

Caroline realising a dream she has harboured since her teens

CITY LIVES

Michelle McDonagh meets **Caroline Coyne**, a young make-up artist who has returned home to set up business in her native city.

As a teenager, Caroline Coyne was always experimenting with make-up at home, often using her mum as her guinea pig so it was no surprise to her family when she chose to pursue a career as a make-up artist. Last year, Caroline went over to London to train at the exclusive Jemma Kidd Make-up School where many of the make-up artists to the rich and famous do their training. Although the six week course cost a hefty €11,000 to do – which Caroline is still paying off – she regards it as an excellent investment as the training she got there was second to none.

The petite, pretty 25 year old blonde is a genius at her craft and is a great advertisement for her own work with her perfect skin, sparkly eyes and funky, stylish wardrobe.

Originally from Ballybane, Caroline is the youngest of three girls. She went to Mervue Primary School and then on to Salerno Secondary School which she left after Third Year because she didn't like school.

From an early age, she was interested in make-up and she practised on her mum, Linda, who she describes as her "best friend in the world".

"Everything I have done in my life, she has been right there behind me." Her dad Martin and sisters Grace and Linda have also always been very supportive of her.

"I worked at a hairdressers when I was in First Year in school and I was always popping upstairs whenever I got a chance to watch what the beautician was doing. I had been thinking about doing hairdressing initially but I decided it was too much of the same thing. Beauty is so versatile, you can expand into so many other areas," she explains.

When she was 18, Caroline signed up for a one year beautician's course in Tuam where she got a good foundation in all the elements of beauty therapy including waxing, facials, manicures and make-up.

She did her placement with Mary Keane in Oughterard where she had the opportunity to practise her make-up skills on their extensive wedding clientele.

She also worked in a salon in Sligo, doing mainly facials before heading off to Boston for the Summer where she worked in the Purple Shamrock pub downtown and lived in Brighton.

When she returned home to Galway, she worked in factories and did beauty and make-up in people's homes to save money for a trip to Australia. There she worked in a plush spa in Lancove, Sydney where she got a taste of how the other half live.

"It was a fantastic old Victorian house converted into a day spa. I did



Caroline Coyne: Beauty is so versatile, you can expand into so many other areas.

mostly waxing as well as pedicures and facials. Not everybody loves waxing but I love it, I'm the waxing queen! When I'm good at something, I love doing it."

In Australia, she had the opportunity to learn different beauty techniques that are not used on this side of the world.

After Sydney, Caroline went travelling for "the best year of my life" through New Zealand, Thailand, Fiji and LA. Even while travelling, she always knew that she wanted to do some more extensive training in

'I love working in people's homes, it's a nice change of scenery for me'

make-up artistry and when she returned to Ireland, she started to research courses all over the world on the Internet.

As well as having an excellent reputation, she found that the Jemma Kidd Make-up School offered the best training in the area – Jemma is the sister of the famous model Jodie Kidd, and a make-up artist to the stars herself.

To raise the steep course fees and money for her living expenses in London, she worked for her friend Natasha Flood at the Body Benefits beauty salon in Doughiska and also took out a loan.

In April of last year, she headed for London where she learned the secret skills of the make-up artists to the catwalk queens from Jemma Kidd and teacher Jinni Bogada.

"There were 12 of us on the course from all over the world, South Africa,

New Zealand, Poland. I was the only one from Ireland. Jemma and Jinni were magnificent teachers and the school was right in the middle of Covent Garden which was brilliant because we were surrounded by fabulous restaurants, bars and shops."

Before they started the course, Caroline and her fellow students were told to completely forget everything they had previously learned about make-up as they would be starting afresh.

"Jemma was great for letting us try out new ideas. Some colleges are very strict but she was more easygoing. We were shown how to do two different looks every day and we had to copy them. Some of the fashion and catwalk makeup was totally crazy like furry eyelashes and metallic paint. I brought home some palettes of crazy colours that I will probably never get to use."

After the course, Caroline spent some time in London doing mainly unpaid agency work on photo shoots for magazines, but she returned to Galway in the Autumn when she ran out of money.

She is currently hunting for a suitable premises where she will open her own beauty salon specialising in make-up, and she is also interested in doing work for television, fashion shows and magazines. It's a tough business to get started in but she has already built up a steady clientele through word of mouth, particularly for wedding make-up and is looking forward to having her own premises some day soon.

For now, she is based at Urban Hair on the first floor of Corbettscourt where her friend and 'master hair stylist' Agatha Gavigan has given her a start. Clients can go into her at the

salon or can book her to go to their homes to do their make-up.

"For a wedding, it's nice for the bride to get ready in her own room or the hotel. I can top up the lipstick and the make-up once she has the dress on. I love working in people's homes, it's a nice change of scenery," says Caroline.

