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September. A beautiful time of the year when you can feel the weather change, the fervour of festivity is high as is the sense of anticipation. In a bid to look and feel good, a pampering session at a spa or wellness centre seems most befitting. With this in mind, in the September issue of Salon International-India, the country's premier business-to-business beauty and wellness magazine, we present our focus story.

The spa and wellness industry is on the rise due to a number of reasons, like, awareness created by the Internet, everyone wants to look and feel young and healthy, rising disposable income of those aged 25, to name a few. Therefore, not only do we see a proliferation of day spas and wellness centres, we also see a boom in destination spas. There are more spa-used brands today, both domestic and international. However, the challenge that the industry faces is of finding skilled therapists, hence some spa academies have also come up. We speak to top brands and industry stakeholders in the business to learn more.

In the hair section, Michael Piastrino and Adrian Rotolo of Ibiza Hair in Melbourne, Australia are a young and dynamic team. They have kicked up quite a storm by winning prestigious industry-organised awards. In a mesmeising photo essay, we present international celebrity hairstylist from Syria, Elie Kashi, who presents 'Sumood', a hair collection that reflects the war ravaged nation. Full marks to the hairstylist's creativity and zeal to live! Closer home, Creative Director, NEU Salonz in Gurgaon, Brij Kishor is on an incredible journey to bring Indian hairdressing on the world map. He brings in latest trends and techniques for his clients and to educate his team.

In the beauty section, Vardan Nayak is one of the most sought after make-up artists in Bollywood. He shares his professional journey with us; Minash Bablani, Founder, Ellement Co. shares her views on the salon and beauty industry, brand USP, and more; Dr Viral Desai, Celebrity Cosmetic Surgeon, DHI India and CPLSS, shares his views on Butt Implant as a trending aesthetic procedure; Product launches in skin care, and more. Best known for her supporting work in mainstream productions and roles in independent films, Swara Bhaskar shares her skin care and beauty mantras.

In our spa section, the Bodhi Spa at Radisson Blu Resort Temple Bay, Mamallapuram specialises in traditional art of healing and offers a wide range of services including, signature massages, Ayurvedic therapies, body wraps, and more. The rustic nature-inspired interiors transport clients to a tranquil haven; Spa Manager, Alila Diwa Goa, Dr Arjita Kumari shares her view on the spa industry of India; Best selling spa therapies; Spa packages and more.

All this and more in a visually delightful issue. Keep reading and liking on Facebook and Insta!



Hair and photo:
Mark Leeson

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Michael Piastrino and Adrian Rotolo

Brothers in Arms

Michael Piastrino and Adrian Rotolo of Ibiza Hair in Melbourne, Australia are a young and dynamic team. They have kicked up quite a storm down under by winning prestigious industry-organised awards. In conversation with *Salon India*, they share their independent beginnings and the coming together at Ibiza Hair

by Aradhana V Bhatnagar

How did you decide to be a part of the hair business?

MP: My mother is a hairdresser and while growing up, I spent a lot of time in the salon. I loved seeing what she created as an artist. So, very early in life I knew I wanted to become a hairdresser.

AR: When I was growing up, I was learning to be a dancer. I attended an arts-focused high school in Adelaide, South Australia. I tried out some visual arts and found I was interested in painting and colour.

Post the course,

I joined Yellow Strawberry, a family friend owned a salon, which specialised in French Balayage techniques at a time when Balayage had been forgotten. I quickly developed a talent for the technique and mastered it.

