



Media contact: Ann Higby
314-880-5579 | work 312-320-5047 | cell
ahigby@stealthcreative.com

RECHARGE with Haywood Watkins, Wahl Education and Artistic Team Member His Secrets to Success: “Learn your basics and understand your basics “

STERLING, IL (September 25, 2015) – As a young boy, Haywood Watkins remembers tagging along with his mother while she attended cosmetology classes and hanging out in her salon. He has spent 46 years as a professional in the hair industry, but it isn’t so much an occupation as a calling.

“It hasn't really resonated with me,” Watkins said when reflecting on more than four decades in the hair industry. “Anything that you have a strong passion for, that you have love for, time doesn't seem to exist.”

Watkins is a platform artist and member of the Wahl Education and Artistic Team (W.E.A.T.). He speaks thoughtfully and passionately about a lifetime of sculpting hair and works with students to share the secrets to success in this industry.

“Learn your basics and understand your basics,” he said simply. “It tends to keep you focused. I'm finding that students try to jump ahead without learning the basics. Anything that doesn't have a strong foundation will crumble and come back to haunt you later.”

For 2015, Wahl picked the theme “Recharge.” Its educators circled the globe leading workshops aimed at rejuvenating passion. Pursuit of knowledge, Watkins said, is a key element to keep your passion burning.

“To recharge is to feed the hunger for knowledge,” he said. “When you recharge you can pull off better anything and everything that goes on in your life, and you can transfer that to other individuals.”

This is the reason why Watkins works often with colleges and students. He wants to help them pursue the understanding of their craft and build a solid foundation. In his work, he has found a gap he believes needs to be bridged.

“I'm finding a lot of schools are being taught shears, but they have lack of knowledge of what clippers can do to enhance sculpting,” he said. “Even the instructors have not been taught what clippers can do.”

If students are not taught about clippers and ways to use them, it is likely they will stay with shears because that is their comfort zone. But with many styles clippers can have an advantage over shears.

“The human fingers are not as accurate as a clipper with its blade,” Watkins said. “When you are using shears, the pressure from your fingers doesn’t give the same accuracy. Blades are always consistent. The power is the same. The cutting is the same. Attachments regulate consistency.”



“For years, we had to work with longer hair. Now, the styles are trending closer and with closer cuts you have more accuracy with the clippers,” he added.

Watkins favors the Wahl Designer and the Cordless Magic Clip which comes with a unique stagger-tooth blade.

“That stagger-tooth blade. I can do more blending, tapering and with less effort in getting the desired outcome,” he said.

Showing students the versatility and benefits of clippers, Watkins hopes he sparks some excitement about what effects clippers can produce. In the end, he knows sculpting and styling hair is about making your client feel good.

“A gentleman named Jerome Jones used to be my barber,” he said. “When he would give me a haircut, I just felt so good. I always said if I could give that to someone else, I would feel good about it. I love what I do and this industry. There aren’t many people who can touch another human being and put something positive, render service, be financially rewarded and make an individual feel good about themselves. We keep the outer beauty polished, keep the inner self happy and enhance the beauty of life.”

W.E.A.T. is a 15-member group of industry professionals that are the leaders and educators for Wahl. They are highly trained and technology advanced artists capable of instructing any skill level. Their goal is to provide student and licensed hair professionals with clipper education, and they believe that education is the key to a stylist’s success. To meet the team, visit www.wahlpro.com/education.

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About Wahl Clipper Corporation

Since 1919, with the invention of the first practical electric hair clipper, Wahl Clipper Corporation has been the leader in the professional and home grooming category. Today, with over 2500 employees worldwide, Wahl is proud to carry forward the tradition of innovation and superior customer service that was created by Leo J. Wahl. Headquartered in Sterling, Illinois, Wahl distributes to 176 countries and has eight global manufacturing facilities as well as eleven sales offices. At Wahl, we are proud of our heritage of excellence as well as our remarkable list of groundbreaking innovations for the present and future for the global market. Visit www.wahlpro.com for more details.