

Vintage Whine



My Big Fat Turkish Hairdo

By Kate Gilderdale

I have never been a girly girl. The only time I visit a beauty salon is to have my hair cut. Until my son got married last year, I had never had a pedicure or facial in my life. When we went to Turkey this summer to celebrate Malcolm and Isil's marriage with her family and friends, I joined the female members of the wedding party at a salon in Isil's home town and was subjected to a terrifying overhaul. First they set my hair with gigantic rollers. Then they combed and teased it into submission, making my head look like a soccer ball on a stick. Finally they emptied an entire can of hairspray on it. Lighting a match within 20 feet of my head would have set the whole city block on fire. It turned out they were just getting started. Since I didn't speak Turkish, I failed to realize that the door I was being led through was the 21st century equivalent of a cell used to conduct the Spanish Inquisition. Someone indicated that I should sit down and close my eyes, and the next thing I knew the skin under my eyebrows felt as if it was being ripped off. This, it turned out, was a procedure known as threading, in which pieces of thin yarn are rolled over unwanted hairs, pulling them out one by one. It made childbirth feel like a relaxing snooze. The 40 Year Old Virgin would have been begging for his kinder, gentler waxing kit. When Isil pointed out that the skin under my eyebrows was now an unbecoming shade of red, my torturer told her they could disguise it with makeup. True to her word, the makeup was laid on with a trowel

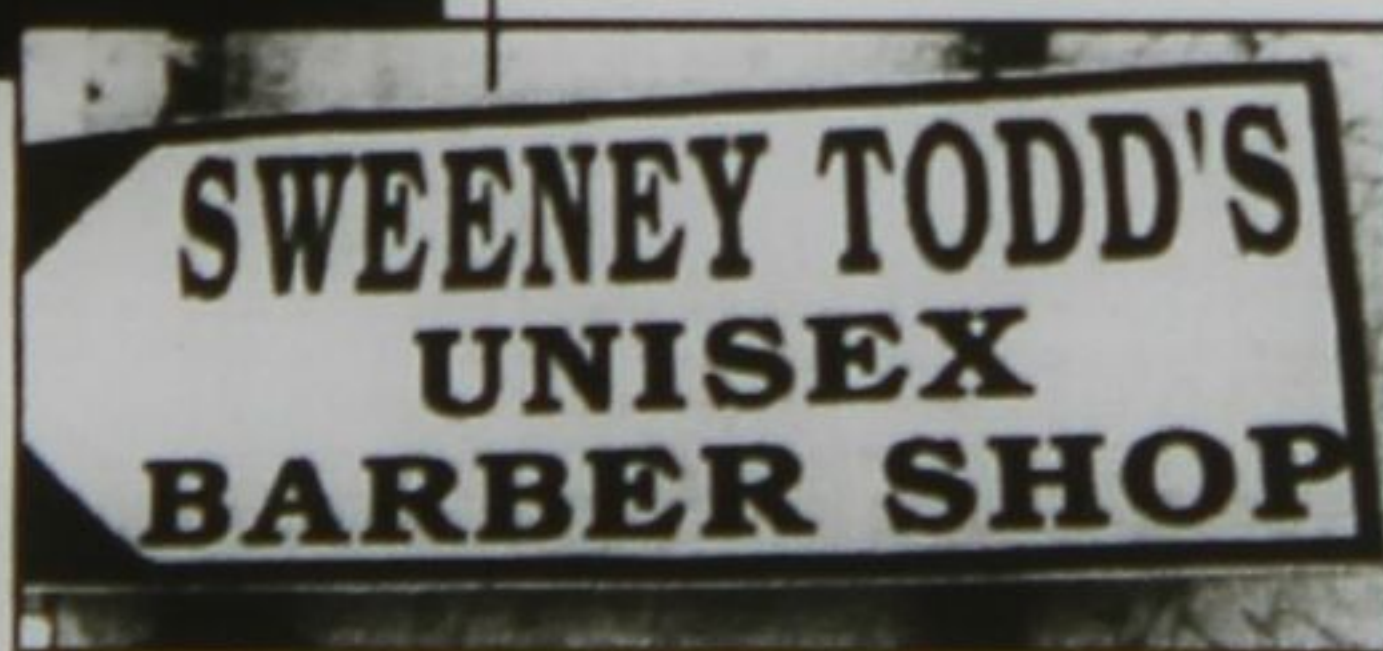
and included industrial strength pancake foundation and a major application of pink rouge and black eyeliner, all nicely rounded out with a vat of mascara. Luckily it was a hot day, so by the time I got to the venue - a beautiful outdoor restaurant overlooking the Black Sea - a lot of the makeup had melted away, the huge curly hairstyle had softened and I looked less like Barbara Cartland on steroids. But if the beauty regimen wasn't quite my style, Turkish hospitality was a different matter. I have travelled to many parts of Europe, but I have never spent time with such warm and wonderful people. Isil's family and friends opened their homes and their hearts, not just to the Walleheads of Stouffville, but to a large retinue of Canadians and Brits who came to share this unforgettable moment in our lives. Isil's parents gave up their apartment to accommodate the scrum of visitors. They prepared superb meals for us and looked after our every need. They took us to wonderful places and beamed with pleasure at our appreciation of their glorious country. Isil organized an amazing itinerary which took us from Istanbul on the Bosphorous to Samsun on the Black Sea; from Antalya and Kas on the Mediterranean to Bozburun and Izmir on the Aegean. There are no words to describe our joy at becoming part of such an incredible family and in turn getting to know their beautiful country. As Kevin Gould wrote in The Guardian, "(A) step away from the tourist areas is a Turkey of such original beauty that you'd need a thousand lifetimes to spend here, and there'd still be more to discover."

SIGN LANGUAGE



May we suggest a counterfeit Cartier?

This cutting edge ad, snapped on the Walleheads' Tour of Turkey, really grabs visitors by the throat.



Snapped a funny sign at home or on vacation? Send us a photo at stouffvillefreepress@rogers.com and we will print the best submissions in upcoming issues of the Free Press. Kate Gilderdale photos

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