

THE Kit

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Can a runway hairstyle hold up in real life?
The Kit's bold-as-brass columnist Ceri Marsh
tests the fake bob at a fashion party

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LISE WATIER

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* The most powerful antioxidant compared to vitamins C and E, grape seed extract and idebenone. Analysis report: Détermination d'un indice antioxydant pour comparer divers extraits et composés à partir de la méthode ORAC et d'un essai utilisant des fibroblastes de peau humaine. (ORAC: Worldwide recognized scientific method of analysis), Laboratory of separation and analysis of natural products (LASEVE) affiliated to the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

6 what we want this week NEW WAVE TOP NAIL COLOUR

Our favourite lacquers this fall are too-cool shades of glam beige and grey



1. PRO-GUNMETAL
Dazzle with a polish that's charcoal with a hint of blue. **Estée Lauder** Pure Color Nail Lacquer in Caviar, \$25, exclusively at Holt Renfrew

2. SLEEK SLEET
Chanel Le Vernis in Vertigo bridges the divide between metallic and black. \$27, at [chanel.com](#), Holt Renfrew and The Bay

3. TAN-TASTIC
Take the boring right out of beautiful beige. **Joe Fresh** Nail Polish in Maple, \$4, [joefresh.com](#)

4. GREY MATTERS
Silky grey goes with denim, leather and black-tie. **Nars** Storm Bird, limited edition, \$21, at Holt Renfrew, [narscosmetics.ca](#) and [sephora.com](#)

5. HOT NUDE
Sandy, sexy skin-inspired tints. **Dior** Vernis in Dune, \$24, [thebay.com](#), [sephora.com](#)

6. IN THE BUFF
A latté-coloured lacquer is a modern, monochromatic look. **Deborah Lippmann** in Fashion, \$20, at Murale, [deborahlippmann.com](#)

—DEBORAH FULSANG/PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL HARRISON



ASK JEANNE

I have dark hair and am thinking of adding ombré highlights. Is that appropriate for a conservative workplace?—Lauren

DEAR LAUREN,
First of all, let's be clear: "conservative" is a relative term. Your version of a conservative workplace may be very different from mine. If you're craving just a slight change, I can't imagine a workplace so conservative that would object to a subtle bit of play with hair colour. If you're going for a trendy look—and the ombré effect is certainly that—just make sure you don't do anything extreme. And, while some people feel confident doing their own hair colouring, you should go to a professional colourist for this.

For those unfamiliar with it, ombré is French for shadowed and this style is about subtle gradation of your hair from darker roots to a lighter colour on the ends. If done incorrectly, it can look like you've waited too long between dye jobs. If done artfully, it's a cool look that can give you a nice boost of colour without the need for frequent upkeep. If done properly, you'd likely need to touch up your hair only a couple of times a year.

We've seen several stylish celebrities—Sarah Jessica Parker, Hilary Duff and Jessica Biel—go this route, to fabulous effect.

Generally speaking, chin level is the best place to begin your highlights, with the colour at its brightest in the last two or three inches of hair. The bright shade at your roots should be soft, and just bleed out gradually.

This technique is great for brunettes who've always dreamed of being blond but are afraid of doing anything drastic, or looking washed out.

It also works better and seems most natural on people who have body and movement in their hair. If your hair is ultra straight and super fine, the ombré effect could look a little limp.

Some people also say hairstyles with bangs don't work as well since bangs would be one colour, while the rest of the hair is two-tone. As I said earlier, consult a professional colourist the first time—someone who has executed these types of highlights before. Bring a picture of what you have in mind to make sure you're getting the right idea across. And tell your stylist you're looking for something with a conservative edge. After all, you don't want anything too risqué with an office full of conservative co-workers to impress.



Hilary Duff has soft and natural ombré hair

Jeanne Beker is contributing editor to the *Toronto Star* and host of *Fashion Television Channel*.