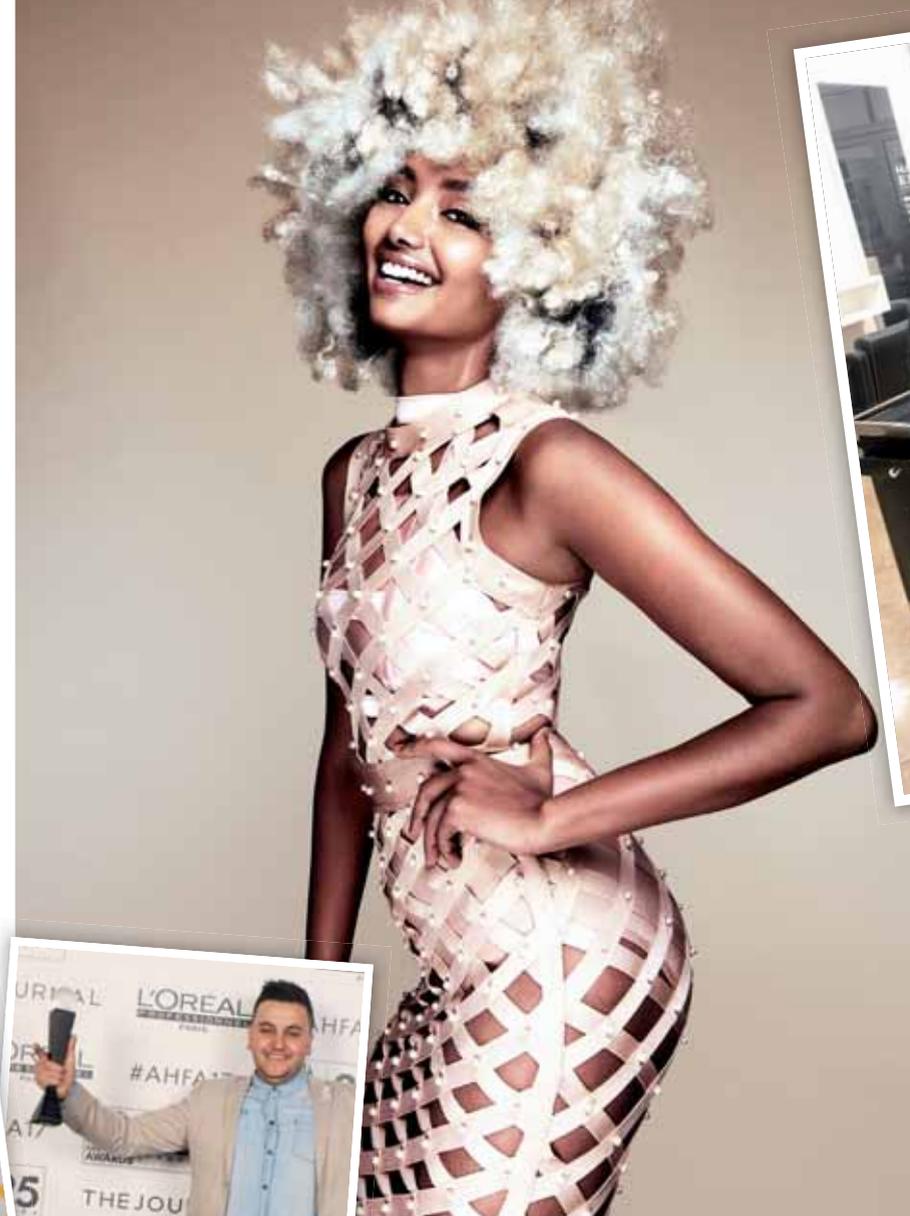
Who was your inspiration?

MP: Without a doubt my mother! She spent time teaching me how to 'dress hair', the real basics and then, allowed me to use my creativity to push what she had taught.

AR: The family friend in Adelaide, who took a chance on me, indulging my fascination with painting and colour, but through the medium of hair.

What is your professional education?

AR: I trained with L'Oréal Professionnel, completing every colour course I possibly could, whilst learning from the best. Throughout my apprenticeship, I followed the work of celebrity colourist Johnny Ramirez, Owner of Ramirez Tran Salon in Los Angeles. I visited the salon in 2010 and admired his 'lived in' approach to colour using old fashioned Balayage techniques combined with modern era foiling. So, I adopted this approach too, and eventually discovered, by mistake, a technique I call 'Brushlighting'. Brushlighting combines fine woven face framing highlights with Balayage, wherein instead of using a traditional board and tint brush, I use



a Tangle Teezer brush to create the soft sun-kissed glow seen on celebrities, such as Giselle.

Who is your mentor?

MP: I do not have a mentor, but

I am inspired by people I consider to be visionaries, such as, my mother, who has been a hairdresser for 30 years, Joe Giampa, Emiliano Vitale, Caterina Di Biase, Matt Clements, the Mascolos, Errol Douglas, and the list goes on!

AR: My main mentor would have to be my first employer, Anthony Gosti. He had an incredible eye for detail and produced flawless colour work. Throughout his training, he would send in mystery clients to have their colour done and then would have them give me feedback once they revealed themselves to be clients sent in by Gosti himself. His motto was 'you never get a second chance to make a first impression'. It has helped me create a solid, loyal client base.

What is your forte as a hairdresser?

MP: Cutting, colouring and hair extensions.

AR: Creative colourist: creating hair colour that has a commercial wearability.

How do you inspire your team to create hair looks for a collection?

MP: We are always up-to-date on trends, then we give it a twist and create our own version of it.

