

# **A GUIDE FOR STAGE MAKEUP**

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**Step-by-step  
application of  
basic  
makeup for  
the amateur  
actor**

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# WELCOME TO MY WORLD...

## *The Purpose of This Guide*

This guide is designed to assist you with the application of basic or “straight” makeup for the stage. It provides you with information on what types of makeup and supplies to purchase for a basic kit. It provides step-by- step instruction on how to apply and remove stage makeup.

Other forms of stage makeup, like false beard and wigs application are not discussed in this guide.

## *The History of Makeup*

Actors have been wearing makeup since the dawn of time. Picture ancient peoples reenacting the thrill of the hunt or aboriginal ancestors smearing their faces with war paint to instill fear in the enemy.

Granted, these people were often they were using movement, attitude and message across.



One of the best ways to *get* stage is to watch the mirror as you create is the product of your search for the entire character - your performance will always be exhilarating.

not standing on a stage but quite makeup to embellish the temperament required to get the

*into character* before hitting the growth of that character in the him/her. If that physical character

# ***The Importance of Makeup***

*Imagine a performance of the “Wizard of Oz” without makeup. Now, imagine seeing that same performance sitting in the back row of a 2,000 seat concert hall. It doesn’t really paint an image of an inspiring, believable performance does it? Here are some reasons why good makeup is so important.*

## ***1. To enhance the color value of the normal face***

Under the bright hot lights of the stage, normal colors of the face and hands look shiny, bland and washed out. Properly applied stage makeup will correct those things.

## ***2. To make your character more believable***

Unless you are playing yourself (which is unlikely) makeup is required to create highlights, shadows, shapes things that can change the characteristics of your face into your character’s face.

## ***3. To project facial expressions***

It’s a long way from the stage to the back row of a 500 seat venue. Your mouth, eyes, nose and other areas of your face can sometimes get lost to the audience. Makeup can make your face bold and strong for everyone to see.

## ***4. To help you “find” your character***

Getting ready for a show is a journey within the journey. For an actor, the story does not start when the curtain rises, the story starts when you get to the dressing room and start applying your makeup. Use the precious time applying your make up to find your character and allow them to envelope you.

## ASSEMBLING NECESSITIES

You're probably asking yourself "*why can't I wear my everyday makeup on the stage?*" Everyday makeup is just that "*everyday makeup.*" Under stage lighting, the normal everyday colors of the face and hands look washed out and bland. Stage makeup can restore these values and enhance them.

The majority of theatre makeup can be purchased at costume shops or theatre supply stores. With the introduction of technology, makeup can also be purchased on-line from manufacturers. You don't really need a lot of stuff to get started, but the following items are a must. If you are sensitive, you may need hypoallergenic supplies.

### *Makeup Tools And Materials*

You can own all the makeup in the world but it's worthless unless you have tools to apply it properly. To supplement your makeup kit, the following tools are required:

#### Brushes

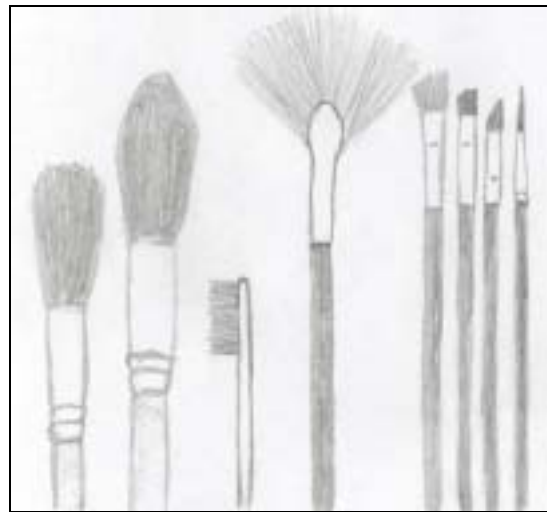


**Powder brushes** – used for applying various types of powder. A basic kit should contain at least three different powder brushes.

1. Blusher brush for generous coverage to the face and body.
2. Beveled shaped brush for powdering around the eyes.
3. Angled contour brush for touch-ups.

**Flat brushes** - for application of creams and lip rouge. Flat brush no.'s 7 and 10 are good start-off choices.

**Eye brow brush** – (see center) for



combing out facial hair like eye brows and mustaches.

