



SPOTLIGHT

ALL HAIL CÉLINE

The larger-than-life singer is suddenly the coolest name in fashion

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GETTY IMAGES

THE KIT



TREND REPORT

10 FALL UPDATES

We break down the essential trends, from the colour of the season (who knew pink could be so cool?) to the coat you may not be able to live without. Plus: Why you should put that hair straightener down!

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PETER STIGTER (CHANEL)

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Could these new makeup collections replace your perfume?

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"I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD MASTER LINER."

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LANCÔME GRANDIÔSE LINER
3. Curl lashes and apply mascara.
BENEFIT COSMETICS THEY'RE REAL! LENGTHENING MASCARA
4. Pair with a modern scent.
CALVIN KLEIN DEEP EUPHORIA, EAU DE PARFUM

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MOST WANTED

Best in class

While questionable cafeteria fare, piercing recess bells and, yes, getting picked last in gym class may be a distant memory, the glee of back-to-school shopping will never get old. At the top of our fall list: this post-grad version of your brown-paper lunch bag. As wrinkled as a rushed morning, it's a totally chic and undeniably practical option for your textbooks, meeting notes—or even your lunch.

—Jillian Vieira. Photography by Paul Weeks



COS BAG, \$290, COS

SPOTLIGHT

MODEL CITIZEN

Canadian Herieth Paul is quickly rising to the top of the runway pack

BY NATASHA BRUNO

Modelling wasn't a part of Herieth Paul's original master plan. "When I was 14, I wanted to be on Disney like Selena Gomez," says the five-foot-11, Tanzanian-born beauty who moved to Ottawa at the age of 11 with her family. Today, the 20-year-old has the credentials of a bona fide supermodel: She's walked in top international runway shows from New York to Milan, has starred in big-time ad campaigns and landed a major contract as the new face of Maybelline New York earlier this year. "I lost it," she gushes about signing with the beauty giant. "To be in the same family as Adriana Lima and Christy Turlington is a dream come true."

We sat down with the pixie-haired Paul the day she landed home in Canada, fresh from fashion week in Paris.

You walked in more than 30 runway shows this fall season. Which did you like best? "My favourite has to be Balmain. I got to wear long hair—mine hasn't been long in forever—and it was a supermodel cast. Rosie Huntington-Whiteley was right behind me!"

Do you have a favourite fashion-week city? "Paris has all the designers I love: Chanel, Givenchy, Stella McCartney. Everyone is so carefree: Call time will be at 6 a.m and we're drinking champagne! There's something really different about Paris—it's like living a fantasy."

What's the best beauty tip you've picked up backstage? "Using red lipstick as a colour corrector under my eyes and on small scars, then applying concealer over top. It's amazing!"

What's been your favourite modelling gig so far? "Shooting with Tom Ford for his Fall 2013 campaign. He's a chill Texan eating french fries, but in a Tom Ford suit and nice shoes. Last season, I told him, 'I really appreciate the time we spent together. I never knew you were so cool!' He was like, 'Yeah, I'm just a Texas boy.'"

How long have you been sporting your signature short hair? "I've had my hair short since 2010. I went to New York for a *Vogue Italia* casting and they said, 'We like her, but not her hair. If she's willing to shave it, we're going to shoot her.' I had extensions at the time. [At first] I was so shy and really insecure, but it was the best decision I've ever made. I don't want to go back. I want to rock my short hair forever."

Who do you look up to in the industry? "Tyra Banks. She launched her career from nothing and made a stand, which is hard to do as a woman—especially as a black woman. She's life goals. I would die if I got to have pizza with her."

Herieth Paul on the runway at (from left) DKNY, Balmain and Carolina Herrera.



Q & A

A NEW DAWN

Meet Mulberry's new star

It was a case of "good things come to those who wait" when the creative director position at Mulberry—iconic British luxury brand, maker of the ubiquitous Bayswater bag—remained vacant for two years. The long-awaited successor? Johnny Coca, the revered Spanish accessory designer whose CV includes major stints at Louis Vuitton and Céline. We caught up with Coca just hours after his debut fall collection to chat about his famous mentor, his fresh vision for the brand and what it takes to make women feel special.