AR: Preparing for collections is a lot of work behind the scenes. Firstly, we research and take note on what others (photographers, hairdressers and stylists) are doing, particularly overseas. We often



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Brij Kishor Innovation is Key

Creative Director, NEU Salonz, Southpoint Mall in Gurgaon, Brij Kishor is on an incredible journey to bring Indian hairdressing on the world map. With an experience spanning over eight years, Kishor juggles responsibilities to introduce his clients to latest trends and techniques in hair and educate his team on the same

by Shivpriya Bajpai

Getting started

My elder sister has been a celebrity hair and make-up artist since 2002. I was fascinated to see her pictures with celebrities and decided to be a part of it. I did my hairdressing course from Pivot Point International Academy in 2009 and later was certified by City & Guilds UK, where I worked as an Educator for six months. I have taken multiple trainings from academies and hairstylists across the globe, including, educators of Wella Professional, L'Oréal Professionnel, Vidal Sassoon London to name a few.

First job and learnings

I started as a Junior Hair Artist with NEU Salonz back in 2010 and gradually gained experience on the floor observing other senior stylists. I attended trainings and seminars which again helped me to hone and perfect my skills.

Places worked with

After NEU, I worked with VLCC as a Senior Hair Artist. I moved to Lakmé Salons, where I was offered a job as a Field Trainer-cum-Senior Artist. With Lakmé, I travelled a lot to conduct seminars and educated other artists which turned out to be an excellent exposure. I had multiple opportunities with prestigious events like Wills Fashion Week and Lakmé Fashion Week! I joined back NEU Salonz as a Senior Hair Artist in 2015.

Association with NEU Salonz

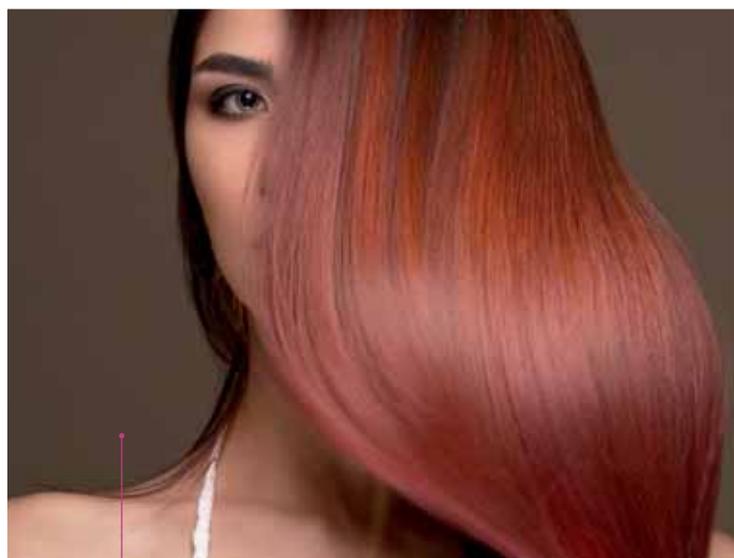
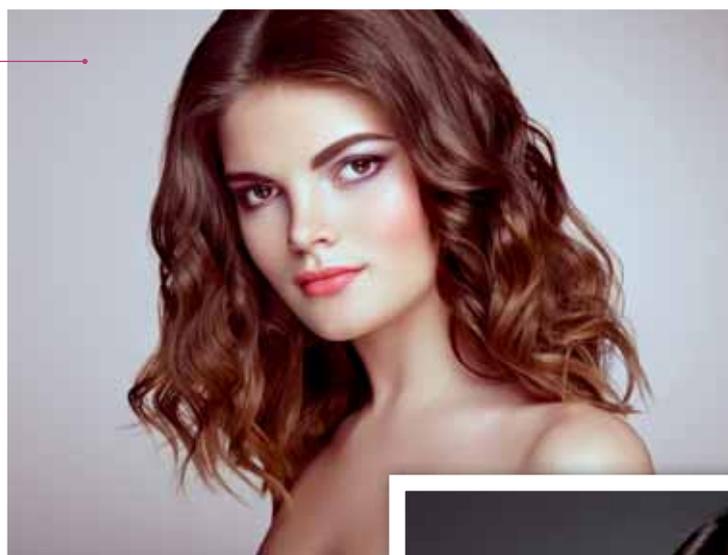
NEU Salonz has always been like my second home. My first job was here and I learnt a great deal working on the floor. The thing I value most about NEU is the creative freedom given to a hairdresser on the floor. The brand trusts its people and values

Hair Colouring Techniques Upgrade your Skill

The days of Balayage and Ombre are truly over. Here are some of the newer techniques to include in your repertoire

Floodlights

This technique makes hair look perpetually sunlit or like there is a spotlight on your head adding shine and dimension. You get it by applying tint all over the hair, because when you put the highlights through straight over the tint, you get the tone of the tint as well — so it is like when a light hits your hair. It is great for those looking for a subtle change and still feel different.



