



Nude Blondes: Lois Christie's fascinating flaxen fairytale is brought to life with the help of *The Colorist* fashion editor Karie L. Frost and photographer Luis Alvarez of Aquage.

by Karie L. Frost and Jeryl E. Spear

Chroma Cues

Each season, Lois Christie, owner of New York's blonde-bestowing Christie & Co. Salon • Spa, and president of Intercoiffure America • Canada and the International Haircolor Exchange (IHE), looks no further than the fashion runways for a little pigment persuasion. The result for spring 2009: her prismatic *Nude Blondes* color rendition. "Fashion—especially the textures and fabrics—always holds sway over haircolor," declares Christie. "For instance, when patterns skew geometric, strong and bold, haircolor should go to the opposite extreme by having less definition and more subtlety so as not to compete." Working off of this concept, she takes her inspiration for *Nude Blondes* from the mismatching of strong geometric patterns seen at Dries Van Noten, Marc Jacobs and Marni. Though her color creation is born of this top fashion trend, Christie stresses that any colorista worth her dye should create color designs that are versatile; therefore, her prismatic nude blonde can also seamlessly morph between three of spring 2009's trends: Miss Mismatched, Tech Extra and Tough Luxe.

Photography: Luis Alvarez, Aquage; Haircolorist: Lois Christie, Intercoiffure America • Canada; Hairstylist: Ann Bray, Aquage; Hair assistant: Carly Campbell; Make-up: Wanda Alvarez; Wardrobe stylist: Karie L. Frost; Production: Don Witame

About *Nude Blondes*

"Our *Nude Blondes* model's hair is obviously very pale (she also avidly clings to her platinum blonde hair in her private life), but I still wanted strategic touches of pastel shadowing to give the overall design a sophisticated, detailed edge,"



Lois Christie

Christie relates. "After prelightening the regrowth, I created a triangular pattern to match the runway geometric trend in clothing. To call out this sectioning, I outlined the perimeter of each triangle with a slightly darker light blonde, and then began my first slice section with each triangle with my lightest formulation to emphasize this key design

element. To add shadowing and just a hint of depth just below the crown, I also painted two sections a solid, level 9 warm pastel blonde."

Christie also relates that her spring color design happens to pull in business—even in the current down economy. "Double-process blondes are the ultimate hair-color luxury," she declares. "Most ultra-pale blonde devotees aren't willing to compromise their hair color, despite the recession. And they definitely can't pick up a box color and duplicate their color service at home." For passionate, palest blonde enthusiasts—Christie included—tresses toned with everything from pastel apricot to arctic ice are often more coveted than a closet filled with pricey Balenciaga handbags.

Trend: Miss Mismatched

As seen at: *Miami*

Complementing the mash-up of geometric patterns that fashionistas will be anachronizing up faster than a three-foil service, Christie's *Nude Blondes* quietly, yet dynamically, balances these busy designs with subtle colorations that she says "are like a prism—you don't know where the shades are coming from when the sun hits them."

To play off the clash-tastic clothing, legendary hairstylist Ann Bray reveals, "I created this look based on soft, random and interlocking strands with an accent on the ends; it's inspired by the young, fresh feel of the new juxtaposition of patterns."

