

Performance Make-up

Professional Stage Makeup is an essential part of performing. Stage lighting and the distance of the audience make the dancer appear washed out, "flat" and expressionless. The purpose of stage makeup is to add color to the skin and to exaggerate the features, making them clearly visible to the audience. Proper application will ensure that the eyes and lips are clearly visible to the audience fifty feet away. Dancers 6 years old and younger should use hypoallergenic make-up and it should be applied sparingly, especially around the eye area.

All students will be required to supply their own make-up for performances. Students must wear foundation, eyeliner, eye shadow, blush, and lipstick colors should stay in the neutral family, including grays, browns, and plums.

Preparation

Start with a clean face and the hair pulled back. Sponges, Q-tips, makeup brushes, and tissues should be readily available. If you use a moisturizer, apply it at least one half hour before you put on your makeup.

Makeup Supplies

Students will require some or all of the following, depending on their age:

foundation	lipstick	eyelash glue
eyeliner (liquid or pencil)	lip liner	pencil sharpener
eye shadow	eyelash curler	Q-tips
white highlighter	mascara	soap
blush	sponges	
brushes (big for powder and blush, small for eye shadow)		

Foundation

Foundation is the base to which all other makeup adheres. It provides a slightly darker skin tone (for Caucasians) or matching skin tone (for those of Asian, African, or Aboriginal descent with a dark skin tone). Selecting a foundation for the stage is a complicated matter. Some dancers use old-fashioned pancake or heavy cream foundation. Today it is acceptable to use drugstore or makeup counter foundations if they are carefully chosen and powder is used after application.

Liquid Foundation should be selected that provides medium to full coverage. First, determine the undertone of the skin (pink, yellow, or brown). Next,

select several shades close to your skin color. Apply along the jaw line and look for the one that blends naturally into your skin (without a lot of work with a sponge). This would be a good foundation for everyday makeup. Your stage makeup foundation should be one shade darker than the blending shade. This helps to give the face color under the harsh stage lights. Very dark complexions may want to use the shade that blends instead of a darker shade.

To apply foundation, place 3 dots/dabs across the forehead, 3 on each cheek, 1 on the nose, and 1 on the chin. (The number of dots depends on the size and shape of your face). Using a clean sponge carefully blend foundation to provide an even, flawless look. Carefully blend foundation into hairline and down onto the neck to avoid a "mask". Cover-up may be applied before or after foundation to even out skin tone, cover blemishes, or fade scars. Some dancers use a very light cover-up or 2 shades darker than foundation to contour and change face shape. Foundation must be set using a powder. Some dancers believe you must sweat to "set" your foundation properly. After application, warm up thoroughly, then reapply powder and continue with makeup application.

Eye Makeup

Probably the most important and most difficult aspect of makeup application, eye makeup requires care and practice. The purpose is to exaggerate the eye and make it stand out and appear larger to the audience. General principles apply to all eye makeup and then modifications may be made to accommodate individual eye shape and features.

Cover the entire eyelid and shadow crease (the area between the eye lid and the eyebrow) with a light colored shadow or highlighting pencil. This provides a base for the other shadows to adhere to. White eyeliner should be applied in a thick line right under the eyebrow to enhance the arch. Make sure you blend in carefully if using pencil.

Dark Shadow is now applied to the shadow crease only. Leave the eyelid with only the base color as the highlight or lighter color will help open up the eye. Follow the line of the shadow crease on the inside portion of the eye with darker shadow. On the outside, do not follow the bone down but rather keep the dark color moving up and out. Exact placement of this dark shadow is dependant on eye shape. You may also use a medium shade between the dark

shadow and the white eyeliner. This gives the eye an extra highlight and is good for recessed or deep-set eyes.

Black eyeliner should be applied on edge of upper lashline. Begin about 1/3 of the way from the inner corner of the eye and extend the line outwards along the lash line, just past the outer corner. Black eyeliner should also be applied under the eye. Begin about half a centimeter from the corner of the eye and extend just past the outer corner. Liner should enhance the natural eye shape in the middle, but the edges should fan away from the eye.

Drawing the line up at the edges (an incorrect technique) closes the eye makes it look smaller. It should get thicker on the way out and fan away from the eye at the outside edge.

False Eye Lashes: Older dancers may be required to wear false eyelashes. Ask your teacher if you're not sure. Choose a full band of eyelashes, rather than the individual ones and the appropriate eyelash glue for the full lashes. Successful application takes practice! Don't choose performance day to apply eyelashes for the first time! Apply the eyelashes AFTER the eye shadow and eye liner. Toothpicks may be helpful in applying the adhesive. Keep eye closed until the glue has dried. Be sure the outer edges are securely fastened to avoid "poking" during performance.

Eye Brows: Eye Brows create a frame for the eyes. Fair haired dancers or dancers with light eye brows must darken them with a pencil or powder in a complementary shade designed for brows. The arch of the brow should line up with the centre of the pupil and the brow line can be extended slightly outward to help create a larger looking eye.

Blush

Blush should be applied with a brush and should accent and highlight the cheekbones. Ideally, two tones should be used: The darker color goes below the cheekbone and a very light shadow may be used on the cheekbone itself. Blush should be applied in a triangle with the point no farther inside than the pupil of the eye. The open end of the triangle extends out toward the ear. If using cream based blush, it must be carefully blended with a sponge. This step is often overlooked and is needed to keep the cheeks from overpowering the eyes and lips. A light touching of blush may be used on the outside edges of the forehead (above the temples) and chin.

Lips

Lips require a base for lipstick to adhere to. Foundation, lip liner, or a base coat of lipstick can be used. Many dancers find a lip brush gives a more accurate application than a lipstick tube. Once applied, carefully following the line of your lips (or carefully adjusting their shape if you've practiced it), blot lipstick with a tissue. Reapply lipstick again. Lipstick should be re-applied between dances, at intermission or throughout the day. Never use gloss or Vaseline. Ask your teacher which shade of lipstick you're required to wear.

Finishing Up

Using your brushes and sponges, carefully powder each area of your makeup. Just prior to performance, re-check make-up for further applications of colour or powder. Reapply lipstick.