If at all possible, purchase brushes made of natural fibers, like sable or pony hair. A natural fiber brush gives an even application of makeup, has less bristle loss and a longer life span.

## *Other Tools and Materials*

You can own all the makeup in the world but it's worthless unless you have tools to apply it properly. Add these tools to your makeup kit.

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<b>Applicators</b>	Wedged latex sponges, velour powder puffs, cotton swabs and cotton balls can all be purchased in packages.
<b>Makeup removal</b>	Cold cream, soap, hand towel, pieces of cotton cloth (cut up tee-shirt) or face cloths. Your everyday toner and moisturizer.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<p>A pencil sharpener, hair pins, headband, hand mirror, comb and hair spray are necessities.</p> <p>It's also very handy to include a travel sized sewing kit that includes a pair of scissors for costume emergencies.</p>

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## *Storing Makeup*

Assemble your supplies in a container that's easy for you to carry. Depending on the frequency you perform and the amount of makeup you intend to accumulate, purchase a spill-proof, two-tiered container. A plastic fishing tackle box is an inexpensive way to store your makeup in a safe and sanitary fashion.

- Most makeup will keep indefinitely if not frozen or subjected to temperatures above 35°C. Replace any makeup that loses its viscosity or starts to discolour.
- Sticks of makeup stored in plastic wrap will sweat. Leave it unwrapped or wrapped in porous paper.
- Pencils must have the plastic protective cap on the tip when not in use.

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*Never share makeup with others, infections can spread easily from using someone else's makeup, especially eye makeup*

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# YOUR BASIC MAKEUP KIT

Your initial kit should contain makeup that is as close to your natural skin tone as possible (e.g. fair, medium, dark). The main components of stage makeup include:

<b>Foundation or Base</b>	<p>As the name suggests, it's the makeup that goes on first. There are two different types of base makeup you can use, cream or cake (see below). Choose the base that suits your skin type the best.</p> <p>Foundation makeup levels your skin texture, provides a natural tone and provides a base for other makeup to be blended into.</p>
<b>Cake Makeup (Pancake)</b>	<p>Cake makeup (pancake) is applied with a damp latex sponge and usually does not require setting powder. All makeup used on top of pancake must be dry or pressed. You cannot use cream makeup on top of pancake (such as rouges or shadows).</p>
<b>Cream Makeup</b>	<p>Cream makeup is applied with your fingers, brush or sponge and is easy to blend. If you apply a cream foundation, then you can use cream rouges and shadows before you set it with powder. If you need a touch-up after it's been set, you must use dry or pressed makeup, as cream will smear.</p>
<b>Rouges</b>	<p>Cake and cream rouges are applied with a sponge. It's used for adding color to cheeks and definition to face.</p>
<b>Shadows and Highlights</b>	<p>Shadows and highlights come in cake and cream styles and are applied with a foam tip applicator. It's used for eye makeup and special effects.</p> <p>Less is more when it comes to shadows and highlights and it should be used with discretion.</p>
<b>Mascara, Pencils and Lipsticks</b>	<p>Come in the same form as everyday makeup and serve the same purpose. Black and brown eye pencils are most common. Lipsticks with pink and peach tones are the most natural.</p>
<b>Setting Powder</b>	<p>Setting powder is used as the finishing touch to set and keep stage makeup in place. A fine, translucent powder works well for all skin tones and doesn't distract from your colors or foundation.</p>

# APPLYING BASIC MAKEUP

Not every role requires elaborate changes to your face. Basic makeup is called “straight” makeup. It’s done for the purpose of giving color and life to your face. The best thing about straight makeup is that it enhances your better features and conceals your lesser features.

## *Getting Your Face Ready*

Your face should be clean and free of oil before makeup is applied. An astringent or toner applied on a freshly washed face will help keep your skin clean.

*To get your face ready:*

1. Pin all hair away from your face by using hairpins or a headband.
2. Wash face thoroughly using soap and water
3. Pat face dry with a towel
4. Use a cotton swab to apply an astringent or toner (e.g. witch hazel)

## *Applying A Base*

Your base should be applied lightly and thinly. A thick, cake-like application will result in a blending of the base color with your shadows and rouges when they are applied on top.



