

CELEB STYLE

Hair hero

He's worked his magic on princesses of both the pop and cartoon varieties. Celebrity stylist Danilo dishes on Gwen Stefani and Elsa of Arendelle, his two platinum muses

BY JULIA SEIDL

Mononyms are usually reserved for those in front of the camera—Madonna, Cher, Björk—but when you've reached superstar status in the world of hair, one name is all you need. Case in point: Danilo, who has made hair dreams come true for Natalie Portman, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway and long-time client and friend Gwen Stefani.

Stefani and Danilo met backstage at a Vivienne Westwood show, where Stefani tasked him

filmed it all and talked through the different moments of hair choreography [in the storyline].” The studio recently announced that a *Frozen* sequel is in the works, and Danilo looks forward to revisiting her style. “I can only hope that her hairdo changes,” he says. One thing that will remain is the hue of her tresses. “White was paramount as far as imagery goes.” A shade that’s dear to the heart of many a platinum princess.

“Gwen is not a root girl. During [filming for her role as a judge on] The Voice, we coloured her hair every Sunday.

with creating the pink afro for No Doubt’s “Simple Kind of Life” video. Since then, the Pantene global ambassador has been the mane man behind her ever-changing styles. “She refers to herself as my human Barbie,” laughs Danilo. “It’s always artistic, collaborative and fun. I can walk in and say, ‘I want to do this,’ and she’ll say, ‘Okay!’ Or she’ll take two of the hairdos we did 10 years ago and say, ‘Let’s put them together.’” Despite her experimental attitude, one thing she won’t stand for is regrowth. “Gwen is not a root girl. During [filming for her role as a judge on] *The Voice*, we coloured her hair every Sunday.”

Danilo is also responsible for another iconic blond mane: that of Elsa, Princess of Arendelle. He was approached by Disney to create the hairstyle for its trendsetting animated heroine. “All of my experiences with Gwen were very helpful for *Frozen*,” says Danilo. “Disney owns the princess look. I thought it would be nice to update that.” He masterminded Elsa’s side-swept braid with pompadour crown, creating a series of test styles on mannequin heads before presenting executives with three looks on a live model. “We had huge fans set up; the model’s hair was blowing in the wind. We



Top: Danilo styles a L.A.M.B. model at Spring 2015 New York fashion week. Centre: Natalie Portman wears a Danilo coif at the 2015 Vanity Fair Oscar party. Bottom: Elsa of Arendelle owes her on-trend braid to Danilo.



IN HIS KIT, FROM LEFT: MASON PEARSON HANDY MIXTURE NYLON & BOAR BRISTLE HAIR BRUSH, \$195, NORDSTROM.COM. PANTENE PRO-V ANTI-HUMIDITY MAXIMUM HOLD HAIRSPRAY, \$9, DRUGSTORES. THE WET BRUSH BRUSH, \$11, AMAZON.CA. T3 FEATHERWEIGHT LUXE 21 HAIR DRYER, \$298, SEPHORA.CA. GHD CURVE SOFT CURL IRON 1.25", \$295, SEPHORA.CA

GWEN'S GREATEST HITS



1. POMP IT UP

“We wanted to have some androgyny, which we did with the Elvis pompadour,” says Danilo, who for the 2015 Grammy Awards coated Gwen’s strands with leave-in conditioner and volumizer before drying the sides away from the face, keeping volume in the crown. After creating two deep side parts, he pulled strands back into a French twist, leaving the top out to backcomb with a brush. He finished with a leave-in cream for a piecey effect.



2. TWIST AND SWEEP

Counter-pinning was the key to keeping the twist in Gwen’s half-up, half-down do for the 2014 MTV Awards. Using a medium-barrelled curling iron for loose waves, Danilo created a deep side part on one side, sweeping the opposite side up and twisting it into a knot. “You do sort of a 180 with the pin. You pass it through the roll, flipping it down into the hair that isn’t part of the roll.”



3. POP PONY

A polished pony went bouffant at the Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day concert, thanks to Danilo’s fondness for French lacing. “It’s back-combing with a hairbrush, which feathers the hair to make it fluffier. With a comb, you pack it down.” A muggy day called for anti-humidity hairspray to lock her locks in place. “I wanted the look to have a tasselly, performance quality to it but I also wanted it to endure the evening.”