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WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BEST SKILLS YOU'VE LEARNED WORKING BACKSTAGE?

Slow down, slow down, slow down! My personality works at crazy speed all the time! Owning a busy salon makes me multi-task continually, so I really had to learn to slow my hands down. Runway models are completely different to our salon clients and this was a challenge for me to remember. I had to really learn to just calm and breathe, and once you do, the magic really happens. A wise woman (Renya Xydis) once said to me.... "Baby hands, Amy, baby hands" and her words are always in my ears.

WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU ABSOLUTELY CANNOT DO WHEN DOING THIS STYLE OF WORK?

Think that it's all about you!!! I can't stress this enough. When you want to become part of this amazing session styling world, egos must be left at the door. We are there to assist our Hair Directors and to aid them in bringing their vision to life.

HOW MANY FASHION WEEKS HAVE YOU DONE NOW?

I've been lucky enough to have been in eight fashion weeks including New York, Paris and Sydney and I'm incredibly grateful to Wella for the opportunities I've been given. The entire Wella team work very hard to ensure they create opportunities and career paths for their developing Creative Artists which translate into dreams come true for those who are ready and willing to do the work.

DESCRIBE A TYPICAL 'DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BACKSTAGE ARTIST'

I'm never a big sleeper the night before a show as I'm worried I won't wake up for the alarm. That means it's an early start, coffee on the go and then hit the ground running. We arrive before all the models, so we can set up before the show, complete a quick debrief covering any changes and run through our timings. We're usually lucky enough to get two to three hours for twenty to thirty models, (true!) and then..... let the show begin! If you're lucky, your shows can be on different days but if you're not, you rush from show to show, finishing the day on a high, posting your Instagram stories with a glass of wine!

IS THERE MUCH TIME TO SQUEEZE IN A LITTLE SIGHTSEEING WHILE YOU'RE IN SOME OF THESE GLAMOROUS LOCATIONS?

There is always time to sight see. How can you come to these amazing places and not take in their culture and sights?

WHAT'S IN YOUR KIT WHEN YOU TRAVEL OS?

Lots! I'm an over packer, not just for clothes but for every occasion. I also have a hair brush for every occasion. I like to always be over-prepared. My essentials are an array of combs and brushes, clips and pins, hat elastic, my hot tongs and hair dryer which are compatible for OS voltage and my fave Wella products.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS WHO ASPIRE TO WORKING ON BACKSTAGE TEAMS AROUND THE WORLD?

Put yourself out there and have a go. You never know what might happen when you take yourself out of your comfort zone!

WHAT'S LEFT ON YOUR CAREER 'BUCKET LIST'?

I don't think I could ever finish my bucket list. It's like my to do list. There are just too many things which keep getting added to it! I just want to aspire to be the best I can possibly be and maybe Fashion Week in Milan plus even directing a show in New York, ha ha!



With Amy Gaudie. See more



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**JENNI TARRANT,
BOND HAIR RELIGION**

Sandy is the State Sales manager for QLD/NT at Simson Cards. She manages a sales team and merchandising team throughout QLD and is responsible for the profit and sales growth in department stores and independent retail accounts. Sandy is also Phoebe's (our team member's) mum and has been coming to the salon for nearly 5 years. She's also one of the coolest clients we've ever had... Just sayin!

