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August and Ivy Salon is thriving in Theatre Square

By Sora O'Doherty



Lily Fortson (front) and Chelsea Salezo work with clients. Photo Matt Valenzuela

single audience, they're not just for hip young girls, but can do little pixie cuts, men's haircuts.

However, those hip young girls will probably realize that the salon is named for two songs by Taylor Swift, who swept the country with her Eras Tour this year. "We're both big Swifties," Fortson confessed. They wanted a name that was nice and natural. Also, they thought that they would open in August of 2022 but the permitting process took longer. We had a vision, and it took a lot of hope and trust.

Fortson reported that the salon gets amazing foot traffic, and is grateful for how supportive the community of Orinda has been. As the salon is developing a roster of regulars, Fortson says, "the community wants it. The people of Orinda are really loving having a salon just down the street. I didn't expect it to be such a big deal, but they are really happy." She added that some customers can even walk to the salon.

In the coming year, the co-owners will be focusing on being more in the community. They recently joined the chamber of commerce, and hosted a mixer at the salon on Dec. 14.

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[back](#)

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