



Choosing a Hairstyle

The most difficult part of a hairstylist's job -- the consultation. The client looks at the stylist expectantly, waiting for the magic wand to appear and transform her fuzzy, curly hair into the perfectly straight, shiny hair in the picture. And, oh yeah, it's gotta be low-maintenance. OK, maybe most of us are not that unrealistic, but many have misguided perceptions as to their stylist's abilities.

You have to remember that the person that knows you best is yourself. Deciding on a style is a combined effort, especially when you're seeing someone for the first time. You know more about your personality and what you want to project to the world, and your stylist knows more about hair. Together you can create an image that works for you. Style and fashion are very personal.

Stylists generally don't mind when a client brings a picture of the style she want -- as long as the expectation is not unrealistic. If your hair type is nothing like the model in the picture, chances are your hair will not look the same. Having a picture gives the stylist a sense of which styles attract you and what type of image you would like to project. The rest involves working that in with your hair type, personality and hair regime.

/.....2

Choosing a Hairstyle, page 2

If you spend less than five minutes on your hair in the morning, there are certain styles that you should not have, Be real with what your hair can do. If you are someone who doesn't mind spending a lot of time on your hair, then the possibilities are more. You need to find a style and make it your own.

If you don't like to use any products in your hair -- gel, mousse, hair creams, hairspray, etc. -- then again you cannot do certain styles. They just will not look the same. You have to remember that in order to produce those styles seen in pictures, there were hairstylists using products in it and working on it for some period of time. They didn't just jump out of bed like that.

A stylist is not a mind reader or magician. If you sit in the chair and say "do what you think will look good -- you're the stylist" then be prepared to really mean it. You may like it and you may not. But be assured that the stylist is doing what you asked.