

# LIFESTYLE

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## TAKE A BROW

### Permanent makeup jobs offer wash-and-wear appeal

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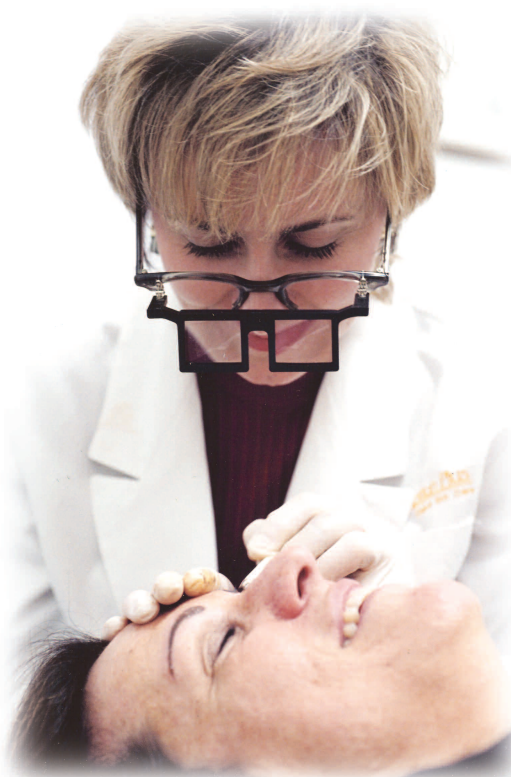
Eyebrows. They have been the bane of my existence. Why? Because I don't have any. It wasn't always that way. I used to have eyebrows like Brook Shields (before it was fashionable), and I really hated them. So my Mother, God rest her soul, plucked them for me.

When I was getting ready for college I asked her to really prune them since it would have to last until my first vacation at Thanksgiving. She did such a great job they never grew back. From then on, I would have to allow an extra 10 to 15 minutes getting dressed each day to "put them on". Even then, I could never be sure that I wouldn't end up looking like Groucho Marx or Clara Bow.

Forget those rare days when I drew them on just right. I would invariably run off half of one when taking off my sunglasses or pulling on a blouse. Finally, my best pal, Susan, had enough of my whining.

"Why don't you get one of those permanent make up jobs?" she suggested. She had had the procedure done the previous year on her brows, eyelids and lips, and it actually looked quite natural. If I hadn't known I wouldn't have known. But, still ... a tattoo? I don't think so!"

After discussing it countless times and thinking of the freedom, however, I gave in and contacted Fort Lauderdale esthetician Sarah Oliver at Naturally You.



ABOVE: Sarah Oliver  
draws Bonnie's eyebrows.

Oliver used to cater to the beauty needs of some of Broward County's most visible women. Then she saw their beauty was more than skin deep. "I would be sitting across from these women and think, 'My gosh; they wear so much makeup,'" says Oliver, who worked in several prominent salons over 15 years. "I was certain they would be so much more attractive with a more natural appearance."

Oliver became interested in corrective skin care and makeup. Then, while attending a paramedical seminar, she was introduced to the Micropigmentation procedure, or permanent makeup. She eventually got certified and started her own business several years ago. Sarah uses a traditional tattoo machine as well as the hand method.

"I'm an artist, and this really fills that creative part of me," says Oliver, who graduated from the Fort Lauderdale Art Institute with a degree in fashion design.

She tells of a client who had a deep acne scar on her face that made her self-conscious. "I simply made it into a beauty mark," Oliver says. "She was thrilled."

The procedure has been used on patients who have had breast reconstruction after a mastectomy. Color pigment is etched into tissue to give a more natural appearance to the nipple.

For the sake of convenience, many swimmers have also "been done".



LEFT: Bonnie DiPacio as a clean canvas, sans makeup. RIGHT: Bonnie after treatments, with eyebrows, eyeliner and lip liner permanently in place.

While I was still hedging on being committed to this, I heard of another women who had lost her eyebrows and lashes while undergoing chemotherapy. She had the makeup applied and loved the results. The more I heard, the less apprehensive I felt. Oliver's name alone – Sarah - instilled trust in me. It also helped that Oliver had had the procedure done to her own eyelids and lips. I decided to go for it – and have my lids and lip liner done as well.

During a consultation, Oliver performed a patch test ( administered 24 hours before the procedure) to make sure there was no allergic reaction. She then explained that the makeup would be done in two separate applications about six weeks apart. The first application is done with a light color, mainly to make sure you have the desired shape. The second is the actual permanent makeup.

Permanent can mean anywhere from five to ten years, depending on one's skin pigment. I made my first appointment and tried not to think about the time I fainted having my ear pierced.

I arrived on a Wednesday at the office Oliver shares with a homeopathic doctor, an acupuncturist and a massage therapist. Classical music wafted throughout the building. My angst was beginning to subside.

I was given a vial containing a tropical anesthetic and a Q-Tip. Oliver instructed me to keep applying it to my brow line and lids until the vile was empty. Then she began dabbing a dark substance on my lashes with a Q-Tip. She said she was tinting the lashes because I would not be able to use any regular makeup for about 10 days to prevent infection from occurring.

Oliver next sketched an outline for my eyebrows

and lips in pencil after determining the shape best suited for my face. She explained that all of the pigments used were organic (all natural, no chemical additives).

As I reclined n the table in her office, Oliver wrapped me a in a clean cool sheet and a light throw. I felt like baby being waddled. She also put a pillow under my knees.

I immediately closed my eyes. It's a rule I have: Never look at the needle in the doctor's office. I was sure it should apply here, as well.

Although Oliver wanted to explain each step, I didn't want to know. (Another rule). She did, however announce that she was using a new tool before each procedure. All instruments and supplies used are disposable.

It felt as if my brows and lids were being pinched with an extremely sharp instrument. But that was the extent of the discomfort. When Sean the staff photographer, began shooting, he kept asking if it hurt. I replied quite honestly that it did not. The came the lips...

I found myself imaging tiny men, their bellies hanging over tiny jackhammers (OK, OK, I needed to focus on something other than what was taking place on my mouth). That worked for about 10 minutes. Then I started singing Happy Talk from South Pacific (to myself, of course) and wiggled my big toes forth as if they were thumbs. And then... it was over.

All three procedures had taken less than four hours. Sarah held a mirror up to my face, and I was amazed. My brows were glorious and my lips ...my lips were big and luscious (albeit swollen.)

My eyes were a bit puffy, like after a good cry. Sarah explained that that was normal and told me to apply some ice when I got some.

Obviously the discomfort couldn't have been too great. I made the appointment for the second application and headed home.

The next morning: the big test. I put a dollop of petroleum jelly on both brows and lids and smeared some on my Michelle Pfeiffer lips, then stepped into the shower..

Amazing! All I had to do before heading to work was apply some under eye concealer and blush. The rest of my face was wash and wear.

All that I ask now is that the rest of you don't hate me because my makeup is perfect.

# SARAH OLIVER PERMANENT MAKE-UP