



**Hair dare: Katy Perry goes short**  
PICTURE: GETTY



**Eye-catching:** Kristen Stewart's shaved head (left) is ideal to show off big eyes; or go halfway with Michelle Williams's pixie crop and fringe



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# Top of the CROPS

As the A-listers keep going for the chop, **Helen Croydon** explains why her short barnet is both powerful and glorious

**F**IRST it was Scarlett Johansson. Now it's Katy Perry and Kristen Stewart – glamorous femmes who have chopped their locks off.

If you ask me, short hair rocks. It shows personality, confidence and is a stand against time-consuming aesthetic ideals that supposedly make women look feminine. I got the chop five years ago. I used to sport the classic long blonde girly look – now I prefer to make a statement that I'm not afraid to show my face.

There are photos of me with shiny long hair looking fab at a party. That's because I'd arrived by cab and brushed it two minutes before the camera flash. Such situations are rare. Mostly, my hair is squashed underneath a bike helmet, being styled at the gym where there is no access to hair straighteners, or I'm caught in the rain. A pixie cut can recover from all these situations with merely a bit of a ruffle.

I've dated guys who've tried to get me to grow my hair out. But the salon finish is a fantasy. Unless, that is, they want a woman who has nothing else to talk about but blow-dry bars. In my experience, it's ballsy men who can handle women with short hair. And besides, long hair clogs up plugholes. *Gross.*

A cropped style is versatile. I wash it every day because I swim and run a lot and, while I still blow-dry it for body, there's no hot brush accessories required – styling takes three minutes.

Richard Ward, hair stylist to celebs and royals, says everyone should give it a go. 'Nine out of ten clients who go short come back and ask for the same thing again,' he says.

'Their confidence goes up so much from all the compliments they receive. If you just keep having a trim, no one sees you any differently. Short hair is such a dramatic change that people always comment and it's a boost.'

Still not sure? TRESemmé stylist Aaron Carlo has advice for different face shapes. 'Short hair is great on oval face shapes,' he explains. 'If you have soft features, you can go even shorter. The dramatic shaved-head look of Kristen Stewart will make big eyes come to life.'

'If you want to rock the buzz cut without going the whole hog, you could go halfway first, like Michelle Williams's pixie crop with a longer sweeping fringe.'

So, ladies, come on, join me and get shorty. If there was ever a time to lose your locks and feel the breeze on your neck, it's now.



**Pixie locks: Helen loves her short look**

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