### **To apply your base**

1. Use a latex sponge to spread the foundation out to your hairline (including any bald areas), your eyelids, lips and ears. It and should extend below your costume neckline. Pat the sponge over the entire area to even the texture.
2. Use the edge of the sponge to get the base close to your eyes, right up to the edge of your lower lids.
3. Use a damp (not wet) sponge to lift any remaining excess foundation and to give the base a smooth, even finish.

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*If your skin breaks out or becomes irritated from using foundation, the problem is probably not the makeup itself, but failing to cleanse well before applying it or after removing it.*

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## *Rouge Application*

Rouge is applied differently on men and women. Your rouge cannot be a bright or trendy colour. For a natural look, white females can use peach colours. Avoid rouge with a brown or bluish tone. White males can use rouge with rust tones. Black actors can use deep rust coloured rouge to break up the darkness of their skin.

- Powdered rouge is applied with a soft powder brush with rounded bristles
- Cream rouge is applied with a latex sponge or your fingertip



*Rouge for Men*

Apply the color in long triangles down both sides of the face close to the nose, as illustrated above.



*Rouge for Women*

Brush the color over the entire cheekbone area, starting from just in front of the ears (suck your cheeks in to find the right spot) and try not to get too close to the mouth.

*Note: Do not apply over the temple, as it will narrow your face.*

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*A small amount of rouge blended into the chin and forehead will brighten your makeup.*

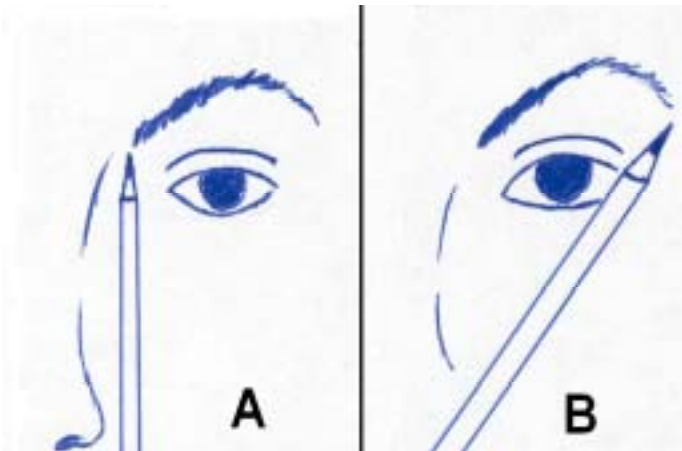
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## *All About Eye Makeup*

Eye makeup is applied in the following order: eyebrows, eyelids and eyelashes.

### *Eyebrows*

Purchase pencils based on your natural hair colour. Black and brown pencils will enhance natural eyebrows and keep stage lighting from fading them. Eyebrows must **not** be drawn on as it produces a hard, unnatural look. Fill in the eyebrow as an arch, using a freshly sharpened eye pencil.



#### **To create a natural eye brow**

1. Hold an eye brow pencil beside the nose and straight up marks the inner end of the eye brow (see A)
2. Take the same pencil then angle it over from the side of the nostril and across the outer corner of the eye, the tip of the pencil will arc the outside end of the perfect eye brow (see B)

### *Eye Shadow*

Use natural shades of eye shadow, like beige or light brown. Avoid shades like blue or green.



#### **To apply eye shadow**

1. Use the sponge applicator supplied provided with the product or a ¼ inch professional sized brush
2. Apply eye shadow along the edge of the top eyelid and blend it off to the eyebrow where the color should be the lighted. It should be darkest at the eyelashes.

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*Use more than one brush if you use more than one eye shadow shade*

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## *Applying Eye Liner and Mascara*

Eye liner and mascara are applied last. The dark colour compliments the eye shadow and brow enhancement discussed previously. Females need eyeliner and it has to be powdered once it's been applied.

### *About Eye Liner*

Females should use eyeliner and it should be powdered after it's applied.



### **To apply eye liner**

1. Line the upper lid by drawing a line along the root of the eyelashes, starting at the inner eye, thickening as you reach the outer eye, giving a tapered effect as illustrated.
2. The same procedure is followed for the lower lashes to complete the entire eye.

