

The Indies That Rocked: Four Standouts from the Watch Shows in Geneva

What does a 1940s television, the artist formerly known as Prince, colorful graphic design, and stained glass have in common? Read on to find out.

If there is anything in life I appreciate, it's things that are divergent. For instance, when I was 20 years old, much to my parents' chagrin, I shaved my head. Bald. Like Sinead O'Connor, bald.

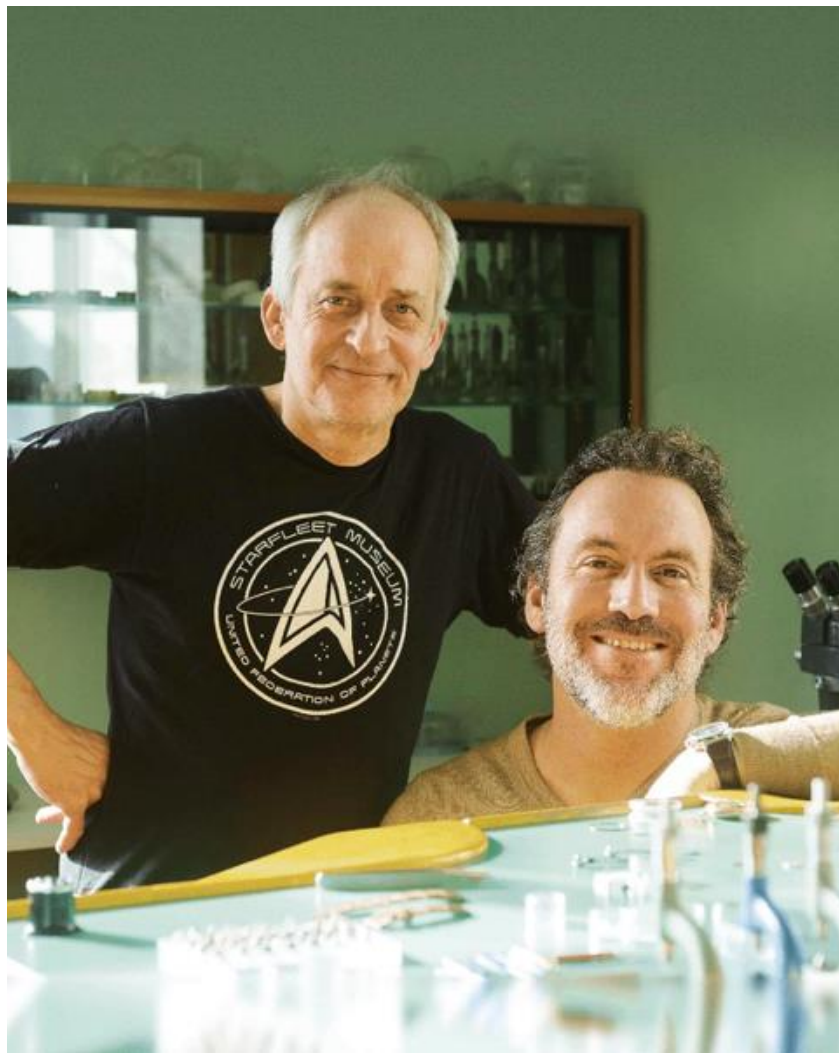
Did people think I did it for attention? Sure. Did my 1993 contemporaries mock me? Absolutely. Did I give a crap? Nope, because I had my reasons for doing it, and those reasons needed no explanation, at least not in my mind.

Maybe that's part of what draws me to independent watch brands that continue to push boundaries and introduce products that keep the industry guessing, questioning, talking, and even smiling. They don't owe us anything, and yet, what they provide is interesting and thought-provoking.

For me, the indies are the heroes/heroines of the watch industry, and the following four releases were the ones that tickled my fancy most at **Watches and Wonders 2024 in Geneva**.

The Beauregard x Vianney Halter Ulysse

After a decade of masterfully floral-designed, gem-set watches made specifically for women, **Alexandre Beauregard** opted to release his first-ever men's collection alongside master watchmaker and all-around hell-of-a-good-guy **Vianney Halter**.



After a meeting in 2019, the two men embarked on what could be the “sleeper” release at the 2024 edition of Watches and Wonders, with media and collectors alike buzzing about their contemporary creation, the **Ulysse**, because while the mechanisms powering the Ulysse are very Vianney, it’s the dial that blows away the onlooker at first glance.

Resembling stained glass, the dial design contains precious gemstones and high-quality gold. Fun Fact: Sixty-eight miniature components of hand-cut, high-clarity aquamarines were selected for their purity and delicate color, then inlaid into the precious metal, thus creating the Ulysse’s delicate dial design.



The Beauregard x Vianney Halter Ulysse © Beauregard

Meanwhile, the 41mm 18K rose gold case contains a movement that allows for 56 hours of power reserve and a water resistance of 30 meters. But if you wear this magnificent watch in the pool, I may have to hunt you down personally and hurt you with my bare hands.