

AMERICAN SALON

AUGUST 2017

YOUR
STORY
TOLD
HERE

SEXY HAIR
GIVES A
FRESH TWIST
TO VINTAGE
STYLES

Cutting-Edge
Classics

NATURAL WOMAN

► Rebecca Gregory's career as an educator is a love story. It began nearly 15 years ago when she applied for a job at Redken. "I was so in love with the brand that I figured there had to be a way for me to go to a higher level and share what I knew with other hairdressers," says Gregory, who became Artistic Director, coincidentally working with David Stanko at The Redken Exchange in New York City. "That's where I learned to write curriculum," says Gregory. "I learned a lot from Chris Baran and Sam Villa." It's possible that Gregory might have stayed put had she not noticed an uptick of interest in eco-friendly products and decided to learn more about them. Eventually she became an educator with Aveda, a position she held for nearly five years. Still, she'd been an "ingredient geek" since her days at Redken when she observed Stanko walking around The Exchange in a white lab coat—"They were developing Redken For Men Color Camo," she says—and realized that chemistry was her thing. When she began hearing about an organic company that was not just committed to natural ingredients but also organic ones, she wrote a letter to the CEO, Scott Mitchell. "He called me immediately," says Gregory. "He felt that I had a great reputation as an educator and wanted me to build a curriculum around his products." In her current position as Simply Organic Beauty's Education and Technical Director, Gregory helps develop new products for the company, a role she describes as the "pinnacle of my career." Because Simply Organic Beauty is becoming a global leader in the organic market, Gregory has been fielding requests for education from beauty professionals in Belgium, New Zealand and Australia. "It's been an amazing journey," she says. "I've worked with the most talented artists both onstage and behind the scenes, and now I'm meeting the most influential stylists in the world, including young millennials looking for healthier products with which to execute their craft."

THE TAKEAWAY

"I LOVE SEEING THE LIGHT GO ON IN SOMEONE'S EYES WHEN YOU TEACH THEM SOMETHING NEW. YOU HELP THEM GROW, AND THEN YOU LEARN FROM THEM. IT'S LIKE COMING FULL CIRCLE."

Rebecca Gregory,
Education
and Technical
Director, Simply
Organic Beauty



Tom Quigley,
Wahl Education
and Artistic
Team



THE YANKEE CLIPPER

► Born and raised in Montana, Tom Quigley moved to Seattle while in college to work for an aunt and uncle who owned a salon there. "My Aunt Theresa encouraged me to go to beauty school to pay for college," says Quigley, who attended an IBS show in Seattle and became "enthralled" when he saw Gary Girard onstage. It was one of those turning points that each of us has experienced at one time or another. "I went to Gary's Academy and kept moving on, working for various manufacturers," says Quigley, who did photography work in Los Angeles while applying to become a member of the International Beauty Show Group's American team Y.E.S., which was created to train hairdressers under the age of 28 to do platform work. "Finally they asked me to come to New York City to assist the alumni team and find out what it was all about," Quigley says. "That's where I met Lyle McCaig, who advised the team and became my mentor." Wahl was a sponsor of American Team Y.E.S. at the time, and one of its educators, Nick Altamori, came in to teach the team how to do clipper cutting. "I was the only one asking questions, and Nick told Lyle to keep an eye on me. Let's just say that Lyle tested me to the fullest," says Quigley, who mastered the art form, which has become his specialty. Wahl came calling in 1999. "Then the real education began," says Quigley, who learned quickly that just like there's no crying in baseball, there are no prima donnas in platform work. "You have to handle what gets thrown at you." Still, Quigley allows that he became a better craftsman by being forced to be creative on demand. "You really have to know hair."

THE TAKEAWAY

"I'VE BEEN ABLE TO CONNECT WITH GREAT ARTISTS AND BECOME FRIENDS WITH THEM, AND I ALWAYS KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE INDUSTRY BEFORE ANYONE ELSE."