



Makeup Application Guidelines

Please read this entire document.

There is important information that will simplify your child's final week of dress rehearsal!

- I. Background & Philosophy –
 - a. Purpose - It is imperative that actors and actresses know that the purpose of stage makeup is not the same as that of common cosmetics. Any person adding a bit of lip color, blush and mascara for everyday wear is likely seeking to accent an individual's facial features. Stage makeup, on the other hand serves to create depth and dimension to a face that will be "flattened" by stage lighting. Therefore, the application process for stage makeup will not be the same as for daily wear. Remember also, that stage makeup will be viewed from a distance, so things that might look strong up close will likely blend when viewed from the stage.
 - b. Philosophy – The goal is for all the actors to have a good basic stage application that, **when viewed from the house (audience perspective)**, looks natural and appropriate to the nature of the show. Moreover, a proper stage makeup application will serve to emphasize each actor's facial expressions, thus giving the audience a more enjoyable experience in watching the show. The guidelines given in this handout will help you achieve the desired look.
 - c. It is common that most actors, even professionals, are usually responsible for their own makeup. The more an actor can take charge of his own makeup, the more prepared he/she will be for further theatrical pursuits and the smoother the tech week and production will run from a pre-show standpoint.
- II. Supplies –
 - a. Each person should have a Personal Makeup Kit in a color palette that complements his/her natural skin tones. If you do not have a makeup kit.
 - b. Your makeup kit should contain at least the following items:
 - i. Foundation
 - ii. Contour shades including (but not limited to) highlight, shadow, rouge and lip color.

- iii. Translucent Face Powder
- iv. Eyebrow Pencil
- v. Flat Brush (for shadows & highlights)
- vi. Sponge applicator/wedge
- vii. Powder puff
- viii. Stipple sponge

c. OTHER SUPPLIES -

- i. In addition to the kits, EVERY ACTOR will want to purchase mascara for personal use and a sharpener for their eye pencil. ANY EYE PRODUCT **CANNOT AND MUST NOT** BE SHARED BETWEEN CAST MEMBERS FOR THE SAKE OF HEALTH AND SAFETY.
 - ii. Male Cast members will want to purchase Bronzer for the face (can be located near the blushes in any department or drug store.) If you already own one, please put it with your other stage makeup.
 - iii. ALL STUDENTS will want some sort of moisturizer to use before applying their makeup. This creates a barrier that is helpful to the skin. It need not be expensive. Using a moisturizer is not required, but it is recommended.
- iv. All actors need to add to their bins a package of makeup wipes or baby wipes for makeup removal or corrections.**
- d. Parents, please do not allow your child to use any cosmetics for this show that have glitter or sparkles in them. Anyone that needs to sparkle will be helped by the Makeup committee to do so!)

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BRING THEIR MAKEUP TO THE THEATER FOR EVERY DRESS REHEARSAL AND EVERY PERFORMANCE

This is absolutely necessary if you need makeup corrections. Coming to the theatre without your makeup is just like coming to the theatre without your costume. Please ensure that your makeup is with you EVERY TIME you come to the theatre.

III. Application

a. **Women/Girls**

i. Before applying makeup, put a thin layer of moisturizer (age 40+ should use a spackle primer) should use on the skin and allow it to dry.

ii. Foundation - Using either the makeup sponge or your fingers, apply crème foundation on the entire face from the hairline to underneath the jaw line until you have a unified skin tone.

1. The base need not be applied heavily, but simply enough to create a nice canvas to which you may add color.
2. Make certain that you cover ALL exposed skin, décolletage included.
3. Make certain that the edges of your foundation are blended smooth.

iii. Highlights – highlights give emphasis to certain features.

1. Apply highlight color from kit below the eyebrow and blend
2. Apply highlight color from kit to base of eyelid and blend
3. Apply highlight color very lightly to the inside corner of the eye and blend.
4. Apply a LINE of highlight color to your cheekbone, starting under the darkest part of the eye and following the bone toward the ear. Blend edges upward.
5. Apply a VERY faint line of highlight color down the center of the nose and blend edges.

iv. Shadows – shadows create darkness to specific areas of the face

1. Pencil in eyebrow (only if needed) and blend
2. Apply shadow color in the CREASE of the eyelid. Make this crease pretty strong and set it high enough that you see it when the eye is fully open.
3. Apply a LINE of shadow underneath the cheekbone and blend the edges outward and downward.

v. POWDER – Using the powder puff/brush, lightly dab a layer of translucent powder over foundation, shadows and highlights. Dust the powder off using any sort of makeup brush. The powder serves to “set” the makeup and prepare it for the finishing touches.

vi. Eyes –

1. The highlight applied above will make the eyes appear larger, and the crease separates the upper and lower lid, giving depth to the face.
2. Lightly line both the top and bottom eye lids, but **do not connect the lines** as doing so will make the eyes appear smaller. (See diagram)



3. Apply black mascara to the lashes, giving particular attention to the outer edge. You may wear false lashes if you wish.

