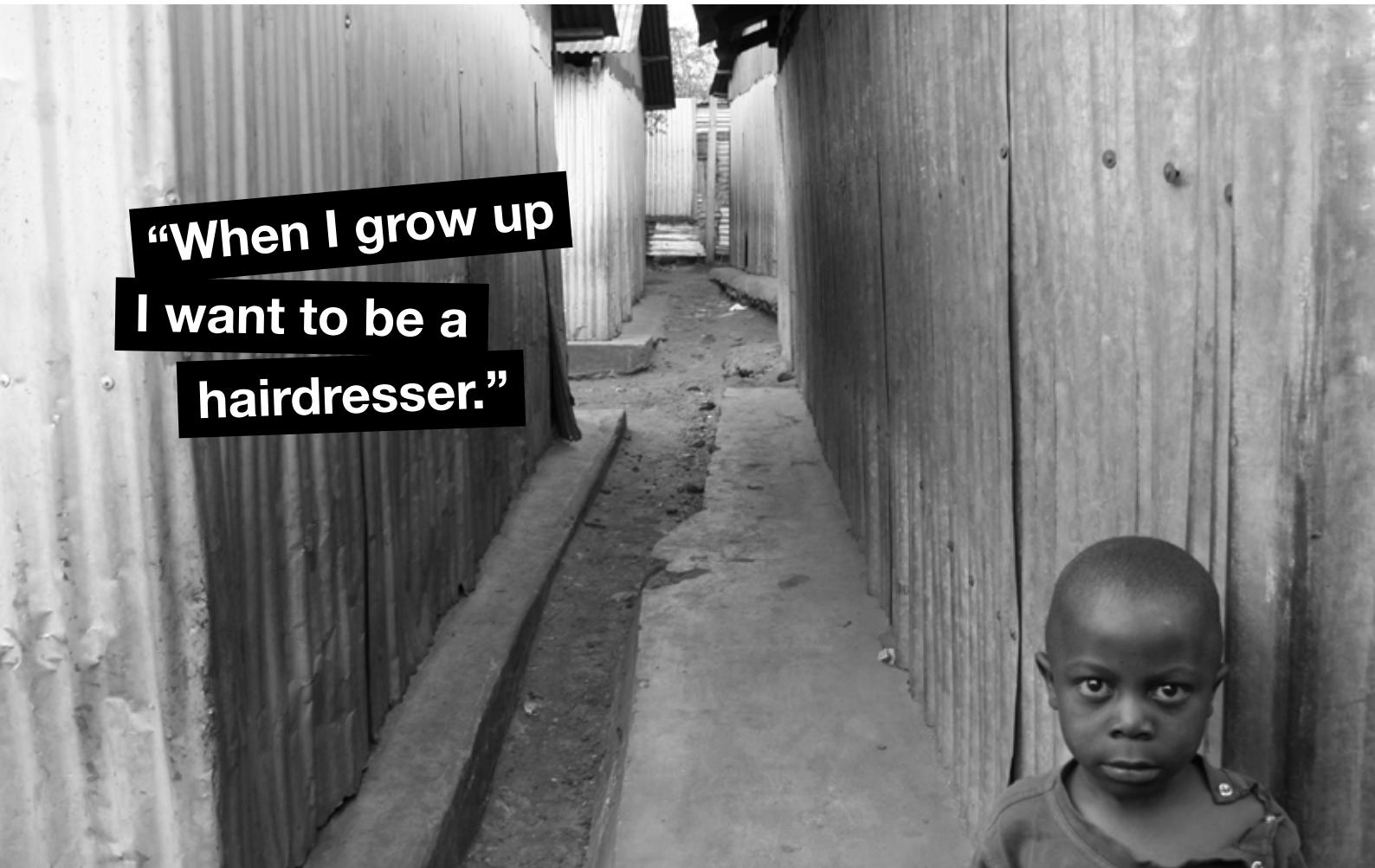


# S~~H~~AIR

Supporting Hair Academies  
for the underprivileged in Africa



How you can help

# S H A I R



*“This is where I come from...”*

## **“Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come”**

Victor Hugo

The Colomer Group prides itself on its commitment to training and development within the Hair and Beauty industry. In 2002 it went one stage further by agreeing for a limited period to provide the resources to set up and fully fund an Academy in Nairobi Kenya. In 2003 The Revlon Professional East Africa Academy was established.

In 2004 under the banner of Project Nairobi the Academy began to provide scholarships to young people who have a passion and desire for hairdressing but were without the means to obtain a formal qualification of worth.

The faculty team and facilities are of the highest standards, delivered, maintained and managed without compromise. Every student that graduates leaves at the end of the 1st year with a qualification and set of experiences that would enable

them to work in any European hair and beauty salon – and it has happened.

Over the past 5 years the Academy has trained more than 200 students and once again has a full intake (48 students) for 2009.

Each year, past graduates who wish to progress further return on a day release basis. It is hoped that some of these highly skilled hairdressers will return in future years and train to become tutors.

This is a proven, sustainable model for the future, making it possible to now provide European standard training on a regional cost basis at no cost to the student.

With the foundations in place the next decade raises the tantalizing possibility of creating a further 10 Academies across East and Central Africa. For that to happen

everyone that reads this needs to think about how they can contribute – read on and find out how and why.



