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A person is holding a cardboard box filled with several small potted succulents. The person's hands are visible, with intricate henna designs on the fingers and a ring on the ring finger. The succulents include a variety of types, such as a dark purple one, a green one with a red flower, and a light blue one. The background is a blurred, light-colored wall.

SPRING  
INTO  
STYLE  
PIVOTAL  
MOMENTS  
UNUSUAL  
FOODS  
ULTRACYCLING  
LUNCH  
WITH  
A VIEW

I was about to graduate without a resume tape, which you need to get a job. But he forced us to do a story every week. At the end of that semester, which was at the end of my college career, I was able to select three of the least-worst stories for my resume tape. I am eternally grateful. If he had not taught that class, there is no way I would have gotten a job.

## STEVE BERRY

ACTOR

Berry's first role was the lead character in a kindergarten play. At 12, he was cast in "Jabberwock" at Des Moines Community Playhouse. Performances followed at Roosevelt High School. But when he enrolled at Drake, where his father was a professor, he studied political science and law.

Halfway through law school, I knew I didn't want to practice law. Drake was doing "Hair," and I thought, "I'm going to go try out." I figured I wasn't going to study for the bar, so I thought, "Why not study lines instead?" I played Berger, one of the two male leads. I had never acted at Drake during undergrad, and I waited until my third year of law school to do a show there.

And thankfully, great roles came around. That same year, 1986, was John Viers' first year at the Des Moines Playhouse, and I auditioned for "West Side Story." He liked my voice and took a chance on me. After that, it was a string of shows.



## SARAH DORNINK

CLOTHING DESIGNER AND OWNER OF DORNINK

Dornink grew up in the clothing business: "My mom did custom dress design out of our house and would have little sewing classes for my friends and me when I was in third grade." Although she "was surrounded by design and was good at it," she wanted to be a surgeon and enrolled at the University of Iowa.

One day during a math class, I was sketching dresses instead of taking notes. In that moment, it hit me: "I don't want to go to medical school; I want to go to fashion school." So after graduating with a degree in biomathematics, I applied to Parsons School of Design in New York and got in. But when I got to New York and understood how much Parsons would cost, I un-enrolled and landed at American Baby magazine. Through that job, I applied for a real job—my first was as a production manager for accessories designer Elizabeth Gillett.

I enrolled in the Fashion Institute of Technology. I would create designs in

New York and send them back to my mom, and she would sew them and put them together. She would say, "Oh my gosh, Sarah, people are really excited about the design that you did."

I just always assumed I would stay in New York City. But, I moved to Des Moines. It was a combination of having a business with my mom and the energy of having two designers at the same place. And, I started dating a boy who was from Des Moines. The two were a big enough draw to return here.

## LARRY CLEVERLEY

ORGANIC FARMER

In 1980, Cleverley was a national credit supervisor in Chicago and started going to farmers markets. In 1981 he transferred to New York City and was on the young executive fast track. But his interest in food called to him, from the family cooks of his Iowa childhood to New York's huge Union Square farmers market.

When I lived in New York, I began to spend time with a farmer, Ray Bradley, a former chef who grew things that I had never seen before: fingerling potatoes and heirloom tomatoes, and a really great variety of food that broadened my palate and cooking. I would drive up to his farm, about 50 miles north of New York City, to help him. That made me think, "I can do that!"

When my paternal grandmother died in Iowa in 1994, I stayed with my grandfather for a time and discovered that Iowa wasn't as mundane a place as I remembered as a kid. And so I went back to New York and I started thinking, "How can my wife and I move back to