

30 YEARS OF CURLSYS®: A REVOLUTION IN MOTION

What began thirty years ago as a search for a better way to cut curly hair has grown into an internationally recognized cutting concept. CURLSYS®, the revolutionary two-handed cutting technique developed by Scottish hairstylist Brian McLean, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. A milestone that's not just about technique, but also about dedication, development, and connection. In this interview, Brian and his wife and business partner Waltraud McLean share everything about this special anniversary and their future plans.

Curly hair was long considered „difficult“ or „unpredictable.“ But Brian McLean saw something different. „Curly hair is one of the most beautiful hair types there are. They are lively, quirky, and full of potential, as long as you know how to work with them. The right care and the right cut are key for curly hair.“ From this belief, he developed a technique that works with the hair, rather than against it. „Thirty years ago, the CURLSYS® cutting concept was officially introduced, including patented scissors that allow cutting with both hands for optimal definition and balance.“

The goal of the cutting method?

To enhance the natural movement of the hair, whether curly or straight. Because, as Brian says: „Everything in nature is wavy. Why should we force straight lines on hair?“ The 'Curve Cutting' method, as Brian calls it, uses precise, curved cuts to create volume, reduce frizz, and improve the natural shape of curls, making the hair more manageable and beautiful. „The CURLSYS® cutting concept provides better volume, definition, and movement,“ says Brian.

More than just a technique

CURLSYS® has now grown into much more than just a cutting method. It's a philosophy, a way of looking and thinking. An invitation to hairstylists to truly understand hair and continually develop themselves. Over the past thirty years, Brian and Waltraud have trained thousands of hairstylists worldwide, supported by their seminar partner in the Netherlands, Jeroen de Vries.

The training is intensive and in-depth. „Not everyone learns at the same pace, and that's fine,“ emphasizes Waltraud. „Our job as trainers is to present the technique in such a way that everyone has the chance to master it. Understanding comes before copying.“

Looking ahead with the Next Generation

Although Brian is now over eighty, he remains deeply involved in the profession. He is working on a book in which he compiles his knowledge and continues to actively participate in training sessions. This year, a new module is being launched: the Next Generation CURLSYS® Cutting Techniques.

Advanced techniques, building upon the original method. „Even the best must keep practicing,“ says Brian. „Standing still is not an option in a profession that is always evolving.“

That dedication to the future is also reflected in the collaboration with the Austrian NXT Generation Award, where young talents have the chance to receive intensive training with Brian and Waltraud in Salzburg. „We want to use our knowledge to inspire the next generation of hairstylists,“ says Waltraud. „So they can shape the profession in their own way, with our technique as a starting point, not an endpoint.“

A Living System

That may be the greatest strength of CURLSYS®: it lives. It evolves with the times, the fashion, and the people who work with it. Brian and Waltraud do not see themselves as absolute authorities, but as guides. „We want hairstylists to feel free to develop their own signature,“ says Waltraud. „When you understand what you're doing, you can adapt everything to the person sitting in your chair. That's when the magic happens.“

30 years later

Thirty years after its official introduction, CURLSYS® has become a globally recognized concept. A sustainable cutting method that has firmly established its place in the hairstyling industry and is lovingly passed on to the next generation. „We are incredibly proud that CURLSYS® has been around for thirty years,“ says Brian. „And coincidentally, Waltraud and I have also been married for 30 years this year. That makes it extra special: a true anniversary year!“

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Terug in de tijd: CURLSYS® promoties



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Waltraud en Brian McLean