What has been your approach to redefining Mulberry? "I wanted to bring something more modern, relevant and colourful. I'm trying to present something quite British in the attitude and trying to respect the country through all my designs."

What's the most important thing you've learned about designing for women? "I was in a very feminine environment growing up, living with just my mother and sister. And when you don't have much money, you take a piece of fabric and start stitching dresses for your sister. I became fascinated with making sure women looked elegant. You need to love women to design for them. If it's not special, you haven't tried."

What has been one of your most rewarding experiences? "Working with [Céline creative director] Phoebe Philo. She taught me to be strong, to be proud of everything I do and to never compromise. She's so talented and strong. It was such a pleasure to make sure she was happy." —Jillian Vieira

THREE MAKES A TREND

AMPED-UP ANKLE BOOTS

The look
This fall, leave behind the all-black bootie and embrace a bolder staple with a taller silhouette and tons of texture.

On the runway
Royal velvet and sculptural heels at Dries Van Noten; rich, chocolatey croc at Ralph Lauren; pointed toes in vibrant, autumnal tones at 3.1 Phillip Lim.

How to wear it
Let these loud boots speak for themselves by sticking to a palette of neutrals. Pair them with a shirt-dress as the summer hours fade, then sport the boots with cropped denim and a duster coat as the days get shorter. —Emily Skublics



DRIES VAN NOTEN



RALPH LAUREN



3.1 PHILLIP LIM



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TREND REPORT

10 easy ways to update your fall style

We clocked every runway show of the season to bring you the top fashion and beauty trends you need to know about

1

FUR JUST GOT FUNKY

SEEN AT: CHRISTOPHER KANE, MONCLER GAMME ROUGE, PRABAL GURUNG, MARY KATRANTZOU, DEREK LAM

The fur coat is expected to make a return to the runway every fall season, but this year, the addition of psychedelic starburst prints, painterly windowpane patterns and pastel ombré effects elevated its status from winter staple to statement piece.



CHRISTOPHER KANE, MONCLER GAMME ROUGE, PRABAL GURUNG, MARY KATRANTZOU, DEREK LAM, BLUMARINE, ANYA HINDMARCH, VERSACE

3

THERE'S NO NEED TO STRAIGHTEN YOUR CURLS

SEEN AT: CHANEL, BURBERRY, DEREK LAM

Gone are the days when models' hair had to be straightened, waved or styled into submission before getting close to a runway. Standout curly-haired stars like Alanna Arrington (right), Imaan Hammam and Frederikke Sofie bounced along major runways with their natural texture flying free. At Altuzarra, hairstylist Odile Gilbert was applying Kerastase L'Incrovable Blowdry Lotion to damp hair for crunch-free moisture and drying the hair with a diffuser and her fingers to create movement, working with each individual's texture. "We really want it to have a natural feeling," she said. "Middle part, side part, curly hair, short hair, long hair: Nobody looks the same, which is a reality in life."



CHLOÉ, PRABAL GURUNG, ALTUZARRA

4

BARRETTES CAN GO ANYWHERE

SEEN AT: DOLCE & GABBANA, SONIA RYKIEL, RODARTE

If there's a quicker way to take a simple hairstyle from desk to dance floor than by throwing on a jewelled barrette, we've yet to see it. This season, hair accessories hit a new high, with mismatched vintage clips scattered along roughed-up hairlines, simple long barrettes clinging onto messy buns and jewelled pins clashing with equally ornate earrings. We say pile 'em on.



ALEXANDER MCQUEEN, BOTTEGA VENETA, ERDEM

2

CHOKERS ARE HUE. LITERALLY.

SEEN AT: DRIES VAN NOTEN, FENDI, MSGM, LOEWE, BALMAIN

One way to grow up the choker trend worn by Kendall Jenner and seemingly every other millennial? Supersize it. The structure pairs perfectly with tailored tops.



BALMAIN, LANVIN, LOEWE

5

GLOSS ISN'T JUST FOR YOUR LIPS

SEEN AT: PROENZA SCHOULER, NINA RICCI, LACOSTE, BURBERRY

Patent finishes were a notable refresh on the standard transitional jacket this season. To pull it off, keep your supporting pieces neutral (think a camel shift dress and knee-high boots) or go bold in head-to-toe juicy colour. Leather weather just got a whole lot more interesting!



