

beauty

Brooke Shields (in *The Blue Lagoon*) is famous for her lush brows.



Still-life photography by Jennifer Soo



brow FACTOR

IT'S TIME TO FRAME THE
MASTERPIECE THAT IS YOUR FACE.

By SHELLY HORTON

If your eyes are the windows to your soul, then the eyebrows are the frame. Good brows open your eyes and balance your face.

And while eyebrow trends change just like fashion, it's important to remember that every face is different. What suits someone else may not be right for you.

Nathan Williams from Parlour B in Sydney's Paddington, known as the "eyebrow whisperer", says the brows are critical to a polished look. "Once the brows are done well, you can get away with less make-up," he says. "You still look a bit glam."

And his verdict on over-plucked brows that look like tadpoles above someone's eyes?

"I prefer to call that the lamb-chop [one end thick, the other thin and tapered] trend," Williams says with a laugh. "We don't want that. Fuller eyebrows are in at the moment."

Getting your brows shaped professionally will cost between \$50 and \$80 but think of this as an important investment. Skip a new lipstick or a couple of manicures that only last a week, and go for a flattering eyebrow shape that can transform your face.

Melbourne's eyebrow queen, Allison Browning from Allison Browning Therapies in Brunswick, agrees. "I think there's a leaning towards fuller brows, not pencil thin but always taking into account the shape of your

face. I certainly recommend you get your eyebrows professionally shaped and tinted."

Once the experts have perfected your eyebrows, you can maintain the look at home with make-up.

Colour-wise, pick a hue a couple of shades lighter than your hair. If you match it exactly, it can look too harsh. If you're a brunette, go for dark blonde; blondes should stick to blonde. If you have black hair, go for taupe.

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There are different types of make-up for eyebrows. Try pigmented wax (*Benefit Brow Zings*, \$55) or powders for a natural look (*Becca Brow Powder*, \$44). Most experts agree eyebrow pencils tend to be tricky to master, but if that's your thing, try the *Nars Brow Pencil* (\$45). Shu Uemura has just released a hot new product, an eyebrow mascara that you apply with light strokes (*Shu Uemura Eyebrow Manicure*, \$28).

"With regular appointments, you keep the wow factor with your brows," says Williams.

And we all want a wow brow.