Follow @[Jeanne_Beker](#)
Send questions to [askjeanne@thekit.ca](#)

radar



Ashley Ling for Roots

Erickson Beamon necklace



Lisa Tant

HOLT'S MAKES HEADLINES WITH NEW STORES, EDITOR

Holt Renfrew is making headlines with announcements of a new chain and new fashion editor. The luxury retailer opens its first lower-priced h2 store next March at Quartier DIX30 in Brossard, Que. And on Nov. 26, Lisa Tant, ex-editor of *Flare* and publisher of *Hello! Canada*, joins Holts as vice-president, fashion editor. She'll work with the company's fashion and PR teams. It's a new role for Holts and, says retail strategist Wendy Liebmann, a smart move: "Today, successful retailers need to be everywhere their shoppers are, interacting with them and fostering emotional connections with its shoppers." Holt Renfrew's parent company Selfridges Group already employs an online editor to manage its social media and editorial-style marketing. —Glynnis Mapp



Letitia Baldrige

GLITTERING COLLABORATIONS

Say hello to two new fashion collaborations: Jeweller to the A-List Erickson Beamon has collaborated with *Club Monaco* on statement necklaces, cocktail rings and more priced from \$130. The brand is a favourite of Michelle Obama and Lady Gaga. The line is available this fall on [clubmonaco.ca](#) and in select stores. Vintage accessory designer Ashley Ling of *Fischer Street* has partnered with *Roots* to create a collection of vintage True North relic-inspired pieces. From \$20 to \$55, at select *Roots* stores. —Erin Richardson



THIS SEASON'S PERFECT PRINTS

When fashion and art meet, it makes for a very pleasing rendezvous. We were thrilled to learn our favourite French fashion blogger, *Garance Doré*, will begin selling posters and limited-edition prints of her whimsical illustrations via her website this month. The only thing that made this announcement better: the price. Posters will start at \$35. *Incredible!*—Nadine Anglin

MODEL OF DECORUM DIES

She worked for Tiffany, stood more than six feet tall and had striking grey hair. *Letitia Baldrige* wasn't a runway model, but she was a role model. Best remembered as Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's chief of staff and for writing several books on etiquette (*Letitia Baldrige's Complete Guide to Executive Manners*), Baldrige made a lasting impression. Her death on Oct. 29 at age 86 is occasion to remember that good graces will never go out of style.—N.A.

GAGA FOR GAGA



Our perfume expert on whether the singer's fragrance is more performance art than perfume art **BY** DEBORAH FULSANG

SCENT & CELEBRITY



ELIZABETH TAYLOR
Taylor set the celebrity-scent phenomenon into motion with her White Diamonds in 1991. The fragrance continues as the best seller with a recent *Forbes* report estimating Taylor's posthumous White Diamonds earnings for 2011 to be \$75 million.



JENNIFER LOPEZ
The mega-star's first scent, Glow, launched in 2002. She recently introduced an 18th scent into what *Forbes* has described as a \$100-million-per-year-generating lineup.



CELINE DION
One of the most successful recording artists of all times launched her 14th fragrance, Signatures, last year, a move that will add even more heft to the entertainer's near billion-dollar-per-year-in sales fragrance empire.



PARIS HILTON
The blond bombshell's roster of 15 fragrances has also passed the \$1-billion sales marker, according to its mother company Prestilux.



JUSTIN BIEBER
The Canadian-born singer launched his Someday fragrance in 2011 and by the end of that year, raked in some \$39-million U.S. Bieber also walked away with a prestigious FiFi Award in the category of Elizabeth Taylor Fragrance Celebrity of the Year in spring 2012.



Lady Gaga Fame eau de parfum Ultimate Masterpiece, \$89 (100 ml), at Shoppers Drug Mart, Sephora, The Bay and Sears

NINE JOURNALISTS FROM around the world—from France, Italy, Puerto Rico, the U.S., Germany, the U.K., Greece and Canada—waited patiently to ask vetted questions of the 26-year-old phenom that is Lady Gaga, their iPhone mics, recorders and notebooks at the ready.

“For your fragrance creation, did you want also to express the woman’s complexity?” asked the editor from Greece, no doubt hoping the question would elicit a philosophical soliloquy on the star’s talk-of-the-town debut perfume, Fame. “No. Not at all,” replied Gaga matter-of-factly. “I wanted it to be totally obvious, like, I’m sexy, let’s f---. There’s no curiosity about this fragrance. It’s a very obvious come-hither.”

