
KING OF THE CUT

JON PULITANO

His styling skills have been backstage at Marc Jacobs, Alexander Wang, Prada and Gucci, just to get the ball rolling. As for fashion editorial shoots, his work has featured heavily in *Oyster*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *Yen*, and *Marie Claire* and his celebrity clientele extends to Naomi Campbell, Kate Moss and Danni Minogue. His name is Jon Pulitano: co-owner and Creative Director at Headcase Hair, Paddington, Redken Hair Director and acclaimed international hair stylist. Considered one of Australia's most esteemed and innovative hair experts, his intimidating credentials read like the stuff of hairdressers' dreams.

Needless to say, he has come a long way since his days as a young boy experimenting with his hairstyle and relentlessly questioning his local hairdresser. In what has turned out to be a decade-long and growing relationship with hair, Jon counts working on Alexander McQueen's last show when he was living as one of his most surreal career moments. Recently, Jon added another notch in his career belt by beginning an artistic ongoing collaboration with Dion Lee in his position at Redken- the official hair partner to the Australian design gun. At the helm of creating the label's runway hair at this year's Australian and New York Fashion Week shows, Jon's new appointment marks the beginning of a partnership between two globally distinguished brands, revered for their ability to set trends and innovate in their respective industries. Jon's enthusiasm for Dion Lee means the duo is a match made in heaven: "Working with a fashion label that I adore and totally identify with means that I can create the kind of hair that I love, and that makes all the difference," he says.

Jon admits that although he can't deny the thrill and excitement that comes with working on fashion shows and editorial shoots, he completely relishes working in and running his own salon, Headcase Hair in Sydney's Paddington "Working in my salon keeps me grounded and I really get a chance to interact with my everyday clients and spend time on cultivating my dream salon and team." Jon's technical knowledge and skill as well



his innate understanding of international hair trends makes him one of the most sought-after hairdressers in the country, not surprising given his ability to turn to each and every client with fresh eyes, catering his cuts to suit their unique personality and lifestyle. "I'm best known for designing shapes and lengths that not only look great but evolve and grow out beautifully. A great haircut should be a gorgeous framework for the face, and look the same six weeks later, only longer. It needs to be easy for the client to maintain at home, and this is a point that varies for everyone."

Jon Pulitano is a leader, a person that loves to teach, inspire and watch people grow. And inspire is certainly something he does seamlessly. On this issue's **In Between** shoot for *The Journal*, he managed to achieve a look that was simultaneously natural and strong, organic and futuristic. How? With good ol' fashion team work. According to Jon, achieving success in the world of session styling requires letting go of your ego. While in a salon the responsibility for the client's result is the stylist's alone, editorial shooting is a collaborative exercise and a bringing together of creative ideas as a team. "Recognising the job at hand is about more than just yourself and your own work allows you to push the boundaries of your inner creativity. Getting out of your comfort zone brings the most rewarding outcomes," says Jon.

So where does he find that special something, that inner inspiration? 'Madonna', believe it or not, is the response that comes without

a moment's thought and he admits that an absolute career high was working backstage on a Marc Jacobs show and standing arm's length from the singer. If uber-famous celebrities aren't in close proximity, however, Jon draws inspiration from everything from old Hollywood icons to film, travel and music, and even seemingly mundane experiences like walking down the street. He seems to live out the ethos that for an artist, anything and everything can serve as inspiration, and it is how they channel it that can make a difference. Jon believes Australia is a breeding ground for this sort, with more and more creative and driven hair artists entering the industry who want to push the envelope and make their mark. "In a global market, Aussies shine very brightly," he says. "I have worked with so many hairdressers from all over the world and Australians have this really fresh, understated aesthetic that is unique. Not to mention, we are definitely not afraid to have a go!"

Jon Pulitano makes no secret of the fact that he loves his job and says he had no idea when he was starting out as an apprentice, just how rewarding hairdressing was going to be. "There are so many amazing career paths, opportunities for travel, as well as a feeling of total job satisfaction that hairdressing offers. It's amazing how many people don't like what they do. I love what I do!" And we can tell- with just one look at a decade's worth of images from his editorial shoots, runway shows and simply by asking his loyal clients at Headcase Hair.