The number one make-up item that no self-respecting make-up bag should be without, according to Caroline, is Yves St. Laurent's Touche E'clat which is great for highlighting the undereye area.

"When it comes to foundation, make sure to stick to your skin tone and never go darker, you can always bronze up afterwards. If your foundation is too dark, your make-up won't look natural and you will see a line along the jawline. The whole idea is to look as natural as possible and use powder to set your base."

With so many different cosmetic products on the market, it can be difficult to know what to buy and tips from the experts, who have tried out

most products, can be very useful. Caroline's favourite mascara is the Yves St. Laurent range which contains filaments to build up the lashes.

The concealer she recommends is Dermablend which is very light but gives great coverage and is available over the Internet.

Caroline also loves Jemma Kidd's own products, particularly her eye shadows which come in a great range of colours and her lip gloss, founda-

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tion and blushers. This range is not available in Galway but can be found in Boots in Dublin or on the Internet. Many women tend to either over- or under-do it with blusher, but Caroline explains that to apply blusher correct-

ly, you should smile and brush the colour onto the apples of your cheeks working your way upwards.

The very popular Mac range is another favourite with Caroline who recommends their eye shadows, primer and lip glass.

"The best part of my job is transforming clients and bringing out the best in them, especially if it's their wedding day and I love dealing with people. Different looks suit different people depending on their features, colouring and skin tone," she explains.

In her spare time, Caroline loves walking the Prom with her dog Pomme, who she describes as "my baby" and who is the not so proud owner of his own Superman suit. She is currently living at home in Castlegar with her parents and is happily single.

She also loves socialising with friends and shopping for style to add to her already extensive wardrobe.

To make an appointment with Caroline, contact her at 087 6330626 or at Urban Hair (091) 567515.

CAROLINE'S TIPS FOR A GLAMOROUS CHRISTMAS LOOK

1. To start, apply primer or moisturiser before applying your foundation, otherwise it will look and feel caked on.
2. Use Touche E'clat radiant touch in a V shape, fill in and pat the concealer. Do not rub as you may remove the product.
3. Using a matt foundation, such as Jemma Kidd Light As Air, apply all over the face, lips and eyelids.
4. Apply powder. Press the powder into the skin with a puff and remove excess powder with a powder brush, making sure your skin feels smooth and not moist.
5. Apply white eyeshadow to the whole eyelid. Using a black pencil, flick upwards in the outer corners. When you have matched the flicks, go over the top lid with black liquid eyeliner drawing a thin line along the upper lid, following the flicks you have previously done. Go over with cotton bud to even out.
6. Curl your eyelashes pumping the eyelash curler, apply YSL mascara to plump up the lashes.
7. Fill in brows. Elongate your brows at the outer corners using a brow pencil that is the same shape as your eyebrow.
8. Blusher. Brush Jemma Kidd soft peach and beige on to the apples of the cheeks working upwards.
9. Line lips with Jemma Kidd red lip liner, apply her no 4 scarlet lipstick using a lip brush and for that extra sexy look, use Mac lipgloss for a glossy look.

Sectoring Iraq may be only option to civil war

I didn't think they'd actually do it. Having witnessed the Democratic Party's remarkable capacity to screw up, I was pleasantly surprised by the outcome of the US midterms. The mood really seems to have changed. Though full-square behind the army and President when it seemed there was something to fight for, the idea of an endless, pointless occupation is deeply unpalatable to the American people.

This isn't going to change how the war will be prosecuted of course. All it can really do is make the process infinitely more tedious and depressing for the President and his cohorts as Congress impedes him every way it can – which is fine by me, but doesn't help the Iraqis a lot.

The thing is though, even if the Democrats win the next Presidential election it is hard to see how they'd do anything different. Already the US has little choice except to get out of Iraq as soon as it possibly can. The situation there is civil war, whatever the Republicans would prefer us to call it. An occupying force cannot keep them from killing each other indefinitely. The very defence and policing forces which the Coalition is training to take over from them are actually playing a part in the inter-communal murder. Even if you don't accept the opinion of the British General Sir Richard Dannat that the presence of foreign troops is actually making the situation worse, it is still hard to see how the occupation helps anyone.

But what are the alternatives? One that is frequently mentioned is a UN peace-keeping force. While these are good in principle, it is hard to imagine one that would be much more acceptable than the

MICRO COSMOPOLITAN



RICHARD CHAPMAN

current occupying force. If they were Western they would be little different in the eyes of Iraqis. If they were from Islamic nations, would they be Sunni or Shia? The only reasonable neutral culture would seem to be Buddhist, but it's hard to imagine a sufficiently powerful force being built out of the nations of the Far East. To police a peace perhaps, but not to create one.

It is inevitable that there will be civil war; we need therefore to look past it. What will be the outcome? At the moment Iraq is unstable because no consensus to be governed exists. War will only end when units willing to govern themselves come into being, a process that will effectively break Iraq into spheres of influence controlled by its neighbours. If the country was simply split up by the UN into these sectors, war could be averted.

