



Wax On, Wax Off

Have a good glass of wine, relax and everything will be fine, explains local waxing expert, and 18-year veteran, Chelle Simoneaux.

The 5'2" natural brunette has been waxing on-and-off throughout her time in the industry, a skill she says she never expected to develop well, let alone enjoy.

Her claim to fame has been the ability to wax quickly, she says.

"Half of waxing is just the comfortability," says Simoneaux. "It's not a spa experience. Just get it done."

First time waxers beware the first time is the worst because of the amount of hair; however, the time and pain significantly decreases the second go around.

Although waxing times vary from person-to-person, Simoneaux says it typically takes under an hour for a full leg wax, only a few minutes for bikini, and about 20 minutes for a Brazilian.

She's also waxed the initials of a woman's significant other, lightning bolts, and what she calls a "Heart Attack:" a heart dyed pink.

"Making people feel good about themselves is awesome," Simoneaux says "Have a glass of wine, relax, and everything will be fine."

After 18 years of renting a booth at

various salons and being an on-call stylist, the industry veteran (and she has the tattoos to prove it) now has the opportunity to do things her way.

She continues to build on her cosmetology education, experimenting and exploring new ventures, like the recent opening of her first salon, Chateaux Simoneaux off West Hopkins. From the retro decorations and music, down to her favorite chocolates, long-time clients have already commented that Chateaux Simoneaux reflects her playful persona.

"I never want to feel like I'm done."

The personal and professional sides of Simoneaux initially collided when she was 13 years old, when she began replicating the makeup and hairstyles she saw in the fashion magazines she obsessed over on some of her friends and family.

Simoneaux remembered the bad bangs, tails, and mullet-esque haircuts her mom unintentionally gave her as a child. These well-meaning, albeit botched haircuts, led to Simoneaux taking over the scissors.

She says her mom has commented on how family photo albums reflect

each member's hair transition.

From there, Simoneaux says her friends began asking her to dye and color correct their hair.

It was in the kitchen, going through color theory and chemistry, where some of her classroom studies started making sense to her.

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"If you like color correction, it's cause you're a nerd. And I was a total nerd," Simoneaux says.

Simoneaux says she may never quite understand geometry, but she gets hair, and she thought she would never use honors chemistry again.

"I wish my chemistry teacher could see that I get it now," she says.

The technical aspect of hair continues to intrigue her, having completed her cosmetology license at a Houston high school.

Last year she retrained with Deva-Curl, a cutting technique for people with curly hair, in New York City and became a "Deva Inspired Advanced

Stylist," the only person to hold this status south of Austin.

"It's probably the most gratifying thing I've ever done, making people with curly hair happy because they've been messed up so many times," she says. "... They don't trust anyone; they all have a horror story."

Despite not having curly hair herself, this certification holds special significance to Simoneaux because all four of her children have curly hair (and her

husband, before he shaved his head, also has curly hair).

She lets her children choose the way they want to look, even if that includes a partially shaved head, which, she warns from personal experience isn't fun to grow out.

It's that sense of open mindedness and ability to translate people's self-interpretation into a haircut, whatever that may be, that has helped with Simoneaux's success in the industry.

"I listen and I can get it," she says. "It's like being a therapist."

Simoneaux knows that hair comes and goes, whether it's up top or... down below.



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