



Beauty

Lesley Thomas

By celebrity appointment

Uma's manicurist? Gwyneth's waxer? Sounds good to me



Blossom and Jasmine
manicure devotee
Uma Thurman

I'll never be able to say the c-word with the casual insouciance of Azealia Banks. I am at peace with this now – partly because I know that Azealia and I like the same mascara. It's called They're Real! by Benefit (£18.50; benefitcosmetics.co.uk). And why should I be ashamed to admit it? It would be nice if we could stop pretending we don't care which beauty treatments celebrities use.

People whose careers depend on their looks don't waste their time with rubbish therapists. It doesn't mean you are stupid to want the same make-up as the Duchess of Cambridge (she uses Bobbi Brown foundation, from £29 at bobbibrown.co.uk, same as me). You wouldn't use Nigella's eyebrow trainer, Vaishaly, who gave me an amazing arch once (£70; 020-7224

There were several painful 'extractions' during my facial – if I say any more, it would be TMI, even in a beauty column

6088), or Gwyneth's waxer, J Sisters Salon in Manhattan (jsisters.com), because you want to copy Nigella's brow or Gwyneth's bikini line. It is because one assumes Team Gwyneth and Team Nigella have thoroughly researched and auditioned the relevant practitioners.

So I booked Uma Thurman's manicurist for a pre-holiday manipedi, assuming that poor old Thurman has had to endure way more barefoot luxury than I have and you can't do barefoot luxury (this is the holiday vibe I rock from the moment I take my seat on easyJet) without an amazing pedicure. Anyway, Uma was right to choose Blossom and Jasmine (from £65; blossomandjasmine.com), the mobile beauty company, because two weeks later my bare feet still look extremely deluxe.

It's celebrity facialists I find most seductive, though. I've tried Claudia Schiffer's, Joanne Evans – a genius on uneven complexions (£120; skin-matters.co.uk) – and Queen Rania of Jordan's, Sarah Chapman, who miraculously de-puffed my cheeks (from £50 for 30 minutes; sarahchapman.net). So when I heard there was a new superfacialist in town, Juliette Binoche's favourite no less, I booked immediately.

As far as preserving your face, there can't be many moves as smart as taking tips from a 48-year-old actress who has to be seen in close-up on a 70ft screen and still look fit. My session with Su-Man Hsu at the Away Spa at the W London hotel (treatments from £85; wllondon.co.uk) was not the most comfortable facial I've ever had. There were several painful "extractions" – if I say any more, it would definitely be TMI, even in a beauty column.

The remaining 90 minutes felt like a very pummelly Swedish massage of the face. At one point I thought Su-Man was trying to gouge my eyes out – "bringing out your beauty", as she put it. But checking myself out afterwards, it was worth it. Frown lines had disappeared; my brows were lifted. My face, at rest, looked happy/awake rather than distracted/knackered. Anne Hathaway called her appointment with Su-Man "life-changing". I would call it a "quite noticeable improvement". You mustn't believe everything famous people say. ■

Sarah Vine returns next week

What we love

Pink lip gloss



FROM TOP: **Becca Glossy Lip Tint** in Julep, £18 (beccacosmetics.com). **Chantecaille Luminous Gloss** in Lychee, £28 (0800 123400). **Nars Larger Than Life Lip Gloss** in Coeur Sucré, £19 (narcocosmetics.co.uk). **Clinique Long Last Glosswear SPF15** in Air Kiss, £14.50 (clinique.co.uk). **MAC Plushglass** in Fashion Fanatic, £16.50 (maccosmetics.co.uk). **PRUE WHITE**