

ND: I alternately refer to what I do as 'hair magic' or 'hair party'. My Facebook page is called "HAIRPARTY With Nancy B!".

LM: What's the best hair in the animal kingdom?

ND: Lions, duh.

LM: How would you give me a lion cut?

ND: Lots of time, and lots of product.

LM: What about outrageous or bizarre hair?

ND: Those are usually not regulars. Also, there are things that people ask for that I don't think of as weird cuts, but maybe they are. There's a person who comes in and gets an undercut bowl cut, and I do that on a few people. Maybe that's weird. I do a lot of tails, and a lot of pony manes. It all feels normal to me.

LM: What's the key to getting a good haircut? Is it communication?

ND: Yes, I had this guy in my chair that couldn't tell me what he wanted, except that he wanted a lot of it cut off. I said, "Okay, we're going to use free word association." Eventually, he came up with "swarthy." It worked!

I'm not very literal, and neither are most stylists. Bring me a picture of a chicken with a thing that you like, and I can do it.

LM: Is there anything different or special about cutting hair in Portland? You seem like a natural here.

ND: I don't know. I think what I like about it most is being part of people's lives, and being part of the community. I like looking out into a crowd of people, looking at their hair, and thinking, "Mine, mine, mine, oh... and mine!" ■

Get hair magic from Nancy Dear at Bishops Barber Shop on Mississippi. I suggest that you do, and you're welcome to bring a photo of your favorite animal as a reference tool. Find her Facebook page at "HAIRPARTY with Nancy B!"

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