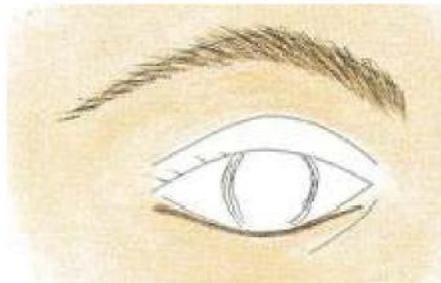
vii. Cheeks –

1. Adult Females should apply crème blush lightly to the apples of the cheeks and blend upward toward temples. (This is on top of the highlight and shadow applied earlier.) If you would prefer, you may use a powder blush in a coral shade on top of/in addition to the highlight/shadow applied earlier. Remember, the goal is to create bone structure.
2. Young Female characters should add a very pale pink powder blush on the apples of the cheeks only. This is in addition to/on top of the highlight/shadow applied earlier.

viii. Lip color – Lip color (matte) may vary according to the color palette of a scene, a costume or a character choice. If your character is not given a specific shade to wear, choose a neutral lip color. ALL CHARACTERS should powder their lips after applying color. This will keep the lip color from wearing off during the show.

b. **GUYS**

- i. Before applying makeup, put a thin layer of moisturizer on the skin and allow it to dry.
- ii. Foundation - Using either the makeup sponge or your fingers, apply crème foundation on the entire face from the hairline to underneath the jaw line until you have a unified skin tone.
 1. The base need not be applied heavily, but simply enough to create a smooth canvas to which you may add color.
 2. Make certain that you cover ALL exposed skin. Guys are NOTORIOUS for leaving makeup lines, especially leading to the back of the neck.
- iii. Highlights – highlights give emphasis to certain features.
 1. Apply highlight color from kit to base of eyelid only (from lashes to crease, but not to brow) and blend.
 2. Apply highlight color very lightly to the inside corner of the eye and blend.
 3. Apply a LINE of highlight color to your cheekbone, starting below the darkest part of the eye and following the cheekbone toward the ear. Blend edges upward.
 4. Apply a medium-strong line of highlight color from your kit down the center/bridge of the nose and blend edges.
- iv. Shadows – shadows create darkness to specific areas of the face
 1. Pencil in eyebrow (only if needed) and blend
 2. Apply a LINE of shadow underneath the cheekbone and blend the edges outward and downward.
- v. POWDER – Using the powder puff, lightly dab a layer of translucent powder over foundation, shadows and highlights. Dust the powder off using any sort of makeup brush. The powder serves to “set” the makeup in place and prepare it for the finishing touches.
- vi. Eyes –
 1. The highlight as applied above is sufficient color to the male eye for a basic application.
 2. Using a SHARP eye pencil, line only the lower lash line, and NOT all of of that. (see diagram below)
 3. Lightly apply black or dark brown mascara to the lashes.



vii. Cheeks –

1. All male characters should obtain an inexpensive bronzer from the store and apply lightly on top of the highlight and shadow we created on their cheeks. The bronzer gives a nice glow to the skin without looking too feminine.

viii. Lip color – All boys in the cast will use the brown character shadow from their makeup kits as their lip color. Apply to BOTTOM LIP ONLY, and powder to set.

- IV. CLEANSING – It is absolutely imperative that the actors learn to cleanse their skin properly at the end of each show day. The wipes mentioned at the beginning of this note are helpful, but nothing substitutes for a great cold cream rub wiped off with a tissue (to dissolve the makeup) followed by a skin cleanser and warm water. Improper cleansing will dull the skin and settle in the pores. Don't skip this crucial part of the process!

1. **Hairstyles** – One of the most challenging aspects of designing a show is what to do with the actors' hair. Every time period and every costume will determine what is or is not acceptable. In addition, the director's vision for a show will always affect the final hairstyle for every character. Nonetheless, there are some general guidelines to keep in mind: From the time you audition for a show until the performance of the show itself, please do not change your hairstyle or color without the director's approval.
2. Hair should never obstruct the audience's vision of your face. Boys should always have a means by which to get the hair out of their eyes.
3. Girls should learn the proper way to use bobby pins and clips to secure their hair while onstage. It's not proper to see the pins reflecting light onstage. You should also not use accessories such as head bands, hair clips or bows unless they are provided by the wardrobe department or requested by the Makeup Committee.
4. Hairspray, gel, and other such products are our FRIENDS... Use enough product to put your hair where it needs to be and to keep it there. Stage hair is often crispy and stiff... you can't tell from the audience.