

'Brotox' gives our career a lift, say the men having a mid-life job crisis

United States

Will Pavia New York

Out on the rugged edge of Santa Monica, near Los Angeles airport, is Marina ManLand: a macho grotto decorated like a sports bar with baseball pennants and a poster of a grizzly bear baring its teeth.

Advertisements show a swarthy fellow in a suit and open-necked shirt drinking scotch and smoking a fat cigar on a leather sofa, a stag's head mounted behind him on the red wallpaper.

They promise "a discreet and safe setting", in which a man can have Botox treatment, or "Brotox", without suffering any damage to his masculinity.

The clinic is part of a drive by plastic surgeons and cosmetic drug companies to make their treatments acceptable to men who fret that wrinkles may hamper their success in the office, on social media and dating apps.

"Certainly with things like tech and finance there are a lot of younger men coming in," Jason Bloom, a plastic surgeon in Philadelphia who was an early pioneer of wrinkle treatments, said. His male clients "want to stay competitive", he added. Demand for hair restoration treatment is growing every year, he said, apparently for more or less the same reason. In the past few years his male clients have grown from about 7 per cent of his clients to about 15 per cent.

Across the US about 450,000 men had Botox-type treatments last year, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, compared with 6.9 million women.

"The men are a little bit more hush-hush than the women, for sure," Dr Bloom said. "But the aesthetic companies have caught on to that."

The four companies that make Botox-type treatments now advertise during sporting events. "Soften your

lines, not your edge," says one. Another features a bearded man bent over architectural drawings and a fellow who resembles Clark Kent dressing before a mirror. "The details make a difference," says a gravel-voiced narrator. "The man makes them matter."

Dr Bloom said that "men tend to be more concerned about their forehead and a little bit about their crows' feet".

He added: "The thing that can be tricky is men need a little bit higher doses because their muscles are stronger in their faces." Whereas women have more of an arched brow line, with male clients he avoids raising the brow, "which makes them look strange".

Dr Bloom, 40, has been having the treatment himself for nine years and is not ashamed to say so. "I used to inject myself. Now I have facial plastic surgery fellows do it," he said.

Kevin Tehrani, a New York plastic surgeon, said that most men he treated "want a natural result and an undone look. They don't want anyone to really know that they are doing this. While it's rare that they actually tell me it's work-related, it often is."

There was even a suggestion recently by a hairdressing instructor in Australia that barber shops would soon offer Botox to men along with a short back and sides, but Dr Tehrani was sceptical. "Even though Botox is a minimally invasive procedure it needs to be done by an expert injector in a setting that is medical," he said. "It cannot be belittled as it is still a sterile procedure which may have complications."

At Marina ManLand, Grant Stevens said that he often treated men in their mid-forties who were applying for jobs and felt the anxiety long suffered by female film stars and television news anchors. "[They say] 'I'm 45 looking 55' or 'I'm 45 and I've got 30-year-olds chomping at my heels,'" he told *Today* on NBC.



Wash and set Bangladeshi dry newly dyed cloth, coated with wax to protect the colour, which will end up as dresses

Gangster tries to flee jail as his daughter

Lucinda Elliott Sao Paulo

A notorious drug trafficker tried to escape prison during family visiting hours disguised as his teenage daughter.

Clauvino da Silva, 42, known as Shorty, started to walk out of the main entrance of Gerico prison in Rio de Janeiro wearing a long dark wig, silicone mask and tight-fitting clothes. The homemade disguise did not fool guards and video footage showed officers forcing Silva to remove the items, revealing a muscular physique very unlike that of his 19-year-old daughter, Ana Gabriele Leandro da Silva.

Brazilian police are investigating her possible role as an accomplice in Satur-



Clauvino da Silva put on a wig and a mask but his ruse was quickly rumbled

day's failed jailbreak. Seven others suspected of helping to smuggle in the disguise are being questioned.

"When he started talking, and pretending to speak like a woman, the guard realised that it was an attempted jailbreak, and identified him," said

Moyses Henriques, deputy head of prison operations in Rio state. "It was an inmate trying to escape as a woman."

