

# beauty

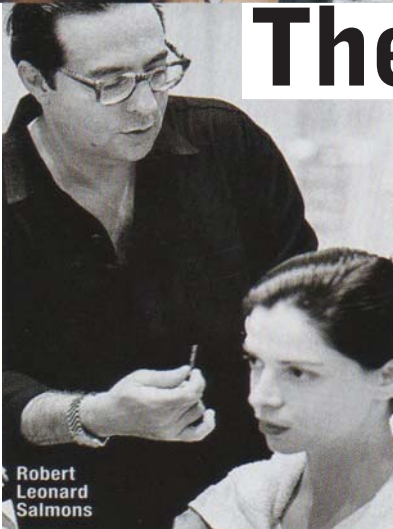


For those daunting beauty tasks, like tweezing, seek the counsel of a specialist.



Ellen Koenigsberg

## The Specialists



Robert Leonard Salmons

Your hair is a five-tone mess, and your brows don't arch. Isn't it a comfort to know there are pros who are turned on by such tragedies? By Mary Clarke

**Brunette Haircolor:** **Stuart Gavert**  
Just because your friends are on the palomino-hair parade doesn't mean you have to join them. "People shouldn't have beige hair. Couches should be beige," says bicoastal colorist Stuart Gavert, who's happiest working at the deeper end of the spectrum. "Dark tones are so mysterious," he rhapsodizes. "I guess I have a gothic streak." At the Peter Coppola Salon, NYC, 212-988-9404; Gavert Atelier, Beverly Hills, 310-858-7898.

blondes really show flaws, like flyaway hair and frizz. "I always choose the process that will be least damaging," she says. Her gentle techniques have won her a huge following. Giterman sees 18 to 20 people (some with Kirsty Hume-length, damage-free locks) in a typical 10-hour day. At Privé, West Hollywood, CA, 213-651-5045.

**Blonde Specialist:** **Dawn Giterman**  
Dawn Giterman waxes poetic on her specialty haircolor: "There are so many different blondes-golden, baby, Nordic, caramel." But she points out that the condition of the hair is just as crucial as the perfect shade, since

**Perfect Updos:** **Robert Leonard Salmons**  
Who knew Seattle was such a hotbed of updo activity? Chalk it up to the casual, athletic lifestyle and the humidity, says Robert Leonard Salmons. "Putting your hair up gives a kittenish, Bardot look; it pulls the cheekbones up," he adds. The chignon-challenged can learn tricks of the trade at Salmons' salon's individual lessons. At the Robert Leonard Salon, Day Spa and Fitness, Seattle, 206-441-9900.



Mihaela Corcoz

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## **Curl Control:** Perry Henderson

If your curly hair looks like shredded wheat much of the time, get thee to Perry Henderson. It may be that someone cut your hair with a razor, or even worse, used thinning shears, making your curls expand into a cloud of frizz. This would never happen at Henderson's salon, where curls are cut so that they fall into their natural pattern. At Perry Henderson, Dallas, 214-522-2870.

## **Fixer of Botched Haircolor:** Louis Licari

The road to haircolor recovery can be long; it can take up to a year for the most serious cases of abuse, says Louis Licari, a.k.a. the King of Haircolor. Nothing fazes him, not the cotton-candy texture, the outdated white-minx platinum, the do-it-yourself disasters. "Whatever it is, they went overboard," Licari says. No matter: Licari can undo the damage. At the Louis Licari Color Group, NYC, 212-517-8084; Beverly Hills, 310-247-0855.

## **The Best Bangs:** Azuma

Is there a bigger nightmare than bangs gone awry? There they are, curling up, sticking out or in seemingly permanent grow-out hell. To the rescue: Azuma, with his amazing eye and supersharp Japanese shears. The true test: He can even make a short fringe look chic, not dorky. Azuma tends to private clients between photo shoots. At the Warren Tricomi Salon, NYC, 212-262-8899.

## **Not Your Basic Bob:** Victoria Gentry

If it's crumpled, piece-y hair you seek, book a session with Victoria Gentry. "We do what we have to do to create the rumpled texture people want," Gentry says. Meaning: "You've got to not be afraid to cut holes in the hair." At home maintain the look with Gentry's cult creation: 2nd Day Hair (a low-surfactant shampoo). At Vain, Seattle, 206-441-3441.

