

■ **Jessica Collins's** (ex-Dinah Lee, *LOVING*) new show, *TRU CALLING*, debuted on Fox last month. Digest caught up with Collins while she was getting her hair highlighted in her kitchen by our own Russell Patrick Latham.

# Coif-y Talk

By **RUSSELL Patrick Latham**

**Digest:** Welcome back to *Soap Opera Digest*! What look are you going for these days?

**Jessica Collins:** [It's] not like when I did *LOVING*. Back then I had that "Rapunzel" thing going on. Now, I aspire to a more glamorous look. I've been waiting for old Hollywood glamour to come back, and it hasn't. I'm just going to do it anyway!

**Digest:** How did you come up with Meredith's hairstyle on *TRU CALLING*?

**Collins:** Which hairstyle

[laughs]? My hair changes drastically in the show. In the pilot, which we shot back in March, I have a shoulder-length, curly, Shirley Temple thing going on. Then, six months later when we shot the next episode, my hair was about four inches longer. The producers loved the way it looked, so we kept it. So, on the show it looks like my hair grows about five inches in one week. The entire cast got makeovers between the pilot and the first episode. Clearly, we all went to the parlor in that first week!

**Digest:** Do you feel that

these hairstyles are more a reflection of you or Meredith?

**Collins:** Definitely Meredith. I actually give a lot of thought to my characters, and how much time they would or would not put into doing their own hair — even though we all know that a crew of wonderful people is getting the actor ready. For example, on *AMERICAN DREAMS*, my character, Colleen, was a working-class single woman in the early to mid-'60s. Colleen would spend a lot of time on her hair, even if it was just a ponytail. She would not go out of the house with that

PHOTOS: CELESTE CANINO; HAIR AND MAKEUP: RUSSELL PATRICK LATHAM AND BRYAN HOLLINGSHEAD



a Gatsby gal ...



and a '70s siren.

"just-been-hit-by-a-bus" look that's so popular these days. When I auditioned for *AMERICAN DREAMS*, I had never seen the show. I was told they were looking for a Natalie Wood type. I almost didn't go on the audition because I knew I was the wrong type. I decided to just go in looking as "1963" as I could, and I did my hair in a big blonde flip. Then, unbeknownst to me, I sat

**Whoa!** In her *LOVING* days, Collins (ex-Dinah Lee) had a thing for big hair.

there with all these brunettes looking just like Gail O'Grady's character on the show. Oops! My first day of work they said I could wear my hair any way I wanted — except a flip!

**Digest:** Have you ever indulged in hair-acting?

**Collins:** I've done a lot of work with the new, avant-garde photographer Celeste Canino. [Her sets represented many] glamorous eras! I wore a Marie Antoinette wig that was at least two feet high for Celeste's take on the 18th century. I had a

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**Collins:** I suppose I must have at some time — but I was stopped early on *LOVING* when you came on-board. You teased and sprayed my hair so heavily that when I was about to fling my hair over to the other side, my hand got stuck. I never tried hair-acting again!

**Digest:** What has been the wildest thing you have ever done to your hair?

bleached blonde Jean Harlow wig in her version of *The Great Gatsby*. She gave me big 1960's barrel curls for a James Bond shoot, a big blonde Afro for the '70s — very Julie Christie — and we did a fantasy/spoof based on a Barbie Doll, called the Jessie Doll — who was not a sweet doll! I'm not afraid of outrageous hair. I've definitely lived my hair fantasies in wigs. □



**Fantasy Girl:** Working with avant-garde photographer Celeste Canino, Jessica Collins plays Bad "Barbie" ...



Bond bombshell ...



Marie Antoinette ...



**Growth Spurt:** On *TRU CALLING*, her hair length varies