

Keeping ah

*Emily Hurst meets up with hair stylist, **Jamie Michelle Pfeifer**, who has returned to Thame brimming with ideas after a stay in New York.*

In the three years Jamie Michelle Pfeifer has been working in Thame, she has managed to build up both a loyal following of clients and a reputation for creating stunning hair styles. Although her career as a hair stylist has taken Jamie all over Europe and America – Las Vegas, New York, Miami, Chicago, Milan and London – she has decided that Thame is now home.

Recently, Jamie returned to New York for a post-Christmas visit to see friends and family. Her visit was prolonged. So she used the time to good effect, catching up on the latest New York hair salon trends and styles. “I’m really passionate about keeping pace with new looks, cuts and colour techniques,” she says. “Having a few



Daisy Taylor's bridal party by Jamie

extra weeks in New York meant that I could see where international styles are going at the moment.”

As well as working from Thame, Jamie also spends a couple of days a week working out of Oxygen, a salon in Beaconsfield, “I have a loyal clientele at both locations,” she says.

Jamie used to be an educator for Aveda when she lived in the US and gives them the credit for teaching her that the best cut starts at the foundation, customising each cut to fit the client's face shape, the lines of the face and the length, colour and texture of the hair. She will then embellish the look with a styling that best suits the individual. “I enjoy modelling hair so that it matches the personality and individuality of the client. Also taking into consideration the amount of time clients spend on their hair each day,” she explains. “Of course, it is exciting to be creative, to adapt innovations in cuts and techniques, but I am never a slave to fashion for fashion's sake. It is always paramount that the styling suits the wishes and the character of my clients.”

In particular, Jamie enjoys producing styles that look as good weeks after the cut as they did on the day of the styling itself. “I take care to explain to clients how they can maintain a look once they get home, how to keep the colour and shape going until their next appointment” she says. “Clients joke that I might be losing work by doing so – people don't need to come back to me quite so frequently to refresh their look – but I think that it is a part of my service to provide clients with good, practical advice on how they can take care of their hair, whether it is a new look or a refresh of their current look.”

Jamie is facing a busy period. “With spring on its way, I have been getting a lot of calls from future brides for my services,” she says. “I do love being invited to create a complete, ‘big day’ make-over including colouring, cutting,

hair-up and air-brush makeup. Air-brush makeup is fantastic as it stays on all day, no problem. I think that the bride's hair should be a reflection of the look of the overall wedding ensemble.” Jamie feels it's better when the client leaves everything in her hands, and, in turn, Jamie lets the client's hair lead her.

“A few weeks ago, I was asked by Debbie Williams a loyal client to create a hair-up for her wedding,” says Jamie. “Debbie wanted a soft, romantic look, one that mirrored the flow and lines of her wedding dress. So I took her hair from its natural parting and then curled and waved about her neck. Her hair looked as if it were cascading like a waterfall before meeting the upward curves and sweep of her dress.”

An inventive, imaginative, gifted and highly experienced stylist and colourist Jamie may already be, but she is ever keen to learn yet more. “I'm off to the Aveda Master Jam shortly,” she says. “It's a chance to mingle with the very best stylists around and a great opportunity to share ideas on every aspect of hair styling. It really is vital to keep pace with new developments, not just in looks but in hairstyling techniques.” In the last year Jamie has gone to nine Aveda and Redken courses or shows.

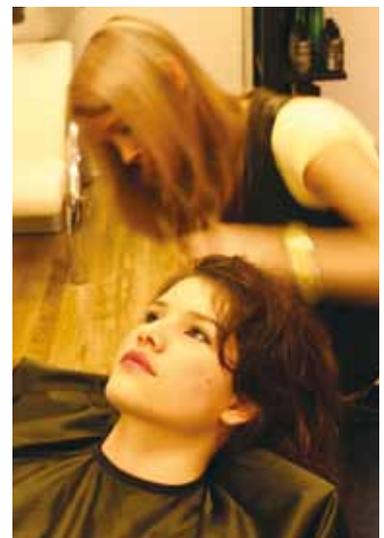


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One of Jamie's clients recently complimented her, saying: "It's a pleasure to be able to walk out of a salon in Thame with a cut and style that could have been fashioned in London." Or, indeed, New York.



Lauren with hair and make-up by Jamie



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