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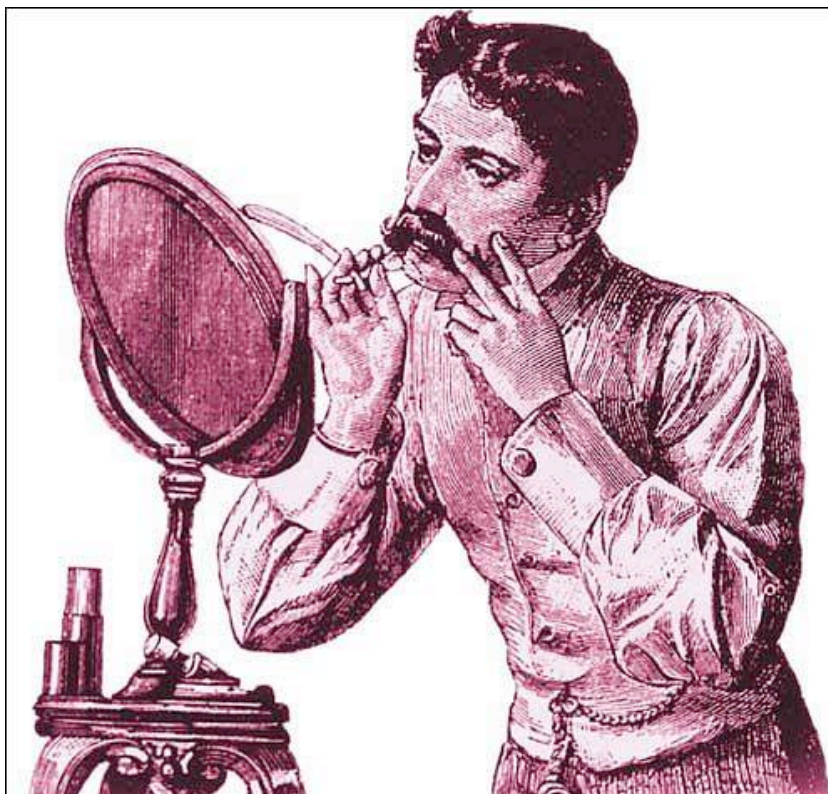
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## The mustache is growing back

From tightly trimmed to bushy and bold, celebrities sport tried-and-true facial hair

[Mekeisha Madden Toby / The Detroit News](#)

Someone alert the makers of Lucky Tiger mustache wax. The fashion din says men's hairy upper lips are hot again.

"I'm getting a lot of mustache questions because somebody said they're back," says actor and a Detroit native Tom Selleck. (Look for the 61-year-old -- with a 'stache-goatee combo -- in the CBS movie "Jesse Stone: Death in Paradise," at 9 p.m. Sunday.)

For some, the question isn't whether they're back, but whether they ever went away.

"Were mustaches ever cold?" asks Tom Conlon, senior editor at FHM. This month, the men's magazine honored talking-head Geraldo Rivera with an award for his iconic "dead

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hamster" 'stache. "They were lukewarm for a little while, but like all fashion, mustaches are cyclical."

Surely, the underground Internet interest in faux-cool action hero Chuck Norris and talks of a "Magnum P.I." movie also have influenced the furry-mouth fury. (Take our photo quiz to find out our favorite local and national mustachios.)

And while Rivera, Selleck and Norris are among those celebrities who laid the groundwork with their facial shrubbery, mustachios younger than 40 are especially cool dudes right now -- or at least that's what trend watchers are saying.

"Geraldo and Tom Selleck are like those guys who never stopped wearing bell bottoms," Conlon says. "Now you have young guys looking at them and saying, 'That looks pretty cool.'"

Actors such as Jason Lee, 36, who fronts a full-bodied cookie-duster for his leading role on the NBC sitcom "My Name is Earl," can be blamed or credited -- depending on how you feel about the walrus look -- for bringing these nouveaux mustaches home for a new generation. Josh Hartnett, 27, star of the flick "Lucky Number Slevin," also has been spotted sporting a narrow Errol Flynn version.

"Guys don't have very many ways to express themselves," says Stan Williams, the fashion and grooming director at Maxim magazine. "Facial hair is equated with masculinity, and men's fashion is very masculine right now. They also make younger guys look older."

As for Selleck, he may not be sure whether the buzz on The Return of the 'Stache is on point -- "I don't know," he says, "I don't rate mustaches" -- but he does consider his own disposable, fashionable or not.

"I'm kinda sick of looking at myself," he says. "I have one at the moment, but I'll prostitute myself and shave it off in an instant if somebody wants me to work on something good."

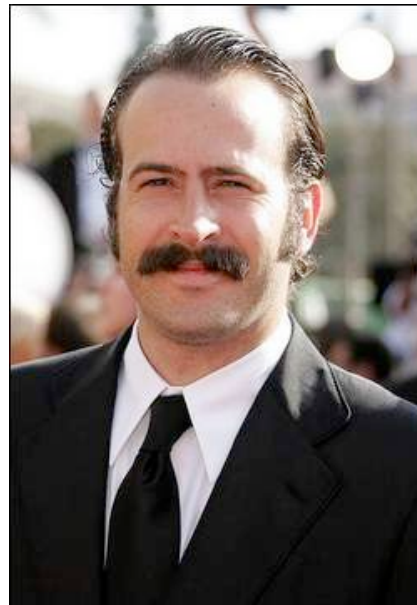
Easy elimination is what makes this trend a practical one to try, Williams says.

"Mustaches are great because you can try it and if it doesn't work out, you can always shave it off," he says.

*You can reach Mekeisha Madden Toby at (313) 222-2501 or [mmadden@detnews.com](mailto:mmadden@detnews.com).*

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CBS

Lee ▶ [See full image](#)

### Name that 'stache

Can you place the face on which these proud mustaches grow? Answers on Page 2E.

### Can you trust a man with a mustache?

Trendy mustached-men beware — there is an old-fashioned consensus that dudes with facial hair can't be trusted.

"My grandfather, the president of a medium-size industrial company, would never hire a guy with a mustache," writes a male grooming columnist at [men.style.com](http://men.style.com). "'A man with facial hair has something to hide,' he would always say."

Gary Lichtman, the mustachioed director of media relations at the University of Detroit Mercy, says although local anchors such as Huel Perkins and Frank Turner have trademark 'staches, their look doesn't translate nationally. However, he's excited that the trend tide is going his way.

"It's good to know they're back in," Lichtman says.

Mort Meisner, a media consultant and one-time news director at WJBK-TV (Channel 2), sports a Carlos Santana/Cat Stevens-type mustache, and has for about 35 years. He says anchors can have a mass of hair above the lip. It's beards that are frowned upon.

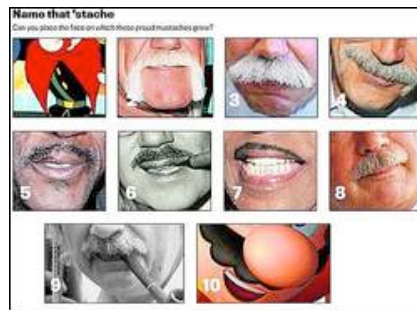
"There is a negative connotation with beards," Meisner says. "Viewers think men with beards have something to hide. But then again, Erik Smith (WXYZ's morning anchor) pulls it off."

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CBS

Tom Selleck has the facial growth in "Jesse Stone: Death in Paradise." ▶ [See full image](#)



Name that 'stache: Can you place the face on which these proud mustaches are grown? Answers below. ▶ [See full image](#)



'Stache quiz answers ▶ [See full image](#)

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