

BASIC STAGE MAKEUP

Knowing how to apply stage makeup is essential for all dancers. Without it, it is impossible to see a person's face on stage. It is important to understand why performers of all ages need to wear stage makeup. As we all know, no child needs makeup to look beautiful. Wearing makeup on stage is NOT about trying to improve your looks. It is about being seen under bright lights from a far distance. Stage lights are extremely bright and will wash out any and all facial features if no makeup is applied.

Instructions for applying basic stage makeup:

1. Wash your face
2. Apply foundation using a cosmetic wedge. Blend outward and slightly into the neck so that the foundation looks natural.
3. Apply eye shadow using a neutral toned palette. Apply the lightest color just under the eyebrow. Apply the next lightest color to the eyelid. Apply the darkest color to the crease of the eye only and blend it in well. Do not use glitter or high-shimmer eye shadow onstage.
4. Apply dark brown or black eyeliner to the top of the eye, as close to the lashes as you can manage. Apply a very thin line of eyeliner to the bottom of the eye. Be careful not to apply too much. If the line is too thick on the bottom of the eye, it actually makes the eyes look less open on stage.
5. Apply mascara to lashes. Focus more on the top lashes and apply very little to the bottom lashes. Use the eyelash comb to help separate and extend the lashes after applying mascara.
6. Apply blush starting at the middle of the cheekbone, using a big brush to blend the blush back.
7. Apply lip liner. Be sure to stay within the natural lines of the lips. Apply lipstick to the inside of the lips. Colorstay works the best because once it is on, it does not come off when a performer sweats, drinks water, or changes her costume. The color should be somewhere in the range of dark cherry, cranberry, or rosey red hues. Do not use a "fire engine red" lipstick.

If your child is very young or sensitive to makeup, we ask you to just try to apply what you can and not worry about the rest! It is most important to apply one color of eye shadow on the lid of the eye, mascara, blush, and lipstick. Everything else can wait until your child is a little more experienced.