ISABEL MARANT, EACH X OTHER, LACOSTE

6

THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS IS GOING BEYOND BASIC

SEEN AT: MARC JACOBS, LANVIN, ROBERTO CAVALLI, VALENTINO, ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

An enchanted, decidedly romantic mood infused the entire season, producing our favourite black-tie upgrade. Step up your LBD by opting for delicate details, including super-sexy lace and modern silky overlays. It will add just the right touch of darkness to your evening look.



PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER STIGTER (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, FERRETTI, ARMARNI, 9, 10, MILLION DOLLAR BABY), GETTY IMAGES (PUBLIC SCHOOL, SUNO), INSTAGRAM: @NYKARX (TAKING A SHOT), DKNY, BALMAIN, ROBERTO CAVALLI, RODARTE

7

SMOKY EYES JUST GOT A LOT SOFTER

SEEN AT: ALEXANDER MCQUEEN, ROBERTO CAVALLI, CAROLINA HERRERA

A hazy wash of charcoal or chocolate across the eyelid was a firm favourite this season: lighter than a typical smoky eye but with more presence than a neutral base shadow. There are lots of variations to try: softly winged out (like at Givenchy), topped with gloss (seen at Alexander Wang) or smudged out from the waterline like at Alberta Ferretti. There, makeup artist Diane Kendal applied M.A.C Kohl Power Eye Pencil in Feline along upper and lower lashes, added black cream liner and Shine Mixing Medium, then diffused the mixture outward for a translucent but dramatic effect.



ALBERTA FERRETTI, GIORGIO ARMANI, PUBLIC SCHOOL

8

NAIL COLOUR DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PRETTY

SEEN AT: PROENZA SCHOULER, NARCISO RODRIGUEZ, SUNO

There's always a place for a power red, but this season the cool woman would do well to go for a murky, androgynous manicure the colour of mud, sand or mushroom. Try Jin Soon's Dulcet, an offbeat camel polish the manicurist used to complement the masculine shapes and rich fall tones at Karen Walker.



NARCISO RODRIGUEZ, KAREN WALKER, SUNO

9

PINK IS THE NEW POWER COLOUR

SEEN AT: KENZO, CHANEL, GUCCI, ALEXANDER WANG, PORTS 1961

Sure, there is comfort in an all-black uniform, but designers are giving us good reason to switch to pink. Hear us out: The many shades of bubble gum, carnation and cotton candy read as unapologetically feminine and proved flattering on every skin tone on the runway. A nubby knit in sweet peach or an amaranth-hued boardroom-ready blazer paired with simple slacks says, "I am woman, hear me roar."



COURRÈGES, GUCCI, MAX MARA

10

(ALMOST) BLACK LIPSTICK CAN BE EXTREMELY ELEGANT

SEEN AT: BOTTEGA VENETA, MARNI, LOUIS VUITTON, MAX MARA

Deep burgundy lipstick is a fall staple, but even deeper black-berry hit full stride this season, looking elegant, strong, even sporty. At Dior, a blackened plum lip topped with a slick of gloss was a strong focal point on a minimally made-up face, and at Rodarte the extra-dark matte lip (a blend of Nars Velvet Matte Lip Pencil in Train Bleu and Audacious Lipstick in Liv) was counterbalanced by subtly darkened eyebrows. Keep the rest of the face fresh and don't pair it with a black-rimmed eye—unless you want to look like the gothic wraiths at Marc Jacobs.



BOTTEGA VENETA, RODARTE, DIOR

MILLION-DOLLAR BABY

In the thick of NYFW backstage madness, these top models answered our burning question: "If you were handed \$1,000,000 right now, what would you spend it on?"



YUMI LAMBERT AT MARCHESA



LILY ALDRIDGE AT CAROLINA HERRERA



LINESEY MONTERO AT TOMMY HILFINGER

"A house for my mom."

TEST DRIVE

TAKING A SHOT

A lifelong fashion lover, Nyka Alexander headed to Milan fashion week to snap street style. Here's what she learned

Lesson 1: Outside the Marni show, it was impossible to miss Eva Chen, Instagram's head of fashion partnerships. Equally clear? This street-style star is really nice.

