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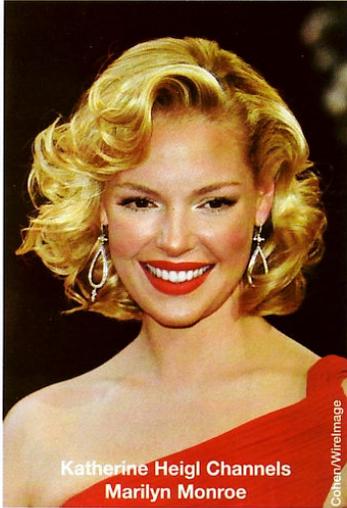


Caravan Jet Crystal Stone Barrette, \$8.

# SEAN FLANIGAN

## THE ANATOMY OF A CELEBRITY HAIRDRESSER

By Karen Shelton • HairBoutique.com



Katherine Heigl Channels  
Marilyn Monroe



Seahly/WireImage

Sean Flanigan has some serious hairdresser chops, but the only thing he doesn't pull out of his magical hair bag is attitude. He is instantly warm, friendly, down-to-earth and incredibly funny.

When I caught up with Sean by phone he was at work on the film *Driving Lessons*, with Dermot Mulroney and Hope Davis. He greeted me like an old friend he hadn't chatted with for awhile and appeared genuinely happy to hear from me. Never mind that I was a complete stranger intruding on his busy day behind the cameras.

I instantly discovered Sean is a great story teller and I was truly mesmerized by his many hair tales, no pun intended. Many times throughout our conversation, he had me laughing out loud as he regaled me with fascinating anecdotes from his work in TV, films and his early days in theater and the soaps.

Even though he was on constant celebrity "hair alert" during our chat, he was willing to talk to me, even resorting to set appropriate whispering. And as I hung up the phone, I was thinking, "Wow, this is a really great guy." While many Hollywood hairdressers loudly toot their horns, Sean Flanigan lets his vast experience and stunning work humbly speak for him—and speak volumes it does.

### Award-Winning Hair Accomplishments

One of those rare birds, a native Californian, Sean is well-known for many hairdressing accomplishments including being nominated for an Emmy for his spectacular hair work on TV's hit, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Many of us also may know of him as the resident head hairdresser for the wildly popular *Grey's Anatomy* TV show on ABC.

Indeed, even though he recently left the *Grey's* set behind, Sean will continue to coif the magnificent tresses of gorgeous blonde star, Katherine Heigl, whom he fondly refers to as "Katie."

The mere mention of her name evokes a flood of compliments. "She's a really great girl. We have so much fun together all the time," he said. "We try to carve out some time to just hang out or go shopping." While Sean and Katherine have a very successful long term working relationship, they also have forged a close friendship.

Besides being the former head hairdresser for *Grey's Anatomy*, he is also a celebrity hair guest artist and spokesperson for Joico hair care products as well as being a highly sought after "freelancer" for film, print and other mediums. Although he is currently focused on coif-

ing hair for feature films, when I asked if he would ever consider going back into TV as a head hairdresser on a series, he paused for a moment and thoughtfully replied "never say never." At the present time, he confided he "does not see returning to do TV hair" in his immediate future.

### Wiggin' Out on Buffy

Before his hair reign on *Grey's Anatomy*, Sean was head hairdresser on the set of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. He did the hairstyles for Buffy, played by Sarah Michelle Gellar, as well as the styling for the vampire slayer's popular sidekick, Alyson Hanigan (Willow). He also did hair for some of the other *Buffy* cast members on an as-needed basis.

The hair requirements for *Buffy* involved lots of flashbacks to other centuries and time periods. As a result, Sean was tasked with developing "authentic recreations of hairstyles from past centuries" which he often "accomplished through the use of wigs or hair extensions." He noted the flashback hairstyles also called for "a lot of perfect pin curls and finger waves."

"Doing wigs can be more difficult than



Sarah Michelle Gellar as Buffy

Miazzo/Retna Ltd.



