

Website Spotlight



Historical Hair Styles YouTube Channel **Kathie Gust***

A YouTube channel focuses on how to recreate historical hairstyles, from Vestal Virgin priestesses to American Civil War.

Some of you may have heard of Janet Stephens, the "Hairdressing Archaeologist". She first hit the news in 2008 after a paper she wrote that was published in the *Journal of Roman Archaeology* (JRA). It covered several years work at reconstructing the historic Roman hairstyle of the Vestal Virgins based by analyzing multiple sculptures from the time.



[YouTube video](#) presents an analysis and recreation (upon a live model) of the "seni crines" hairstyle of ancient Rome's Vestal Virgin priestesses, based on ancient artifacts and primary sources.

Janet is a professional hairdresser (and amateur archaeologist) from Baltimore, who has the great advantage of actually understanding what can be done by and with hair. She doesn't confine herself to Ancient Romans either!

Janet has her own [YouTube channel](#) where her videos offer explicit instructions for recreating, not only several Roman hairstyles from her earliest research, but also styles from Ancient Greece, the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Napoleonic era, and the American Civil War.

In addition, you can view tutorials on braiding, making "figure-8" ringlets suitable for Victorian or 17th century styles and creating Papillote Curls for the 18th century.

Scholarly Presentations

"The Scientific Hairdresser: curling and coiffing in the Jeffersonian era"

"Ovid's Cosmetology: the hair science behind Amores 1.14"

"Truthy or False-ish? Hair in Ancient Roman and Renaissance Female Portraiture"

"Ancient Roman Hairdressing: Fiction to Fact"

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for Janet Stephens. It features three main sections: 'Uploads', 'Popular uploads', and 'Created playlists'. The 'Uploads' section includes four video thumbnails with titles like 'Medieval Midwife Hairstyle', 'Medieval Italian Hairstyle (Siena, ca 1328)', 'Authentic Napoleonic Hairstyle: Madame...', and 'Authentic Civil War Hairstyle'. The 'Popular uploads' section shows 'Vestal Hairdressing: recreating the "Seni Crines"', 'Figure 8 curling with a marcel iron', 'Papillote Curls: historical hairdressing techniques', and 'The hairstyles of Faustina the Younger'. The 'Created playlists' section includes 'medieval and renaissance hairstyles', 'Tutorials: 19th Century Hairstyles', 'DIY: Ancient Roman Earrings', and 'Tutorials: Ancient Rome, Greece, Mediterranean'.

Sample of videos available on Janet Stephens' [YouTube channel](#).

"Vestal Virgin Hairstyling: recreating the seni crines"

Janet's Publications

"Ancient Roman hairdressing: on (hair)pins and needles", *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 21, 2008.

"Recreating the hairstyle of the Fonesca bust", *EXARC Journal Annual Digest*, 2013.

Kathie Gust enjoys creating clothing for many historical periods, and for various sci-fi and fantasy genres. Visit her [website](#) to read articles and see photos for some of her costuming projects.