MIA DEVRIES, THE FOX AND THE HAIR

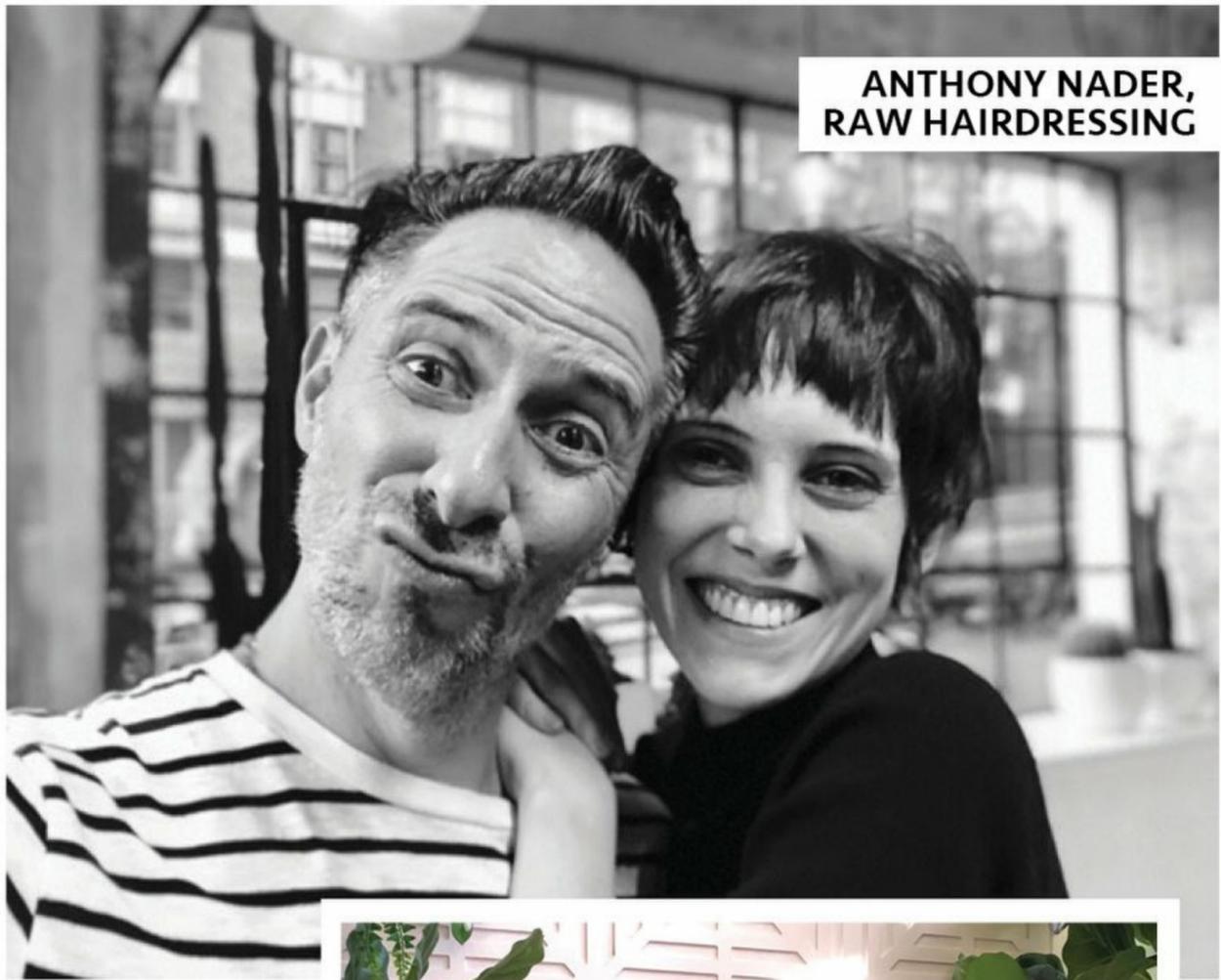
Zeny is hands down the ENTIRE salon's FAVOURITE client! She has a beautiful nature, a fabulous sense of style, those adorable dimples and a giggle that is contagious!!! Don't let her cute looks fool you though, she could roll you if you wanted to! Zeny is now retired which leaves plenty of time for pumping iron at the gym. I've seen this woman throw tyres, so god help me if I accidentally wet her at the basin!

ANTHONY NADER, RAW HAIRDRESSING

I've been cutting Matilda Dod's hair for the longest time and she's an absolute hoot to have in my chair. I love when a client says, "Do whatever you want, Anthony!", which is the greatest freedom for any artist, isn't it? Trust is everything. Matilda is the ultimate philosophy of the RAW client. Confident, crazy cool, funny & worldly.