Patrick Dempsey as Dr. Derek Shepherd

Ellen Pompeo as Dr. Meredith Grey

Kate Walsh as Dr. Addison Montgomery

Chandra Wilson as Dr. Miranda Bailey

Sandra Oh as Christina Yang

Photos: D'Amico/ABC

doing actual hair. There's an art to styling wigs. It's not just as simple as plopping it on someone's head and off you go," he explained. "On *Buffy*, lots of wigs were also used on a regular basis to make actors look like a wide range of creatures." Of course there was also "the ongoing challenge of creating vampire coiffures."

In addition, some of the ongoing *Buffy* flashbacks "required actors and actresses to look a lot younger," he said, "which required custom designed wigs or very creative hairstyling."

Sean believes most people don't really understand "doing hair for television and film encompasses a lot more than just haircuts and blow-dries." Depending on the show and its storyline, there may be a "huge demand for period hairstyling" as well as a "constant demand for wigs and hair extensions," he explained.

Luckily for Sean, his background in doing hair for theater served him well for his work on *Buffy* and *Grey's*. Sean shared that "anyone interested in doing hair and makeup for TV or movies should definitely start in the theater, even if it means

going out and volunteering to work in local community theaters—no one ever turns down volunteers."

Due to his love of theater he has accumulated "a large stash of books about different periods." He also has a treasure trove stuffed full of "lots of pieces of hair that I have saved from different wigs I have created."

### Grey's Anatomy Hair Tails

Sean "started doing hair from the very beginning" of *Grey's*. The seasoned hair pro was not only responsible for coiffing hair for the *Grey's* stars, he also held the title, Head Hairdresser, in charge of all the hair and other hairstylists on the set.

On "*Grey's*, the women wear a lot of ponytails and buns, and look pretty messy" he commented. This is done deliberately for the sake of authenticity since the show is set in a busy hospital where it is common to wear hair up and off the shoulders. The hairstyles worn by the cast members are very "real life."

Ironically, even though the hair on *Grey's* "looks easy because it involves more relaxed and natural styles you would find on busy doctors in a bustling hospital," he said, "it is a lot harder to design messy hairstyles to look easy and casual."

His primary hair client for *Grey's*, as well as off the set, is Katherine (Dr. Isobel "Izzy" Stevens). "Whether coiffed in a ponytail, a bun or with a paper bag on her head, she'd still come out looking like a beautiful woman. And," he continued, "she has great hair."

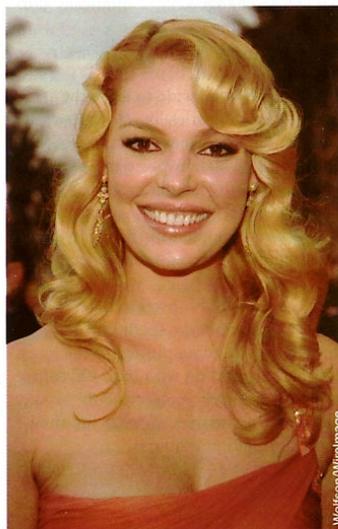
### Working with the Grey's Cast

During his tour of hair duty on *Grey's*, besides Katherine, Sean always worked with Ellen Pompeo, who plays lead character Dr. Meredith Grey. Although they "did not work together off set," during his time with *Grey's*, Sean did all the styling and color for the lovely actress.

For her role as Meredith, Sean explained "Ellen specifically liked to wear her hair down." Not only was it "easier,

but it worked best for the various camera angles and looked good on her."

In addition to coiffing Ellen, Sean was usually responsible for whipping out hospital appropriate hairstyles for Sandra Oh (Dr. Christina Yang) and Patrick Dempsey (Dr. Derek Shepherd).



