

SALON

INTERNATIONAL

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IMAGES Multimedia Pvt Ltd (CIN:- U22122DL2003PTC120097)
Registered Office: S-21, Okhla Industrial Area Phase II, New Delhi 110020
Ph: +91 11 40525000, Fax: +91 11 40525001
Email: info@imagesgroup.in, Website: www.imagesgroup.in
Mumbai: 1st Floor, Panchal Iron Works, Plot No.: 11/1/3 Marol Co op Industrial Estate, Marol, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400 059, Ph: +91 22 28508070/71, Fax: +91 22 28508072
Bengaluru: 523, 7th Cross, 10th Main, (Jeevanbhima Nagar Main Road), HAL 3rd Stage, Bengaluru 560 075, Ph: +91 80 41255172/41750595/96, Fax: +91 80 41255182
Kolkata: 30-B, Anil Roy Road, Ground Floor, Kolkata 700 029
Ph: +91 33 40080480, Fax: +91 33 40080440

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Milano, www.salon-international.net

For subscriptions: subscription@imagesgroup.in
For feedback/editorial queries: letter2editor@imagesgroup.in

International Women's Day (IWD), originally called International Working Women's Day, is celebrated on March 8 every year. In different regions the focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and social achievements.

At Salon International India, we take this opportunity to salute the women entrepreneurs, who have marched and reached milestones hitherto unheard of. Veterans like Shahnaz Husain, Dr Blossom Kocchar, Nalini Negamwala, Bharti Taneja, Lata Khanchandani and recent entrants like Vaishali K Shah, Sonali Bhambri and Nalini Kalra, among others, have persevered hard to be in the top echelons of the industry and are continuing to stride ahead in the face of constant challenges that our beauty and wellness industry is strife with. We present a leaf from their lives, and how against all odds they have carved their names in gold. They serve as beacons of light, as inspirations and role models for others who wish to follow in their footsteps.

In the interview section, we meet Joanne O'Neill, stylist and owner of Joanne O'Neill Hairdressing in UK. Through sheer grit and passion for her craft, this enterprising lady has studied and trained in hairdressing with help from her mentors. Darren Ambrose, a well-known hairdresser, has created history with the Veneration Collection. We present the mesmerising photo essay for our readers. On the home front, we have Jammy Fernando, who learnt the ropes early in life and has progressed to be at Vurve Salon. With an enviable list of Kollywood actors as clients, Fernando is humble and attributes his success to his mentors who he met at work. Alex Rachid Redgem, stylist extraordinaire, shares his story with us and how he is today, on the top of his game.

In make-up and beauty, we have Samer Khouzami, an independent celebrity make-up artist, who shares his amazing journey with us, which will undoubtedly, be a motivation for aspirants to enter the field of make-up.

We also offer an insight into the now famous technique of using coloured eyeliners for eye make-up. Renowned make-up artist Sheena Aggarwal shares six novel ways of getting it right.

We showcase the ESPA at The Leela Palace Chennai. Quiet and peaceful, the spa has design elements which are steeped in tradition, yet blended effortlessly with the contemporary trends of the hotel.

All this and lots more in this issue. Do keep writing in and hey, do look up our FB and Twitter pages!



Hair by Tracey Devine Smith for Affinage AW 2015

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new launches. products. people. events.
shows. reviews. celebrations...

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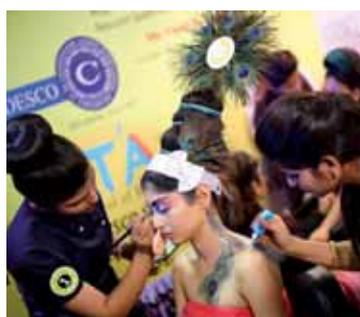
MATRIX launches the Haircare Pro App

We all face different hair problems at different stages of our lives, such as hair fall and damaged hair or seasonal hair concerns like frizz, dryness and dullness. In order to combat these concerns, we often choose the professional customised treatment recommended by our hairdressers. Most salons recommend an in-salon treatment that would tackle only one hair problem. However today, most consumers face more than one hair concern at the same time. As a hairdresser it isn't easy to provide a customised solution to tackle two or more hair problems in one in-salon treatment. In order to circumvent this issue, Haircare Pro App launched by MATRIX, is India's first professional hair care consultation App. Easy to use and with plenty of features, it works simply. After an initial discussion with the client, the hairdresser needs to answer two simple questions, one, the client's primary hair or scalp concern and then the secondary hair or scalp concern. The key features of this App are that it provides a customised in-salon treatment. Basis the