Lesson 2: Serious photographers gear up seriously. Without a puffer or slicker on, I was clearly the only one dabbling in this pursuit.

Lesson 3: Even bold-face names pose with regular folk! This fan had a selfie moment with famed fashion journalist Anna Dello Russo.

Lesson 4: Shoes are an important topic of conversation. Model and style star Candela Novembre carefully discussed her footwear choices.

Lesson 5: Streetsyle regulars know they will be photographed from all angles. While I awkwardly stationed myself behind, pro Tamu McPherson crouched in front to get her shot.

Lesson 6: Mixing patterns makes for a compelling street-style shot! Maybe I'm getting the hang of this?

Lesson 7: Be humble. Your best shot may turn out completely out of focus. Also, this was super posed. She stared studiously at her phone until the camera clicking finished.

BEAUTY INSIDER

Smoke show

Model turned social-media star Irene Kim is about to change your eye makeup approach

BY NATASHA BRUNO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BO LARGE



On set with *The Kit*, Irene Kim snapped selfies and showed off her colourful mani, plus her fave products from the Estée Edit.



Irene Kim is used to other people doing her makeup for runway shows and photo shoots. But when I sat down with the Seoul-based ambassador for the Estée Edit in Toronto, she proved that she has serious makeup skills of her own. The unicorn-haired Instagram sensation skilfully demonstrated how to create a metallic, peacock-green smoky eye using only the teeny-tiny mirror inside her eyeshadow compact to check her work. She has developed her DIY savvy by observing industry pros, she says, especially Blair Patterson, the Estée Edit's global lead makeup artist. "Blair is very creative," she explains. "I've learned a lot technique-wise, like how to apply makeup with brushes."

When it comes to creating an eye makeup look, Kim is all about playing up her natural features. "I like to follow my almond eye shape when doing

heavier makeup," she says. "I elongate the shadow a bit to make my eyes look a little bigger." And as if her dip-dyed hair wasn't enough of a giveaway, she often goes for a bolder take on a classic look. "It's very dramatic and fun. Colour just adds more pop!" she says of the emerald eye. "I'd wear this for an event if I wanted to make a statement."

For everyday, though, Kim keeps her eye makeup simple, sweeping a light shimmery shadow over her lids and finishing with mascara. But

there's one thing she can't leave home without doing: curling her super-straight eyelashes. "Even if I don't wear mascara, I have to curl them," she says. This fluttery-lash obsession extends to heating her metal eyelash curler with a lighter for maximum bend, a popular mini-perm-like trick in Seoul. But, she cautions, the practice isn't necessarily a good idea. "Once I burned my eyelashes," she admits. "Thankfully they burned off evenly and grew back!"



PRO TIP SHEET

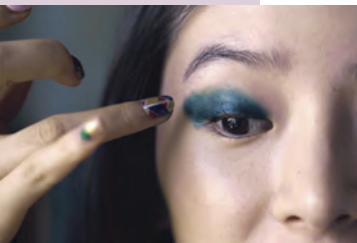
Makeup artist Blair Patterson's top smoky eye tips

- 1. Avoid raccoon eyes**
"If eyeshadow falls, a lot of people rub it off. That's the biggest mistake," says Patterson. If you apply eye makeup first, followed by foundation, you can just clean spills off with a wipe. Better yet, slap on two under-eye sheet masks while you work to catch any fallout. "I put them on as I'm doing eyeshadow, and once I'm done I take them off. [The spills] are gone and the skin is also moisturized."
- 2. Just keep curling**
"Asian eyelashes are usually poker straight," says Patterson. "I curl them three times: once before I do anything; once when I'm done with eyeshadow; and then once after mascara."
- 3. Follow your eye shape**
If you're doing a multi-shade smoky eye and you have a monolid, without an upper eyelid crease, apply the colours horizontally along the lid. "Go from darkest to lightest, from lash line to brow," explains Patterson. On a double eyelid with visible folds, start at the inner corner and work your way out, applying shades from light to dark.

ONLINE
WATCH IRENE
KIM CREATE THIS
LOOK—PLUS,
GLITTER BROWS!
THEKIT.CA/IRENE-KIM

GET THE LOOK

A step-by-step guide to Irene Kim's emerald eye



1. Use your fingers to dab cream shadow from your lash line to a third of the way up your lids.



2. Blend colour upward and outward with a small fluffy brush, extending past the outer corner of the eye and tapering at the ends for a cat-eye shape. Brush a little along the lower lash line, from outer corners inward.



