



# DR. BEN TALEI

has Beverly Hills' fastest growing plastic surgery practice. He completed two separate fellowships following his residency training at Columbia University and Cornell University Medical Centers before returning to his hometown to become one of the most recognized and prominent facial specialists. His revolutionary facelift, lip lift and injectable procedures have been featured on E! News, Fox, NBC and Inside Edition among a host of other editorials. Dr. Talei's truest passion is connecting with and helping others, traveling across the globe to treat children with deformities and assist sufferers of domestic violence. He invited us for a visit at his stunning office in Beverly Hills to learn more about his practice and the secrets behind his enormous success.

## DOCTOR SPOTLIGHT

### The Perfect Combination of Art & Science



#### How did your passion for plastic surgery begin?

I always wanted to be a surgeon. I started to do carpentry when I was 8. I always played the piano and loved building things with my hands. I wanted to do something that people could actually see after the work is done and that's why I ended up going into head and neck surgery. Then I realized that my life was going to be dealing with cancer patients and it was very hard dealing with the emotions daily and sharing sad news with patients and their families. Every time they cried, I cried.

So, I got more involved with children and philanthropic work all over Latin America and started to feel more fulfilled with reconstructive surgery.

#### Plastic surgery is like an art you just mentioned...

It is not art, but it is like an art form. You can be a great painter but a horrible plastic surgeon. Yet, as a plastic surgeon you must develop your own technique. Then, hopefully, you can publish it and teach it to other doctors to implement if they want to.

I always challenge myself to keep improving! My mom used to tell me: "If you are not improving yourself, you are stupid." (Laughing) That's why I love plastic surgery; there is so much room to grow and everyone else is so average at it. I love when I do something special and everyone notices it.

#### How do you create the amazing natural looks we see on your clients...

Most people don't want to be changed. They want to look like they perceive themselves. Most people remember themselves a certain way and one day they look in the mirror and they don't like what they see. Most of the time I am convincing people never to compromise looking natural vs. fake! My goal is to have my clients always look refreshed but still look like themselves.

#### You have traveled to Latin America more than most people to change people's lives...

Growing up in L.A. I have always been connected to Latin culture and music. For me these trips are good not only because I help people (I help people here, too) but also because they teach me a lot about

what's going on in other cultures and how other doctors work.

The best part is when children, who have lived with a deformity all their lives, come to me and tell me how excited they are because they will be able to go to school and not be bothered or bullied. One of my best experiences was with this patient who had not had an ear her whole life. Her reaction after she saw herself with a new ear was priceless!

So, every time I go, I am learning. It's a community; I get to learn from other doctors and surgical methods. I also enjoy the people and the culture.

#### What's your ALEGRIA?

I have too many ALEGRÍAS! That's why I don't sleep! I love so many things in addition to surgery! My joy is my family, my nieces!

As far as hobbies, I love cooking, skiing, and racing boats and cars! And nowadays, when I have free time, I am on my boat enjoying the ocean!