

Nicole's mane attraction

It might take nearly two hours to blow-dry, but *Bad Girls* star Nicole Faraday wouldn't be without her long, blonde hair

How long have you been growing your hair?

I've had long hair ever since I was a little girl and have always been too much of a coward to cut it off. I used to be able to sit on it when I was younger, but it became so long and straggly that it was hard to manage. I have regular trims to keep it in good condition now.

Would you ever consider cutting it all off?

My casting director said I should cut my hair because long hair can be restricting when you go for jobs and it's not very versatile, but I'm determined to keep it long. I was asked to cut my hair for *Bad Girls* but begged them to let me wear a wig instead. It's made of real hair and actually looks quite cool. But while I toy with the idea of having my own hair cut into a similar style, I feel having long hair is a part of me.

How do you wear your hair?

I usually let it dry naturally, which takes about an hour and a half, and I don't do much with it in the day. But if I'm going out in the evening, I like to make an effort and I have some fabulous crimpers that give my hair a funky look. I'll sometimes use Carmen rollers for a more glamorous feel, too, as I love that whole '50s starlet look.

Are you a natural blonde?

My hair's naturally dark blonde, so I have half a head of highlights to give my colour a lift. I used to have a full head of

bleach highlights that almost ruined my hair, so I have a high-lift tint instead now. My hair feels in much better condition.

Have you ever done anything drastic to your hair?

I'm too scared to do anything major, but I had to bleach my hair white blonde when I played Agnetha in the Abba tour four years ago. It was fun at the time, but when I look back I'm conscious that having my hair bleached too light can make me look like a bimbo.

What's been your worst hair disaster?

I was approached by a hairdresser at High Street Kensington tube station a couple of years ago, who asked if I'd like to have my hair coloured for free and I thought: 'Why not?' He said he was going to make my hair a slightly darker blonde with a few lighter streaks around the crown, but he actually made it this terrible greyish, green colour.

I refused to leave until he dyed it back to its original state and afterwards my hair was left in an awful condition as he had to put even more bleach on it. I was absolutely gutted!

What products do you use?

I use John Frieda's Beach Blonde Conditioner to give my hair a silky texture and a little Fudge Intensive Conditioner to strengthen the ends. I also use John Frieda's Restructuring Serum because long hair can be prone to getting split ends.

I have regular trims to prevent them and never brush my hair when it's wet.

What hairstyle would you never be seen dead with?

I'd hate to have really short hair like Demi Moore in *Gl Jane*. I see my long hair as a security blanket and I don't think I'd feel as confident without it. No matter how many people say short hair would suit me, I'd be far too self-conscious about my ears. Besides, I like having long, blonde hair. I consider it one of my best assets.

What celebrity hairstyles do you most admire?

I loved Jane Fonda's hair in *Barbarella* – it was gorgeous. I also admire Milla Jovovich because she can carry off so many different styles and colours – she's been a brunette, a blonde, a redhead – the lot. She's so striking that she can get away with it.

How much do you spend on your hair each month?

Probably about £60. I get my hair cut every eight weeks at Greenwich Clipper near where I live. I always go on a Monday because you get a 20 per cent discount. The cut usually costs about £30 and a half head of highlights about £40, which I have done every five weeks. I never spend more than £10 on hair products each month.

Do blondes have more fun?

Yes!



**Top, £120,
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Necklace,
Nicole's own**

**Feature: Naomi Carliffe.
Photos: Nicky Black.
Hair and make-up:
Collette Ruddy**