3. Press loose metallic powder shadow on top of the cream using a flat eyeshadow brush for a shimmering finish.



THE ESTÉE EDIT BY ESTÉE LAUDER METALLIC SHADOW CRÈME + POWDER IN AQUANOVA, \$28, SEPHORA.CA



ONE-MINUTE MIRACLE

Dear Rodan + Fields Redefine Age Shield Hand Balm, I'm a little paranoid about the backs of my hands. I know that they're vulnerable to dark spots, since they're constantly exposed to hyperpigmentation-causing UV rays, and the sunscreen I apply in the morning is degraded every time I wash my hands. So your handy stick format appealed to me, as did your SPF 30 protection, non-greasy balm-like texture and fresh summery scent. I can keep you in my purse and swipe you on as often as my paranoid heart desires. (Which is a lot.)
Yours, Rani Sheen

RODAN + FIELDS REDEFINE AGE SHIELD HAND BALM SPF 30, \$51, RODANANDFIELDS.COM



Dion remained glitzy in an eye-catching sequined suit for a *Today Show* concert in July.

SPOTLIGHT QUEEN CÉLINE

Proof that Céline Dion has always been a fashion icon

BY VERONICA SAROLI

Phoebe Philo, take note: There's another Céline taking Paris by storm. After Céline Dion tapped Zendaya's stylist Law Roach this summer, the Canadian icon underwent a wardrobe overhaul that launched the 48-year-old into mega-fashion stardom in a matter of hours.

Dion was sitting front row at Giambattista Valli during Haute Couture Week in Paris one day (giving a double-thumbs-up plus standing ovation for good measure), then wearing a lime-green Balenciaga dress before anyone else the next. And she sealed her fashion stardom with a meta-fabulous act: donning an uber-cool Vetements *Titanic* sweatshirt. Yes, that *Titanic*.

Dion was a proponent of doing her thing before doing your own thing was cool and, sure, she's looked a little dorky at times, but this transformation—and subsequent recognition—feels equal parts endearing and totally earned, because we knew she had it in her all along.

We charted the chart-topper's impeccable fashion history. If you've ever made a joke about Dion's style (we've all been there), it's time to eat your words.



1983
Before the hits: a fresh-faced 15-year-old Dion looking bucolic in Cannes. This dress is giving us current season Balenciaga vibes.

1999
This backwards Christian Dior tux tends to make worst-dressed lists. But picture it on Rihanna today! Besides, Dion scored an Academy Award for "My Heart Will Go On" that night.

2002
Does this head-to-toe red look say *Divas Las Vegas* or what? Before she had a show in the city, Dion took the stage for VH1's iconic show in pitch-perfect character.

2003
Dion fearlessly went platinum for the Billboard Music Awards. Her exposed hips now bring to mind Kendall Jenner's Fausto Puglisi dress at the 2014 MMVA awards.

2007
The singer went through seven costume changes during the final performance of her "A New Day" show at Caesars Palace. Ticket sales were more than \$400 million over five years.

2015
Dion returned to her residency at Caesars Palace with a stage wardrobe teeming with shimmering Armani Privé, Atelier Versace, Balmain and Sergio Rossi.

2016
This summer, Dion partook in the *crème de la crème* of fashion events, Haute Couture Week, and established herself as the latest It girl. It's only a matter of time before she lands a major campaign.

FRAGRANCE

Paint and sniff

Scented makeup is bringing a new sweet sensation to your beauty routine

BY JILL DUNN

If you close your eyes and think about what your grandmother smelled like when you were a child, chances are you'll think of her perfume but also her lipstick or rouge. Fine fragrance and makeup have been cross-pollinating on dressing tables for decades, but recently this feminine partnership has become more creative and nuanced.

