

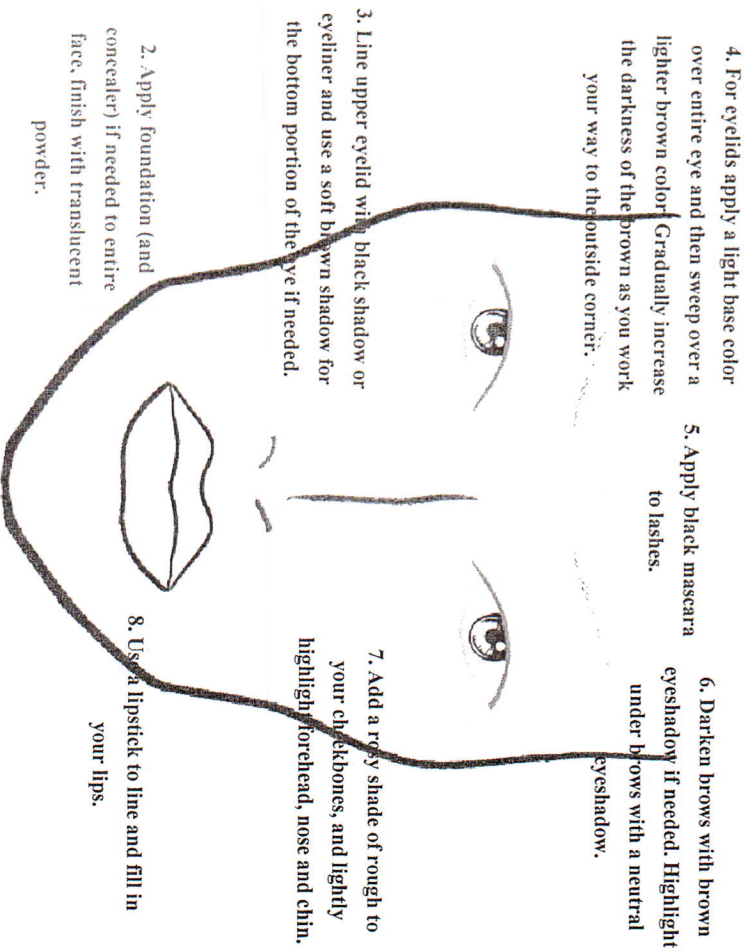
## Welcome to Dressing Room 101--Theater Make-Up

## Applying Theater Make-Up

Theatrical lighting washes out the features of an actor's face. Noses, cheekbones, eyes and even skin tone are all removed from the picture that the audience sees because of the harsh and bright lighting used. Thankfully, theater makeup, sometimes called stage makeup, allows the actor to highlight these features and, if necessary, exaggerate them to portray their proper character.

Tonight you are going to learn the basics of theater make-up and also some helpful techniques that will help you with your make-up applications before your big production.

**Below is a face chart that will help you easily and quickly understand the basics of applying theater make-up:**



1. Cleanse and moisturize the skin. Always begin with a fresh canvas. Makeup will look and last better if the face is free from dirt, dead skin cells, and excess oils.

2. Apply foundation that is one to two times darker than normal. The lights will fade and flatten the face if not. The audience needs to see your face from a distance. It is important to blend since the lighting may pick up lines of fluctuating color. You may also need concealer to cover up any blemishes or pimples--do this after you apply the foundation. Use translucent powder to set the makeup.

3. You need to know that in theater, the eyes and mouth are centers for emotion. They will need to be exaggerated. They can be highlighted and colored with more pigment than other facial areas. Just remember that you don't want to look like a raccoon. It is best to stay away from heavily lining the bottom portion of the eye in black. You can use a soft brown and smudge if more emphasis is needed. You can exaggerate the line on the top of the eye if appropriate to the role--use black and apply as close to the lashes as possible.

4. For your eyelids add a light base color to the entire lid then sweep over a lighter brown color, gradually increasing the darkness of the brown as you work your way to the out side of the eye.

5. Next apply mascara one coat at a time, allowing the mascara to dry in between coats. Curling the lashes helps to open up the eye area as is optional.

6. Also add some neutral or white eyeshadow as a highlight under the eyebrow. You may also want to add some color to the eyebrows, especially for people with fairer hair coloring.

7. Follow with rouge. I find that using a powder rouge will help with blending. It is also easy to control the amount of color since the color can be intensified gradually so the actor doesn't appear to look like a doll. It is equally important to highlight and contour facial features. You will want to add highlight to areas that stand out such as the cheekbones, chin, forehead, and t-zone. This can be accomplished using your rouge or a bronzer. Highlighting will add dimension and character to the face.

8. Line the lips by applying lipstick to a lip brush. Follow your natural line and then apply lipstick using the lip brush all over the lips. Choose lipstick in a color darker or brighter than your natural lip color, so the lips can be seen from a far.

9. Finish applying the theater makeup by dusting translucent powder to areas you feel need to be set in place.

## MAKE-UP:

Unless you require a specific make-up theme for your dance number, please refer to the following guidelines for show make-up:

FACE: Light foundation/powder & blush on cheekbones

LIPS: Red Lipstick (true red colour, not gloss)

EYES: Brown themed eye shadow (darker in crease and lid & lightest shade under brow)

Black Mascara (eyeliner optional)