### *Last But Not Least, Mascara*

You have a couple of options when it comes to mascara. Theatre mascara is available in a cake form and the standard cylinder form. The cake form is recommended for men, as the cylinder form tends to curl the lashes.

### **To apply mascara for men**

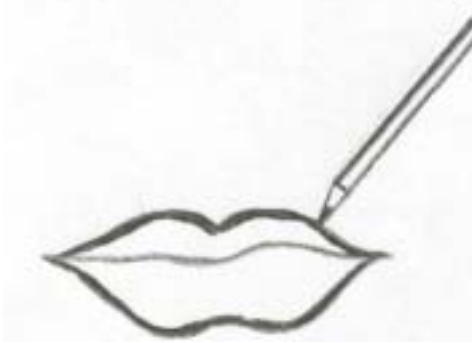
1. Wet an eye brow brush with warm water and work up a moist cream on the block
2. Apply the upper lashes first with sideways strokes of the brush, then with the brush parallel to the lashes to separate them.
3. Repeat the procedure on lower lashes.

### **For ladies...**

1. Plunge the mascara wand into the tube then remove any excess
2. Apply upper lid first, starting at the inner eye using upwards strokes.
3. Repeat procedure on lower lashes.

## Applying Lip Color

Lips are outlined and filled in with a pencil liner, often a medium tone in the red family. Maroon liner is also common. Once a liner is applied, add lipstick to give your mouth more color and gloss.



### To apply lip color

- Outline your lips with a pencil liner. Use a medium tone in the red family. Maroon liner is also a good choice.
- Once a liner is applied, add lipstick to give your mouth more colour and gloss.

Ruby red lips for men is an unnatural choice. Peach or neutral pink shades are the best. If colour is not necessary, use Vaseline® or a lip balm to keep your lips moist.

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*Liners and lipstick must be in the same colour family, the liner a shade slightly darker than the rouge. For example, use a dark red liner followed by medium red lipstick.*

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## The Final Result

All made-up areas must be powdered to “set” the makeup so it will not smear or get greasy.



### To set your finished makeup

- Pat on a generous amount of powder with a puff. Do not drag it, as you will smear your makeup.
- Use a powder free puff to remove surplus powder from your face.
- Repeat this process until all excess powder is removed from your face.

**Note:** *You can remove excess powder from eyelashes and eyebrows using moist fingers.*

Your makeup should not feel greasy. It should feel comfortable once it's firmly set.

Places please...your makeup is ready to go!

# MAKEUP REMOVAL

How you remove your makeup and cleanse your face after a performance will contribute to how well your skin will look and feel on a daily basis, on stage and off.

## *To Remove Your Makeup*

1. Smooth cold cream over your entire face with your fingertips (use gentle circular motions) until the foundation lifts off your skin and into the cream.
2. Once the cold cream is no longer white, a thorough cleansing is taking place.
3. Wipe your face clean with a cotton cloth (torn up tee-shirt is best) or face cloth. Avoid using paper products like paper towel as they can scratch the surface of your skin.
4. Wash your face thoroughly using soap and water
5. Cleanse your face with an astringent or toner. (Witch hazel is inexpensive and available at most drug stores or cosmetic counters)

*Optional: Apply a light moisturizer to leave your skin protected and refreshed.*

# CARING FOR YOUR MAKEUP MATERIALS AND TOOLS

- At the end of each performance, throw out latex sponges. Never reuse sponges. Your skin will stay healthier with a fresh sponge for each project and color used.
- Most makeup will keep indefinitely if not frozen or subjected to temperatures above 35°C. Any makeup that loses its viscosity or starts to discolor should be replaced.
- Sticks of makeup stored in plastic wrap will sweat. Leave it unwrapped or wrapped in porous paper like tissue.
- Pencils should always have the plastic protective cap on the tip when not used.
- Brushes should be washed at the end of each run. Theatrical makeup shops carry brush cleaner which is recommended if your brushes are thick with build up. Otherwise, brushes can be washed gently in soap and water and left brush end up to thoroughly dry.
- A good velour powder puff can be washed along with your brushes in soap and water and used over again.
- Sponge applicators can be washed but can lose their shape. If a sponge applicator (like the ones used for eye shadow) start falling apart, simply replace them.

