

Interview with Barry Hendrickson:

Barry, we are sitting here in your New York Salon, Bitz-n-Pieces, looking at your beautifully illustrated book, "Looking Like You." It's filled with insight on how to look and feel your best while undergoing chemotherapy.

The New York Times once referred to you and your staff as "guardian angels."

Q. How is it that you went from designing fantasy creations for the Joffrey Ballet and fashion and show business clients to helping the everyday woman facing chemotherapy?

Barry: By happenstance, clients I was designing wigs for knew others who were facing the side effects of hair loss due to chemotherapy and asked, "Could I help them"? Gradually, by asking questions and listening carefully, I came up with so much helpful advice and practical and fun tips. I found that having a basic understanding of this complex chemical process helps alleviate the anxiety and stress surrounding the matter of hair replacement.

Q: "Looking Like You" is so useful because it not only gives sensible guidance, but it seems to be very inspirational about life in general. What made you decide to write the book?

Barry: Originally, the text was written as a tool for my stylists as they encountered chemotherapy clients for the first time. The reaction has been so overwhelmingly positive –in other words, the clients felt an immediate boost to their moral that I wanted to make these techniques available to anyone who needs them.

Q: What is the primary focus to your approach in "Looking Like You?"

Barry: The focus is staying centered on solutions to various problems as they arise. Remaining solutions-oriented allows you to maintain a positive attitude; which I always believe brings positive results. It's a journey that eventually leads back to feeling like yourself again.

Q: As a wig designer you really clarify a lot of issues of looking for that perfect wig. What other concerns and aspects of the situation does the book address?

Barry: "Looking Like You" is called *looking like you* because we advise using simplistic strategies that will help maintain your unique identity and sense of style. Keeping things simple is always the best answer. The book provides everything you need to know from make-up and accessorizing strategies to basic wardrobe suggestions.

Q. What do you recommend for comfort when you get home and take off the wig?

Barry: I call it Option Wear. Finding your comfort zone at home is one of the most important concerns. I recommend Tami caps, which are made with stretch

fabric and come in all colors. These are easy cover-ups you can use if anyone surprises you at the door so you don't have to run and try to put your wig on in a hurry. Tie scarves work well with the "Halo of Hair," which is designed to wear under hats and scarves without wearing your full wig so you can stay cool and comfortable.

Q: What is the most commonly asked question from a new client facing chemotherapy?

Barry: Clients always ask me, "How can I make my wig look more natural and true to my own style"? and my response is always the same, "less is more." When you are looking to replace your hair with a wig, I recommend choosing something that is close to your natural style and not overly glamorous. Most wigs overcompensate the amount of hair that the average woman has and this can cause them to look unnatural. I suggest removing the extra volume by styling, thinning or using a flat iron. With synthetic wigs you can simply mist them with water to take out the extra volume and make them look more natural.