

five minutes with...

# BEAUTY LEGEND BOBBI BROWN

Interview: Sarah Drew Jones

**International make-up legend Bobbi has perfected the look of every A-lister from Claudia Schiffer and Natalie Portman to Sarah Jessica Parker, for the Oscars, New York Fashion Week, and even the pages of Vogue. Here, she shares a few secrets learned along the way**

**One of the biggest things I've learned** is that beauty is a way of living that encompasses healthy eating, regular exercise, fashion style, and a make-up routine that's quick and easy.

**We're bombarded with images of perfection.**

We can buy into these images or we can make the conscious decision not to. True beauty isn't about looking like a supermodel or a twenty-something Barbie doll. It's about accepting and feeling good about who you are.

**My advice is to stop obsessing about your looks.** Instead of obsessing over your 'flaws' and the things you don't like about yourself, look at what's right. I can't tell you how many times women come to my make-up counter so fixated on the size and shape of one feature that they overlook everything else.

**Live in the present.** We spend a lot of energy wanting to recapture what we used to look like, instead of appreciating where we currently are. I hated my arms when I was a teenager and often wore long-sleeved shirts. Now I look back on pictures from those days and I think that my arms looked fine. As I get older, I have learned to be more comfortable in my own skin and to appreciate my 'flaws' as being my own beauty identity.

**Be who you are.** This means everything from learning to love your lines to appreciating your unique features. There's something incredibly beautiful about a woman with lines in her face and I think we should start using the phrase 'living' instead of 'ageing'. My definition of beauty is that it be unique and completely individual. Make the most of your features and remember that confidence is beautiful.

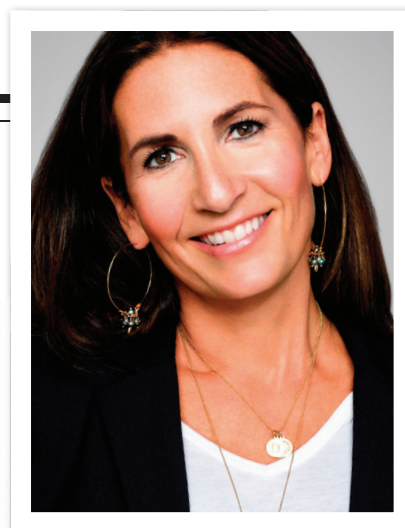
**I test everything myself in my Bobbi Brown cosmetics line.** Right now, my favourite product is the under-eye concealer – I believe it's the secret of

the beauty universe. It can help you look like you've had eight hours of sleep even if you've only had five.

**Working with celebrities is fun but challenging.** Just like every woman, they want to find a look that's right for them while looking beautiful. Whether it's a TV appearance or the Oscars, you have to adapt the look to suit the clothes, lighting and the occasion. You have to go slowly, ask a lot of questions and hand her the mirror frequently to avoid getting big surprises at the end of the application!

**I love the creativity and chaos of Fashion Week.** Working as a make-up artist at a fashion show is similar in many ways to doing the make-up for a theatrical production. The final look you see on the runway is a collaboration between the designer, the make-up artist, the hairstylist and the model. As fashion shows have increasingly become a media circus, with TV cameras and photographers recording every aspect of the event both on the runway and backstage, the make-up artist's role has become even more important. It's not enough to make a model look beautiful: a make-up artist must be able to speak about the designer's vision and the current style trends.

**Bobbi Brown's new spring collection is now in-store: check it out at House of Fraser, Debenhams and Selfridges.**



NEUTRALS  
QUEEN

