



Christopher Kane a/w 2012



Professional Fat Curl Stick, £39.95, TigiPro (feelunique.com)

Jess's top 5 a/w beauty trends

1 THE "KICK" CURL "Halfway between a curl and a wave," said hairstylist Adam Reed at House of Holland. Wrap pieces of hair around TigiPro's curling wand [above left] and pull it up and down for a few seconds.

Also seen at: Felder Felder.

2 THE "MILKY" MANI "Mix nude polish with top coat for a milky finish," said Lisa Smith at Temperley London. "Use the same brand, so they mix well."

Also seen at: Moschino Cheap and Chic, Kinder Aggugini, Topshop Unique, Matthew Williamson.

3 GLITTER "I'm bringing glitter back!" declared make-up artist Val Garland of Moschino Cheap and Chic's sparkly lips.

Also seen at: Kinder Aggugini, Meadham Kirchoff.

4 LOW PONYTAILS "They're simple to create, super-fun and chic," said Malcolm Edwards at Kinder Aggugini.

Also seen at: Louise Gray, Todd Lynn, Antonio Berardi, Erdem.

5 NATURAL PARTINGS Next season has a strong outdoorsy feel. Partings were created "freehand" with fingers.

Also seen at: Christopher Kane, Burberry Prorsum, Pringle of Scotland.



Skin Illuminator in Violet, £12.25, St Tropez (st-tropez.com)



PhotoReady Cream Blush in Flushed, £7.99, Revlon (0800 085 2716)

HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY: meeting Missy, the Hungarian Puli dog who walked the Mulberry catwalk in a sheepskin coat.

LESSON OF THE DAY: lay the next day's clothes out the night before – it saves a sleepy 6am wardrobe fumble.

LOOK OF THE DAY: the tattoos at Westwood – I want to join the gang!

DAY FOUR

Another 6am start, but even tiredness can't temper my excitement at meeting one of my personal beauty heroines, make-up artist Gucci Westman, at Antonio Berardi. She calls the show look "handsome beauty", with gunmetal grey in the eye socket and a low flush of colour on cheeks with Revlon's new PhotoReady Cream Blush, above left.

On to Christopher Kane, where the backstage area is refreshingly huge! Then it's Burberry, where security is so tight, I'm kept outside for 45 minutes. Eventually, I'm backstage: Dizzee Rascal is blaring, make-up artists are creating "country girls with glowing skin" and pictures of Burberry muse Cara Delevingne are pinned up for inspiration.

A dash across town takes me to Erdem, where I catch up with skin expert Nichola Joss, who gives the girls drenched dewy complexions using St Tropez's Skin Illuminator, far right. I finish up at Giles, where I spot loads of top models,

including Lindsey Wixson and Doutzen Kroes. By now, the girls are exhausted – two have fallen asleep on the make-up desk, one having her toes painted while she naps!

HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY: walking out of Christopher Kane into a wall of paparazzi, as Alexa Chung is right next to me.

LESSON OF THE DAY: don't carry a new, tan-hued Céline bag – it doesn't appreciate getting covered in lip gloss.

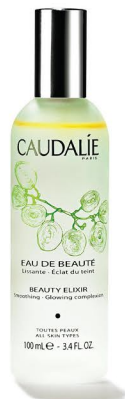
LOOK OF THE DAY: the gold-leaf eye make-up at Michael van der Ham.



Laura Bailey and Alexa Chung at Christopher Kane



MEADHAM KIRCHHOFF A/W 2012



Beauty Elixir, £32, Caudalie (caudalie.com)

DAY FIVE

It's 6.30am. My skin is sallow and I have huge eye bags, but the end is in sight: seven shows to go. I try make-up artist Lucia Pieroni's secret weapon, Caudalie's Beauty Elixir, below left, and instantly feel better. First up is Mary Katrantzou – I love the dresses as much as the graphic liner by make-up artist Val Garland.

Next is Roksanda Ilincic, who wins spread of the week, with masses of sandwiches, pastries and muffins. I'm flagging, but then Meadham Kirchoff happens: backstage, one model is having her face spray-painted blue, her ears gold and a 50cm-tall yellow wig attached to her head! There's glitter galore – just the boost I need on the last day.

At my final show, Ashish, gold thread is being braided into hair and false nails with trinkets are applied for a "luxe bohemian global traveller" look. Gorgeous. I leave tired, but happy. I've run, bussed, tubed and taxied across London, filled two pads with notes and must've lowered my life expectancy with the amount of hairspray I've inhaled. Exhausting, yes, but unforgettable: I'm already looking forward to next season.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY: the models at Meadham Kirchoff being told to "dance and go crazy on the catwalk!"

LESSON OF THE DAY: never wear heels, not even small ones.

LOOK OF THE DAY: the black-and-white Minx nails Marian Newman custom-made for David Koma.



Todd Lynn a/w 2012



Kinder Aggugini a/w 2012

