This much we know: Professionally, socially and romantically, eye contact is everything. Which is why New York’s top cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgeon, Robert Schwarcz, MD, known for his exceptional work on eyes, keeps extremely busy. At 41 years old, Schwarcz—who completed an accredited fellowship in oculofacial plastic and reconstructive surgery at UCLA Medical Center, and another fellowship in facial cosmetic surgery in Beverly Hills—now has a welcoming boutique office on the Upper East Side. His posh Park Avenue location

Robert Schwarcz, MD
has seen its share of who’s who in Manhattan. In between a socialite’s eyelid filler, a businessman’s neck lift and a few ultra-prestigious lectures around the world, we sneaked in for some face time. —Alyssa Shelasky

Watch!

Why are people so worried about wrinkles around their eyes?

Robert Schwarcz, MD: When you talk to someone, you look centrally, at the nose and two eyes. Then we veer out, maybe, to the jaw line or the neck. Neck rejuvenation is probably my second-biggest request.

Watch!

Well, you can tell someone’s true age from their neck, right?

Schwarcz: Actually, skin quality, décolletage and hands reveal someone’s age more.

Watch!

Does everyone still want the Blake Lively nose?

Schwarcz: They used to. Now, what’s in vogue is a very straight nose—very little curvature, a natural tip that’s square and tight and not pinched, and not overly thinned in the body of it. That’s a natural-looking nose. We are getting away from the “done” look.

Watch!

Tell us about your most crazy cases.

Schwarcz: It’s not crazy, it’s very cool, but I did some transgendered patients—male to female. I come after their gender reassignment surgery. … I’m usually the last stop. I won’t do plastic surgery addicts. I see them in the early stages, and I know where they’re heading. The whole “How much plastic surgery can I collect in a year?” thing. I don’t want to be part of that.

Watch!

If a patient wanted to get refreshed for party season, without going under the knife, what would you suggest?

Schwarcz: Well, Botox has been around since 1982. It’s tried and true, and works every time. I’d relax part of the face, while keeping animation and movement. Some crow’s feet (when you smile) is OK but you don’t want to see a lot of that. Then I would move on to fillers, if needed. Lastly, I’d rejuvenate the face with peels or lasers. It takes a half-hour, lasts six months and you’ll look really good.

Watch!

Changing someone’s face, sometimes forever, must get emotional.

Schwarcz: It does, and that feels wonderful. I’ve had patients who have never looked in mirrors in their entire lives. But with people like that, it’s also scary. Will they ever be happy? Are their expectations realistic? We spend a lot of time getting to know each other.

Watch!

You must play “therapist” all day long.

Schwarcz: Big time. I like it. I like feeling close to my patients. I run a really boutique practice. Everyone wants to look good; everyone wants to be complimented; everyone wants to be noticed. We all want that moment where someone looks at us and says, “You are beautiful.”