

Stage Makeup Application

STANDARD CORRECTIVE

1. Pull back your hair first. Apply your base foundation. It should be a nearly exact match to your skin tone (you may need to mix foundations to achieve the correct shade). Apply everywhere, including eyelids and lips. Blend onto neck.
2. Apply your shadow. It should be a shade darker than your normal skin tone (note: not more orange). Apply in a diagonal "check-mark" shape (for girls) or a right-angle "check-mark" shape (for guys) under your natural cheekbone. Shadow eyelids (in crease), temple, jawbone, chin, and nose.
3. Apply your highlight. This should be applied above the shadow on the cheekbone and by the temples, blending towards the center of the forehead. Highlight the bridge of the nose, the chin, and under the arch of your eyebrow and the eyelid.
4. Make sure that all three colors are blended. The edges should be indistinguishable, the colors not too harsh.
5. Powder-off (if not using pancake makeup). Apply a loose powder all over a crème foundation.
6. Add blush (for guys and girls). Men should use a more tan color, women can use berry or pink shades. Men should follow a right angle across the cheek. Women should apply blush in a diagonal stroke.
7. Apply a natural lip color (or character appropriate). Use a lip pencil first if you have time.
8. Eyeliner should be applied. However, it should not be applied too thickly. This is the biggest mistake you can make. If there are too many dark colors around your eyes, all you can see are dark shadows where your eyes are supposed to be. A dark brown is the most natural looking. Only apply it right above your lash line and on your lower lash line. A light mascara is fine, but again, keep it natural.
9. Eyebrows should be properly groomed and darkened if necessary.
10. Apply gloss to lips (if you are playing a young character). Middle to Old Age

Stage Makeup Application

MIDDLE TO OLD AGE

1. Follow the guidelines for Standard Corrective steps 1 -4.
2. Find your nasolabial fold. It is the crease that runs from your nose to the corners of your mouth when you smile. After finishing your area work (highlights and shadows), use a brush with a fine tip to trace this fold. Use the same color you used for your shadow or a little darker. The ends of the line should disappear and the edge farthest from the mouth should be blended. Add a highlight right next to this line on the side closer to your mouth. Blend.
3. Add crow's feet and bags under the eyes. Use the line-work highlight/shadow technique mentioned above. Bags under the eyes must be blended very carefully with the darker shadow being blended towards the eye.
4. Add forehead lines.
5. Choose a matte lipstick and follow steps 5 through 9 for standard corrective

QUICK TIPS:

For really, really old age, you need a stipple sponge and a red, blue, and yellow makeup. Do the old age makeup, but use a sallow color (a sickly, pale-yellow hue) for your foundation base Add extra line work and wrinkles around the eyes. Add a jowl. On your jaw line, add a saggy shadow around the area of the nasolabial fold (The nasolabial folds are the deep folds which run from the side of the nose to the corner of the mouth. This is one of the first signs of aging). (Study a picture, this will help). Using your hand as a palate, place each of these colors in a small amount on your hand. Dab the stipple sponge in the each color. Start with red. Apply with the "stippling technique" all over your face. (Do this very lightly). Repeat with the blue and the yellow. It will look weird at first, but after you powder off, it will look perfect from a few feet away. It gives the appearance of weathered skin with age spots.

Don't reuse sponges. It's not sanitary.

Recommended purchase is of the Ben Nye Theatrical Creme Kit to any student who is considering theatre as a serious part of their high school or college experience and as a career. It is 45 dollars and comes with everything you will ever need. However the Ben Nye Personal Kit is fine and affordable for high school. It is available for purchase for 20 dollars. If you buy the smaller kit, you can usually find the other things you need at drugstore.

Bring your makeup for the show in a container that allows you to see all of your makeup. A makeup bag is not the best idea. If you have a large kit, a tackle box (a small one) is perfect.

Younger faces are rounder looking with more youthful coloring in the cheeks. Older faces are more sunken and the angles sharper.

If you have trouble with the highlights and shadowing, have a friend check you in the mirror as you go. You should always apply makeup in a well lit area. If the makeup still doesn't work, omit this step. Bad highlights and shadows will look even worse under stage lighting.