Nutcracker Make-Up Instructions

The following information is primarily for the older dancers and performers. All adults in the Party Scene also should wear stage make-up. Tips for men are included below.

Please do not use any make-up that contains glitter.

Sheep, Little Mice, Angels, Gingersnaps, Etc.
Younger dancers do not need false eyelashes, foundation, or elaborate eye make-up. Lipstick is a must.

Mice "whiskers" and Gingersnap "cheeks"
Mice will have a nose and whiskers drawn on with eyeliner, so won't need to apply blush. Whiskers (using a felt-tip or crayon type eyeliner like black Revlon Color Stay Eyeliner Crayon, *not liquid*) will be done at the theater by a Dressing Room volunteer. Gingersnaps will have make-up "cheeks" applied at the theater (we are discontinuing glue and felt cheeks due to skin irritation for these younger children).

Foundation
Use a matte, oil free, and sunscreen free foundation that is very slightly darker than natural skin color and should extend into the hairline and onto the neck, without a stopping line. Wash and moisturize face first, then apply foundation and seal with translucent or neutral powder. The foundation can be stick, cream, or liquid.

Eyebrows
Brows can be slightly darkened with a pencil that is a shade darker than your natural color.

Eye Shadow
These three eye shadow colors are usually fine for most complexions: pearly white, peach or slightly darker than neutral beige, and a medium dark brown. NO BLUE, PURPLE, OR BRIGHT COLORED TONES SHOULD BE USED.

1) Use the pearly white to shadow under the brow and the entire lid; this should extend just to the edge of the eyebrow or eye socket or even a little beyond.

2) Use the peach (or another slightly darker than neutral color) to color the lid from the lashes to the crease; again, extend to eye socket or just beyond.

3) Use the dark brown to trace the crease (this is a thick line of shadow that is in the crease and slightly above); it also extends to the eye socket; make sure that the line you trace goes straight out or very slightly up at the outside eye edge and not down (as the natural eye does).

Eye Liner
Use a dark brown or black pencil, or liquid liner. Some dancers prefer using a wet, thin, angled brush and black eye shadow as it offers better control when drawing the lines. For the top line, begin 1/3 of the way out from the inside corner of your eye; trace the lash edge until the eye starts to turn down. At this point, let the line you are tracing continue straight out or a little winged up. Don't follow the downturn of your eye – this will make your eyes appear smaller, not bigger. For lower line, start about even with the inside edge of the pupil and trace a straight line out; this line should parallel the upper line and stop about equal with the upper line.

Eyelashes
Mascara on younger dancers should be applied lightly, and only on upper lashes. All pointe dancers should use fake eyelashes – again, only upper, not lower. Purchase the strip type that comes in one piece with a band (not the individual lashes). It might be best to use lashes that you cut down a bit, or use demi-lashes; it is best to put a bit of eyelash glue on the back of your hand and gently dip the lash into the glue; let it sit and get tacky for about 1-2 minutes (while you're applying other make-up), then apply to lid, holding the lash on the lid for 30 seconds or so to make sure it is secure; do not let it turn down as the natural eye does, instead let it extend in a more or less straight out line that parallels the crease line you drew with darker brown shadow. You may apply mascara (dark brown or black) to the upper lashes to blend natural lashes with fake.

Cheeks
Use more blush than you think (soft pink or soft mauve for lighter skin tones; peach and mauve for medium skin tones; berry and bronze for darker skin tones). Brush blush onto the "apples" of the cheeks. A good way to find

your “apples” is to make a big, wide smile and apply blush on the rounded part of your cheek. Blend up and out to the hairline. The stage lighting washes out your coloring so do not be shy with your blush. We’ll be in the audience on Wednesday and can let you know if it's too much!

Soldiers and Dolls
You will glue felt cheeks on instead of blush. Felt cheeks will be available in Dressing Room #1.

Lips
Lips should be vibrant and clearly visible from the audience. The audience needs to see your expressions and your mouth has a lot to do with your expressions on stage. Stage lights wash out a lot of detail and color, so you need to use a vibrant shade to work with the stage lights. For most roles in the Nutcracker, a cooler tone shade of red is often the best. This means “fire engine red” might not be the best choice for your skin tone. For most of you, browns, beiges, light-medium pinks are not going to work. Lip gloss is not a great idea especially for Snow dancers as the fake snow will stick to the gloss more readily than a matte lipstick! A makeup setting spray may help diminish the problem of snow sticking to lips! And it can also help with minimizing the accidental transfer of lipstick to fabric.

Makeup For Dancers with Darker Skin Tones
The basic information above applies to all dancers. The difference is in the choice of colors to use to enhance natural features. Dancers with darker skin tones will need foundation that is approximately skin tone color. Your choices for blush and eyeshadow will be more saturated colors. Eye shadow colors that might work include: rich brown, shimmery cream, terracotta, rust, and warm oranges. Blush colors might include: deep berry, plum, rich reds, warm bronzy corals. Here is a YouTube video that addresses some color choice options for dancers with darker skin tone:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcWlkpyUx6s

Make-Up on Costumes
Be very careful when getting in and out of costume — try very hard to avoid getting lipstick on costumes! If you do see make-up on a costume, please notify our Costume Mistress or a Dressing Room adult.

> ***Important – Dancers in the Coffee from Arabia Variation:***
> *Do not use any bronzer (or other colored foundation or lotion) on exposed midriff — this type of make-up could stain the delicate fabrics of the costume.*

For Male Performers
Here are tutorials specifically for boys and men:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqbHpl3C6qo&app=dennnnnnsktop
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjpiEpTXwDs&app=dennnnnnsktop