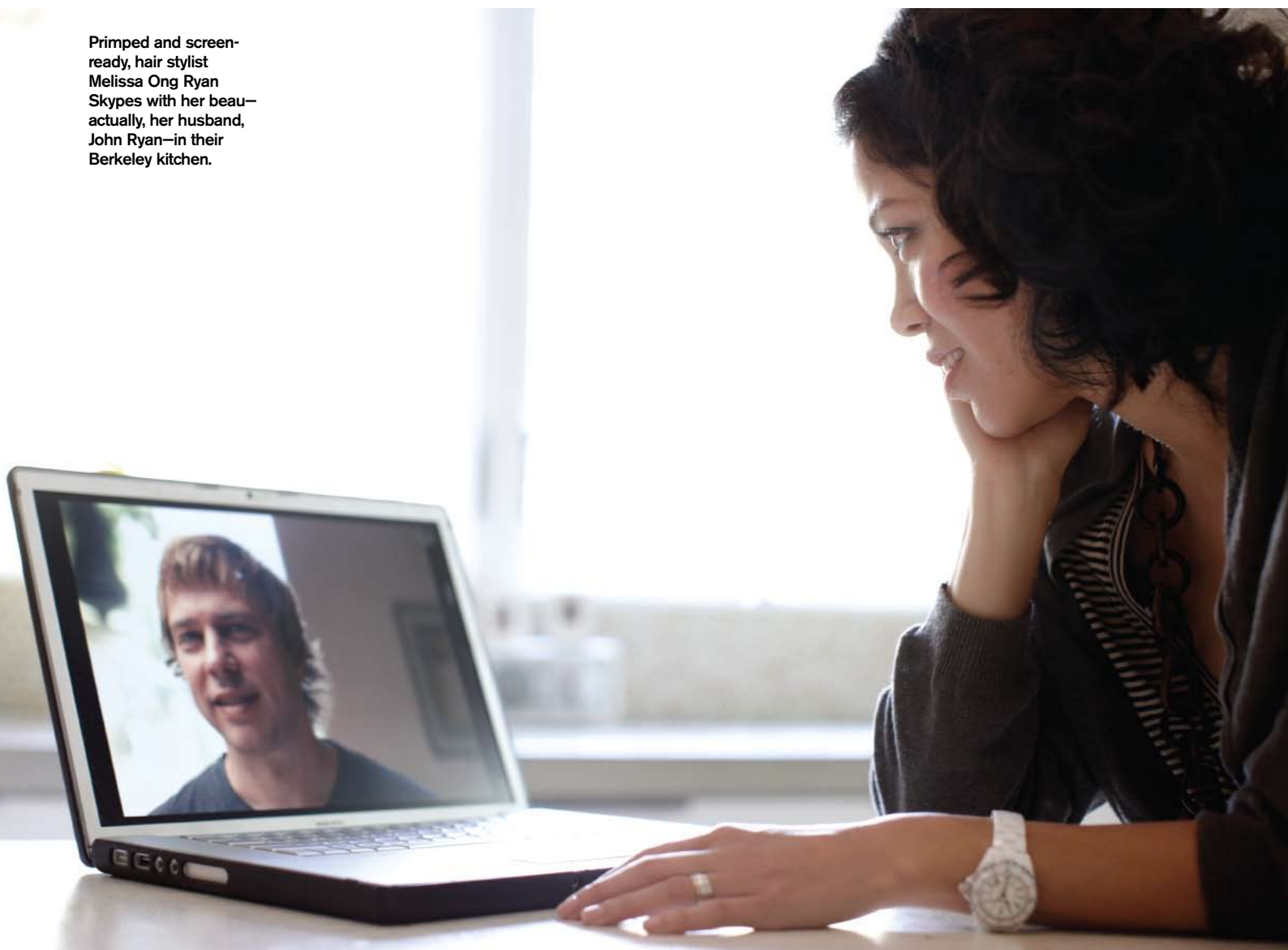


Primped and screen-ready, hair stylist Melissa Ong Ryan Skypes with her beau—actually, her husband, John Ryan—in their Berkeley kitchen.



STYLE COUNSEL

## Ready, set, Skype

Festoon Salon owners **Melissa Ong Ryan and John Ryan** teach us how to master light-speed hair care in a high-tech world.

BY ROBIN WILKEY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE BUDD

It's 5:50 p.m., and you've just left the office, though you still have to do battle with the evening fog while running to Muni. You've looked better. Now your latest crush is on a layover at Heathrow, and just emailed that he has 10 minutes for a Skype session. Fortunately, Melissa Ong Ryan—founder of Festoon Salon—and her husband, John Ryan, are ready with quick tips on how to have Skype-ready, work-ready, and gala-ready hair in five minutes. Working out of two locations, the original in Berkeley and another in San Francisco, they have honed their speedy techniques on tech-obsessed clients, and stay current on the latest clickable time-savers (you can request appointments with Festoon's iPhone app). And now that both salons have just opened new cosmetic counters carrying the cult Australian line Becca, the Ryans have become go-to gurus on hair and makeup for the video-chat set. You'll never fear the HD webcam again.