primary and secondary hair concerns faced by the client, MATRIX Haircare Pro App provides a step-by-step guide to mix and match MATRIX products to address both the hair concerns in one unique customised treatment. It showcases the benefits of the treatment and involves clients in the expected results from the treatments and recommends the ideal number of sittings or visits required by the client for the treatment suggested by the App. The hair care experts at MATRIX also suggest home care sets to help tackle both the hair concerns simultaneously. The App also highlights the sequence in which the home care product needs to be used. Not only that, the Haircare Pro App also records clients' information and tracks their hair care history to keep the hairdressers updated on the concerns and what all they have been already treated with. Available exclusively for

MATRIX salons, the Haircare Pro App is designed to simplify diagnosis and consultation for salon professionals. Now you can mix and match products to address two hair concerns in one in-salon treatment.



LTA School of Beauty students shine at show

At a recently concluded professional exhibition, a make-up and hair show was presented by the students of LTA School of Beauty. Nearly 50 students, who were undergoing the Salon Graduate Program (SGP), presented fantasy make-up, hair styling and updos and bridal make-up showcased their skills. Hundreds of visitors stood by for hours to catch glimpses of the immensely talented LTA student's work and applauded their talent.



Avon India has a new MD

Direct selling firm Avon India has elevated Rahul Shanker as its new Managing Director. Shanker joined Avon in 2013 as Director for Sales and Strategy and succeeds outgoing Managing Director, Romulus Sirbu. Sirbu is moving to head Avon, Malaysia. The US\$8 billion Avon sells cosmetics and beauty products. In India, however, it remains a small player.



Himalaya Drug Co now offers a wellness range

The Himalaya Drug Company has carved a new 'Wellness range', bringing together a range of products in its therapeutics and consumer health portfolio. It includes single herb formulations or 'pure herbs' to therapeutic massage oils, balms and creams. Meant for the health conscious and those who lead a hectic and largely sedentary life, it's geared to address lifestyle-related health concerns arising out of an urban, fast paced life.



Wellness programmes at Ananda in the Himalayas

Nestled in Rihikesh, Ananda in the Himalayas wellness programmes recreate the synergy of mind body and intellect not just through the natural Himalayan locales, but through the rejuvenating and ancient processes and philosophies of Ayurveda, Yoga and Vedanta. They are offering several wellness programmes, such as Ananda Detox-Starter, Ananda Detox, Yogic Detox, Ananda Weight Management, Ananda Ayurvedic Rejuvenation to Ananda Stress Management, Ananda Active and Ananda Yoga – there is something for everyone. The wellness programmes are customised to suit your specific body type in order to effectively achieve your desired goal and are available for durations of four days to three weeks.



Joanne O'Neill

Ace of Avant Garde Styles

She runs a salon, she presents several shows and still finds time to create mood boards of avant garde hairstyles in her very little spare time. Meet Joanne O'Neill, Owner of Joanne O'Neill Hairdressing, an artist with passion and drive in her blood

by **Aradhana V Bhatnagar**

How did you get interested in hair dressing?

I grew up in the 80s, which was a decade of experimentation, excitement and innovation with icons such as Madonna, David Bowie, Duran Duran! I love music, fashion, art and travel. I experimented with style and image on my friends and discovered that hair was the best medium to express myself artistically.

Tell us about how it all started.

After completing my City & Guilds, I discovered hair competitions through the salon I worked at on Saturdays. My boss was a great support, sharing techniques and introducing me to a catalogue of hair magazines which I discovered were created by Vidal Sassoon and Trevor Sorbie. Belfast in the late 80s early 90s wasn't a hive of hairdressing courses. I attended courses run mainly by Wella and a few other product companies. I entered a competition and won my place

on the National Hairdressers Federation London Hair Team 'Inspire'. I was on the team for 10 years and travelled the UK, Ireland and Europe, presenting hair demonstrations for product companies. Education is power and the more you get, the more you achieve and I love to share my skills and experience with hairdressing colleges and salons. My first job was with the biggest salon in my local town, Ballymena. 'Sticky's' was at the cutting-edge of hair fashion and I pursued the boss to get the job of a junior.

Who all have been your mentors?

I have been very fortunate to have been mentored by some of the best hairdressers in the world including, Akin Konizi, Bruce Masefield Sassoon Creative Director and Sean Dawson.