Silva was serving a 73-year sentence on drug charges for his role as a gang leader of Comando Vermelho, one of the oldest and most powerful criminal groups in Brazil. He has been transferred to a maximum-security prison and will face disciplinary sanctions.

This is the convicted drug dealer's second bid for freedom. In February 2013 he and 31 fellow inmates broke out of another Rio jail, the Vicente Piragibe complex, via the building's sewer system. He was on the run for a month before being recaptured by the authorities. He was given an extra 25 years in prison for that escape.

African leaders fail \$5m test yet again

Africa

Jane Flanagan

The parlous state of democracy in Africa has been underscored by the failure to identify a head of state worthy of receiving a \$5 million prize.

Judges of the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership have failed to find a winner in seven of the 12 years since it was established.

The cash reward, the most generous annual prize in the world, is sponsored by Mr Ibrahim, a telecoms billionaire, and disbursed over a decade. It is intended to provide a comfortable retirement as an enticement towards embracing democratic principles.

Mr Ibrahim is concerned at the number of African leaders lingering in office long past their sell-by date: celebrations were held in Equatorial Guinea this weekend to mark 40 years of rule by President Obiang, 77, at present Africa's longest-serving leader.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation said that the prize committee had deliberat-

Past their sell-by date?

President Biya of Cameroon, 86, in power since November 1982.

President Museveni of Uganda, 74, assumed power in January 1986.

King Mswati III, who has 15 wives, has been absolute monarch of Swaziland since April 1986. Last year, on his 50th birthday, he renamed his country eSwatini.

ed on the continent's 54 states for several months. Mr Ibrahim, 73, who is not on the panel himself, said that the judges "always set the bar very high" when searching for a winner.

The award "recognises and celebrates African leaders who, under challenging circumstances, have developed their countries, lifted people out of poverty and paved the way for sustainable and equitable prosperity", he said.

Its most recent recipient was Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 80, the former president of Liberia, who was recognised in 2017 for her efforts to rebuild her country after two civil wars.

There had been speculation that Ian Khama, 66, who stepped down as president of Botswana last year, might win. The son of Sir Seretse Khama, who led the nation after independence, and Ruth Khama, his English wife, appeared to meet the criteria. However, he has criticised his chosen successor, President Masisi, for overturning policies such as a ban on trophy hunting, and has announced that he will back an opposition party in October's elections.

Mr Ibrahim moved to Britain in the early 1970s, where he studied then worked for BT before making a fortune in mobile communications in Africa. He sold his company, Mobile Systems, for \$916 million in 2000 and his mobile phone operator, Celtel, for \$3.4 billion four years later. "I am confident there will be further Ibrahim laureates in the years to come," he said.

State thugs killed my ally, claims opposition leader

Uganda

Jane Flanagan

A prominent supporter of the Ugandan opposition politician Bobi Wine has died after being abducted and tortured.

Michael Kalinda's death is being attributed to state thugs by Mr Wine, who is regarded as the biggest threat to President Museveni's 33-year grip on power.

Mr Kalinda, who was known by the stage name Ziggy Wyne, was snatched on July 21 and beaten, burnt, had his left eye gouged out and two of his fingers sliced off. His body was dumped ten days ago at a hospital in the capital, Kampala, where he died on Sunday.

Mr Wine, 37, who was born Robert Kyagulanyi, claimed that friends and allies had been targeted since he shelved his music career two years ago to become an independent MP. "We receive reports of many supporters disappearing, while others have died in

questionable ways, including suspicious accidents. As we mourn our brother, may we resolve to work even harder to redeem our country from this terror," he said.

Mr Kalinda's social media accounts were full of content supporting Mr Wine's People Power movement, which has gained millions of young followers.

Mr Wine is due to appear in court on treason charges today, which he claims were concocted by the state to derail his opposition to Mr Museveni, 76, before presidential elections in early 2021. The charges relate to an attack on the presidential convoy by a mob, which police claimed was led by the musician.

Police have said they are investigating Mr Kalinda's abduction and beating.

Mr Museveni toppled the dictators Idi Amin and Milton Obote to seize power in 1986 but critics say he has become increasingly intolerant of dissent.