The launch of Fame, the first fragrance by the New York City-born singer and performance artist Lady Gaga, was an over-the-top, long-anticipated, much gossiped-over affair. After the lead-up, the tightly orchestrated launch in September, the Yoko-Ono-and-Lindsay-Lohan-attended Guggenheim gala, the black colour of the perfume and claw-capped Nick Knight-designed bottle, we’re convinced Gaga did push the beauty envelope. But we’re also wondering if there’s more performance art to this fragrance than perfume art.

THE HYPE.

It began almost two years ago with a partnership announcement by Coty International, the mother of celebrity-scent empires with a fragrance flock that includes Celine Dion’s scents and Madonna’s Truth or Dare, among many, many others.

Then the sound bites: Gaga set the media aflutter with comments that her perfume would contain notes of blood and semen. So much hype. And that was before anyone started thinking about the official launch in New York, where a cherry-picked few media were invited to interview the mega-star.

The interview was meticulously orchestrated: questions submitted in advance and attendance painstakingly and repeatedly taken—at least five times in two hours—while en route to the meet-and-greet with Gaga. One had the impression that the lead-up and anticipation were as much a part of the launch as the event and scent itself.

THE “JUICE.”

“This whole thing began with an idea,” said Lady Gaga at the launch. “I had the idea to do a black fragrance—the first black eau de parfum on a commercial, mass-market [scale], and from there, we started to find the creative people I wanted to work with.”

The perfume is a black liquid that sprays clear, thanks to Coty’s patent-pending fluid technology. How does it work? “Like all the best things in life, it’s a mystery,” the company’s management says.

Blackness also inspires the scent itself—blackness as in the dark side of celebrity. “I associate scent with colours,” said Gaga. “I associate with the colour black.

Being pensive about fame is a very dark thing, but when you release it—when it comes out—it’s quite light and beautiful.”

Darkness also drove the decision to include Bel-ladonna, the deadly nightshade, as the signature note in the scent. For contrast, Richard Herpin, Honorine Blanc and Nathalie Lorson—not one, but three noses, none of whom actually met the lady herself, combined forces to concoct the scent—added rich floral and fruity notes of honey, saffron, pulverized apricot nectar, crushed heart of tiger orchidea and jasmine sambac.

The scent also breaks with convention in its non-hierarchal structure. Instead of a pyramidal composition with short-lived top notes, a central heart of notes, and base notes that linger, Fame uses a push-pull technology. “You’re not smelling things in stages,” Gaga said, “you’re smelling everything simultaneously. So depending on your skin, it will smell very different.”

Not that the fragrance smells like blood and semen. “I was just pulling everybody’s tail,” said Gaga, “because until you define what a celebrity fragrance means, does it matter what it smells like? I mean nobody really cares, do they? You buy the fragrance because you like the artist, right?”

But in true Lady Gaga fashion, the performer follows the provocative comment with a thoughtful soundbite. “I wanted to do something where it actually does smell good, where people actually do want to buy it, and make a fragrance [so] people who don’t like me will like it.”

THE SPECTACLE.

The black-tie masquerade was a perfect finale. It reached caricature-like magnitude as Gaga herself slept, maiden-like, in a giant replica of the perfume bottle in the main-floor rotunda of New York City’s Guggenheim Museum. Outside her “room,” a neon clock displayed her 15 minutes of fame, and guests—Marc Jacobs, Steven Klein, Paris Hilton, Ellen von Unwerth—sipped cocktails from goblets that bubbled forth with smoke like witch’s brew. To finish the episode, tattoo artist Mark Mahoney joined Gaga in her perfume pod and etched a cherub onto the back of her neck.

This guest walked away exhausted, having been sucked into the vibrating world of Gaga. Contemplative, too, because despite the blackness and performance and high-art, Gaga’s fragrance is a pretty one; more plush and feminine than expected. Perhaps that’s the shocker.

We admit, we were hoping for something riskier. Maybe a little (excuse us) blood and semen, at least metaphorically. But maybe we were all thinking too much, and maybe, as Gaga believes, scent should be primal and less academic. “I think women should smell yummy—I like to smell yummy,” she said. “I actually ultimately decided on this smell because it won over a man. And he was a good catch.”

Follow @deborahfulsang



TESTING, TESTING

BY CERI MARSH

RUNWAY HAIR WORKS IN REAL LIFE

The superstitions surrounding “good hair days” are ancient. Like, Biblical. Hello, Samson? That tough-to-define edge that great hair gives you is surely on a continuum with the smack Samson was able to lay down due to his high-powered hair.

