

Lifestyle 

Lexington stylist Naz Kupelian steps up to world stage

By Bryan Mahoney/Staff Writer
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LEXINGTON - Somewhere on the streets of London, a teenager is meeting Lexington hair stylist [Naz Kupelian](#) for the first time. And he is about to totally change that teen's plans for the weekend.

This week, Kupelian and the rest of his team representing hair care company Rusk will choose about 60 amateur models as their willing subjects — and perhaps Guinea pigs — for the 2009 [Alternative Hair Show](#).

This is Kupelian's first time at the show, which offers a world stage for the most promising and gifted stylists on the planet. From Oct. 18 to 20, Kupelian will demonstrate coloring and cutting techniques at London's Royal Albert Hall using his hand-picked models.

It will take him away from his Woburn Street salon for a week — during which it will undergo a renovation.

"This is hard because European shows are so long," he said Monday before flying to the U.K. Normally, he would attend a show in Chicago or Orlando that might take three days, tops.

Kupelian opened his salon in 2000. He has worked as a stylist for 21 years, but has been "really into it" for the last 15.

"It's not just a job — it becomes your life," he said.

It is a job in an industry beset by high turnover — a phenomenon Kupelian combats with "constant education." He trains his stylists in apprenticeships sometimes for two years before they work on their own.

"Keep on getting educated. That is how you become successful," he said.


Originality, he said, is also key. Next weekend, he plans on "edgy" work to impress his contemporaries.

"It's always about hair with me. I wake up hair, I sleep hair," he said.



Ann Ringwood/Wicked Local Staff Photographer
Naz Kupelian, international hair artist and owner of Naz Kupelian Salon is heading to Europe to teach advanced hair cutting at the International Show of London.

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