
Fintona woman secures Hairdresser of the Year award

FINTONA-BORN hairstylist, Martina Kelly scooped the prestigious title Hairdresser of the Year 2009 for her Belfast based salon Rebel Hair recently. She won the award at the glamorous annual Ulster Tatler People of the Year Awards which took place at the Waterfront Hall.

Martina Kelly opened Rebel Hair in Stranmillis, Belfast in 2004 having spent several years working in top salons in London, where she learned, researching and perfected exactly what it takes to run a leading hairdressing salon.

When on one of her rare visits back home, Martina spotted suitable premises in Stranmillis, Belfast and she knew now was the time to set up on her own rather than to return to London and continue working for someone else.

After much hard work, not to mention considerable financial investment, premises which had stood idle for nearly 12 months had been fully refurbished and refitted. With a name inspired by a certain Billy Idol song, Rebel Hair was ready to launch.

Winning this award means a great deal to Martina, particularly due to the fact that as a Tyrone girl, returning from London, she had to build up her client base entirely from scratch.

Martina said, "I have felt confident in recent years as business has been strong, but winning an award like this, which is judged by public



Martina Kelly being presented with the 'Hairdresser of the Year Award 2009' by Sean McCann at the Ulster Tatler People of the Year Awards at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast.

vote right to the semi final stage, gives me so much pride as I know that my clients are really behind me. Day-in-day-out I put my heart and soul into my clients, and it just feels phenomenal that they've reciprocated by voting me as Hairdresser of the Year!"

Rebel Hair is a unisex salon which caters for all age groups. Martina has over 20 years experience in the hair industry, training in Enniskillen and Omagh.

She has travelled and worked around the world, in New Zealand, Australia and London. Having started out working very much on her own, it was only a matter of weeks

before Martina was able to recruit her first stylist, then a Saturday girl. Over the last five years she has put together a team of committed, successful stylists, who are passionate about hair and putting the client first. She believes in her team and considers them to be one of her most important assets.

Maybe it's the country girl influence but Rebel Hair is one of the friendliest, most comfortable salons in Belfast.

It has lots of quiriness which makes it unique, including a Membership Club for the ladies and stylists trained in Indian Head Massage.