What would that look like? Inevitably the Shia majority of Iraq is going to be supported, and largely controlled, by predominantly Shia Iran. We might as well therefore just give this part to Iran now.

A somewhat more worrying question is who – if anyone – will support the Sunni minority. The Arab world is almost entirely Sunni, and so a worst case scenario would see this turning into a war uniting Arabs against Shia Islam. That could not end well. But a more likely outcome is that the Sunni parts of Iraq will fall under the orbit of largely Sunni Syria. This of course is about the US's least favourite possible outcome, as Syria has historically been opposed to their influence.

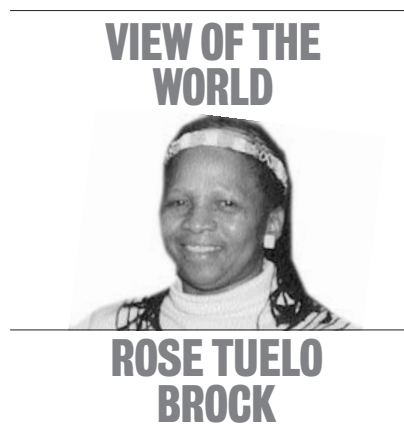
But what other possible arrangement might also be stable? Perhaps the Sunni part of Iraq could be unified with an altogether wealthier, more stable and more western-oriented neighbour.

Which would be Kuwait. Just a thought.

My understanding of a good pet would not include snakes

I do not mind admitting how I shivered when I heard recently about a woman in Tallaght finding a snake in her kitchen cupboard. Even though where I come from is known to have not only snakes but numerous poisonous ones, I am scared of snakes. I am so scared of them that they often appear in my nightmares. I have not met many because the one thing good about nature is that, as much as we are afraid of snakes, they are also afraid of other animals and, by sensing vibrations from the ground, they often slink away when they sense an approach.

Often, when one comes face to face – or foot to head – with a snake, it is because it just could not get away in time. Then, it is dangerous because their only safety is to strike, especially if one



ROSE TUELO BROCK

lions and tigers and so forth as pets. My idea of a pet is something that can be a friendly companion, that one can cuddle or pat or even communicate with in the same way I used to talk to my dogs when I was small.

They were my playmates and I talked to them and got into mischief with the two of them. That is until other children arrived and started to share them and then that spell, that intimacy, was taken away.

The idea of somebody having a pet like a lion, or a tiger, which they have to be watchful against, in case they are attacked by it, surely defeats the very essence of having a pet.

A crocodile or a lizard or a snake is not something that one can cuddle or snuggle up to. A pet should also be able to relate with others of its kind lest it be

lonely and miserable and therefore cross and ready to express its unhappiness in unpleasant ways. Bringing a snake to conditions which are not right for it, where it cannot breed or communicate in snake-speak or whatever, sounds cruel to me.

One of the things that endear this country to me is the fact that I can do my gardening without having to look out for such creepy crawlies as snakes, lizards, scorpions and others. When I kneel and send a probing hand into corners, I am usually certain that I will not get a bite from some hidden creature. I know up to now, any dangers I have had to look out for have been faecal matter of neighbourhood cats and dogs.

Now and then, one might learn of a rat but that can usually be taken care of very quickly. Yes of course there is the

persistent battle with slugs and snails and vine weevils and others. However, here, there is not so much danger as there is annoyance and inconvenience of losing one's plants to them.

'Bringing a snake to conditions which are not right for it sounds cruel to me'

There is no doubt that some firm control, of what can be imported into the country in the way of pets by pet shops is overdue. The Tallaght snake is not the first such escapee that one has heard about. Last year there was a case of a

snake crawling under the seats of a Galway train coach, having escaped from a cage in which it was being transported. I recall having nightmares at the thought that I could have been a passenger in that same train and how I would have responded to such an encounter.

The act of getting poisonous snakes as pets is itself dangerous both to the pet owner and handler as to others around them. If such a snake were to bite somebody, they would get no immediate help as the country has no antivenoms against such poisons. Surely, the pet shop owners ought to be aware of this without it being pointed out to them.

The thought that those pet owners who discover that they cannot manage their pets have released them into communal waters, and parks rather than put them to sleep is even more frightening,

as they leave the disposal to other people. In this way, other lives are endangered.

It is already bad enough having to deal with faecal deposits of cats and dogs in one's garden and neighbourhood. We do not need the danger of being bitten or attacked by such dangerous pets, as well.

As far as I am concerned, those who wish to see snakes can always visit snake parks and zoos and let them stay where they are given the correct environment and feed.

So, let us have stricter control on what can be reared as a pet and what live animals can be imported into the country by all people. A regular and stricter inspection of all the pet shops would also be essential to keep control of what can be sold as pets.