

# PRIME TIME



## PAUL NEWMAN – GIULIANO MAZZUOLI

Legendary actor Paul Newman jokes he may be better known for his condiment range, Newman's Own, than his films. As he notes, "The embarrassing thing is my salad dressing is out-grossing my films." But at his peak, Newman was hard to beat. Talent and good looks combined to make him a star – he was nominated for nine acting Academy Awards, and won one (Best Actor in *The Colour of Money*). But earlier this year he announced his retirement. He admits he's a competitive guy, and thankfully finds release on the racetrack. "It's hard to be competitive about something that's as amorphous as acting," he said last year. "But you can be competitive on the track because the rules are very simple and the declaration of a winner is very precise." He first got into car racing after starring in *Winning* in 1969, but has since gone on to be a champion in amateur and pro circuits. In 1995, he won the Rolex 24 at Daytona and, at 70, was the oldest driver to win the event. His obsession brought him and fellow car enthusiast Giuliano Mazzuoli together for the launch of the Contagiri watch dedicated to Alfa Romeo. A few pieces will go up for auction with proceeds going to Newman's humanitarian cause, The Hole in the Wall Gang Foundation. With car stock limited to just 500, and the watches 500+1, competition will be just as hot off the racetrack as on. Watch: Contagiri





band, which Singer joined when he was 14 years old. A decade later, in 1983, he decided it was time to pursue his own rock'n'roll path. He packed his bags and moved to Los Angeles. "I moved here and didn't know anybody," he says. "I joined a band just to get into the music scene. I always felt like if I was put in the right situation I would know what to do and rise to the occasion." And he did. Before he knew it, Singer was touring and making records.

Singer's colleagues are quick to offer praise on his musical dexterity. "Eric doesn't just play in the band ... he drives the band," says Alice Cooper. "He's like an 18-wheeler Mack truck." May agrees, adding, "Eric has so much flair, he makes anyone he plays with sound good."

Underneath Singer's friendly exterior is a hell of a lot of determination. "I really don't believe there's such a thing as luck," he says. "They say luck is opportunity meets preparedness. I think I've been very fortunate to be blessed with a certain amount of skills and the ability to take advantage of them." He believes his passion and personality have taken him this far. "I do it instinctively because that's how I am wired as a person. I've always been very hyper and energetic."

He describes the sensation of being on stage as "an exchange of energy between people ... unless you experience it, it's hard to put into words. It's an intangible thing." Some time in the future, Singer hopes to channel this energy into the watch industry. "I do realise that even as a hobby, watches excite me. I go out to stores every day and

can look at them endlessly, and I never get tired of it."

Rather than grasping onto memories of glory days, the musician comes across as a realist, content with what he has achieved and where he is going. He says not taking things too seriously has been a deliberate decision. "Life can change at the drop of a hat. I'm very conscious of that," he says. "Time is of the essence. I'm trying to learn, and it's still a work in progress, to live in the moment and to live each day one at a time." Thinking this way has allowed Singer to slow things down a little, and take comfort that life will lead him to where he's supposed to be.

"I think it's a balance of living in the moment but being conscious of what you've done and where you want to go so you can use things in a positive way and to your advantage," he theorises.

He will never bid farewell to drumming forever. "Even if it's for my own personal enjoyment with friends down at the corner pub on the weekend," he says. "Drums have become not just a way to make a living. It's really ingrained in me." But Singer has sat behind a drum kit for a long time, and feels the need for change. "I want to do other things in life," he says. "I can feel it brewing ... exactly where or when I don't know."

Whatever Singer's future holds, watches, undoubtedly, will feature. "That's the thing I've realised that is more important than anything," he concludes. "You have to have passion for the things you do in life. Especially what you do for your career because if you do, you're not only going to serve yourself better, but also the people around you." ○

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: PANERAI LUMINOR MARINA; MANOMETRO QUADRIVVIO; SINGER ON STAGE FOR KIDS; FROM SINGER'S COLLECTION: TAG HEUER AUTAVIA BESSUE, AUDEMARS PIGUET ROYAL OAK LIMITED EDITION FOUNDATION TIME FOR TREES, GLASHUETTE ORIGINAL SPORT CHRONOGRAPH, PANERAI 40MM MANOMETRO CHRONOGRAPH WITH ZENITH EL PRIMERO MOVEMENT, JAEGER LE COULTRE DUO TIME REVERSO, IWC PORTINGESER CHRONOGRAPH, BREGUET TRANSATLANTIC TYPE XX ELVBACK CHRONOGRAPH, ROLEX SEA-DWELLER.

COURTESY MANOMETRO | PANERAI | AL SOLURI