Am I pushing it? OK, the faux bob I took out for a spin the other night was not heaven-sent, but the way my hair-stylists at Hair on the Avenue in Toronto understood my need for a transformative hair moment was divine. It went something like this:

Waiting for my appointment, I chatted with dreamy salon co-owner Luis Pacheco and told him I was headed to *Fashion* magazine’s 35th anniversary party (I was editor-in-chief at their 30th).

Me: “I feel a bit funny about it.”

Luis: “Why?”

Me: “It feels like I’m going to see my ex-boyfriend.”

Luis: “Then we just have to make you extra gorgeous.”

Sitting in his second-floor chair I discussed options with my stylist, Anthony Ingraldi.

I showed him a picture of the jersey and lace Little Black Dress I’d be wearing, which had a slightly retro feeling. We landed on a faux bob—a no-cut bob created with bobby pins—which has been popular on runways from

Rodarte to Rochas. I love the way it allows you to look radically different for one night. I’ve tried many times to have a chic, chin-length bob but my super-textured hair does not cooperate. Anthony started by building up waves and volume in my longer-than-shoulder-length hair with a curling iron and hair spray. Then he began rolling it under and pinning it at my nape with about 50 bobby pins.

When he was done I had a tousled, wavy bob that would have looked as good on *Downton Abbey*’s Lady Mary as it would on a girl going to a party in swish downtown Toronto. As I leaned in to kiss Anthony’s cheek in thanks he tucked another dozen bobby pins into my handbag. “Don’t worry too much if some of the front pieces fall out, it will only look better.”

I only ended up needing two more pins to rescue a few escaped strands. All night people asked if I’d cut all my hair off. It felt like an accessory, like wearing killer shoes or carrying the latest bag. But the best part? My long hair was just a few pin pulls away. Success.

TIP: If you’re going for a statement ’do, keep everything else simple. It’s what everyone notices anyway.

Ceri Marsh is a best-selling author and co-creator of the food and family website SweetPotatoChronicles.com

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HOLIDAY STYLE

There's an elegant approach to dressing up this holiday season—luxurious fabrics, rich jewel tones, feminine lace and plenty of sparkle and shine. With so many festive options, the question becomes: what to wear where? Reitmans Design Director Lyne Hebert offers some stylish advice on putting together the season's best looks.



Bouclé jacket, \$60, and quilted bag, \$34, reitmans.com



Sequin sweater, \$50, and cocktail ring, \$8, reitmans.com

AFTER-WORK PARTY

You'll need something that can do double duty and this bouclé jacket shot with Lurex is the perfect starting point. At work, wear it with a white blouse and pencil skirt. At night, add glittering jewellery, a chic little bag and red lipstick. "The jacket also works beautifully with jeans for casual holiday get-togethers," says Hebert.

HOSTING AT HOME

Glittering touches are everywhere this season, including on your anything-but-basic cozy sweater. Hebert suggests pairing a sparkly sweater with jacquard pants ("very strong right now") and accessorizing with a glitzy ring or statement earrings and a shiny bangle or two. "This sweater is perfect for dressing up jeans," she says.



Sequin dress, \$60, and patent pumps, \$40, reitmans.com



Sequin clutch, \$36, and necklace, \$18, reitmans.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE

"Sequins move easily from day to night all through the holidays," says Hebert. For casual New Year's parties, pair a sequin top with slim black pants, or go glam with a sequin dress. Look for shine on shoes, too. "I love patent pumps with a sequin dress."

ROMANTIC HOLIDAY DINNER

Reitmans has updated the classic LBD in lace for a look that exudes understated elegance. "It's beautiful and feminine and needs very few accessories," says Hebert. "You can keep your jewellery minimal or wear a little more to add an edge, then carry a sequin bag."



ANYTIME AT ALL

A terrific dress can take you everywhere. Case in point: Reitmans exclusive new designer dress collection, *MARTIN LIM* for Reitmans. Designed by Canada's new fashion stars Danielle Martin and Pao Lim, the limited-edition collection is modern, sophisticated and elegant.

