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Backstage Beauty Report | Kevork Kiledjian

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“If you look good, you don’t have to try so hard,” said Kevin Ryan backstage at Kevork Kiledjian, a funny declaration from a hairstylist surrounded by assistants and assorted Rsession Tools curling irons and dryers. Still, this was the idea behind the loose, mussed hair for the show. It takes work to look like you’re not trying too hard.

Ryan blow-dried each girl’s hair from the roots two-thirds of the way down, leaving the ends natural. He then sprayed a healthy dose of Oribe’s Dry Texturizing Spray (“I could gargle with the stuff,” he said) to hold the style. The idea was to stay away from anything “too lady.” Ryan wanted a sexy woman, not a caricature. A few of the girls had turbans in the pink-and-periwinkle print from the show sewn onto their hair with the help of Kiledjian’s assistant, Simona Caruso, known for her own signature head wrap.

Meanwhile, pre-painted adhesive nails in a sparkly nude (CND’s Desert Suede layered with Jade Sparkle and Wash Down White) were applied to the girl’s hands. Toes were painted in Buff.

James Kaliardos and the MAC Pro Team turned last season’s neon-red eye into a metallic golden green made up of three shadows — Fusion, Vintage Coin and Venetian Tarnish — while lips remained nude. “Everyone looked kind of shiny for some reason,” said Kaliardos of the ’70s-era YouTube videos he’d been Googling for inspiration. “Earthy and hyper-glam at the same time.” As muses, he mentioned Lauren Hutton from back then, or today, and Daria Werbowy, sailing around on her boat. Said Kaliardos: “A lip can be sexy, but I always think an eye is sexier.”