Wolfson/WireImage

Sandra, he noted, has "really great hair and loved wearing it in a bit of a messy pony," giving the image "she had just rolled out of bed." The actress also liked it when he "pulled her hair up into a messy twist anchored to the back of her head with a metal beak style clip." Sometimes, when appropriate for a storyline or scene, Sean would dress up Sandra's hair a little bit more by adding a thin headband.

Katie, unlike Sandra, preferred "her hair more styled and finished." Even when he styled Katie's hair into a casual pony or updo, he always put extra time into dressing the hair, which meant he might curl the ends of a pony or work on cranking up the shine for a sleek finish.

Besides always cutting and styling



D'Amico/ABC

Patrick's hair for *Grey's*, he also colored it. Depending on timing issues, sometimes Sean also did hair on set for actress Kate Walsh (Dr. Addison Montgomery), Chandra Wilson (Dr. Miranda Bailey) as well as Eric Dane (Dr. Mark Sloan) and Justin Chambers (Dr. Alex Karev).

Some of the unique challenges of a TV hairdresser may not be obvious to the average person. One interesting fact is that the show's producers don't necessarily shoot scenes or even episodes in order, so the challenging part for the hair and makeup team is keeping track of what the actor's hair looked like where they left off with shooting.

As head hairdresser it was Sean's job "to make absolutely sure all of the character's hair looked the same from scene to scene." Which also explains why the hairstyles of major characters on a popular series don't change very dramatically during active filming.

### Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow

So why did Sean decide to leave the security of a hot TV series like *Grey's Anatomy*? Actually, "it was a combination" of factors, none of which involved major drama or tabloid worthy headlines. Sean's agent, in response to the 2007 writer's strike, pushed him to spread his hair wings into feature films, print and more diverse freelance projects.

Even though he professed he "loved every single minute he spent on *Grey's*," at times he wasn't being pushed to the limits of what he could do with hair. Of course working on *Grey's* required him to stay within the boundaries of what the show's theme and setting required.

In that same vein, doing pretty much the same hairstyles on the same actors, whom he was very fond of, prevented him from continuing to evolve his talents. When you work in TV with the cast of a long running popular show, you "do the same people over and over, instead of having a large client base as a hairdresser would in a normal hair salon."

The writer's strike also gave him some time off, and he enjoyed a less demanding work week. Sean has spent so much of his life working on TV sets, that he wanted to take things a little slower and make time for his three kids and partner. "TV work can be exciting and a lot of fun but it is definitely hard work." However, Sean continued "if you want to succeed at this, you will."

### Hair for the Big Screen

Doing hair for the big screen is nothing new for Sean. Although he enjoys the

work, it's definitely a different pace than working for TV. Sean recently served as personal hairstylist to Michelle Monaghan on the film *Made of Honor* with *Grey's* Patrick Dempsey. Working with Michelle required him to travel back and forth between film locations in London, Scotland, Los Angeles and New York.

Sean also served as Katie's personal hairdresser on *The Ugly Truth*, while also doing double duty as hair department head for the entire film. And Sean served as the personal hairstylist for Lindsay Lohan on *Labor Pains* which is set to premiere in 2009.



Emmy Style

### Award-Winning Styles

Besides working with Katie on *Grey's* and for film and print, Sean also does "Katie for red carpet events such as the Emmys, Golden Globes and Academy Awards." According to Sean, "Katie loves old Hollywood glamour with a modern twist." As a result, Sean and Katie put their heads together to come up with her breathtaking Academy Awards hairstyle that was designed to pay homage to glamour queen Marilyn Monroe.

Sean confirmed, "she looked absolutely stunning in person and everything worked. Katie is such a genuinely nice person, so sincere, but still able to really pull off a sophisticated glamorous look like she did for the Academy Awards."

Katie has specifically told the media when she's not all glammed up, she's a "jeans and sweatshirt" girl who just prays she doesn't end up in the "What was she thinking?" category of the tabloids. In

response to this quote, Sean laughed and explained the actress will probably never have to worry about being criticized by the tabloids. Sean said "Katie has a great sense of her own style and knows exactly what works for her."

