



Submitted photos

From left to right, junior Katie Murray wears bird makeup from fantasy day, when students can create any character they choose. Senior Sam Kyker wears makeup to appear elderly, an effect that is created by exaggerating wrinkles and whitening hair. Senior Casey Scoggins wears makeup from blood, guts and gore week and a ventriloquist look for fantasy week. Junior Natalie Wrhel wears cat makeup for fantasy week.

Transforming a face

Introduction to Makeup class teaches students how to take a face and create a character

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
Features Editor
index.featureseditor@gmail.com

With a few swoops of blush, a layer of foundation and the right shadowing, Truman State's Introduction to Makeup class is learning how to transform a plain face into a dynamic character.

Theater professor Joan Mather said this class, which she has been teaching for 20 years, meets once a week and focuses on creating a different type of character each week.

This semester, the class has learned how to create skinny, fat and glamorous faces. The students are graded each day for how well they create the desired effect. They either can put the makeup on themselves or bring in a model.

Mather said the class uses a simple makeup kit including several brushes, a set of sponges, foundation, hair whitener and a bruise and abrasion wheel of blush colors to create bruises or cuts.

Mather said these colors are used during the blood, guts and gore week when students create horror faces. Mather said she has had students use these makeup skills to do makeup for fake car crash dramas outside of the class.

The kit also includes a putty-like substance used to create three-dimensional shapes on the face. This is used during fantasy week, when the students are allowed to fashion any creature or persona they want.

Past designs include elaborate creations such as giraffes, peacocks and aliens.

Makeup is important for theater because many times, people are cast who don't fit the physical description of the character they are playing, Mather said.

"We focus on how to manipulate the highlights and shadows to convince the audience they're seeing something that isn't there in reality," Mather said. "We analyze how light strikes an object and how we perceive something as three dimensions just by placement of light."

Mather said that because stage lighting is so bright and because the audience is far away from the stage, the facial features of the actors often look washed out.

"When the audience is far away, peo-



Jessie Poole/Index

Senior Reina Koyano applies makeup during class Feb. 15. The day's assignment was to create the illusion of being fat. Koyano said she took the class because the hands-on learning style makes it stand out from other courses.

ple rely on watching faces and watching lips move for communication," Mather said.

Because most Truman State actors do their own makeup for productions, Mather said the class, which is required for theater majors, teaches the students a practical skill.

Junior Sarah Dykes had some experience with makeup after performing in the production, "Into the Woods," last semester, but Dykes said she hopes to use the skills she is learning in the class when she graduates and teaches high school theater.

Dykes said making a mistake is one of the most frustrating parts of the class,

because after a mistake, the makeup on that section has to be completely removed and redone.

The process is incredibly time consuming, Dykes said. It takes the class about an hour to put on a face, but it typically only takes Mather five to 10 minutes, Dykes said.

Junior Shannan Cantu is in the class and said she heard about it last semester when she saw one of the students in the makeup class with a large gash on her forehead.

Cantu said when she first asked about the gash, her friend had an elaborate story about how she got it, but then explained it was from the makeup class.

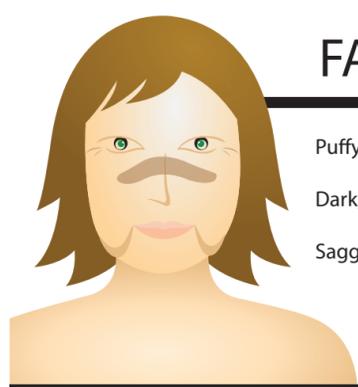
The encounter prompted Cantu to take the class.

"I was involved in a lot of drama in high school, and makeup was the one thing I had never done," Cantu said. "I don't even wear makeup every day, so the class is a chance to learn about a part of theater that I had never done."

The layers and intricacy of the makeup surprised Cantu, she said. She said while the actor is responsible for creating the character, without makeup, the character wouldn't be complete.

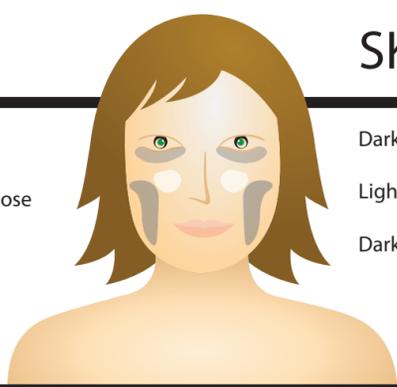
"I think its one of those finishing touches that you might not notice when it is all put up there but if it weren't there it would be drastic," Cantu said.

Basic Makeup Effects



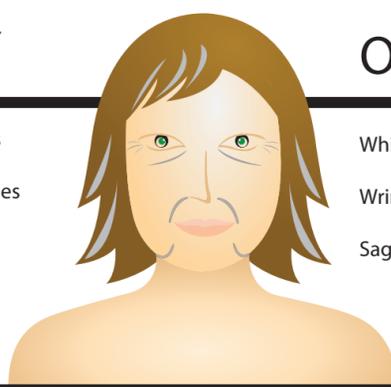
FAT

- Puffy face
- Dark, flattened nose
- Sagging skin



SKINNY

- Darken under eyes
- Lighten cheek bones
- Darken cheeks



OLD

- White hair highlights
- Wrinkles
- Sagging skin