Jammy Fernando

Paragon of Style

Jammy Fernando, Director, Vurve Signature Salon, Chennai, is a young and dynamic style prodigy. Fernando has built an efficient and dedicated team at Vurve and has a few reputed awards in his kitty, too! He speaks exclusively with *Salon International* about his journey, craft, latest trends and more

by Shivpriya Bajpai

Please tell us about your professional background.

I have over 17 years of experience in the salon industry. I have been trained at Toni&Guy, UK and Singapore, hairdressing and hair colouring from the Schwarzkopf Academy in Tokyo. In India, I've undergone training with Denis Holbeck, Vipul Chudasama for basic and advanced haircuts and long hairdressing and also undertaken L'Oréal Professionnel's Creative Colouring course. I have also worked closely with Ventuno, an online video content set up to produce makeover and training videos for hair makeovers.

How did you get started in the hairstyling industry? Who has been the driving force in your life to choose this career?

The driving force has been my sister and friends. When I didn't know which career to choose, my sister got me a job in a salon in Sri Lanka.

What were the challenges you have faced back then? And how did you overcome them?

Challenges were many, like, language, skills, education, competition, and more. Once you see them as an area of opportunity to learn, build and improve, it just started becoming favourable for me to pick up.

Please tell us about all the places, salons and events where had you worked?

I have worked for Nayana Salon, Naturals and now am at Vurve. I had also been associated with reputed brands as their ambassador, like,



Schwarzkopf and Kérastase. I also did many interesting shows and events for MATRIX and L'Oréal Professionnel, a look-book shoot for Basics clothing line and also conceptualised the look for actors in Kollywood.

Tell us about your current role and responsibility.

As a Salon Director at Vurve, I am involved in giving stellar haircuts, keratin treatments and fusion extensions. Directing photo and video shoots, fashion and trade shows as well as facilitating advanced academy classes for my team, I do it all.



Leading Ladies

Women Entrepreneurs of India

The beauty and wellness industry of India is said to be booming. It has made it thus far because a few disciplined, forceful women who knew their minds decided to be a part of it. *Salon India* congratulates these beacons of light and showcases their strengths to serve as an example for the numerous other women waiting in the wings for their share of the limelight

by **Aradhana V Bhatnagar**

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Darren Ambrose

Collection 'Veneration'

About the stylist

Darren Ambrose is one of British hairdressing's creative leaders. The winner of no less than five British Hairdressing Awards, he produces some of the most jaw dropping photographic work in the world alongside the wearable styles he gives his clients at his busy Pinner salon.

A Global Ambassador for Wella Professional, Ambrose has recently presented shows in Russia, China and New York where he holds audiences rapt with his technical abilities. His team shows all the winning potential you would expect under his mentoring.

Alongside wife Jackie, Ambrose is driven by a love of fashion and the duo's business is motivated by this passion over and above anything else – this in no small part is what attracts such a host of talent to the salon as they all cite the creativity and investment made into photoshoots and artistic pursuits.

About the collection

'Veneration' is an evolution of homage paid to strong iconic women through the ages and celebrates them by capturing them as oil paintings on canvas by using an amalgamation of colour technique and couture.

Tools and products used

Says Ambrose, "Using Eimi from Wella, I used mainly dry shampoos, natural volume mousses, and a rugged fit dry cream clay to add texture. Techniques and tools are mainly fingers for natural drying and irons for marcel flat waving. I used the spindle locking technique, twisting hair and running the irons through to seal and the flat iron for retro marcel wave, but with a flatter finish."

The future

On his next collection, shares Ambrose, "I'm currently collecting ideas so won't be able to disclose exactly what I'm working on, but it's very exciting!" 

Credits:

Hair: Darren Ambrose
Make-up: Mary Jane Frost
Photographer: Jenny Hands



Michelle Salins

Sensuous Silhouettes

Meet Michelle Salins, the young and dynamic fashion designer from Bangalore. Salins' speaks exclusively with *Salon India* about her journey, craft and more



How did you get started in the fashion business?

I've always had a passion to learn and master apparel construction. I started my label in 2009.

Tell us something about your collection.

My clothes are an expression of the kind of woman I am and the woman whom I like to dress. She is confident, yet subtle, she understands and knows her sensuality and individuality and is traditional at heart.

How important are hair and make-up in fashion?

I would say both are equally important. Just as a person's silhouette is moulded by a garment and creates the style, similarly make-up brings out the perfect contours of the face with an inspired hairstyle. This gives you a complete fashion look!

Which international designer is your inspiration and why?

