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THE 2011 BEAUTY AWARDS



Get Pretty

In praise of the pixie

by Cheryl Fenton | October 31, 2011



When it comes to hair trends, the pixie cut is charming us again. Beauties like Emma Watson and Michelle Williams have recently rocked short-shorn hair, channeling the Mod look of ladies from the '60s. Think fashion icon Twiggy and the poor sweetie in the horror classic *Rosemary's Baby*. (Minus the demon-child maternity wear, of course.)

The cut flatters in several different ways. For one, it draws added attention to an already striking face. "Vidal Sassoon famously cut Mia Farrow's hair off for [that] role," explains Christine Iris Moore, a stylist at **Mizu** (776 Boylston Street, Boston, 617.585.6498) who has a sassy pixie of her own. "The design was simple yet striking. The idea was to show off her beautiful bone structure and features."

The look also lends a sense of whimsy. "The term 'pixie' is mystical in nature," adds Dean Mellen, celebrity stylist and pixie guru at **Patrice Vinci Salon** (91 Newbury Street, Boston, 617.267.1900). "There's an impish, otherworldly quality about pixies."

The devil is in the details, so we tapped a few local stylists to get tips on pulling off this playful yet sexy crop in a modern way

- and to remind us of all the reasons why we love this look.

It Commands Attention

The pixie is bold, made more for the blossoming beauty than the wallflower. Sporting a pixie cut amid a sea of long wintertime locks guarantees look-at-me status, so be ready to bring it on when they cut it off.

"A pixie embodies confidence. It brings the wearer to the center of attention and leaves nothing to hide behind," says Moore, who has seen transformations happen in her styling chair when long hair goes über-short. "When I turned one client around to see the finished pixie look, a new part of her personality came out. She was so alive with energy."

It Works for (Almost?) Everyone

"All face shapes can wear the pixie well because it's cut to flatter all types of bone structures and facial features," explains Terry Scheetz, assistant salon director of **Sassoon Salon** (399 Boylston Street, Boston, 617.536.5496).

Even your age doesn't matter. "The mystical pixie is ageless," says Mellen. "With an artful eye, a skilled stylist can modify a pixie style for every age. There's a pixie for everybody."

With one possible exception: the curly girl. Mellen adamantly steers curly-haired clients away from the pixie, believing it's better for straight, less-textured hair. On the other hand, Moore doesn't shy away from cutting a curly pixie: "Any hair type can be cut into a pixie. Curly hair and straight hair look dramatically different in any haircut. There are so many variations of this style, it's usually easy to custom-tailor this look."

It's Easy to Modernize

You can freshen up the pixie with a few modern twists.

"Today's pixie can be made modern by staying true to the classic concept and design while changing a few elements of the cut," says Moore. "Perhaps the fringe is cut with subtle asymmetry, contrasting color is balayaged [painted] through the top, or a razor is used to create a more textured look."

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Mellen modernizes his pixies by using scissors for structure and a straight razor for texture. "I take it a step further, adding color to shards of hair for definition and drama," he says.

It's Simple to Style

True to its carefree name, the pixie is less labor-intensive than other cuts. All it takes is a few seconds and a couple of key products to enhance its different moods.

"Products are great for showcasing the cut's versatility and defining shape and layers," says Scheetz. Use a paste to achieve a more piece-y look with the layers around the face, or run your hands through for a carefree, messy look. Scheetz's go-to pixie products include Davines No. 5 Mat Pliable Stucco and No. 10 Polishing Coat, as well as Sebastian Microweb Fiber.

"With the right product and cut, styling a pixie takes less time than brushing your teeth," adds Moore. After a towel dry, she suggests turning to Bumble and Bumble's Grooming Cream for a satin finish or Oribe's Rough Luxury Molding Wax for more grit. One more Moore tip: avoid parting your hair or pushing it backwards. Instead, let it fall forward naturally.

Cheryl Fenton is a freelance writer who also blogs at [EasyPeasyBlog.com](#).

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