

tête-à-tête @ **10**

Mark Weingard

Past tragedy and near-misses have propelled philanthropist Mark Weingard on a course to better the lives of the less fortunate through his Inspirasia Foundation, which provides funding for exceptional health, disability and education projects across Thailand, Indonesia and India



PICTURE BY SHIRAZ ALI

1 WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IN YOUR KITCHEN?

My fridge! I'm a snacker. My fridge will be full of goodies. What they are depends on whether I'm on the feast or famine stage of my life. Currently, I'm on a low carb, high fat diet. So, you'll see all these things like cream and lots of protein. But no bread or rice.

2 WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TIME OF THE YEAR?

I love summer time because I really feel that people are happier during this period. Also, I find that people seem to look healthier during the summer.

3 WHO'S YOUR FAVOURITE SUPERHERO AND WHY?

It would have to be 'Mr Incredible'. This character is apparently a man of super strength and durability who hides under the identity of Robert "Bob" Parr. He's married to Helen Parr and they have three children, Violet, Dash and Jack. I love this cartoon especially for this character of an amazing little boy who can run fast.

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WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE WORD IN THE ENGLISH DICTIONARY?

It would be "inspiration". It fills my life. I love that inspiration is a thing that happens. I love to inspire and be inspired.

5

WHO IS YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCE IN LIFE?

My grandfather, Benny Weingard. Although granddad had his fair share of sorrow, he was able to rise above it all and see the positive side of things. If I could go back in time, I would like to go back to a time about 20 years before I was born. That way, I'd have known my parents and grandfather when they were young.

6 ON A NIGHT OUT, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR CHOICE OF DRINK?

That would have to be vodka on the rocks. I don't drink red wine as I think it takes my energy away. If I want to have a kick, I'll have vodka. With dinner, I'll probably have a glass of white wine. I believe that if you enjoy too much of the night, you may lose most of the next day.

7 WHAT'S YOUR PET PEEVE?

I hate queuing up for anything! I'd rather turn up late at the airport and be the last one on the plane, than wait in line. Even when I take my sons — who are 8 and 6 and live in Barcelona with their mother — to a theme park, I will enjoy the ride, but I hate the waiting to get onto the ride."

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WHAT'S YOUR READING PLEASURE?

Actually, I don't really get to read a lot these days. I used to practically eat books at one time. But now, having to use reading glasses, it's more of a pain. I could live without reading a book. Everything is on the Internet. The kind of books I would read now are things like newest trends in architecture or the *Weekend Financial Times*. But if I had to choose one book as my favourite one, it would have to be Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh*.
Aneeta Sundararaj

8 WHAT TYPE OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE?

Nothing specific but what I do insist on is that whatever I'm listening to has to be 'uplifting'. I like to wake up to sounds that make me smile. I can listen to Rock or Motown. From my father, I liked Elvis Presley. I'm not into morose music.

9

WHAT KIND OF ART DO YOU ENJOY?

I'd say it's similar to my taste in music. For example, if you come to my places — like Iniala Beach House in Thailand — you're never going to find a painting of a severed head with blood dripping. Nowadays, I collect art from people I know. The artists can be either Thai or Indonesian. It's that connection with the artist that I like as well.