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**Last week I woke up with cowlicked hair and pillowcase creases on my face. What should I have done to be camera-ready shortly thereafter?** MELISSA ONG RYAN:

Give it a couple of minutes. By the time you've washed your face and drunk a cup of coffee, your hair and skin will have calmed down. Then spray on a dry shampoo, and touch it up with a flatiron if needed. ▶



**That'll create great hair?** **JOHN RYAN:** Yes. We use Oribe Dry Texturizing Spray—technically it isn't a dry shampoo, but it works like one. And since it isn't talc- or clay-based, it never leaves a residue. Just spray some in your hair and use your fingers to style. It's pricey, but it works instantly and you can eliminate all of your other products.

**Why not just take a shower?** **MOR:** We've become so emotionally attached to the hot shower as the way to start our day. But we shouldn't be squeaky-clean—it isn't good for the hair or skin. **JR:** Besides, hair looks best at least a day after you've washed it.

**What about that morning Skype call with the New York office? What's a quick, professional updo that looks good on everyone?** **MOR:** Start pinning. Pick up sections, pile them on top of your head, and pin them in place. No matter what your hair type, you'll end up with a loose, beautiful updo. Tuck in the ends to make it clean, or just leave them loose. And I love a braid across the front of your forehead to tame stray bangs.

**How about after the gym?** **MOR:** Don't wash your hair—just pull it out of a ponytail and give it a chance to dry. The sweat will go away, and you'll be left with shiny, beachy, French-girl hair. That's so much sexier than the newscaster blowout.

**Isn't that a little gross?** **JR:** It's not the sweat that's gross, it's the bacteria, and that doesn't really build up for a few days. **MOR:** I dance three times a week, and I only wash my hair on Monday nights.

**Why only once a week?** **MOR:** Water and shampoo are terribly drying. Our hair isn't meant to be washed like that. **JR:** Through the '50s, people had their hair washed once a week at the salon. But when someone slapped "rinse and repeat" on a home-shampoo bottle, everyone started washing their hair as often as possible—a brilliant marketing strategy, but not so great for hair.

**Melissa, describe your weekly hair routine.** **MOR:** After my dance class on Monday, I wash my hair twice—that is the time to rinse and repeat—and follow with a conditioner. Then I towel-dry, set my hair in pin curls, and go to sleep. In the morning, I pull out the pins and touch up any challenging sections with a curling iron.

**What if your hair tends to get oily?** **MOR:** If you're struggling with oil, just wash your bangs.

**And how do you keep it shiny?** **MOR:** With a boar bristle brush. I have a paddle size at home and I keep a mini version in my purse at all times.

**What about guys who want Skype-ready hair? Does the same regimen apply?** **JR:** Men can wash their hair even less often. Short hair rarely needs washing, and the surfactants in shampoo can exacerbate thinning. As a test, I once didn't wash my hair for two months. I'd just rinse it every day and then use a texturizing spray to add body. **MOR:** It looked so stylish.

**So what should guys use to style their unwashed hair?** **JR:** Pomade is a must for men. A good one can do wonders: Just find the right one for your hair type.

**The wine galas are fast approaching. What's the best hair routine?** **JR:** The day of the event is the worst time to wash. Do that a day or two before. That way, your hair is manageable, but you still have all that shine and texture. **MOR:** Use a ton of dry shampoo spray and a little texturizer or finishing cream if you need it—your hair will be so much more workable. And style, style, style. n

From left: Melissa Ong Ryan twists her hair into pin curls; John Ryan quickly revives his short hair by applying pomade with his fingers; Ong Ryan defines her eyelids with colored liner.

## Five video-ready makeup tricks

**1. Check your lighting.** A well-lit face is key. Make sure you're not lit from behind or from above to avoid weird shadows across your face.

**2. Prep skin** with a primer and add a tinted moisturizer with SPF so that you don't have to apply sunscreen later.

**3. You can quickly create flushed cheeks and lips** with a lip and cheek stain (Becca's Beach Tint, in Guava, is the summer shade).

**4. Fine loose finishing powder blends it all together** so that it's set for the day, long after the Skype session ends.

**5. Avoid light-reflecting glitter eye shadows,** but define the top lids with a colored liner and line the lower inner rims of your lids with a nude liner or highlighter to wake up tired eyes. Finish with mascara.