She also "knows her body really well and what looks great on it." Of course, as Sean pointed out, she has "a really great body which is just the right size." Ironically, Katie hardly works out, which she has also told the media, but manages to always look really good.

Katie reminds Sean of "Grace Kelly" because she is very versatile in the hairstyles she can wear. Katie is also willing to "do the makeup and the clothing to create the glamorous look she desires."

Obviously Sean adores her and said "Katie is awesome" and just "so much fun to work with." In fact, he confessed that when they're working together it really doesn't seem like he's on a job because they have such a great time talking and laughing.



### Hair Hues & Styles

Since Sean has been working with Katie for four years and understands intimately how her finely textured hair works, I referenced all the different hair colors Katherine had morphed through over the past few years and asked if she had a personal preference.

Sean laughed, "Katie loves being blonde. She loves her current hair color which is Joico Verocolor." Sean, who is a Joico celebrity spokesperson and platform artist, "loves their color line" which he uses on all his clients.



Although he is often required to do everything for his clients from color, cut, styling and extensions, he thinks of himself "as more of a hairstylist than a colorist." Which is probably why he is such a fan of Joico's new Design Collection, which he deems "amazing." The collection consists of Humidity Blocker, Dry Spray Wax, Gloss Wax, Pliable Paste and Molding Putty.

Joico's Design Collection Line offers a sleek arsenal of cutting-edge styling tools which dramatically influence hair's movement and condition without adding weight or causing buildup or flaking. It contains the Total Defense Complex which is a breakthrough hair care and style technology.

Sean is personally very partial to the new Humidity Blocker and the Dry Spray Wax. Sean "uses all the Joico products whenever I am getting Katie or one of my other celebrity clients ready for a red carpet appearance."

### Katie's Changing Lengths & Styles

As part of her recent role as the celebrity model for Nautica's "My Voyage" perfume, Katherine was filmed with her hair curled and pinned up to look like a newly clipped bob. As a result she told reporters, "I so want to cut my hair this way. I think it's so chic! I've had long hair for so long."

I asked Sean what Katie's preferred hair length is—long or short? He replied "at the moment her natural hair length hits the top of her shoulders and she is definitely enjoying the new shorter length—and may at some point even go a bit shorter."

He confided "even though Katie has fine tresses, she has a lot of hair with a little bit of natural wave." Depending on the event, he "sets her hair to build in a beautiful curve and will use magnetic style rollers." In order "to give Katie a more contemporary hairstyle," he continued, "I

avoid wet sets which will create too much of a period piece rather than a contemporary polished look."

### Wedded Hair Bliss

Sean had the unique opportunity of creating bridal hairstyles for Katie both on and off the screen. When the gorgeous actress married her music man Josh Kelley on December 23, 2007, she was beautifully coifed in a stunning soft and sensual updo hairstyle custom designed for her by Sean.

Shortly after in March 2008, when Katherine hit the premiere trail for *27 Dresses*, where she ultimately becomes a bride, she had her *Grey's Anatomy* hair maestro in tow. He was by her side attending to her locks as she did press junket duty in London and Paris.

How did Sean decide what hairstyles to design for the various high powered celebrity events? Quite simply, Sean

explained, "it's tied to the dress" or outfit she wears. Of course it's also an ongoing collaboration between Katherine and Sean.

Sean confirmed that "Katie definitely has her own ideas of how she wants her hair styled. She is very relaxed and easy going, and trusts me to help her select the ultimate hairstyle she wears." Which is just another reason why the actress and her mane man work so well together.

### What the Future May Hold

Although *Grey's Anatomy* continues on without Sean behind the "mane" chair in the hair trailer, the wonderfully talented hairdresser will continue to create magnificent hair designs as a freelancer. Sean is fierce and willing to take risks. He told me "if you have a goal you wish to accomplish, don't be afraid to go for it."

