

#31 Topical Tip

Hygiene issues to consider when applying makeup

Pantomime season is a very busy season for makeup in amateur theatre, particularly for those men being transformed into colourful pantomime dames, but for all manner of cast members who are turned into classic panto characters through the magic of makeup. At this busy time, please take a few moments to read these helpful hygiene tips for applying makeup. All information comes courtesy of the National Association of Screen and Makeup Artists and Hairdressers (NASMAH), who you can visit at www.nasmah.co.uk/.

- ★ Always check with actors if they have an allergy or whether they wear contact lenses before applying makeup. If an actor has a cold sore, disposable makeup applicators should be used and disposed of correctly.
- ★ Makeup and applicators should not be shared between cast members and principal artists should have their own makeup. Other artists' makeup may be from a general stock, but clean, sterilised tools should be used to apply it from a clean palette.
- ★ Always wash your hands between each makeup application. Carrying a small bottle of hand sanitizer is useful.
- ★ For hair, Barbicide should be available for disinfecting combs and hairbrushes after use. Clippers and electric razors should also be disinfected between uses. A 'dust off' air spray (used for camera lenses) is good for getting hair out of clippers.
- ★ There should be an adequate supply of clean towels and these should not be shared if faces are being cleaned. Do not leave dirty towels and gowns lying around.
- ★ When applying makeup to children, all permission (even for the smallest effect) must come from the child's parent or guardian and no one else.

For further advice on this topic either visit the NASMAH website or contact NODASafe on **0345 257 6632** or email nodasafe@noda.org.uk

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