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Local



Naz Kupelian's STUFF



Naz Kupelian isn't one to get star-struck. The award-winning hairstylist is getting ready to work his magic on the movie stars at this year's Sundance Film Festival, which runs in Park City, Utah, for 11 days at the end of January. But don't ask Kupelian who might pass through his chair. "I'll have to ask my 17-year-old daughter who these actors are," he says. "I don't know." But if you want to hear some passion in his voice, just talk to this proud Armenian about his family's heritage or the route he took to get to Boston. Born in Lebanon and raised in Syria, Kupelian came to the United States nearly 30 years ago with the hopes of becoming a doctor, but he wasn't able to afford medical school. So he became a hairstylist who works out of the suburbs, eschewing the typical

Newbury Street address for an eponymous salon in leafy Lexington — which spoiled city folk like us might need a map to find. Well, we're in luck, as the world-traveling stylist just so happens to collect them.

How did collecting maps become a hobby for you? I love to travel. I have traveled throughout the Middle East and elsewhere. It's more about the history of the places than anything else. I love to experience and learn about a place.

It sounds like you have a better collection than just those Michelin maps we all pick up as we're going from country to country. I have a wood-print map of Armenia from the 1800s that shows Armenia in the same place as it is today, but Albania's right next to it. And today? Albania's over next to

Italy. That's the history I love. And I have another one made of copper that shows Europe, and all of the countries have changed borders and names. But Armenia is right there.

Okay, now dish on what we can see out at Sundance. We will be there running a salon so that those celebrities and stars can enjoy themselves and look good on the red carpet. If they want to go skiing and then come in to have their hair fixed up or blown dry, that's what we'll do.

Oh, come on! That's way too boring for Sundance. Will you be getting any gossip? No, really, I don't know most of the actors today. I will say that I think when it comes to the red carpet and the award shows, everyone looks the same. They *all* have long hair, and

it's either pushed up at one point or they have a few curls. Nothing different.... It is not like the big Hollywood stars where each one had a distinctive hair style.

So from Sundance you go to Long Beach, California, for a big convention and trade show.

What's going to be the headline coming out of this year's gathering? First, everything you see out of these kinds of shows is exaggerated. So everything will be modified. But I would say, everything will be more subtle. You'll see tone-on-tone highlighting, not big changes in color. You'll see highlighting from underneath. At a show, you want to see things that make you say, "Oh my God." And then work to see how you can do that back in your salon.

— Carol Begg

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