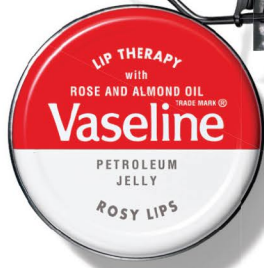


Eyelash Curler, £15, Nars (narscosmetics.co.uk)



Issa a/w 2012



Lip Therapy Rosy Lips, £1.93, Vaseline (0845 070 8090)

MOST-SPOTTED PRODUCTS

These backstage faves are set to be next season's sellouts

NARS'S EYELASH CURLERS

Mascara was a no-go at lots of shows. "Skipping mascara gives you a really pared-back, natural look, but make sure you curl your lashes [top] to keep it feminine," said make-up pro Lucia Pieroni at Christopher Kane.

Also seen at... Temperley London, Jonathan Saunders.

VASELINE'S ROSY LIPS

Iridescent highlighter is out. Instead, use Vaseline, above, to give skin a glow. "I saw Kate Moss on the Eurostar using rose-coloured Vaseline as a highlighter and copied her," said Sharon Dowsett, who applied it on cheeks and temples at Kinder Aggugini.

Also seen at...

Moschino Cheap and Chic, Marios Schwab, Mulberry.

MAC'S HUE LIPPY

"The perfect nude lipstick [above right]," said make-up artist Georgina Graham at Felder Felder.

Also seen at... Aquascutum.

BUMBLE AND BUMBLE'S CLASSIC HAIRSPRAY

"My do-it-all hairspray [left] for fixing in place and adding gloss," said hairstylist Mark Frampton backstage at Maria Grachvogel.

Also seen at... Margaret Howell, Meadham Kirchhoff.



Classic Hairspray, £10, Bumble and Bumble (0800 088 4169)

Backstage, make-up artist Georgina Graham says, "It's all about full-on coverage for autumn/winter". She's using MAC's Pro Longwear Concealer as foundation: "Mix with a little of MAC's Prep + Prime Skin, apply with a large foundation brush and blend, blend, blend!"

HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY: spotting my fave model, Leomie Anderson.

LESSON OF THE DAY: wear layers – it's cold outside, but backstage, it's hot!

LOOK OF THE DAY: Maria Grachvogel's berry lips and wet-look bobs.

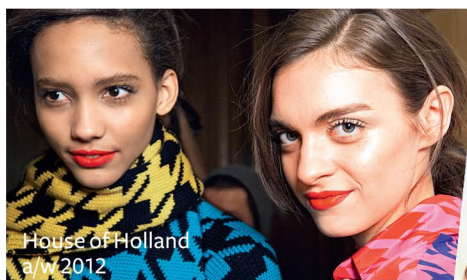
DAY TWO

It's raining! And I don't have a brolly. I get caught in a huge downpour and turn up to Issa wet through. But that's nothing compared to the models, who arrive with slicked, gelled locks from Todd Lynn. The hairstylists have to wash the girls' hair in order to create soft tumbling waves and the show runs late as a result. I whizz to House of Holland, grab a Vita Coco coconut water and admire the hound's-tooth nails created by manicurist Sophy Robson.

First trend spotted: retro hair. Adam Reed does Seventies waves at House of Holland and Sam McKnight injects Sixties glamour into Moschino Cheap and Chic's beehives. I head home for an early night: 12 shows down – including PPQ, Clements Ribeiro, Aquascutum, Daks, Temperley London and Kinder Aggugini – 29 to go...



Lipstick in Hue, £13.50, MAC (0800 074 6905)



House of Holland a/w 2012



Moschino Cheap and Chic

HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY: bumping into Pixie Geldof, who came backstage to wish BFF Henry Holland good luck.

LESSON OF THE DAY: check the weather forecast before you leave home!

LOOK OF THE DAY: the luxe lips at Kinder Aggugini. Six layers of gold and copper glitter finished off with 20 Swarovski crystals – at £6 each, that's £120 per model!

DAY THREE

Thanks to my boyfriend stumbling into my flat at 3am, I get up at 6am having hardly slept. I grab a double latte *en route* to my first show, Margaret Howell, where make-up artist Sam Bryant is applying blush below the apples of the models' cheeks for a "healthy outdoorsy glow from within".

A dash across town takes me to Mulberry at Claridge's, where 23 models are being made up to look like "boarding-school girls who have run away for the weekend" by make-up artist Mathias van Hooff. I love the lip colour, a mix of three L'Oréal Paris Rouge Caresse lipstick shades, *below right*.

On to Vivienne Westwood, where models are eating sandwiches and muffins with one hand, while the other is having freehand tattoos drawn on. "The symbols are meant to suggest that these girls are members of a street gang," explains make-up artist Val Garland. More coffee and I steam through the remaining six shows, including Topshop Unique, Paul Smith and Louise Gray. Low ponytails fixed at the nape of the neck are emerging as a strong trend – I've spotted them at six shows so far.

Backstage at Jonathan Saunders, the surprisingly calm hairstylist Paul Hanlon tells me, "Jonathan called me last night to change the look. It was going to be long, flat Japanese-inspired hair, but we changed it to an equestrian-style, low, neat ponytail". It's 7pm and I've finished for the day. After zigzagging across London 12 times today, I'm exhausted, so turn down an invite to an after-party in favour of a hot bath.



Paul Smith a/w 2012



Vivienne Westwood Red Label a/w 2012



Rouge Caresse in, from left, Sweet Berry; Dating Coral; and Nude Ingenuie, £7.99 each, all L'Oréal Paris (0800 030 4032)

"Press the tip of your finger on to your nail polish just before it dries. Your fingerprint will add a subtle, pretty texture"

Butter London manicurist Katie Hughes at Craig Lawrence

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON LLOYD-EVANS, REUTERS, JESS TIBBITS