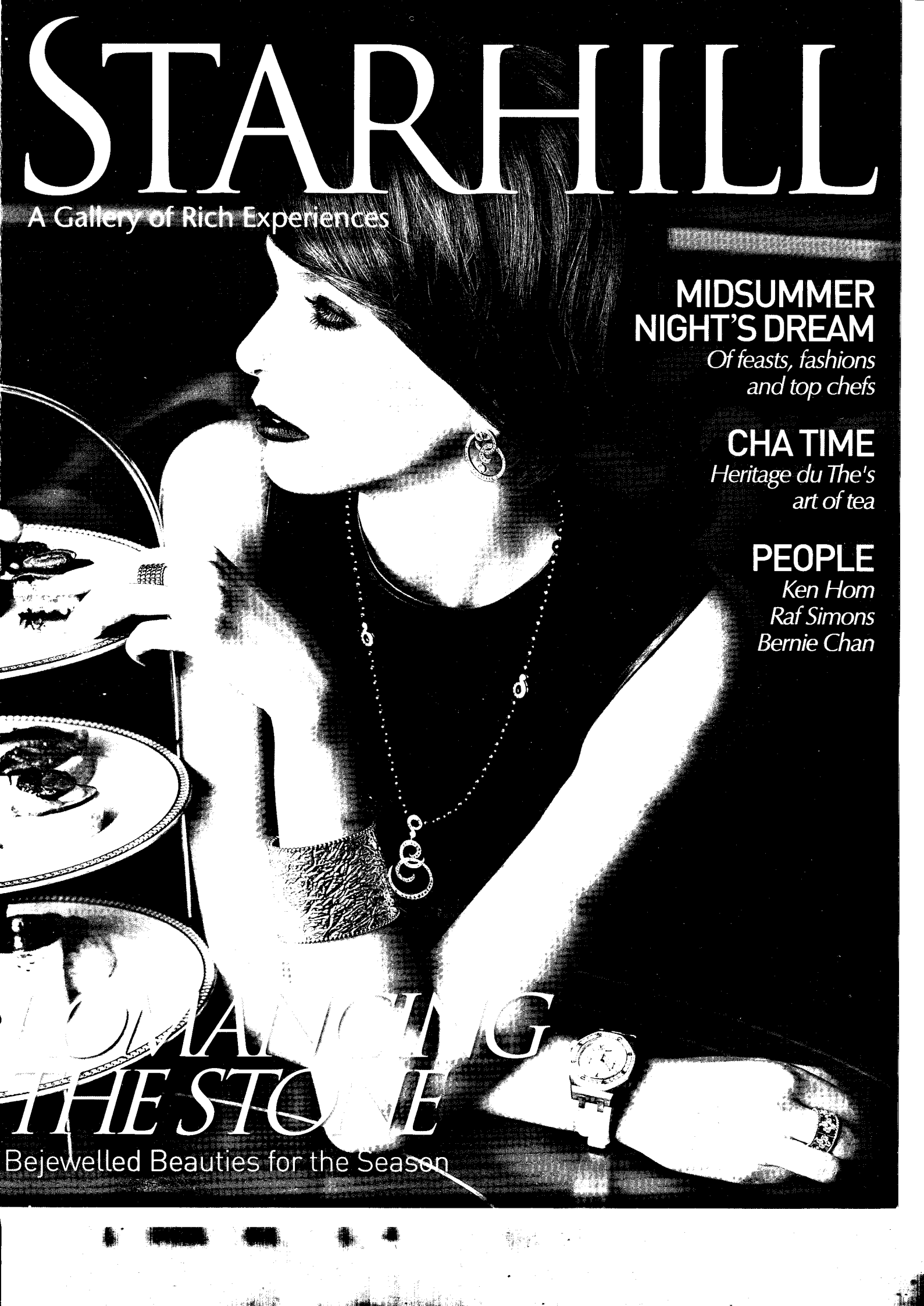
*Heritage du The's
art of tea*

PEOPLE

*Ken Hom
Raf Simons
Bernie Chan*

DOMINATING THE STONE

Bejewelled Beauties for the Season



THE MASTERS OF TIME

Starhill Gallery will soon have the cachet of being the first in the country to boast a stand-alone Maîtres du Temps boutique.

Text by Flavia Galeotti

A considerably young watchmaking company compared to the other major maisons, Maîtres du Temps was founded in 2008 by Steven Holtzman and, over the last few years, has certainly proved itself worthy to be counted among the best of contemporary watchmakers.

Holtzman began his career in horology in 1982 when he joined Gruen Watch Company, one of the oldest watch companies in America. In 1997, after 15 years at the company, he created Helvetia Time Corporation (HTC) as a way to distribute high-quality Swiss watch brands, including Roger Dubuis, across North and South America, eventually becoming recognised as one of the few high-end, independent watch distributors in the United States.

His next career step was to go to Geneva, Switzerland, to establish Maîtres du Temps, with the intention of providing a way to bring master watchmakers together to collaborate on innovative projects, which has resulted in a level of technical and design sophistication never



Chapter Three is an elegant timepiece displaying central hours, and minutes; small seconds at 8 o'clock, date at 2 o'clock, and moon phase at 4 o'clock, all set on a sumptuous blue guilloché dial.



Chapter One is a world-first combination of complications crafted from 558 components.

before seen in watchmaking. Each timepiece is designed and developed by two master watchmakers sourced from across Europe, both of whom bring to the project their respective skills and aesthetics, and, in the end, create a unique masterpiece of horological design.

The watches are numbered by chapters, as if telling a story, and actively creating the legacy of *Maîtres du Temps*. So far, there have been three chapters to this saga: *Chapter One*, revealed in 2008, was a collaboration between Christophe Claret and Peter Speake-Marin. It was a world-first combination of complications crafted from 558 components and featured a tourbillon with mono-pusher column wheel chronograph, retrograde date and GMT, as well as moon phase and day of the week on their own rolling bars.

Chapter Two, revealed in 2009, was a collaboration between Daniel Roth and Peter Speake-Marin (for a second time) that resulted in a highly-improved triple-calendar wristwatch design. *Chapter Three*, revealed this year, was a collaboration between Kari Voutilainen and Andreas Strehler and became an example of indication-rich timepieces done right, surprising many with a new trick: a pusher set into the crown which reveals two hidden panels in the watch face to reveal a second time zone indicator and a day and night indicator.

Each of these 'chapters' have revolutionised the way high-quality timepieces are developed and constructed, and has removed all limits from the imagination of the master watchmakers. With their commitment to A Lifelong Pursuit of Excellence, we can say, for sure, that they are already on the right path. ●

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Andreas Strehler and Kari Voutilainen collaborated on Maîtres du Temps' Chapter Three.



Chapter Two features hours and minutes indicated by diamond-cut, solid gold hands, with seconds at 6 o'clock, date at 12 o'clock, and day and month spelled out on their respective rollers.