

How to Get the 'Mad Professor' Look

'The professor never wears socks. Even when he was invited by Mr Roosevelt to the White House he didn't wear socks.'

HELEN DUKAS

Could you pick out Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin or Marie Curie in an identity parade? For most people, the answer is likely 'no'. But ask the same question regarding Einstein and a great many of us could give it a pretty good shot. That is because he was not only the most immediately identifiable scientist of his age, but of all time. A huge celebrity almost despite himself, his shock of hair, the bushy moustache, the hangdog eyes and the über-casual styling made him recognizable around the globe. Indeed, to this day the look is integral to the Einstein 'brand' – the epitome of unbounded genius.

Yet, the unkempt appearance was not always thus. For the early part of his adult life, Einstein was quite the head-turner and in his student days attracted many women with his looks. His hair was richly dark and wavy, sitting atop a high forehead – all the better for storing that genius grey matter. Those penetrating brown eyes, so appealingly doleful when set in the wrinkled face of his later years, spoke more of an intense, inherent sorrowfulness in his younger years. They seemed utter proof of the old adage that the eyes are the windows to the soul.