Always in demand, Sean's next few months will be spent styling a myriad list of interesting new characters for several upcoming films as well as promoting Joico's sensational product lines. In addition, Sean will spend some cherished time with his beloved family. Sean is devoted to his children and expressed a commitment to make time for them and his partner.

Regardless of where this warm and charming man does hair in the future, there is no doubt he will be immensely successful. As Sean likes to say, "put your heart and soul into your dream, and you'll succeed." There's no doubt whatever dream Sean Flanigan decides to pursue, he will always finish at the very top.



# TRESSRX

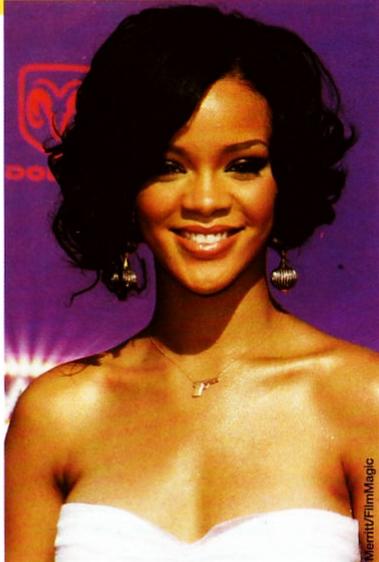
## Ask the Hair Doctor

By Karen Shelton • HairBoutique.com

**I've been thinking of taking my shoulder length, medium thick hair to a very short hairstyle for the very first time in my life. I have really been warming up to the idea of short hair and my boyfriend has been encouraging me to go short. He thinks I should go with Rihanna's current short crop because he thinks I will look great with her hairstyle.**

**When I told my hairdresser what my guy suggested, he told me I have a super square face shape and a short Rihanna style cut will magnify my square jaw and cheeks. He explained my angular face shape is why he always encourages me to wear my hair to my shoulders.**

**What can I do? I want to go short to please my guy and try a new hairstyle but don't want to offend my long term hairdresser by going against his opinion. And now that he has told me his reasons for keeping my hair longer, I am worried that a new short cut will emphasize my square jaw and I will look terrible. I am distressed about my hair. Any tips would be so much appreciated.—Krissa**



It's true that some short hairstyles like Rihanna's may not work for all face shapes. However, there are many tricks which can be employed to modify a short cut into a great customized hairstyle for all face shapes.

It's admirable your hairdresser is on your side, but remember that he ultimately works for you. While it's his responsibility to point out any challenges your face shape might provide with a short hair cut, it's also his duty to work with you to help you achieve the hairstyle of your dreams.

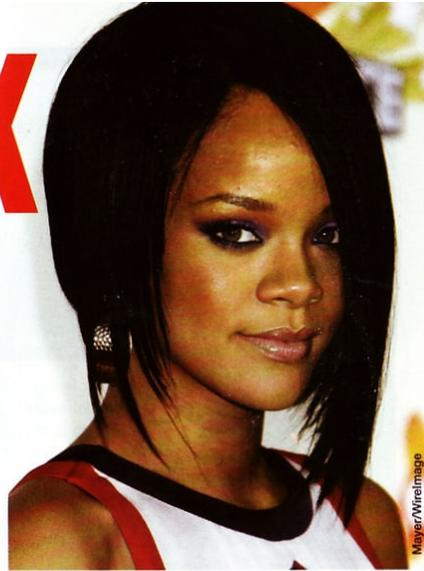
To minimize a square jaw consider opting for a graduated bob. This hairstyle is sleek, sexy and very fashion forward. The graduated bob incorporates shorter pieces of hair along the back of the head but is graduated in various lengths to provide longer face framing strands.

A graduated bob can actually be scissored longer in front to extend past your chin, which provides instant softening and minimizing of strong jaw lines.

When heavily layered, this short style can add instant volume along the crown providing the illusion of a more balanced face shape. Random slices of hair can be cut to nestle into your cheeks, chiseling and softening any squareness.