*...to learn the skills that will change my life and the lives of the people I love”*

# S HAIR



*“This is where I learn...”*

## “Why can’t I pay to come to the Revlon Professional East Africa Academy?”

a common complaint

But it’s taken as a huge compliment, as it confirms that for many people in and out of the industry that the Revlon Professional East Africa Academy is one of the best hairdressing training establishments in Africa.

Here are some of the other questions that are regularly asked:

**HOW** do you decide who will become a student?

There are only 48 places. Each year 150 application forms are made available and are eagerly awaited. Applicants come from many different circumstances and are introduced to the Academy from local salon owners, NGO’s and in many cases by the candidate themselves having the courage to walk through the Academy door and ask to be considered.

**WHAT** do the candidates have to have to become students?

It is impossible to generalise but in addition to a talent and passion for hairdressing, prospective students usually have nothing else – literally nothing, no future and in some cases no hope. Some of the most successful students have backgrounds that are unbelievable. Hardship and deprivation are the daily reality for many of those who join the Academy. It’s not an easy message to read but it’s the truth.

**WHERE** does the funding come from?

The majority of the running costs were met by The Colomer Group, fulfilling its 5 year establishment commitment. British Airways have provided flights for both freight and people, Babyliss Pro provide equipment for each year’s students to keep when they graduate plus many individuals who sponsor a

student’s registration fee to the examining body VTCT.

**WHY** bother?

Graduates have left with a skill which has secured the future for themselves and their families. Hairdressing skills are ideal for urban communities whilst many other programmes focus on rural populations. The concept now in its 5th year works and, within the next few years, will have local tutors trained from some of the past year’s graduates.



*...to become a skilled hairdresser”*

# S H A I R



## **The Academy Team**

**Randolph Gray** is a man with many accolades to his name. As well as being an International Educator for The Colomer Group he forms part of Eugene Soleiman's prestigious team of fashion catwalk shows in New York, London, Milan and Paris. Educate and assist where ever possible is one of Randolph's mottos. This is one of the reasons Randolph is so involved in Project Nairobi. His energy and vision have been instrumental in the success of the Revlon Professional East Africa Academy and he spends nearly 4 months each year teaching and motivating the students.

**Yves Ilunga** is the Head Tutor & Curriculum Manager at the Revlon Professional East Africa Academy. He sums his role up by saying "My daily challenge is to take the students through the hairdressing course, creating targets and meeting expectations. My greatest achievement is to have introduced a new breed of hairdresser into Kenya".

## “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will eat for a lifetime”

Chinese Proverb



**Killen Dhanji** is the Academy Administrator and part time VTCT qualified Tutor, so you can imagine that she never has a quiet moment. What is often missed is that part of Killen's role is to support and follow up the graduates to ensure that the training they have received is put into practice and kept up to date and to build relationships with salons in and around Nairobi. The biggest challenge Killen is facing currently, is to convince salon owners that Kenya's hair industry is rapidly changing and that they will need many more graduates from the Academy in the next few years.



**Ally Taf** is the Senior Tutor having joined the Academy with years of experience as a top flight hairdresser, and is a qualified VTCT tutor. When asked about the Academy Ally's response sums up the experience of all the tutors “the major challenge is having to experience a little pain in dealing with a few stubborn students, whom always seem to make it at the end of the course, and my major achievement would be that they all leave with better characters than they had when they arrived”. Ally will be closely involved in the on-going development of future Academies.



**Christopher Kayambu** is more than the person everybody turns to when something needs attention; he is the eyes and ears of the Academy with a real passion for attention to detail. His goal is to keep the Academy looking and working like it did the day it opened.

*“These are the people who are responsible for making my dream come true”*

# SHAIR



*“These are the qualifications I am awarded...”*



## The Qualification

The Revlon Professional East Africa Academy teaches young adults up to the equivalent of NVQ Level 2 in Hairdressing in the first year, and following 9 months of practical salon experience, the opportunity to progress to the equivalent of NVQ Level 3 on a day release basis.

VTCT is a large specialist awarding body offering a wide range of vocational qualifications in

Beauty therapy, Nail services, Hairdressing, Holistic therapy, Sports therapy, and Health and fitness.

The cost of using VTCT is significant as in addition to clerical and administration incurred the Academy has to find fees for the examination, accommodation for examiners. The costs whilst high

do guarantee the students receive a high level of training and a certification that has a real value.



*...after hours of study and learning”*

# S-HAIR



*"Now I have a future, not just for me but for many – thank you"*

# “Your help will enable the Academy to give these young people skills for life”

Nigel McCarthy



**The Academy is to become a separate stand alone entity during 2009. It will operate under a charitable trust with registered offices in Kenya and the United Kingdom. The reality of this is that corporate and individual sponsorship is required now and into the future.**

Some of the numbers are big, some are smaller - the question is how can you or your organisation help?

To find out how you can help, please contact:

**Nigel McCarthy**  
**T: 01722 780449**  
**E: [info@shairtrust.com](mailto:info@shairtrust.com)**

- Fixed Premises Cost
- Training Staff
- Variable Costs
- Student Registration
- Student Clothing & Consumables
- Books & Stationery
- Toilet Rolls
- Water
- Sanitary Protection
- Communications



2004



2005



2006



2007

# SHAIR

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**“Thank you!”**

*“Always keep your desire  
for knowledge and further  
education so that you  
never regret”*

## SHAIR

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