



**The Best of Detroit**

# 6 Takes Top Honors

Voted **"Best Salon"** and **"Best Blow Outs"** by *HOUR Detroit* magazine

salon

With locations in Royal Oak and Birmingham, **6 Salon** has the distinction of being voted **"Best Salon"** in 2009 by readers of *HOUR Detroit*. The best part about winning this award and the award for **"Best Blow Outs"** is getting the word out to current clients and future customers that they are a quality salon with educated stylists.

According to Owner George Nikollaj, winning this is a clear measure of success. Part of the thrill in winning comes from the nature of the competition itself. This isn't one of those popularity contests where you can call in, or vote online as often as you want. A vote in *HOUR Detroit's* Best of Detroit must be submitted on an original ballot that comes inside a purchased magazine. One magazine, one ballot, and the winners are true reflections of the readers' top choices.

But winning top honors from *HOUR Detroit* isn't the only recent accolade for 6 Salon. Owner Tomy Lulgjuraj is the reigning Tiffany Michigan Hairdresser of the Year. Winning this award last September has meant a lot to Tomy, the salon and all the staff.

"Tomy winning this was wonderful," Nikollaj says. "We are always dominant in this competition, but when the owner is the one winning, it shows your staff, the people around you and your peers that 6 has it all in all the right spots."

Another nod to their quality reputation came from tng worldwide CEO Larry Gaynor, who consulted with Nikollaj when first considering introducing Kemon to the US. When Nikollaj learned about the product, he felt it was important to be one of the first to offer it, for several reasons.

"I chose Kemon because it's an artist's color," says Nikollaj. "Unlike other products, you can make this product do exactly what you want to do. You have to know and understand the product line to achieve this. It creates incredible results, the color lasts a long time, there are so many reasons to use Kemon."

At 6 Salon, getting it right starts with educating their stylists from the ground up. Preferring to groom and mold their stylists from the beginning, they put emphasis on both in-house training and sending their stylists out to schools for further education. The owners, Johnny Nikollaj, George and Tomy personally focus on training, starting with keeping themselves educated through trade magazines and networking with other salon owners. To them, it's worth it to pay for someone to come into the salon and teach a class for a day or two.



L to R: Johnny Nikollaj, Tomy Lulgjuraj, and George Nikollaj, owners

"As a 6 employee, we want someone who is dedicated to this industry and this craft, no matter how long it takes," says Nikollaj. "People say they want to do something, but it comes down to how much time and energy they put into working on it and working with the team."

In addition to a high-quality, educated staff, 6 Salon is also known for being a little different from other

salons, through things such as staying open until midnight on Thursdays, opening really early on other days and doing shows all over the area. "There are so many little different things that make us 6 Salon," says Nikollaj.

Not resting on their recent notoriety and success, the owners of 6 Salon strive to keep surrounding themselves with the best hairdressers Michigan has to offer. Nikollaj notes that they have so many friends who are salon owners in the industry; they frequently get together with other owners and chat with them to find out what is and what isn't working for them.

"We view our relationship with other salon owners as mutually beneficial rather than competition," says Nikollaj. "It's changing as the years go by and we try to elevate the industry and everyone around us."

These days the industry faces many challenges. Nikollaj sees many people scaling back, even if the economy isn't hurting them personally, because they see it impacting other people they know. A 4-week client is now a 6-week client and a 6-week client is now an 8-week client. A blonde client might scale back by wanting low lights and a color that requires less maintenance. Under these conditions, Nikollaj still has faith in the industry.

With a decline in walk-in clients, winning "Best Salon" in *HOUR Detroit* helps the salon reach potential new clients. But even more important is focusing on what makes a salon great to begin with.

"In the long run, you keep working hard and your people see you are elevating. I don't care how many awards someone wins. When we win something like this, I don't think it's because of me," says Nikollaj. "Even though I'm behind the chair five to six days a week, for 14-hour days, it's because of all of us at 6."

"There are a lot of really great salons and really great stylists out there. This is a service industry, and keeping the focus on providing great service is what you need to do to sustain this economic climate." — George Nikollaj, 6 Salon Owner

## Salon Tidbit

Your salon making news? — we want to hear about it! E-mail us at [editor@tngworldwide.com](mailto:editor@tngworldwide.com).

**Salon Decadence** in Saginaw, MI is saving the hair clippings from the salon and sending them to A Matter of Trust. It's an organization that uses the clippings to make mats that absorb oil from oil spills in natural habitats. Last year more than 2,600 oil spills occurred worldwide. They weren't all high profile, but most had an impact on the environment. This is one way to reuse salon waste and put it to a great use. For more information on getting involved, visit [www.amatteroftrust.org](http://www.amatteroftrust.org).