

THE PROFESSIONALS

Evelyn Gibson generously shares her latest speed-dial selection of the best beauty experts in the business



HAIR

When it comes to your wedding day, this is not the time for a change. Start making the most of your hair with 6 weekly trims, colour maintenance and deep conditioning. Keep a watch on celebrity styles and flick through magazines for ideas of how you would like to look. Talk to your hairdresser and brace yourself to be realistic – no amount of hairspray is going to give you Elle McPherson rich bitch locks if you have a dark Pob. I have been a client of Dillon's Hair Studio for nearly 10 years. If you're into more froth than your cappuccino and expect to be intimidated by pretentious stylists, who insist you should look just the opposite of what you want, then this is not the place for you. If you want a down-to-earth, friendly service that leaves you looking great and feeling happy, this is it. Call ahead for a consultation appointment.

Dillon Hair Studio, Wellington Quay, Dublin 2. Tel (01)6797226



MAKE-UP

As a wary victim of department store 'make-up technicians', I am not the ideal candidate for a make-up artist. Flicking through an article, called the Best in Dublin, I find Aisling Eyre. She has worked with every diva and star, from Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York to Christina Aguilera and Vivienne Westwood, so should be able to cope with me. One phone call later, I'm feeling positive – she asked me everything and I don't need to know any more. A trial is booked for the following week. I take a peek inside her makeup box and am delighted to find it full of designer brands. Two and a half hours later, I look and feel fantastic. I am happy that not only have we established a plan of how I will look on the day, but I have also made a valuable confidante who I can trust to make that happen. Date is and time is set. Can't wait.

Aisling Eyre Make-up Artist. Tel: 087 2475335. www.weddingsbyash.com



EYELASHES

Lash extensions are one of the newest innovations in the quest for luscious lashes. To lengthen and/or give volume, fibre lashes are woven and glued into your own lash line, so they will gradually fall out with the natural growth of your lashes - around 4 to 6 weeks. My first bout with lash extensions left me looking like Betty Boop; they were long, sweeping and effortlessly fluttered in a most seductive way, but I felt very self conscious. After 4 weeks, I returned and asked for a more realistic length and a concentration of volume. This was much more satisfactory and lasted 6 weeks. For those desperately seeking the flutter, ask for volume and realise this is a temporary solution, but one that is very good for a special occasion, such as your wedding and honeymoon.

Eyelash extensions (2hour) €145 and top-ups (1/2 hour) €45.

In Vogue Beauty Salon, 23 Main Street, Blackrock, Dublin. Tel: (01) 288 8880. www.invogue.ie



NAILS

The few times I have had a manicure and pedicure have proven a waste of valuable time and money. Slow and heavy-handed application has resulted in smudged and chipped nails within hours, if not minutes. However, if you can find the right service, it is worth pursuing. The best we've found is by Magdalena at Nue Blue Eriu. The Luxury Pause for your Paws is an intensive pedicure with foot spa and leg and foot exfoliation. Ladies First is the equivalent manicure treatment, with hand and arm massage. The manicure remained perfect and blemish-free for over 10 days. The pedicure was still going strong after more than 4 weeks. Do yourself a favour – you have enough to do – and book yourself out for an afternoon of essential grooming and pampering. Ask for Magdalena. Ladies First, 1 hour, 45 minutes. Luxury Pause for your Paws, 1 hour. 15 minutes, €63.

Nue Blue Eriu, 7 South William Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 6725776. www.nueblueeriu.com.



TANNING

When it comes to giving yourself that golden glow for your wedding, leave it to the professionals. After a round of DIY spray-on tan, just days before my wedding, I awoke to find a white snake pattern up my arms and legs. In tears of disbelief, I speed-dialled Urbana Spa. Hazel Waters fits me in that afternoon for an emergency re-spray, meticulously colouring in all the patches. 20 minutes later, there is no sign of my inept art work. Hazel has over 12 years experience in the top spas of Manhattan and her client list includes Hilary Clinton and Richard Gere. She has worked as a make-up artist for Stila, Nars and Clarins and is an expert LA Style Speed Waxer. Book now - Hazel has got to be the most wanted woman in Dublin. Full Body Spray Tan, €50. Four Full Body Spray Tan, €175. Half Body Tan, €35.

Urbana Spa, 9 Wicklow Street, Dublin 2. Tel (01) 6351616. www.urbana.ie