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*"The artist who
aims at perfection
in everything achieves
it in nothing."*
Eugene Delacroix

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Golden Arches

Step away from those tweezers, ladies. For a perfectly primed pair of face-framing brows, it's best to give yourself over to the experts.

Words by **Penny Hunt**

Eyebrows Through The Ages

51BC Egyptian Queen Cleopatra, portrayed by the late Elizabeth Taylor (*right*) on screen in **1963**. The brows were thick and black, enhanced with liner made from lead-based kohl and applied with warm enamel sticks.



1920s Young Hollywood actress Clara Bow (*right*) epitomized the era's flapper look. Her eyebrows were shaved and a thin, downwards-sloping line was painted back on using grease pencil.



1950s Hollywood's glamorous screen sirens Audrey Hepburn (*right*) and Sophia Loren sported full, dark brows distinguished with a definitive lift in the centre, but always well groomed.



I've been in eyebrow envy ever since mine took a turn for the worse after a plucking party and decided not to return. Now I get green-eyed over the bushy brows of Brooke Shields or anyone else who seems to possess that perfect curve and crop. You might have the opposite problem – maybe something reminiscent of Salma Hayek's portrayal of Frida Kahlo. So here is the advice my mother should have shared with me before I started the harvest with my tweezers: always consult the professionals.

There are many options available for maintaining your brows. "When it comes to plucking, waxing or even threading, they all suit different types of hair and nationalities," says Dee Davies from The Clear Skin Clinic. "Most good therapists will clean the area with wax or threading, then do the finer details with the tweezers. The right shape is really determined by the shape of the individual's face, and your technician can use the nose-to-eye measurements to determine a good shape."

For those of us who have over-plucked and can no longer grow back the hair, Davies recommends tattooing. "Tattooing is not a block colour application," she says. "If you have a good tattooist they will do brush strokes to fill in the gaps and it takes about one hour, starting with an aesthetic cream to numb the area. The cost is around \$450 and includes a touch-up that needs to take place four weeks later. The first time you do the tattooing it's quite dark, but then it peels off in 48 hours and the colour looks great and lasts about 10 years."

In order to achieve shape and definition for everyday wear, Davies is a fan of make-up artist Ervan Woo's pencils.

"The best pencils are the non-waterproof ones from Ervan Woo's new range made in Germany, and they double as an eye shadow. Or you can try tinting if you are fair and want to look less washed out. The cost is \$20 and lasts a few weeks."

For those wanting a more permanent result, an eyebrow transplant can be performed. "It's for cases where the hair will not grow back after over-plucking or for reconstructive reasons after surgery," says Dr Russell Knudsen, the president of the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery and a hair growth specialist. "We use scalp hair, which means [the hairs] grow one centimetre per month and need trimming, at least for the first one to two years until the growth slows down," he explains. "Then tiny needles are used to insert the single hair grafts so no scarring is visible and the patient must help train the hair by applying oil or gel to the area after the procedure to make sure the hairs sit flat to the skin and in a natural flow."

You can expect to pay between \$1500 and \$3000 for the transplant depending upon the amount of grafting required and sometimes a Medicare rebate is possible.

The Clear Skin Clinic is located at 13b Transvaal Avenue, Double Bay, Sydney. 02 9327 5033; theclearskinclinic.com.au For Dr Russell Knudsen's surgery details, call 1800 685 399.

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1970s Ali MacGraw and Farrah Fawcett (right) were the faces of the Charlie girl era, which was all about being natural and fresh. Eyebrows were thick at the beginning then followed the line of the brow bone.



1980s Actress Brooke Shields' famous bushy, heavy brow (right) was free spirited and followed the natural brow pattern. Brows were thickened using a pencil that matched the hair colour.



2011 Model Bambi Northwood-Blyth's statement brows are full and natural but tamed using all the mod cons and kept in place with a little bit of hairspray applied to a mascara wand and combed through.