Lola, \$85, Flora, \$85, and Maria, \$95. See all 10 dresses in the collection at reitmans.com

Reitmans

the edit

More celebrity favourite dresses at Kit2it.com/dress-trends



Lacoste
Fall 2012

SPOTTED

BEST DRESSED

These dresses are nothing short of genius. Strategically placed coloured panels highlight your best features while downplaying the rest. By creating the illusion of a nipped-in waist and trimmer hips and thighs, these garments have you looking slimmer—fast.—VANESSA TAYLOR



THE MINIMIZER
French Connection polyester-blend dress, \$188, canada.frenchconnection.com



HOURLASS PERFECTED
Judith & Charles wool-blend dress, \$450, at judithandcharles.com and Holt Renfrew



THE BUST-REDUCER
Twik rayon-blend dress, \$40, simons.ca



THE SMALL-BUST MAXIMIZER
Vero Moda at M for Mendocino polyester dress, \$59, mendocino.ca

one minute-miracle



LUSH LASHES IN A FLASH

Eyelashes are the new nails. You can thank lush-lashed Kim Kardashian and Jennifer Lopez for pushing the look to the forefront. If you're not open to dropping hundreds of dollars for the mink extensions favoured by these paparazzi queens, there are many lush options at your local beauty counter. So go ahead, get ready for your closeup.

EYLURE KATY PERRY LASHES IN OH MY
\$8, ebeauty.ca, Shoppers Drug Mart and Jean Coutu

THE CHALLENGE

COMFORT THE SOLE

Red carpets belong to stilettos, but stars have embraced the smoking slipper. How to wear it, and our favourite style



Nine West Panto suede smoking slippers, \$120, ninewest.ca



Elizabeth Banks

LAYER WITH STRIPES
Easy slip-ons lend themselves to fuss-free weekend looks, like this multi-striped ensemble on Elizabeth Banks. Since each stripe isn't the same size (including on her shoes), the look is cohesive and not overwhelming.



Olivia Palermo

A LOT OF LEG
Extremely short skirts and high heels are tricky. Our quick fix: wear minis with flats. These menswear-inspired slippers anchor the bold print and colour of this outfit. Wear with opaque tights to avoid showing too much skin.



Alexa Chung

NOT TOO SWEET
Style muse Alexa Chung is decked out in designer clothes, including her namesake mini-Mulberry bag. She tones down cutesy slippers with a lady-like blouse and classic cropped trousers.



CLOSET OF THE WEEK

Ashley Madekwe

Actor, *Revenge*. Blogger, Ring my Bell

BY THE COVETEUR

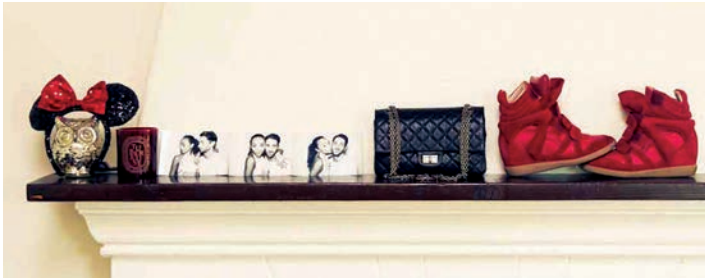


IF YOU, LIKE US, spend Sunday nights glued to your TV watching *Revenge*, then you'll recognize this flawless face.

While 30-year-old actress Ashley Madekwe is widely-known for her role as social climber Ashley Davenport on the hit ABC soap opera, she's also big in the blogosphere for her style blog, Ring My Bell, which documents her daily outfits (ashley-ringmybell.blogspot.ca).

When it comes to her closet, Madekwe confesses she's a total "outfit nerd" and admits to keeping a notebook with outfit ideas and pulling an all-nighter to snatch up Isabel Marant shoes online.

Although she loves a good designer showstopper, Madekwe is all about fast-fashion finds from Topshop and Zara. (Ditto.) And though she's based in Los Angeles now, Madekwe keeps fashionable reminders of London (like a Union Jack Alexander McQueen clutch) tucked under her arm.



Clockwise from top right: ASOS sunglasses, shoes Steve Madden, two pairs from Zara, and Prada. Mulberry bag, Ray Ban sunglasses. Chanel bag, Isabel Marant sneakers.

web

More of Ashley's favourite things at thecoveteur.com/ashley_madekwe

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Streetstyle inspiration



New nail art gallery



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LADY GAGA FAME



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