

"It's hard to have a good hair day when you're recuperating from a suicide attempt."

— Lisa Peluso



ROBERT MILAZZO

front of Ben. That hairstyle is in a shot on the opening credits now."

Most days, though, Ward has a much more serious problem. "Meg has so many bad hair days because of the crazy wind at Seal Beach [where the show is filmed]," she laments. "It blows my hair — and my body! — around. It's wet and it totally frizzes your hair out. Meg will be trying to have this serious conversation with Ben and her hair has blown all the way across her face: in her mouth, in her eyes, up her

ter a wig is taken off, it's extremely unflattering. We decided just to leave her hair the way it looked, which both Sarah and I felt was a *big* hair risk. When it came time to tape, we kept waiting for "cut!" to be yelled over the PA system — but it wasn't. The scene turned out comically, and believable as well. Good for her.

I guess the reality of a bad hair day on a soap — when the final count to taping begins "5, 4, 3, 2 ..." — is that whatever the actor does to his or her hair in those last five seconds is what dictates the hair day.

nose. It's just not very conducive to a romantic conversation."

Ward has much better luck indoors. "Meg's best hair day was when she went to Gregory Richards's party with Ben at the beginning of the show," she smiles. "It was sort of their first date. We entered, the room parted and everyone in Sunset Beach saw Meg for the first time. And Ben saw Meg as a beautiful young woman for the first time. Her hair was swept up like Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. I think it means a lot to Meg to have Ben see her that way, and it was the first time I got to change my hair on the show."

On-screen nemesis Sarah Buxton (Annie) would have to disagree. "My best hair day was the big fantasy I had with Ben," she scoffs. "I wore that beautiful hair piece with big curls. My hair looked stunning. It was an excellent opportunity for Ben to see what I could look like even if it was just Annie's fantasy."

Like Lisa Peluso, though, Buxton has also suffered from bed-head. "Annie's worst hair day was when she was in the coffin," she notes. "Annie had been on the run for days. She was falsely accused of killing her father and faked a suicide in jail that got her to the hospital. While escaping from the hospital, she fell out the window, losing her clothes on the way down to the trash dumpster. Then she was rolled back into the hospital, snuck into the morgue and into Uncle Al's coffin, where she was nearly burned to death."

Come to think of it, says Buxton, "that was a bad hair week." On the bright side, though, Buxton's character has lately begun wearing her hair in a much more natural style. "It moves," she grins. "Ben can finally run his fingers through Annie's hair ... should he ever be so inclined." □