

DIRECTORY

Perfect Brows

Getting groomed—from Manhattan to Malibu.



Maribeth Madron trims brows at New York City's John Barrett Salon.

NEW YORK

John Barrett Salon

Maribeth Madron
754 Fifth Ave.
212-872-2700

Years of plucking our own brows over the bathroom sink had left them looking like tadpoles. Clearly it was time to consult a professional. Madron lists Meryl Streep among her clients—and, in the interest of full disclosure, a remarkably large number of *Allure* editors. After inspecting our brows and finding them uneven, she colored in

with brow pencil an area that she said we needed to grow out, then plucked them speedily into subtle arches—that no longer look like they're ready to swim away. \$50.

Shobha

Rumana Yacub
594 Broadway
212-931-8363

Brow shapers at Shobha don't wax or pluck, the salon's henna-tattooed receptionist explained to us over the beat of a world-music CD. Instead, they perform the centuries-old art of threading, where knots of string are looped around

stray hairs, then quickly tugged away. Threading is considered an alternative for women on Retin-A or Accutane who can't use wax. We mistakenly took that to mean that it's painless; it's not. Yacub, our aesthetician, had trouble snaring some of our hairs in the thread, requiring a few extra tear-inducing yanks. Even so, the result—perfectly curved arches with no postshaping redness—was worth a few yelps. \$20.

Ramy Beauty Therapy Studio

Ramy Gafni
330 East 33rd St.
212-684-9889

We entered Gafni's home makeup studio with some trepidation—a friend had warned us that he errs on the side of the dramatic—but he has shaped the famous brows of Naomi Campbell and Cher. Gafni had a very light touch with the tweezers, however—and pointed out just as gently that we'd been overplucking in areas. He filled in these bald spots with



Ramy Gafni fills brows with dark blonde powder at his home studio in New York City.

his Miracle Brow kit, a color compact holding two shades that can be blended to match hair. Our newly angled brows were soft and subtle. But the way they opened up our eyes was indeed dramatic. \$55.

Butterfly Studio

Rachel Gangemi
15 E. 30th St.
212-685-8822

Gangemi's own ultrathin brows unnerved us so much that we had to ask: Would she pluck ours down to nothing,



Jurlique Lavender Silk Dust and Jurlique Calendula Cream soothe skin after waxing at Faith Valentine in Malibu.