

know the art of locking hair as they are the people that have really kept locking going.

Interviewer: Mona, can you tell us about the various names that locks are known as.

Mona: Dreadlocks, are the most commonly known name, they're just straight locks, some people call them bongo natty, another name for locks. Apparently this is when the hair grows in very thick, sections rather than fine ones. Fine even sized locks are called cultivated locks because you train them to grow to a certain size, rather than just let them grow, in any old size.

Interviewer: Can you talk a little bit about why you don't call your locks, dreadlocks.

Mona: You can equate the word dread with ugly and you know not so pleasant things and you know I consider my locks to be beautiful so I don't want to call them dreadlocks. Because they're not dreadful they're lovely.

Interviewer: Mona, can you tell us the reasons why people wear locks.

Mona: There are many reasons. Some people wear locks because they want to keep their hair natural and they would like to grow it to a significant length. Some black peoples hair only grows to, it grows to a certain length and then it starts to break. However, with locks just the scissors and you decide how long you want it to be.

Some people also wear locks for spiritual reasons, they say that it makes them more in tune with their Africanness. Rastafarians also wear locks because of religious reasons, for other people locks are fashion, I wear locks because I love them, they're versatile, and easy to maintain once you know how to look after them.

Interviewer: Can you talk a little bit about the stigma attached to locks.

Mona: Some people think that once you wear locks that you're Rastafarian, also some people have strange ideas that they're dirty, they're not washed, or maybe you're a member of some religious sect

Interviewer: What advice would you give to parents/children with locks, or are thinking of growing locks

Mona: I think locks are beautiful on children. Its just like having long single

plaits, because children's hair tends to be more healthy and very thick their locks usually look really luscious, lovely.

Interviewer: What about parents whose children have locks in their hair but they're not coping with the locks very well can you give them some tips on the maintenance of their locks.

Mona: Well I think its important that parents of the children who wear locks take their children to a locktician once every two months for grooming and maintenance, and advise on how to look after the children's hair at home.

Interviewer: What about once the locks begin to grow. They can grow to quite a length are they heavy for the child?

Mona: If the locks are too long, and thick they can tug at the roots of the hair and that's why I personally prefer them to be not much longer than mid back.

Interviewer: What's the best way of a parent choosing a good locktician?

Mona: First and foremost I believe that the locktician should offer advice on hair care. This is very important its no good just doing the hair without teaching people how to maintain their hair at home. Like covering the hair at night to keep it clean, you know its very very important.

Interviewer: So what advice would you give to parents who were maybe thinking of taking their child swimming.

Mona: Because of the chlorine in swimming pools its very important to wash the hair properly after each swimming session.

Mona: I've met lawyers, doctors, school teachers, university lecturers, people from all walks of life and various professions, wearing locks. At the first stage it can look a little bit untidy but once you have patience just wait and watch them grow.

Interviewer: We're talking about how long the locking process takes.

Mona: It takes between six and twelve months for the hair to lock properly, it also depends on the type of hair, how curly, what the curl pattern of the hair is like

Mona: The baby stage, the locks have just started to coil, takes maybe up to one month. The budding phase, This may be say six weeks to three months. The shooting phase which goes up to about nine. The contracting phase when the hair is properly locked.

MOISTURISING

To maintain your locks its important, to use natural vegetable oils. This is something I made myself, from sweet almond oil and essential oils such as rosemary, sage and eucalyptus. This is also a very good conditioning spray, by Kemi, Kemi is one of the leading suppliers of natural hair product in the UK. its made from a seaweed complex and it keeps the hair moist and manageable.

People with natural hairstyles often complain of dry flaky scalp. I find its better to use a shampoo for, itchy scalp and dandruff. Locks hair style should always, use a leave-in conditioner. Hot oil treatments are ideal, they can be used for steaming the hair, or for a over night treatment.

Spray the hair and with a good moisturising oil, sleep cap, for keeping the hair clean and free from lint and bed fluff, and when you do wash your hair, don't forget your herbal infusion, you know, birch leaves, eucalyptus, and rosemary, this helps to keep the hair healthy and in good condition, and also stimulates growth.

Interviewer: Are locks formed according to the texture of the hair, because some black people have fine hair, medium, thick, very coarse hair.

Mona: Locks formed according to the texture of the hair, some hair will be fine, others medium and some will be quite thick and coarse.

The size and the texture of locks depends on the size of the twists you start with, and also the type of hair that one has, depends on the methods used for twisting the hair.

I find that locks that have been, palm or finger rolled, continuously down to the end they tend to become more matted. Other locks are slightly looser, you can see, loose hair at the ends, not too matt. Some people are always twisting and twisting which forms very tight, dense locks.

CONCLUSION

I would like locked hairstyle to be one of the mainstream hairstyles in black hair care. And I also would like to see more women, more people, black people, men, women and children wearing their hair in locks.

