

Pretty new fashions need pretty new faces

"We educate the hairdressers and cosmetologists," said international beauty expert Xenon and hair colorist Stephen Harris, when they conducted a seminar recently for Grace Scalia's Headline Salons.

Guest lecturers for Pivot Point International, the two Australian designers have been touring the nation demonstrating their cosmopolitan techniques.

Grace Scalia invited three area women into her Birmingham salon for a fall make-over under their expert hands. The women acted as models for the purpose of instructing the entire styling staff of the Headline Salons and left at the end of the day looking and feeling, they said, like fashion models, in contrast to the dreary way they felt about themselves during the summer.

Xenon gained his international reputation through making the high fashion models of the world into beings of beauty. He creates many of the faces that entreat you from the glossy covers of fashion magazines.

Although the Headline Salons do not carry makeup, owner Grace Scalia believes hair and makeup are equally important fashion accessories and wanted her hairstylists to be aware of the current trends in both areas.

Xenon puts women in two categories—under 21 and over 21. "If you're under 21," he said, "you need little makeup and can permit your hair to fall the way it grows."

"When you're over 21," he emphasized, "your face begins to drop. Don't add to it by having the hair down; lift the hair away."

"Makeup should never follow a down line. Remember, we are in a business that is all illusion."

Xenon maintains that cosmetics are fantasy, an illusion. "We should say to a client, 'what is your fantasy, your illusion?'" he told the stylists.

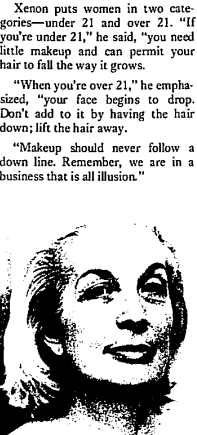
"We are expected to create that with hairstyles and a makeup. We can create the illusion of youth or a different face."

Xenon said he has two pet hates. One is bleached platinum blonde hair, and the other is what he calls "menopause-blue" eyeshadow; both of which seem to him to be rampant in this country.

Xenon recommends that you forget the old rules of makeup that you have been following and adopt some new ones. Or, Xenon advises, "if you look fabulous without makeup, then don't wear it."

"As a woman gets older," he pointed out, "she seems to think she needs more makeup. The reverse is true; less is best," he said. He recommended using a foundation only if the skin needs color-blending, and then only in skin tone. He works deftly, blending highlight and shadow colors to create the desired illusion.

On "under 21" model Laura Bearse, he created a young fresh face by lightly applying a beige highlight to erase under-eye shadows; a blush



Betty Gurman received a new look under Xenon's deft touch. (Photos by Art Emanuel)



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