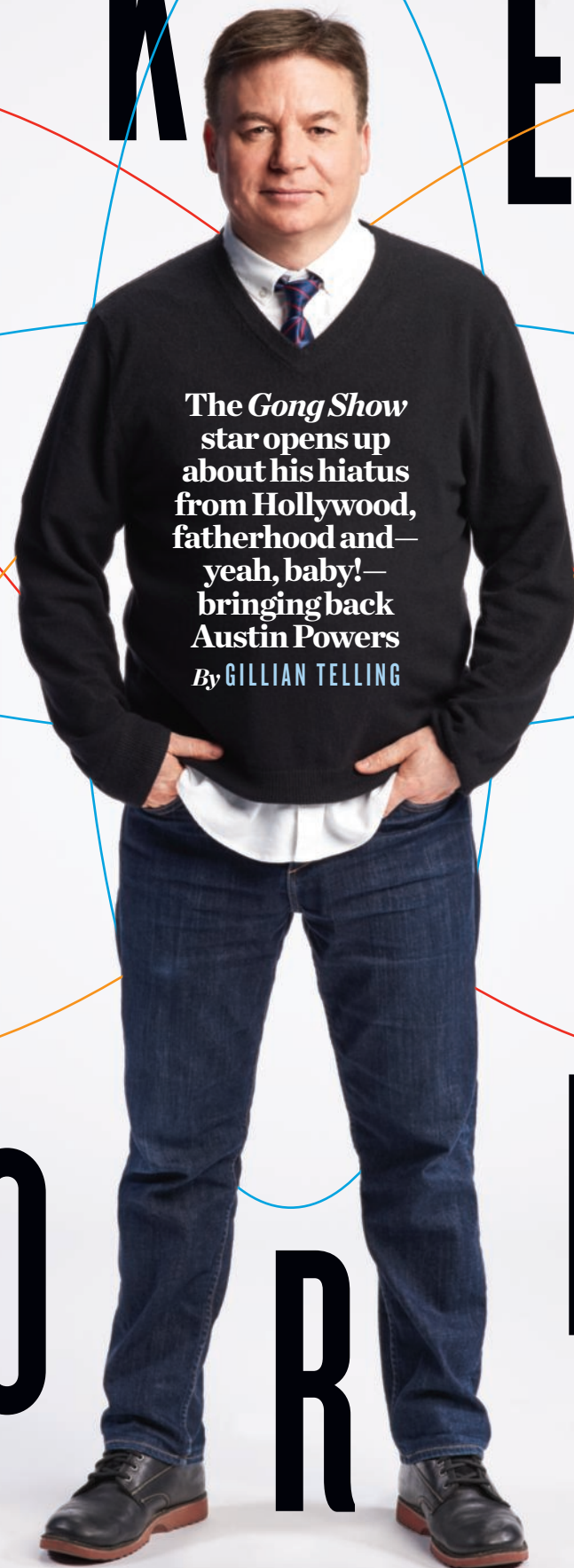


MIKE'S



The *Gong Show* star opens up about his hiatus from Hollywood, fatherhood and—yeah, baby!—bringing back Austin Powers
By GILLIAN TELLING

WORLD

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: MICHAEL DESMOND/SONY PICTURES TELEVISION; ALAN SINGER/NBC/GETTY IMAGES; EVERETT/2; GREG GAYNE/ABC; GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE

Every Halloween night Mike Myers loves to swing by the Greenwich Village parade near his home in New York City and watch how many people walk by dressed up as the famous characters he's created throughout his career. "It's the most gratifying thing ever," he says. "There will be like 20 Austin Powerses. A bunch of Waynes. A dog or a baby dressed as Garth. It's endlessly flattering and satisfying, because you make up these characters that you might think are funny but have no idea anyone else ever would. And then it becomes this... thing."

Though the Toronto-born Myers, 55, has been creating these "things" for 30 years, he says he sees no reason to stop now—and he'd happily do *Austin Powers 4* or a *Dr. Evil* film. He also claims his current role as Tommy Maitland, the gregarious host of ABC's *Gong Show* revival, is one of his favorites. "He's just a fun character," Myers says of dressing up as Maitland, who is modeled after cheeky old-school British-television presenters. "Those guys are just so iconic and beloved over there. They're truly fixtures in everyone's lives. I just wanted to channel that kind of energy." The character also features a thread of the comedian's own father, Eric, an insurance salesman originally from Liverpool, who died in 1991. "My dad liked to have a good time and was very silly," Myers recalls. "Whenever you told him something crappy had happened, he'd say, 'Well, how fast can you find the silly?' And [Maitland] looks a little bit like him." As far as rebooting the '70s variety show, which showcases real people revealing their most ludicrous talents (for example, an opera singer stuffing her face with cake while singing), Myers says it simply satisfies his obsession with "absurd, silly, crazy comedy."

For the past six years the actor has been more quiet than silly and crazy—for good reason. "I always wanted to have a family," says Myers. He and his second wife, Kelly Tisdale, 41, are parents to son Spike, 6, and daughters Sunday, 4, and Paulina, 2. "I have three beautiful kids. I can't believe my luck, I really can't. It's the happiest time of my life. And it's been hard to leave the house. So the last six years has really been hanging with them." In 2013 he did produce the documentary

HAPPY DAYS

"Parenting is a constant source of material," says Myers (with wife Kelly Tisdale in 2014). "And fear!"



HIS GREATEST HITS

1. Myers and Dana Carvey in a Wayne's World sketch on *Saturday Night Live*.
2. As Dr. Evil in *Austin Powers*.
3. As the British spy with bad teeth in 1997's *Austin Powers*.
4. As Tommy Maitland in *The Gong Show*, which premieres June 21 on ABC.

Supermensch: The Legend of Shep Gordon, about a Hollywood manager who is just famously nice. ("He likes to be nice for no good reason other than it's nice to be nice," says Myers. "That was an important message.") Still, he did it only because he could work from home. "I made it in a studio out of my house so I could see the kids throughout the day," he says. "I could take a Spike break whenever he rolled in on his wagon."

Myers says he decided early on that he would tell his kids what Daddy does for a living—and one of the best moments of his life was watching *Austin Powers* with Spike recently. "It was one of those crazy summer rains, and we were snuggled under a blanket," he says. "Spike whispers, 'Can I tell you a secret?' Then he goes, 'I'm your No. 1 fan.' I literally couldn't handle it. 'I'm your No. 1 fan?' I mean, stick a fork in me, dude. I'm done." ●

'I'LL SAY TO MY KIDS, "THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US." I CAN'T BELIEVE MY LUCK'
—MIKE MYERS