I've always liked Jean Paul Gaultier for his extravagance. I also like the detail and contemporary elegance of Chanel and Dior. Their feminine silhouettes and small, but detailed, ornamentation, has intrigued me.

Which has been the the most outrageous look?

Honestly, I cannot think of any! My clothes are very wearable and if we do craft only runway pieces, it surely has a sense of femininity and sensuality.

How do you strike a balance between Runway and Real?

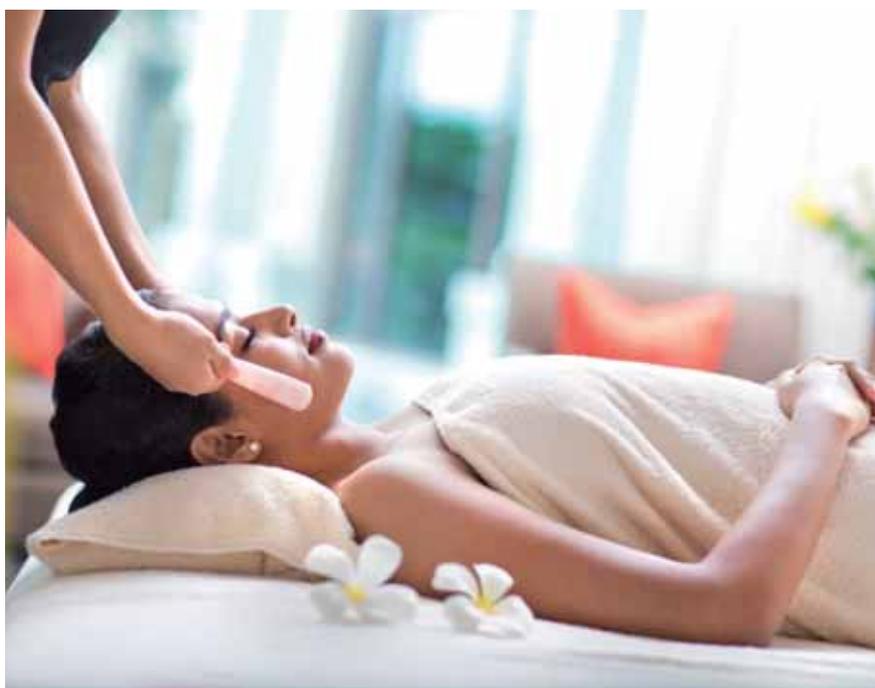
My clothes are usually wearable with a touch of sensuality. So what I put on the runway can either be worn by a real person with a bit of tweaking for an evening out.

Who are the make-up artists you usually work with?

At Fashion Weeks, usually there are hired professionals. So, basically we have an inspired look which is shared and pranced the day before the show. For our personal shoots, I'm open to trying new talent, so I look at people's work and hire their services.

What are your future plans? Do you plan to be involved in the cosmetic and hair industry of India?

Future plans include starting a line of footwear. With cosmetics, I would be happy to be a part of the American brand, Shaklee when it comes to India. 📍



ESPA at The Leela Palace Chennai

Eclectic Grandeur

Set against the azure blue seas of the Bay of Bengal with lush manicured gardens, ESPA at The Leela Palace in Chennai, is an escapade from the mundane to serenity

by **Shivpriya Bajpai**

Size of the spa: 16,000 sq ft

Time taken to construct the spa: One and a half years.

About the spa: The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts, India's leading luxury hotel group, has added another world class product to its offerings with the opening of ESPA at The Leela Palace, Chennai. The spa combines the best in wellness with innovative design, making it one-of-a-kind urban sanctuary. It is among the first in the country to elevate the concept of 'thermal suites' based on the ancient spa wisdom of healing through water. The expansive suites, separate for men and women, feature deep, dynamic vitality pools with lounge beds and body jets, shimmering glass mosaic steam rooms, state-of-the-



art circular oakwood saunas, stimulating rain showers and luxurious relaxation areas. The hydrotherapies are recommended to prepare for a spa journey and bring the body to perfect synergy and equilibrium.

Design elements: Ensnored within the award-winning The Leela Palace, Chennai, the 12-room ESPA, designed by Jeffrey Wilkes of DesignWilkes and Madhu Nair of TheLeela, is an urban oasis of tranquility where one can find the inner self in the heart of a bustling city. The spa is modern and fresh, a meandering sanctuary with secret retreats, dedicated to the beauty of the mind and body. The spa's grand design and bespoke furnishings blend in harmoniously with the hand-picked collectible art pieces by celebrated artists, Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi, Alex Davies and Chameli Ramachandran,

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