

Skin care guru moves from Clinique to Cherry Street

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(Photo: Submitted photo)

Correction: This article has been updated with Good Skin Day's hours of operation.

Make no mistake: Courtney Dunlop is a Springfield native.

She is also a creature of the beauty industry. Visibly so. When I interviewed her recently, she sported a look that included perfectly pulled-back hair, makeup just so, a pendant necklace bearing a shooting star, striped pants and heels in a peach hue.

Heads turned as she moved down the sidewalk toward the cafe where we met.

Dunlop is of those "boomerangs" from the Ozarks who move to a global metropolis (in her case, New York City), only to return to the Queen City (in her case, after 16 years).

Dunlop went to college at Fashion Institute of Technology, studying cosmetics and fragrances.

"I got this bee in my bonnet that I wanted to work in magazines," she said. "I was like 'I wanna win the lottery.'"



Good Skin Day, a new boutique in Springfield devoted to skin care, tries to carry indie brands that owner Courtney Dunlop hasn't found elsewhere in Springfield. (Photo: Submitted photo)

Her heart was set on Jane magazine. Getting a job there would be next to impossible.

"Not only did I win the lottery, I won the Powerball," Dunlop said.

She soon became a beauty editor at Jane, followed by "an odyssey of a million jobs in the beauty industry" that included writing for magazines and digital outlets.

Later, she became a consultant for brands like Aveda and finally editorial director of Clinique.

"Clinique was great, and I loved them," she said.

But Springfield called.

"I don't know exactly what made me move back," Dunlop said. "I think I just woke up one day and missed family. I was just tired. New York had changed a lot."

Her Manhattan neighborhood had gone from quirky-quiet to "bro-town." She wanted to start a business, but in the 212 it would be too expensive.

Her husband, a voiceover actor who hails from Long Island, could work from anywhere, so the two packed up and made new acquaintance with heartland life.

In mid-May, Dunlop started that business. She met up with Elle Feldman, owner of Elle's Patisserie and Lavaré Spa, both located on East Cherry Street.

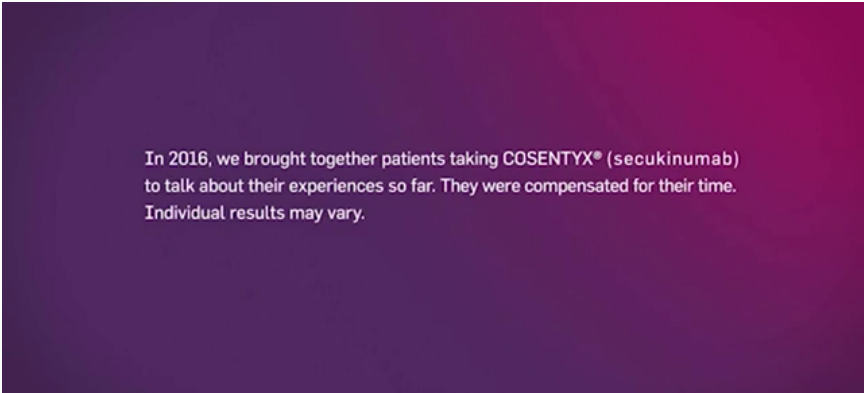
The two arranged for Dunlop to occupy a small space inside the spa dubbed simply Good Skin Day.

It's entirely devoted to skin care and aims to provide a small-scale counterpoint to Sephora and department stores.

Dunlop is careful not to "bash" Sephora; she goes there herself sometimes, but she thinks large stores can be overwhelming for non-experts.

To be sure, Good Skin Day is hardly the first skin care boutique in town. For example, Healing Hands Skin Therapy has been around since 1996. But Dunlop believes she has a niche.

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"The catalyst for Good Skin Day was when I came here and I could find all the big guys," such as Clinique or Aveda, Dunlop said, but she couldn't find her favorite indie brands.

So she began vetting a mix of products with the eye of an editor, leaning toward things she can't find elsewhere in Springfield, sometimes not elsewhere in the Midwest.

"I get kind of granular about beauty," Dunlop said as she began explaining Korean water peels to me.

"Korea is about 10 years ahead of us in their technology in skin care," she said.

She also carries Liquid Gold (<https://www.instagram.com/p/BVAEHmoDDqE/?taken-by=goodskinday.co>), a line of products created by New York consultant Mary Schook.

"It's a very inner-circle thing to have an appointment with Mary," Dunlop said. "It's like whispered, 'Mary, Mary, Mary.'"

For the moment, Good Skin Day is still whispered-about in Springfield: People only know Dunlop's three-week-old store, and her personal-consultant approach, through word of mouth.

More Info

Good Skin Day

Inside Lavaré Spa, 1460 E. Cherry St.

Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday or by appointment via email: hello@goodskinday.co (<http://hello@goodskinday.co>)

The store is available on the web, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/goodskinday.co/) (<https://www.facebook.com/goodskinday.co/>) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/goodskinday.co/) (<https://www.instagram.com/goodskinday.co/>) by searching [@goodskinday.co](http://goodskinday.co) (<http://goodskinday.co>).

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