## **The Postlaser Face:** Heidi Schulze

Houston makeup artist Heidi Schulze knows exactly what you'll need soon after laser resurfacing—a good foundation. "Not a heavy-duty Spackle, just something with enough coverage to counteract the redness until you get back to normal," she says. (Schulze likes Trish McEvoy cream foundations.) Smart shoppers can check in with Schulze prelaser or postlaser to pick out the shade and formula. At the Michael Kemper Salon, Houston, 713-877-1645.

## **Medical Pedicures:** Johanna Youner

You're dying to show off those sexy new chacha heels, but your feet are beyond grotty. It's time to see Johanna Youner, a Manhattan-based podiatrist who goes where no salon technician can: cutting away nasty corns, correcting ingrown nails, even curing stinky-foot

syndrome. And though she blames improper shoes for many foot problems, the good doctor won't tell you to wear those orthopedic monstrosities. Her stylish counsel: "Gucci loafers are the best." Call 212-683-7757.

## **A Better Bikini Wax:** Mihaela Corcoz

"People are so obsessed here in L.A.," Mihaela Corcoz says with a giggle. "They tell me to go all the way—very clean." Even so, Corcoz likes to stick to her artistic principles. "I don't like to see straight lines; I'd rather keep a feminine shape." Fans rave about her postwax attention to detail: She diligently plucks away the strays and even gets out all wayward ingrowns. At the Belladonna Face & Body Clinic, L.A., 310-360-6300.

## **Facial Hair:** Carmen Covaci

Whether you call it a mustache or the more salonified "upper lip," eradicating hair from said area is a sensitive proposition. Three years ago, aesthetician Carmen Covaci switched from wax to a sugar-and-lemon-juice concoction that she says is far less irritating. "It's not as hot as wax, and the formula's more elastic, so the hairs don't break off as they can with wax." At the MCM Salon, NYC, 212-366-5757.

## **Master Relaxer:** Minako

It won't get your hair totally poker-straight, but the Meros Jell Perm, as practiced by hair wizard Minako, will loosen even the tightest kinks and get rid of all that troublesome frizz. The technique was developed in Japan, of all places. "It's really humid there," says Minako, "and even straight Japanese hair can get too big and puffy." Puffy-headed New Yorkers seek relief chez Minako. At the Miano/Viel Salon & Spa, NYC, 212-980-3222.

## **Makeup Minimalist:** Liz Michael

"No one wants to be told to go out and buy 400 new products," New York City—based Liz Michael reasons. A private lesson with her includes a weeding out of your makeup bag, followed by a realistic list of essentials to stock up on. Thankfully, Michael isn't wedded to any one brand, though she does have some favorites that are universal flatterers, including Clinique Black Lily and Black Honey lipcolors, Clinique Blushwear and Sti-la Liquid Foundation. Call 212-534-6522.

## **Boston's Best Blow-Out:** Horacio

One curly-headed Horacio customer says it's hard to find a decent blow-out in Boston. (She blames it on a preponderance of straight-haired citizens.) No wonder she kisses the ground he walks on. "He understands the necessity of doing small sections," she enthuses. And he employs the only blower she deems acceptable the industrial-

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strength Super Solano. What else does Horacio add to the mix? "J.F. Lazartigue Straightening Gel and a lot of time," he says. At the Safar Coiffure, Boston. 617-247-3933.

**Burn-Free Blow-Drying:** **Richard Fiorito**

A scalp-scorching blow-out is not exactly our idea of the perfect finishing touch. So when we heard about Richard Fiorito's gentle, pain-free blow-dry, we had to learn his secret. "I keep a finger near the heat source as I work," he tells us, "so I can gauge what's happening." How reassuring to be in the hands of a stylist who feels our pain. At DePasquale the Spa, Morris Plains, NJ, 973-538-3811.

**A Salonphobe's Delight:** **Amanda B.**

If the typical salon bustle is your idea of hell, consider the intimate Amanda B. salon. Set in a penthouse atop an art-deco building, the space attracts a mix of stylists, architects and (of course) film-industry types who appreciate the one-on-one attention from Amanda and her partner, Darren. The duo schedule their own appointments and pride themselves on never making anyone wait. At Amanda B., L.A., 213-938-5225.

