

Smiles About Making Smiles

By Victoria Talbot



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Dr. Ben Talei is no ordinary Beverly Hills plastic surgeon. He is probably one of the happiest men in the world, not simply because he has a lucrative practice and lives and works in one of the world's most desirable cities.

This week, he is heading to Vietnam to make prosthetic ears for children born without them with Healing the Children. Later this year, he will treat children born with a cleft pallet with HUGS (Help Us Give Smiles). And sometime this week, he will help a person to achieve a long-desired dream to erase a birthmark or a scar that has defined their life. He will save a child from a lifetime of shame. He will erase years of suffering from someone's face and coax a hidden smile to life.

In between, he will expertly erase years, wiping away the careworn signs of time.

He will perform a facelift by lifting the facial muscle itself and replacing it where it was before time and gravity dragged it down. The results will look more natural, defy reversal, and have more impact than skin that is stretched and pulled tight, because Talei lifts the muscle itself.

Last fall, Dr. Ben Talei and his brother Nathan Talei, drove their Mini Cooper, covered in decals touting domestic violence awareness, across the country to raise funds and awareness for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery's Face to Face Domestic Violence Program. Women trapped in the cycle don't know there are many organizations there to help.

In Vietnam, he says, "the kids have lived with the condition for 8 years. We can't do the procedure earlier. They are so happy when they see their new ears!"

Talei's Beverly Hills Center for Plastic and Laser Surgery focuses on facial rejuvenation and minimally invasive procedures. They perform facelift, rhinoplasty, eyelid rejuvenation, and facial reconstruction. He also works with vascular and congenital anomalies, one of the few surgeons in the country to have pursued two fellowships at Columbia and Cornell Universities and Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

A native of Los Angeles, Talei is on staff at Ronald Reagan UCLA, Santa Monica UCLA, Cedars-Sinai and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

A lecturer and teacher, his heart is truly in working with others.



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