JENNI TARRANT, BOND HAIR RELIGION

Let me introduce you to Mrs Williams. This beautiful lady spends an hour and a half with us every Friday and has done so since 1981! In all this time she has only had two stylists, myself being one of them. This 89-year-old woman is an inspiration and every week I hear stories of her amazing life from surviving Cyclone Tracey to her 9 driving trips from Darwin to Perth via Queensland with three small children. She worked as a court clerk in Tennant Creek while being married and a mother - something which was rarely done in those days. She still drives and runs a household with two children still living with her. Mrs Williams gets so excited with every award we have won and always asks for photos. Every week she donates to whatever fundraiser we are doing. She is open to learning new things and enjoys nothing more than watching her latest episode of a favourite show on Netflix while she is in the salon, with a coffee, a tasty baked treat and a couple of chockies. Mrs Williams brings so much joy to our salon and everyone welcomes her with hugs and kisses. And I get to give her some well-deserved pampering and relaxation as respite to her otherwise surprisingly busy week. I am blessed to have her in my life.



**ANTHONY NADER,
RAW HAIRDRESSING**



MIA DEVRIES, THE FOX AND THE HAIR



**AMY GAUDIE,
URBAN CHIC**



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BACKSTAGE ARTIST

AMY GAUDIE

for Wella Professionals



Working backstage at Fashion Week, especially New York or Paris Fashion Week, is a dream for many aspiring session stylists, so to get the inside word on what it takes to be selected and what it's like to work on a Fashion Week team, we went in search of someone who knows.

Amy Gaudie is an EIMI Creative Artist for Wella Professionals who has assisted Renya Xydis on several Fashion Week teams in New York, Paris and Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in Sydney to name just a few. Having now achieved this dream for herself, Amy is passionate about helping others to also follow their dreams to catwalks around the world. Here is her best advice to help you tick that off your own career bucket list.

HOW NERVOUS WERE YOU ON YOUR FIRST DAY?

Holy shitballs!!! (Can I say that??) Next level nervous!!! Usually I'm not a nervous person, however emotions got the better of me. Combine being away from home, jet lag and being surrounded by insanely talented people within our industry (I was actually ready for the next plane out), I really felt the pressure. I didn't want to let the team or myself down, so in true Amy style, I steeled myself, no one knew, and I conquered the first show.



AMY, WHY WAS BACKSTAGE WORK A GOAL FOR YOU?

I've always loved styling hair, creating different shapes and textures and watching fashion week, avidly wanting to know the inside knowledge on how they created the looks. Fashion is also a passion of mine (I shop way too much!), so when you combine the two together, it's like heaven for me.

WAS IT ANYTHING LIKE YOU EXPECTED IT TO BE?

No, it was better! It was like Christmas week in salon magnified ten times. I loved it. The buzz, excitement and pressure to deliver something that is so beautiful that people see and aspire to around the world is a privilege to be part of.



HOW DID YOUR OPPORTUNITY OR FIRST BIG BREAK IN TO THIS AREA UNFOLD?

I've been lucky enough to be part of the Wella family for a long time now and when my State Manager put my name forward for a submissions day in Sydney where I was up against 22 stylists from across Australia and New Zealand, I jumped at the chance. I worked hard and the rest, as they say, is history.

WHAT SKILLS DID YOU USE MORE THAN ANYTHING?

I've learnt that your skills need to be incredibly varied and it's not always about your hairdressing technique. You need a full bag of tricks and you need to adapt to any situation without notice, you must be a team player and finally, a polished skillset will take you far.



TELL US ABOUT YOUR VERY FIRST FASHION WEEK EXPERIENCE.

My first fashion week..... WOW!!! Where do I start? It was mix of emotions from completely overwhelming excitement to self-doubt. It was a real roller-coaster for me. I don't think I ate all week, I just lived on coffee! My first show was assisting Renya Xydis for Wella Professionals at Zimmermann NYFW Feb 17 and this led me to be totally hooked and craving more. For me, the whole experience was life changing and the beginning of a new journey in my career.



With Amy Gaudie. See more

