

# Makeover

FOR A HEALTHY REFLECTION

Michele Ridder

If anyone had asked Michele Ridder a year ago which was worse, hearing she had breast cancer or losing her hair, she would have said, "Hearing I have cancer" without any hesitation. In reality, when she was diagnosed and began treatment, losing her hair was more devastating than she would've thought possible. "I walk past a mirror and think, who is that woman?" she says. "I have no color. I look sick, even when I feel fine. I look like I have cancer."

One of the reasons hair loss is so traumatic is that it can force you to go public before you are ready. And it's not just about the hair on your head. To fight cancer, chemotherapy targets the fastest-growing cells in our bodies. Unfortunately, that includes hair follicles, so the hair all over the body is affected, including eyelashes and eyebrows.

The Skin Enhancement Center had the perfect solution for Michele: Glominerals makeup. After applying a base and adding some color to her cheeks, Amy concentrated on bringing out the beauty in Michele's eyes with Glominerals' rich fall shades. Chemo has taken a toll on Michele's eyelashes, but with a skillful application of liner and mascara, they became as full as ever. Amy then showed Michele how to draw natural-looking eyebrows. "Don't be shocked," she advised her client. She used a darker shade than Michele was used to, but the color was perfect. Michele left with a gift of eye shadows, lip gloss, and a gift certificate for a facial.

Michele also learned some new things during her private fitting at Designs by Darris. Although Michele had a double mastectomy, she also began the reconstructive process at the same time. Tissue expanders were placed under the muscle and injected with saline every week to make room for the implants she will get this fall. Darris Wayne treated our lovely model to two new bras, one beige and one black, from Classique. They are perfect for wearing now and

will be the ideal shape and support after the reconstruction is complete.

At Eccentricity, owner Linda Burton and fashion stylist Kacey Quick encouraged Michele to get out of her comfort zone and try something new. She loved the wide leg pants and baby doll tunic the two chose. Paired with an earth tone thermal shirt this outfit will transition easily though the seasons. High-heeled leopard print shoes, and a chunky leather and wood necklace completed the ensemble. So long Soccer Mom, hello Glamour Girl!

Topping off the makeover, literally, was the trip to The Wig Lady where LeeAnn Callahan presented Michele with her most treasured gift of the day. On a previous visit, LeeAnn had spoken with Michele and viewed pictures of taken of her last December and April, long before her hair fell out in June. She took measurements and placed the order for a wig that would be custom-shaped to fit Michele's head. Although her hair had been blonde before, the two agreed that a rich, copper color would be more flattering. Because it is made with real hair, Michele can style it using a curling iron or hot rollers just as she would her own natural locks. With or without hair, Michele is beautiful. However, after LeeAnn worked her magic, Michele was no longer a cancer patient - she was herself again; a woman who happens to have cancer. ●

-MAYLENE FLETCHER

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~photography by Kevin Wilat

