



MEN WE LOVE >

Michael BUBLÉ

WHY WE LOVE HIM If the crooner from Burnaby B.C., hasn't already won you over with his Sinatra-esque melodies and puppy dog eyes, then Michael Bublé's off-the-cuff banter should do it. "We're doing a story

on my sexiness?" he quips over the line from Los Angeles. "Okay, that makes me happy."

WHAT'S KEEPING HIM BUSY In addition to the release of his

memoir, *Onstage Offstage*, and his new album *Christmas*, Bublé is well into his first year of marriage to Argentine actress Luisana Lopilato. "I love her. She's my best bud," enthuses the 36-year-old as he goes into a full-on imitation of his wife's accent. It's clear he's smitten, but still cheeky. "I have

to tell you, ever since I've put a wedding ring on my finger, it's definitely seemed to make me more attractive," he jokes. "I wonder if girls are going, 'What is it about him, there must be something good.'"

WHY HE WRITES FROM THE HEART "Every song I've written is because of something I've gone through — whether I've been in love or felt terrible, or I've hurt someone or someone has destroyed me. I can't write unless I'm feeling something extreme," he explains. "When you do that, you allow people listening to your music to also become attached emotionally. You hit a chord somewhere — you make them feel something."

WHY FAMILY COMES FIRST While Bublé's irreverence might convince otherwise, it's clear he's a softie. "My grandpa's one of my best friends. On every album, I record something for him. It's usually the last song of each record — that's for him." — KATE DALEY



+ HURDLE the TURTLE

How's this for making you feel old: Franklin the Turtle is 25. Yup, the little guy once afraid of his own shell is now old enough to drink, drive and vote (not necessarily in that order).

His creator, Paulette Bourgeois, couldn't be happier for the turtle who netted her an Order of Canada and an honorary doctorate, and launched the most successful franchise in Canadian publishing history with more than 65 million books sold worldwide since *Franklin in the Dark* debuted in 1986.

As for her own milestone birthday earlier this year, Bourgeois was less enthusiastic. "I was horrified at turning 60," she admits. Taking a page from her own book, Bourgeois decided to mark the occasion by facing one of her own fears. Never a confident artist, she signed up for "Painting for the Petrified," a course in the Italian mountain town of Abbruzzo. It was, she says, "a wonderful birthday present to myself."

These days, amid various Franklin parades, bookstore events and festivals, Bourgeois is busy answering letters from twentysomethings thanking her for the turtle who helped them conquer childhood fears. — CATHERINE DUNPHY

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REMAKE MY DAY **-SECOND RANT**

I'm the first to admit that, culturally speaking, the '80s was a bereft decade. I look back at what I wore, watched and listened to in my twenties and I am appalled. That said, a few touchstones make me nostalgic for big hair and high-waisted jeans. Among them are "Nobody puts Baby in a corner" from *Dirty Dancing* and "I thought this was a party — let's dance!" from *Footloose*. Remakes of both these movies are upon us. I fear for the future of film. Think of what could happen: a new *Top Gun* with that shirtless kid from *Twilight*; Marty McFly recreated by Justin Timberlake; Justin Bieber as Ferris Bueller. "Bieber? Bieber? Anyone?" — SARAH MOORE

DEFINITION **Vatoing** *The process of having your pubic region airbrushed with temporary tattoos.*