**Corrective Cutting:** **Marianne Strokirk**

The woman has seen it all: the sawtooth layers, the puffed-ball frizz, the coif that just lies there. Thankfully, Marianne Strokirk can right all hair crimes committed at the hands of lesser stylists. "People say they have bad hair," says Strokirk. "I always tell them, 'There's no such thing as bad hair, just bad haircuts. At the Marianne Strokirk Salons, Chicago, 312-944-4428 or 312-640-0101.

**Industrial-Strength Facials:** **Zinaida Rivkin**

So intensive is the pore-purging practiced by Zinaida Rivkin that one client almost hit her. "It's brutal," says a New York cosmetic executive, who flies to Boston for Rivkin's facials. And time-consuming. "You could start at two o'clock and still be there at six o'clock. Afterward you might be blotchy, but two days later you look amazing." At Zinaida Rivkin's Skin-care Salon, Brookline, MA, 617-277-2525.

**Giving Good Arch:** **Valerie Sarnelle**

She's raised her own prices sky-high (to deflect clients to her able staff), yet Valerie Sarnelle is still booked solid. Armed with her pots of wax, tints, Mehaz scissors and Rubis tweezers, Sarnelle creates perfect brows, getting them symmetrical, adjusting the color, even "taking away the evil points" when needed. "Getting your brows done is like having half a face-lift," says Sarnelle. At Valerie Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills, 800-282-5374.

**Meltproof Makeup:** **Marcus Monson**

The well-traveled Marcus Monson dispenses his wisdom from Prescriptives counters in eight states, averaging a hundred makeup lessons a week, which adds up to a lot of beauty questions to answer. "In the South, it's all about makeup longevity," says Monson. "No one wants a face like a popsicle." A no-fail tip: Dip a Prescriptives Fine Lining Brush in nonoily eye-makeup remover, mix it with a dark powder shadow and use as eyeliner. "The color becomes indelible," he says. TX, AZ, CO, LA, NM, MS, AK and OK. Call 212-756-4801 for a schedule of his in-store appearances.

**Gentle Nail Care:** **Estella Gonzales**

Choose your nail-polish color as soon as you walk in, because you could easily fall into a blissful beauty sleep at Agua at Delano. Where else can you get a manicure or pedicure while relaxing in the downy billows of a chaise longue? One devotee likens Estella Gonzales' pedicures to foot surgery without pain. Another visitor loves the way Gonzales made her short, stubby nails look downright glamorous. At Agua at Delano, Miami Beach, 305-674-6100.

**That Healthy Glow:** **Regina Viotto**

Pale-skinned natives of the concrete jungle flock to Regina Viotto for a fabulous faux tan. Her secret to natural-looking color lies in careful preparation, so the color doesn't go on until the skin's been thoroughly scrubbed. After testing more than 20 different formulas, Viotto determined that Sothys Autobronzant is the absolute best. "It dries instantly," she says. Even so, expect to spend between 45 and 60 minutes from start to finish. (Fake tan lines are optional.) At the Paul Labrecque Salon & Spa, NYC, 212-595-0099.

**Concealer Queen:** **Ellen Koenigsberg**

If the idea of covering your face with flesh-toned liquid has never held appeal, ring New York City makeup artist Ellen Koenigsberg. Instead of foundation, Koenigsberg prefers to use concealer (M.A.C. C5 is a favorite) only where needed—under the eyes, around the nostrils, anywhere that your skin tone needs to be evened out. A dab here and there, a bit of Shu Uemura powder and you're flawless. Call 212-228-9474.

**Star Facialist:** **Georgina Acosta**

The fact that aesthetician Georgina Acosta is also trained as a nurse inspires confidence, not to mention a devoted following. "She can get your skin into shape in three weeks," says one local beauty insider, who considers Acosta the best facialist in town. And possibly the most sensible one too. Acosta refers serious skin conditions to a dermatologist. At Georgina Acosta Skin Care, San Francisco, 415-885-1551.



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