Strobing

For hairstylists who want to think like a make-up artist and want to highlight the features of their clients, this technique is a delight. The colours to play with are coral, rose-gold, lilac, and pearl hues.



Rooting

So, when a client comes to you for a technique that gives them time between appointments, this is the technique to suggest. These days, many women have highlights, so after that colouring, go over the roots with a semi-permanent gloss to tone down the colour. By delicately hand-painting a faux shadow on the roots, create a dark-to-light gradation that looks more natural than straight-from-the-roots highlights. It is not an Ombre, as it usually starts around, depending on the length of the hair, a few inches up from the bottom and creates a very distinctive dark-to-light look. Rooting is just a subtle little glossing right at the root.



The Spa and Wellness Industry Experts Show the Way

The Spa Association of India estimates the spa and wellness industry to be pegged at a value of about ₹ 11,000 crores, with a promise to grow at a fast pace. This rise can be attributed to several reasons such as, inclination of consumers towards health, awareness created by the Internet, steady disposable income, to name a few. Therefore, not only do we see a proliferation of day spas and wellness centres, we also see a boom in destination spas. However, the challenge of finding and retaining skilled therapists looms large

by Aradhana V Bhatnagar



Sumood by Elie Kashi

ABOUT THE COLLECTION

The collection, 'Sumood' means perseverance and is inspired by the splendour of tenacity. I navigated back to my roots for inspiration and came across the Syrian culture, the rich history and traditions of the area. Despite the wars that continue to rage on and the continuous struggles, the people manage to persevere against all odds, showing incredible strength.

'Sumood' is not only inspired by the struggles and determination of one nation, but by falls and rises of great people throughout history. It is a fusion of historical and modern design elements, intertwining past and present. Drawing inspiration from famous individuals such as Cleopatra and her timeless beauty, gives a unique twist to the collection, but still pertains to the original idea.

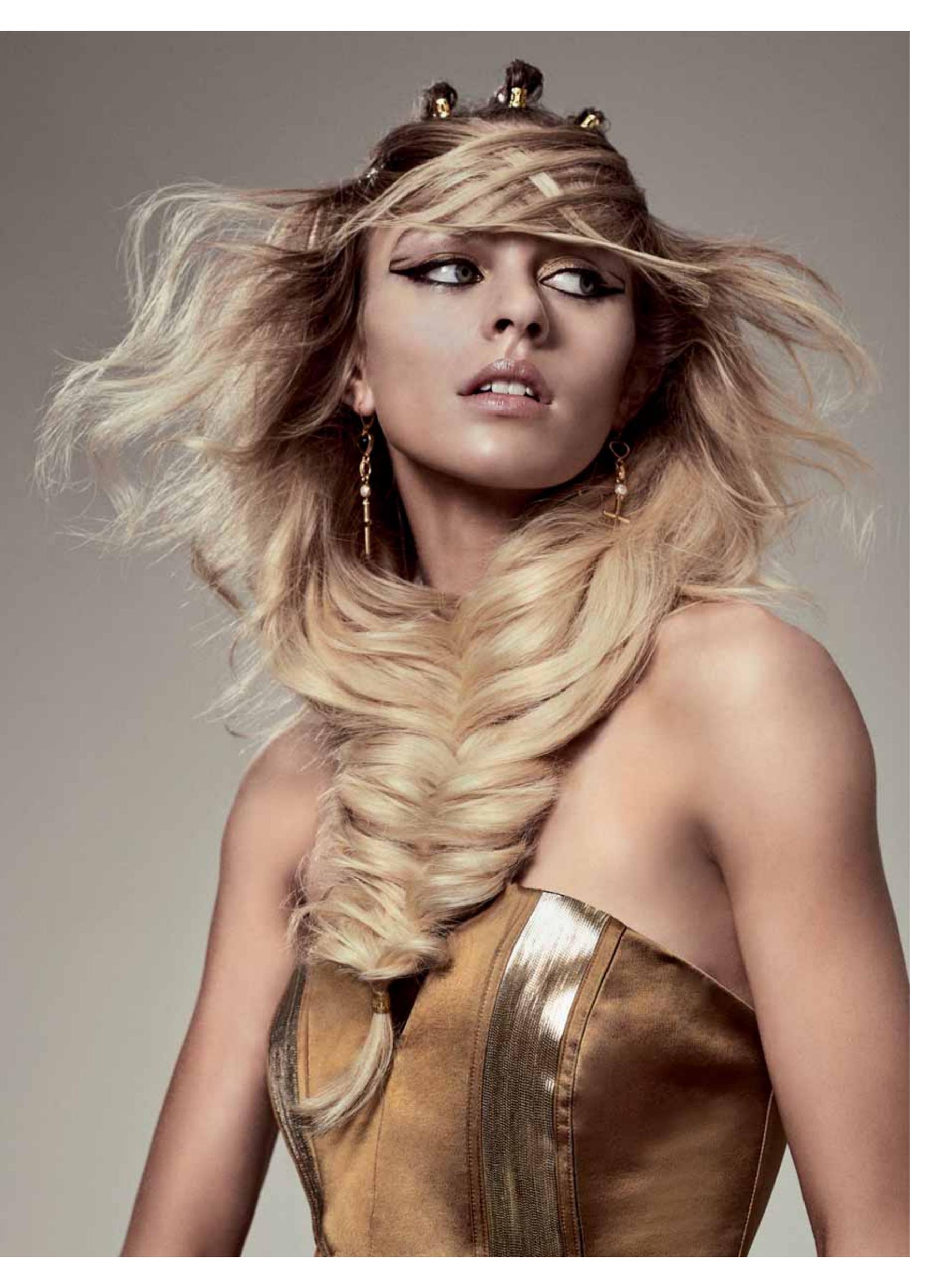
As an ode to the beauty and strength of the people in the region, and their ability to survive and persevere against insurmountable odds, every element of the collection paints a vivid picture that is going to illustrate glorious strength.