Other tricks to minimize and soften a strong jaw line and cheeks include carefully placed highlights and lowlights to accentuate your best facial features. Depending on the shape of your forehead, skillfully sculpted bangs can also soften appropriately with the added bonus of playing up your eyes.

If your heart is still set on a short cropped style exactly like Rihanna's, spend some time researching the many hair, fashion and celebrity magazines. Clip out pictures of hairstyles which hit the short note you desire but



also offer longer perimeter strands to soften your chin and cheek areas. Show the various styles to your hairdresser and ask him to help you select a cut that is ideal for you. Keep in mind that Rihanna's current short crop evolved first from below her shoulders to an angled bob to her super short style. Sometimes going from long to short is a journey that should be taken in stages.

Ultimately it's you who will wear the short style—not your guy or your hairdresser. Take your time, do your research, work with your stylist then follow your heart to the short hairstyle of your dreams.



# CRAZY FOR KATE

By Karen Shelton • HairBoutique.com



Cohen/WireImage

hairstyle, besides the perfect symmetry of the side-swept bangs and hair panels, is the way the hairstyle combines sultry sophistication with sexiness. Kate's side-swept long wavy style is pure Hollywood. Even better, the side-swept bangs balance her face shape which is a combo of classic heart and oval.

Follow the steps listed below to recreate Kate's sophisticated banded style:

- 1 Shampoo hair and apply rinse out conditioner.
- 2 Finish with a cool water rinse.
- 3 Towel blot.
- 4 Apply appropriate styling cocktails (defrisants, mousse, cream).
- 5 Create deep side part using rattail end of comb.
- 6 Separate bang hair into individual sections and blow-dry

**K**ate Hudson has great Bang IQ. The lovely blonde beauty has inherited her gorgeous mom's, actress Goldie Hawn, lush blonde locks. Kate also happens to have a great celebrity hairdresser on her speed dial. The Golden Globe and Oscar winner has been working with hairstylist David Babaii for the past eight years, who works very hard to create an ever changing array of new looks that always has Kate looking well tressed, bangs or no bangs.

For this red carpet look, Kate wore her naturally wavy hair au natural with a deep right side part. Her uber long side-swept bangs draped seductively over one eye in traditional Veronica Lake fashion. If you look closely you will notice the two sections that merge together to form the side-swept bang look. There is one section of hair that extends directly from the hairline and flows down over her eyebrow. Right above the long side-swept bang section is a larger panel of hair that branches directly off from the side part and is directed up and over to the side of Kate's head, nestling on top of the side-swept bang section.

What is fabulous about Kate's bang

with a round boar's brush and a blow dryer. Roll hair around the brush to enhance wave formations.

7 Separate the remainder of the hair into individual two-inch sections to blow-dry with a long finger diffuser. Allow strands to nestle into the basin of the diffuser for maximum wave formation.

8 When hair is completely dry, separate into two-inch sections and curl with a medium barrel curling iron. Pin newly created curls to scalp to cool. Curl around entire head including bang area making sure not to curl bang area too tightly.

9 After curls are completely cool, remove pins and arrange waves with fingers. Gently pull bang strands to loosen and deconstruct into loose waves.

10 Apply finishing products such as shine spray or serum, and a light mist of hairspray.

## Types of Hair Compatible with Kate's Bang Hairstyle

At first glance it is hard to determine whether Kate has long side-swept bangs or is just wearing her side hair panels coifed in a faux bangs style. If you look closely you will see that Kate does have bangs that end parallel with her cheek. They appear to be one length or have very slight layers.

Kate's long side-swept bangs would work best with hair that is either naturally straight, wavy or with a slight curl or bend. This style can also work with naturally curly hair if the hair is pre-straightened before creating the final waves along the sides.

Kate's bang hairstyle is designed to show off her face and gorgeous eyes. Carefully applied ribbons of highlights and lowlights intertwined throughout Kate's hair and bangs have a spectacular effect.



DeGruire/WireImage