



FLUTTER BY

Every once in a while, a beauty treatment comes along that seems so obvious, it's astonishing that it hasn't been available before. Take eyelash extensions. Almost every woman in the world wants long, lush lashes, which is why the mascara market is booming. False lashes always seem like such a good idea until, mid-evening, a spidery wing sails southwards. So individual semi-permanent lashes, attached to your own with waterproof glue, seem like, well, a natural extension.

The always-inventive Asian market first came up with the idea, which is where brow maestro Nathan Williams first saw them. Now his Sydney salon, Parlour B, is one of the first to offer the hour-plus service, for the ultimate in lash heaven.

The key, says Williams, is the application. "It's good to have an eye for detail in the placing of the lashes, because placement can go wrong," he says with a laugh and a raised brow. Lita Stathis, the salon's star manicurist and make-up artist, has been trained in the fine art of cementing the delicate silk fibres. For her it's like a puzzle. She starts applying lashes to the outer corners of my eyes, fanning them out as she approaches the bridge of my nose, gently graduating them as she goes for a natural look.

Apparently I have good lashes to apply extensions to, as they are mid-length and separated, but just about anyone can wear them. Even people who have the shortest lashes can, because, as Stathis says, "they are tailor-made [so] you can create lashes from the corner, from teeny-weeny baby ones, and keep building".

Leaving the salon, I smile to myself as, for the first time ever, my lashes brush the inside of my sunglasses, and I can't help but flutter them at the taxi driver. Next morning, with merely a smudge of Stila Kitten eyeshadow, my eyes look sparkling and wide awake, and I feel positively perky.

Although it's best not to be too rough with them, my new lashes are easy to care for. The only rules are no waterproof mascara, no oily eye-make-up remover and no eyelash curlers, although who needs them? I flirt with softer, prettier eyeshadows in keeping with my wide-eyed new look, and that's about all I need.

My lashes keep that full, bushy look for well over two weeks, and I can't wait to go back for my infills, (\$60, regardless of how many you have lost along the way). Easy, pretty and undetectable: how did we live without them!

Parlour B, 213 Glenmore Road, Five Ways, Paddington, NSW, (02) 9331 0728. Full set of lash extensions, \$170, infills, \$60.

HAIR POWER

She's fashion's muse of the moment, but who knew we'd take hair inspiration from Marie Antoinette? One of her beauty must-haves was hair powder, and while the formula has been updated, the benefits remain: matt texture, mega volume and great grip. For hairstylist Bek Chadwick of Sydney's Prema salon, Aveda's Pure Abundance Hair Potion, \$40, is this season's essential as it transforms fine, flat hair into matt, textured "beachy" locks. She suggests sprinkling it on the roots of wet hair, then blow-drying or using hot rollers. Or try Bumble and bumble Aerosol Hair powder, \$68; it adds texture and volume, plus it is colour matched to hair.



WHITE OUT

Whitening products mean geisha girls to most women, but they don't actually bleach skin; they illuminate, clarify, and banish pigmentation. Queen of the fair faces and SK-II ambassador Cate Blanchett's reported favourite is Whitening Source, 50ml, \$230, but new Clear Lotion, \$95, and Skin Brightener, moisturiser, \$188, will be sure to top her list.