ABOUT THE STYLIST

Elie Kashi's story is unlike others, with twists and turns that have shaped his gift for hair artistry today. He started hairdressing with his uncle at the age of 15 and discovered a passion for the craft. He was determined to follow in his uncle's footsteps. While in Syria, Kashi was studying English literature, when suddenly war broke out. He had to overcome many obstacles to get to where he is now. His unbreakable spirit and passion were a force that pushed him to pave his own path, even in the darkest of times.

In one of the bombings, he found himself in a situation that most of us will never experience. Kashi along with his friends from his church brotherhood went out to check for survivors and were held captive by ISIS. They were supposed to be executed the next day. But, their captors were attacked by the Syrian Army and in the middle of the battle, Kashi managed to escape. He was shot in the arm and was left with a scar that reminds him of his struggles and his strength every day. After escaping, he wanted to go back to University, but he was unable to start where he left off, although he only had one year to graduate. At this point, he decided to pursue his childhood passion of hairdressing.

His first encounter with hairdressing was not as inspirational and encouraging as you would think. Starting at a small, local hair studio in Lebanon, he was not treated as a young, talented individual. As a refugee, he was treated poorly, and given just enough to go by, but he knew that hairdressing was not just about money, it was art, something he adores. He was determined to chase the dream and took private classes, tutorials, learnt from others in the salon. He used to practice on doll heads. Luckily, after acquiring his visa to Australia, he was on his way, to another beginning. This brought Kashi to Royals Hair Salon. His strength, vision and persistence in even the toughest conditions, made him thrive as a creative individual.





Vardan Nayak is one of the most sought after make-up artists in Bollywood. He shares his professional journey with *Salon India*

by Shivpriya Bajpai



How did you get started in the make-up industry?

Make-up is in my blood. I grew up watching my father, who is a well-known make-up artist in Bollywood. As a child, I used to visit the sets and was naturally inclined towards make-up. He has worked with Priety Zinta and several other actresses in the past.

What are the courses you have taken up?

I feel there is no training like assisting and watching a make-up artist work magic on a client. In the initial years, I trained under my father. After some years, I started assisting Mickey Contractor, the guru of make-up artistry in India. I worked with him for a period of 10 years. So, I can safely say that I have grown up on film sets and learned from experiences.

What was your first big break?

My first break was with Alia Bhatt in *2 States* and Huma Qureshi in *D Day*. For both the films, I worked as an independent make-up artist, and both happened simultaneously.

Did you have a mentor?

Yes, Mickey Contractor is my mentor.

What were the challenges you started and now? How did you overcome them?

I was 16 years old when I started assisting Mickey Contractor. It is quite a young age, I think. I had the zest to learn and was bursting with enthusiasm! I did not think of challenges, as I always knew that I wanted to make a mark in the field of make-up artistry. I look at it more as an opportunity than doing a job that I would regret waking up to go to every morning.

Please tell us about your client list.

Over the year, I have managed to work with the best in Bollywood. Some of them are Alia Bhatt,

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