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# MAN IN MOTION

*Mario Lopez on Transition, Style and His Motivation*

He is, above all, stylish, confident and cool. Having long been on our radar as he forged his career through the Hollywood lights, LAPALME recently had the opportunity to sit down with the gifted and humble Mario Lopez as he discussed media, motivation and family. As much as Mario is our image of the entertainment news host, our personal talk with him was always grounded in that his small daughter Gia was running around in the background with all the youthful energy and wonder that a little girl shouldn't be without.

We were instantly disarmed upon speaking with someone who's graced our screens in one capacity or another throughout our lives. Upon reflection it came as no surprise, as Mario is perhaps best known for his work as the charming and affable host of the daily syndicated newsmagazine, Extra.

Mario is truly a master of transition. Successful across all media, from TV personality, to radio host to author of both self improvement and children's books, Mario is the equivalent of an entertainment

Renaissance Man. He boils down his wide range of activities as fostering his growth in the industry, stating, "I diversify as much as possible - dancing, acting, hosting, producing - that way I can maximize opportunities for myself and it worked out."

Mario took us inside his personal world focusing on family and his own

***"I diversify as much as possible - that way I can maximize opportunities for myself."***

personal path to happiness. Instead of the attempt to shoe-horn in some venture or project, Mario was clearly conversing and riffing on his life - how it came to be, and where he focuses his efforts.

He is, quite clearly, the interviewer's interview. Yet, for his ability to know the answer before the question is half out, there is still a sense of inspiration and optimism when Mario discusses the wide range of figures he has been presented with the opportunity to interview.

"I think many times you get to interview a particular celebrity." He

continued, "I've interviewed Obama; I've interviewed all kinds of public figures, now leading candidates from Trump to Hillary Clinton and Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and gotten more political figures as the election approaches. But then it's back to Denzel Washington and Tom Cruise the next week. It's been very special and I don't take that for granted."

No stranger to the red carpet, Mario is perhaps among the best equipped to help our male readers on what should be their philosophy on gracing the red carpet. "I feel the man is more of a backdrop to the woman." Instantly agreeing with him, we were further struck by the graceful simplicity of the rest of his advice. "You should keep it simple - necktie or bowtie. Your colors are black or a dark blue. Your shirt's tailored, you're smelling good and you're well-groomed, you'll do great."

Über stylish with the ability to make women swoon and men envious, Mario continued and shed further insight on his every day tips to being well coiffed. "The simpler you keep it, the better. I'm a fan of classic looks, like jeans and a couple cool

Cream leather biker jacket and black denim\_ **J. LINDBERG**  
Brown leather belt\_ **G-STAR** Printed black button up\_ **SAND** AVAILABLE AT THE SAND BOUTIQUE IN LOS ANGELES

black t shirts, gray and white that fit well on you – not too tight nor too baggy either – cool sneakers, I think shades / sunglasses are important and while I’m not a big jewelry guy, you should definitely have a nice watch.”

Whether it’s a career or personal goal, Mario is focused in the outcome and advised us he lives by the following: “Work hard, stay focused and do the right thing and usually the right thing happens – that’s been my mantra. I don’t know if I need anything other than a proper attitude and drive.”

Despite his career as host of Extra, which in many ways requires access to celebrity information, both personal and professional, it was interesting to see Mario say of social media, “I think you can use it as a tool to create a certain level of celebrity. If used wisely, it can complement you. I also think that exposing too much of yourself might work in the reverse. If the mystery is gone it can definitely be a challenge as well.”

Mario is much more than just a handsome and talented entertainment personality. In speaking with him it was very clear that before us

was the story of a young boy who grew up in Chula Vista, California whose life went right. It’s clearly something that Mario keeps in

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focus. “I’m a first generation kid. I grew up in a tough neighborhood in a border town. My mother’s whole mission was to keep me busy and out of trouble.” He paused for a moment before continuing, “Both of my parents are blue collar folks with a strong work ethic. I’ve always tried to maintain their outlook and a sense of perspective has always given me a great sense of optimism.”

Crediting a great deal of his current position to his youth and formative years, Mario repays the same community which delivered him via his work with various volunteer and charitable youth organizations such as the Boys and Girl Club. He spoke of his work with that group, “The Boys and Girls Club is something which is very personal to me. It was a part of my community and along with theatre and wrestling and also it kept me off the street and out of trouble. I felt I owed a lot to those people and devote my time and continue to mentor other kids and build other clubs.”

That same focus and perspective which is present in speaking with Mario



TOP PHOTO: Navy coated cotton bomber, ARMANI EXCHANGE The shirt and belt, G-STAR Cream jeans, RAG AND BONE, AVAILABLE AT BLOOMINGDALE'S NATIONWIDE Rhodium and black diamond bracelet and rhodium spiked bracelet, ANIL ARJANDAS, AVAILABLE AT WWW.ANILARJANDAS.COM BOTTOM PHOTO: Grey window pane suit, green pocket square and white tee, J LINDBERG AVAILABLE AT THE J LINDBERG BOUTIQUE IN LOS ANGELES Buckle shoes, KENNETH COLE Leather belt, COLE HAAN

**“As busy as I am I’m blessed to be able to be there for breakfast and back at dinner - - even if it’s just action-packed in between.”**

about his youth and charitable work is evident when he speaks of his quest for balance in his personal and professional worlds. “My family is my top priority and I work hard for them,” he says. “I have an understanding wife.

We’re fortunate in what we have. As busy as I am I’m blessed to be able to be there for

breakfast and back at dinner - - even if it’s just action-packed in between.”

Home is where he is rejuvenated, as he told us, “I’m happiest at home with my family and friends listening to music, eating, playing bocce, or hanging out in the pool with a good margarita in my hand.”

It’s been an interesting road for Mario, as some remember him not as an entertainment host, but rather the child actor who successfully broke the mold. “Being a former child actor trying to transition is tough because people may get a stigma of a character they used to play.” As to his ability to successfully transition throughout his career, “I feel very blessed for doing the things I’m doing and don’t take it for granted.”

The same optimism and bright attitude which colored our discussion of his personal and professional achievements was also evident in his professed future plans. “I want to continue to do what makes me happy and work hard on my goals – Extra; my radio show; I want to continue to write more books, produce more projects and find the right daytime or primetime vehicle.”

Finally, we sought a bid of insight from the man who has had many successful transitions in his life, both on a personal and professional level, on how those trying to make their goals become reality. The depth of wisdom and thoughtfulness that ran through the rest of our discussion was in focus as he advised our readers, “You have to find whatever it is that you’re passionate about, anything that will drive you and try to prepare for it – do your homework as much as you can and try to train yourself to be better than the people who are also reaching for your same goal. I go back to my old mantra just work hard, stay focused and do the right thing and the right thing will happen for you.”

Forest tuxedo, shirt and shawl tie, J LINDBERG AVAILABLE AT THE J LINDBERG BOUTIQUE LOS ANGELES