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Individuality ~ This Year's Major Trend How to bring out your own style!

Interview with Randy Currie of Currie Hair'Skin'Nails ~ by Lisa Le

When trying to find a new look do you feel overwhelmed by the wide array of hairstyle trends you've seen in magazine, television? Every woman you see has a different hairstyle and different haircolor. What are the major trends this year and which one's should you try? Shorter hairstyles have been seen on runways and celebrities such as playful crops, asymmetrical bobs, blunt cuts and razored ends. Haircolor this year is taking a walk on the wild side. Flat one-dimensional color and plain highlighting is being replaced by multidimensional highlights and streaks of red, blond and bronze. Blonds are no longer limited to beach and platinum shades we're seeing beige blonds mixed with gold and even blonds with brown and red lowlights.

Randy Currie hair design expert and owner of Currie Hair'Skin'Nails, says this year's major trend is "Not one hairstyle, but a multitude of hairstyles. Individuality is the focus. If you want short hair, long hair or a different haircolor, go ahead and express yourself!" There is no wrong way to go. Hair is a nonverbal expression that shows others what you're about. A vibrant haircolor makes a strong statement that you're unique and not afraid to try new things. The right haircolor can also bring out a fabulous haircut and can accentuate your skin tone. An edgy or stylish haircut does wonders to framing facial shapes and bringing out striking features. What are the things you should consider before you snip, perm or color your hair? How do you develop your own individual style? Randy has some expert advice for you. Remember these three key words when creating your own individual style: **Find, Consider and Remember.**

Find The Haircut You Like – According to Currie, "The trendiest way to cut hair right now is disconnecting, where hair is layered in different thickness and lengths to add texture to the hair". Another trendy method is called undercutting, where hair on the top is longer than hair underneath. These haircutting techniques work well on all hair lengths and hair types. Now that you know what cut you like finding out what length you prefer is the next step. If you want a haircut that will enhance your chiseled jawline, striking eyes or gives you major confidence in your appearance then try short hair which looks great on almost every woman and is easy to care for. There are an endless number of ways to cut and style short hair.

Short hair – Crop style haircuts are a good choice for women with straight or curly hair. If you want to keep your hair conservative just apply moose to damp hair and blowdry. If you want to really be stylish, spike the tips of hair in different directions with styling gel or pomade. The Bob is no longer boring and conservative like it was in the past. Today's Bobs are chin length or shorter. They're cut blunt, piicy or even asymmetrical. The Bob is a great alternative for women who are timid about cutting their hair really short because they can still be longer than chin length.

Middle length hair - is hair to the shoulders or a little below shoulders. Layers and texture creates a stylish look for mid-length hair. Instead of blunt cuts ask your stylist for razored or vertically sliced edges because they give hair more movement and texture. Middle length hair is also the perfect length for women who don't want long hair but still want to be able to tie it back or style it for a special occasion. Razored edges gives midlength hair a contemporary look when worn straight. For a really creative or daring look you could blowdry razored ends flipped out followed by defining a few ends with ARTEc pomade.

Long hair - is the ultimate feminine look and will never go out of style. Long hair worn smooth and straight is always in style. You could achieve smooth hair by blow-drying it with a large round brush then smoothing a few drops of shine enhancer or anti-frizz serum to you hair. Long curly hair is also fashionable and can be worn loose like Sarah Michelle Gellar or big and curly like Debra Messing. To get Debra's natural look apply moose to damp hair and scrunch hair while drying it with a diffuser. For Sarah's look blow dry hair with a large round brush and finish it by curling sections of hair vertically with a 1" curling iron. Whether straight or curly, long hair will benefit from layers. Fine hair could appear thicker with layers because layering adds more texture to hair. Layers can also remove excess bulk from heavier thicker hair. If all over layers aren't your thing have your hair graduated. This technique cuts subsections of hair in layers longer from the inner layer to the outer layer. That way you have hidden layers that add volume to your hair and still keep the long length you crave.

Consider A Fabulous Haircolor – Now that you have chosen the right haircut consider having your hair colored. Currie explains, “Haircolor is a great way to boost overall individual style.” Haircolor catches the eye, brings out the haircut and adds texture to hair because it reflects light. Haircolor also accentuates your complexion like makeup. Hair color is an accessory and depending on the shade it can contrast or brighten up your complexion.

Now that you know the benefits of haircolor the next step is to determine which haircolor technique or shades would work best for you. Highlighting is always fashionable. It updates any hairstyle. Chunking and streaking are very popular right now. Chunking or streaking is when subsections of hair are lightened or colored. If you don't want a total drastic haircolor change chunking or streaking are great choices for you. The look is incredibly fashionable when you style your hair up leaving a few strands of hair down. Chunking or streaking the inner layer of the hair dark while leaving the top of the hair blond is also a big trend to watch for right now.

Knowing what color to chunk or streak your hair is very important. Dramatic and bold colors in reds, blonds, and bronzes are very hot right now. Red was the fastest fading color but with the advanced color locking technology built into shampoos, conditioners and styling products there are no more worries. Red is the best color for hair because of the variety of shades it comes in can look great on all different skintones. Red comes in a variety of shades ranging from red red, orange red to violet red. Blonds now include multidimensional weaves of different shades of blond through hair to give it the ultimate shine you see in ads and on television. Combining different shades such as beige, gold, and sunny blond transform an ordinary haircut to a more fashionable hairstyle.

Remember These Tips – Consider the following hairstyling tips when creating your own style. Inspiration for hairstyles comes from people we observe in magazines, the media, and on the streets. In order for something to be truly individual you have to be able to incorporate it into your life. That means just because we see something we like on another person doesn't mean it would be right on us. For instance certain hairstyles can be worn by people with thick hair but when we try it our hair always ends up flat and limp by the end of the day. It is important to consider the amount of time you will spend on your hair. If a certain trend takes up too much of your time to style when you're a person pressed on time, don't follow that trend. Trends may look good but when you have to spend big bucks and time on it, an unwanted consequence to this is added stress to your life.

Expressing Yourself – Currie provides these final steps to completing your hairstyle change.

1. **Schedule a personal consultation with your hairstylist.** He or she will know your hair type and help you figure out if the hairstyle you want will suit you. It is very wise to have expert advice on a drastic change like a new hairstyle. We take our best friends shopping to get their opinion, that's why we need our stylist when it comes to hair! We take our best friends shopping to get their opinion, that's why we need our stylist when it comes to hair! They want you to look good because when you look good you'll feel good!
2. **Bring in a picture of the hairstyle you want.** This is important because it provides a visual for your hairstylist so that he or she will know exactly what you want done.
3. **Finally, before you cut or color your hair speak up!** Ask questions such as “how much will it take to maintain your new hairstyle or how much time will it take to style everyday?” Also make sure your hairstylist knows what you have in mind. It's your individual style your hairstylist is there to morally support your individual expression.
4. **Ask your hairstylists to recommend hairstyling products.** Asking your hairstylist to recommend which professional shampoos, conditioners, and styling products to use helps you save time on figuring out what to buy. Redken has a wonderful line of color protectant products to preserve your new haircolor.

Here are some final comments from Currie. He says “Don't be afraid to try something new. As cliché as it sounds, you never know what you like or don't like unless you try it.” We change our wardrobe according to each season, we follow the latest fashions and we find clothes that will flatter our figure the best. Why not choose a hairstyle that will reveal your true beauty? Don't let a dull or drab hairstyle hide your true self! Let your hair make a statement. Express yourself let other see you as a unique individual!

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