

■ **Jess Walton (Jill, YOUNG AND RESTLESS)** was known for her wild mane of hair — until she cut it just before *Christmas, 2001*. Well, there's nothing like a convert.

Coif-y Talk

Digest: What made you decide to chop off your hair?

Jess Walton: I had had it with the same hairstyle for all those years. If you didn't style it, curl it and tease it, it just didn't look good. And in my real life, I always wore a baseball cap with a ponytail sticking out the hole in the back. During the Daytime Emmys some years ago, Melody [Thomas Scott, Nikki, Y&R] cut her hair off. I adored it and thought she looked fabulous! And Katherine Kelly Lang [Brooke] on B&B had gone short, and I remembered thinking how it brought her features out. But it took years to translate it to my hair.

Finally, I was in the hair-and-makeup room, glancing through a magazine, looking at great hairdos and I thought, "I've had it with this long hair!" I told Arrick [Anderson, Y&R's key hairdresser] that I wanted to cut my hair. Arrick said, "No. If you hate it, I'll never hear the end of it." He asked everyone in the room if I should cut my hair, and they said, "No. We'll never hear the end of it if she hates it!" because I'm such



Jess Walton in 1995 ...



... and today

a perfectionist. So, I said, "If you don't cut it, then I'm going to have my girlfriend cut it" — not telling him that my friend is a professional — so I kind of blackmailed him into cutting it. So ... Arrick cut it — and I LOVED it! The producers loved it! And we didn't even ask them.

I can run my hands through my hair now! I can move my head, have my hair swing, and it still looks good. Before, I'd get my fingers caught. Then, gradually through the day, my hair would sink and become flat. I think I have a more current look; it's more choppy. I have a lot of hair, but it's very silky and fine. With it being shorter on top, when I tease it up, it now stays.

Digest: Any down sides?

Walton: I'm working my hair so much with heat, the trouble is it's getting really dead. My hair has lost its elasticity. You have to use more heat to get it to take the curl, and I have to use a lot of hairspray. When I first cut my hair, it was such virgin hair that I could curve it with a roller brush, and it would hold the set. It won't anymore. I've stopped using that heat on my bangs because you can't afford not to have elasticity there. But the short hair is still more stylish. The style nowadays is much funkier; it doesn't have to look perfect. It's much easier. It can still look hip, even if it's not done.

Digest: Is the look more a reflection of you or your character?

Walton: Me, but also Jill. I think in the hair area, Jill and I are pretty similar. I wanted to bring Jill into the 21st century. I wanted to get her a little edgier, a little hipper.

Digest: They always say men love long hair. Have

a prop. Hairdressers on shows and producers, actually, don't much care for that because you kind of ruin the hairdo — and you don't know what you're going to come out with after you've run your hands through it or

humanize the character a little more than that ... it seems more real to me when hair moves.

Digest: Has the show given edicts about your hair?

Walton: Yes! I dyed it all brown once when I got tired of streaking it blonde. I was wearing it shorter and I had bangs.... [Y&R Creator/Executive Story Consultant/Senior Executive Producer] Bill Bell sent down an edict that I was starting to look like Buster Brown [laughs] and he wanted me to go back to my streaked look. □

By **RUSSELL Patrick Latham**

"I can run my hands through my hair now."

you noticed any difference since you cut your hair?

Walton: I always thought John [my husband] loved my hair long, so when I decided to cut my hair off, I thought he might not like it. But he loved it from the moment I came home.

Digest: Do you think hair should be used as a prop?

Walton: I use my hair as

used it. It could be all sticking out, but I can't help it.

Digest: Why?

Walton: It makes me feel more natural. There's a thing that actresses sometimes do where they walk around and act like their spine is fused — they don't turn their heads, they don't touch their hair and everything is perfect. I like to

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