



The Teah, Capable Salons, Portland, OR



Michelle Lippman, Michelle Lippman Hair, Jody's Hair, Texas

Fringe Benefits

Your hair is your most visible asset, so why not let it enhance your look. It's part of your personality, a reflection of who you are, so do something great to let it represent your feelings. What better way than with fringes?

Long, straight cuts in a single, unlayered length are predictable and passé. Why not make your style interesting with smartly crafted fringes, also known as bangs. Whether you want to highlight your facial features or camouflage the flaws, you can reap the fringe benefits with this versatile trend. Perfect, isn't it!

Fringes or bangs strangely hop in and out of style but there's no denying that cleverly executed ones act as "an instant tune-up", as celebrity hairstylist Ken Paves puts it. A slight twist, a short nip, a deft slice or a wide swathe, they all make fringes ever so exciting! Want a stunning makeover without lopping off your locks or going in for a colour change? Try a fringe!

SMITA IYENGAR spikes up some fun with the latest in fringes for those lifestyle binges!

"Why don't you get a haircut? You look like a chrysanthemum." That was P.G. Wodehouse at his wittiest; but for sure, a smartly cut fringe would add character and pep you up when you're feeling low.



Neil Macfadyen, Adelaide, Australia



Bright bangs

Transform your fringes into a flashy and fashionable statement by adding just a few light blonde highlights that can brighten your tresses and give the illusion of a different shape altogether. Dark hair with blonde panels underneath your fringes can be very trendy!

Ananya Lupton for C-Studio Professional Colour, Sydney, 2007

Spruce it up

Accessorise, accessorise, accessorise. Don an ornate floral clip or a slide, a pretty satin ribbon or a delicate hairband... why use accessories only on your body, your hair is the perfect canvas to get arty.

The flip side

If you are a corporate professional, a doctor or a legal practitioner, you may find it rather annoying to have your hair falling in your face while you're working. Long fringes can irritate the eyes if you wear contacts. This is when a handy hairband saves the day. Some people choose to make a chic fashion statement by pushing their bangs out of the way with the help of carefully placed sunglasses. What you could (and should) do if you opt for a fringe is ensure you book a regular trim so that your style is maintained and your fringes don't go into overgrown, unkempt mode.

Expert speak

- Subi Samuel, ace photographer: "Fringes are definitely flattering if they are aesthetically designed to frame the face. They instantly cut down weight from the face, especially for women with chubby faces or with large bone structure."
- Seema Jerajani of Fusions Salon and Academy: "Indian women love to have fringes as they can maintain their long hair and still have a trendy look. Fringes are so versatile that they lend a different look even when they are shifted from right to left or vice-versa. Indian women have soft, feminine faces that would look great with soft-edged or textured fringes, unless the haircut is very geometric and structured."
- Fiona Caroline, Training Manager—Make-up, Christian Dior: "Beautifully streaked bangs with proper make-up either give a dramatic and contrasting look or they can blend very subtly with make-up if the colours used are from the same palette. Make sure you shape your brows thinner when you have fringes, as they allow the eyes to open up beautifully. I am all for fringes with highlights."



Bagging the bang

Selecting your fringe is an intricate process and can be daunting. What you have to keep in mind is that the kind of fringe you choose depends on certain considerations — the shape of your face and your side profile, the texture of your hair, your lifestyle and profession and, of course, the way you wish to project yourself.

Choose from myriad variations — side-swept bangs or angled ones, eyebrow skimming, peek-a-boo fringes or short choppy ones, take your pick. Whether you're a die-hard romantic, a vixen with a devil-may-care attitude, an A-list socialite or sexy siren, the art of creating a fringe is so versatile that it can be adapted to suit any face and any personality.

Fringes are a highly customised hair rendition. If you want to spice up your style quotient but don't know what to get, read on to check out what suits you best.