Initially, scent was used in cosmetics to mask the odours of the base materials rather than to enhance the user's experience—and to a degree, this is still true. But many high-profile perfumers are now designing elegant scents specifically for makeup. "When I think of my mother's lipstick, I think of rose and violet," says master perfumer Francis Kurkdjian, who is in the process of developing cosmetics for his own line. But creating a perfume is very different from engineering a fragrance for makeup—the former is meant to be an element of self-expression and linger all day; the latter is a fleeting sensation meant to enhance application. "Since makeup comes very close to the nose, the scent should not be overwhelming," says Ruhi Patil, perfumer at International Flavors and Fragrances, which creates scents for brands such as Clean. "It should be easy and subtle."

The biggest difference, however, lies in the ingredients. Many of the notes used in makeup, which comes in close contact with the mouth or eyes, are

food grade, such as vanilla. "For makeup, the ingredient palette is quite limited for toxicological reasons, and for lipstick and eye makeup, it is even more restricted," says Patil. But Kurkdjian points out that the perfumer's palette is much more plentiful than it used to be. "If I wanted to create a peach scent for a lip gloss 50 years ago, I'd have had three ingredients to use. Now I have maybe 25, so the scent is juicier," he explains.

In recent years, makeup has taken its scent cues more from the world of flavours, perhaps because the two have much in common. "The texture of lipstick and yogurt is more or less the same—it's fat," says Kurkdjian. "You can take strawberry flavouring for yogurt and adapt it to lipstick. There it has more bloom and is more luminous, less flat."

That addictive scent has benefits beyond a quick sniff. Patel says it gives a familiarity and comfort when you use the same gloss every day or signals excitement when you try a new purchase. But the most bankable benefit: Smell is the easiest way to sleuth out counterfeit makeup. One sniff of a lipstick bullet and you'll know if it's M.A.C.'s vanilla or a cheap imposter.

“When I think of my mother’s lipstick, I think of rose and violet.”
—Francis Kurkdjian

SCENTS THAT SMELL LIKE COSMETICS

Recently, the tables have turned and makeup is inspiring fine fragrance. Valentino's latest is inspired by the smell of a cosmetic compact, while Maison Margiela Replica Lipstick On contains bergamot oil and orange flower absolute, which was designed to evoke the experience of swiping on lipstick in a sexy boudoir. And when Chanel's perfumer Olivier Polge dreamed up Les Exclusifs de Chanel Misia, he wanted to emulate the smell of the powdery makeup that filled the air backstage at the Ballets Russes (think violet and rose notes).

LES EXCLUSIFS DE CHANEL MISIA EAU DE PARFUM, \$340 (100 ML), CHANEL BEAUTY COUNTERS. MAISON MARGIELA REPLICA LIPSTICK ON EAU DE TOILETTE, \$125 (100 ML), THEBAY.COM. PRADA OLFACORIES TAINTED LOVE EAU DE PARFUM, \$385 (100 ML), PRADA BOUTIQUES. VALENTINO VALENTINA POUDRE EAU DE PARFUM, \$125 (80 ML), THEBAY.COM. EDITIONS DE PARFUMS FREDERIC MALLE LIPSTICK ROSE EAU DE PARFUM, \$298 (50 ML), HOLT RENFREW.COM



MAKEUP TO HOLD UNDER YOUR NOSE

Inspired by Guerlain's La Petite Robe Noire fragrance, the brand's new makeup collection emulates the sweetness of its black cherry, almond and berry notes and is flavoured with stevia to give a natural sweet taste.

GUERLAIN LA PETITE ROBE NOIRE DELICIOUSLY SHINY LIP COLOUR IN RED HEELS, \$37, GUERLAIN COUNTERS

Each of the 14 Lancôme Juicy Shaker shades has a unique scent to match—Mangoes Wild smells like mangoes, Mint To Be smells like a fresh mint julep and Boom Meringue is reminiscent of vanilla frosting.

LANCÔME PARIS JUICY SHAKER, \$28, LANCOME.CA

Rimmel London Wonder'Lash Lift Me Up Mascara contains cucumber extract that you can smell as you swipe it on your lashes—it actually does make you feel more wide-eyed.

RIMMEL LONDON WONDER'LASH LIFT ME UP MASCARA, \$9, DRUGSTORES

Clé de Peau's new nail enamels are scented with rose. But don't sniff your nails until they dry; that's when the scent unfolds.

CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ NAIL LACQUER IN HOT PINK, \$35, HOLT RENFREW

TEST DRIVE

BEYOND THE PALE

One writer takes the plunge and lightens her brows

BY JULIA LECONTE



Clockwise from top: Cara Delevingne at Givenchy, Jing Wen at Dsquared2, Bella Hadid and Kendall Jenner at Givenchy.

Like so many fashion week fads, the bleached brows rocked by Kendall Jenner, Cara Delevingne and Bella Hadid on the fall runways seem better suited to otherworldly supermodels than to mere mortals. So when I was asked to test drive the look, I was apprehensive.

I did, however, have a glitzy film event to go to in Toronto and was intrigued by the high-drama potential of barely-there brows. So I went to see Victoria Radford, makeup artist and owner of Radford salon, who thought bold eyes and muted brows would suit my large features. She strongly recommended not actually bleaching my brows but muting them with makeup.

"I've maybe told two people in my entire lifetime that they would look good with bleached eyebrows," said Radford. "The more iciness you have in your hair, the more attractive it is. If you have any warmth in your hair and you take out the warmth in your eyebrows, it looks like you did a paint-by-numbers." She also

pointed out that the look is high-maintenance. "You need to put on more makeup and mascara, for contrast."

On the day of the gala, Radford's colleague Nicole Grittani gave me dark eyes with extra lashes, a bold lip and washed-out brows. To my surprise

Sick? Old? Like a five-year-old who took a razor to her eyebrows? It's hard to place, but something looks off.

(not that anyone could tell from my expression), nobody called out my missing facial feature—my Instagram comments were all directed toward the gorgeous makeup. Success!

I loved the dramatic look, and, feeling emboldened back home in Edmonton, I decided to take the plunge at L. Lash Bar, which specializes in lashes and brows. Owner Jessi Love carefully painted on Blonde Brow—a salon product—and I lay still for 20 minutes. Unlike blonde hair dye, it was tingle-free. By the end, I had soft, light-blond brows that more or less matched my skin. Two artists in the salon immediately wanted the look.

After all, Radford was right: First thing in the morning, my skin's red undertone is extra prominent and I look wrong. Sick? Old? Like a five-year-old who took a razor to her eyebrows? It's

hard to place, but something looks off. But once I've defined my other features, the barely-there brows are fun. I've found myself experimenting more with my makeup—coloured eyeliner really pops. So I'm in no rush to go back to natural. That said, my brows haven't started growing in yet...



How to fake it

If you're not brave enough to bleach, approximate the look with makeup—just use a pale pomade or gel to coat the hairs and lighten them up.

FROM LEFT: BENEFIT 3D BROWTONES EYEBROW ENHANCER IN LIGHT/MEDIUM, \$30, BENEFIT-COSMETICS.COM.

RADFORD COLLECTION BROW TINT IN BLONDE LITES, \$29, VICTORIARADFORD.COM

MAYBELLINE BROW DRAMA POMADE CRAYON IN BLONDE, \$12, DRUGSTORES

TIPS FROM THE PROS

Don't try bleaching or lightening your brows at home! Here's what you need to know:

1. See an expert "You could lose your eyesight by using the wrong kind of bleach on your eyes," says Maybelline New York eyebrow specialist Maribeth Madron. "And if you're doing it for

too long, the hairs could fall out." Madron suggests lightening brows rather than full-on bleaching them out. "When I lighten eyebrows professionally, I might put a coat on for one

minute to soften a colour, just to add a highlighted look. If you're a brunette who's bleached your hair and your eyebrows look artificial, you might soften for two minutes."

2. Blondes will have more fun "This look is definitely better for blondes," says Radford. "If you're a

brunette and you dye your eyebrows light, it will look very obvious."

3. Bleach can work as a bridge to better brows If you have blonde hair and are trying to grow over-plucked eyebrows back in, lightening the regrowth is a great way to help it blend, says Radford.

4. Once you bleach, it's hard to dye them back "You can try to put the brown back, but it's always going to look different," says Radford. "If your eyebrows are ashy, it would be impossible. I could make them brown, but it would look flat and probably a little darker or a little warmer."

5. Swim with caution "When brows have been lightened and dyed darker again, if you go to the beach, they're going to turn red," says Madron. "Just like hair highlights go brassy, your brows are going to go brassy. Usually you have to wait a full growth cycle of four months to come back to your natural colour."

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