

Media Make up and Special Effects



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Subject Area	Media & Photography
Course Type	School Leavers
Study Level	Level 2
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Location	Lister Building
Duration	1 Academic Year
Start Date	September 2026
Course Code	PA000113

Course Summary

The Level 2 Diploma in Media Make up and Special Effects provides you with the fundamental skills needed for progression to related employment adding depth, sophistication and synthesis. There is the opportunity to explore an area of specialist study and context.

The Level 2 Diploma is a broad diagnostic course giving you an overview of different perspectives and approaches within the arts industry or related subjects of study or work. You will develop the ability to research, analyse and evaluate relevant information in order to develop creative solutions to complex problems. You will learn how to use practical methods and skills for creative production for appropriate audiences whilst being able to review their effectiveness for further improvement. You will also begin to take responsibility for the research, planning, time management and actions necessary to access progression opportunities in Higher Education or related work.

What You Will Learn

The course is structured to provide you with a wide range of experience in key areas of your specialism, these include but are not limited to:

- Design Work
- Basic Introduction to Make-up Application and Removal
- Hair Techniques
- Make up for Theatre Performance
- Make-up for Screen Performance
- Character Design
- Wig Skills Exploration
- Colour Techniques for Performance
- Special Effects Techniques
- Bald Cap Application
- Maskmaking
- Headdresses
- Ageing for Theatre
- Straight to Skin Techniques
- Simple Prosthetics
- Product Knowledge
- Introduction to Period Make-up and Hair
- Basic Hair Knowledge
- Skin Types and Face Shapes
- Health and Safety
- Cleansing Procedures and Skin Preparation

Modules

Unit 1 – Introduction to Performance

Unit 2 – Introduction to Production

Unit 3 – Communicating with an Audience

Unit 4 – Staging a Performance

Unit 5 – Contextual Research for Performance and Production

Unit 6 – Performance Skills and Practice

Unit 7 – Production Skills and Practice

Unit 8 – Personal Project and Presentation

Unit 9 – Producing and Performing to an Audience (Level 2)

or

Entry Requirements

4 GCSEs including Maths Grade 2 and English Grade 3

Work Experience

Work experience and enrichment opportunities are embedded into the timetable to ensure that the course is both diverse and CV enhancing to prepare learners with industry-based experience work in the creative industries. Our links include but are not limited to – The Royal Shakespeare Company, Bradford Council, Alhambra, Wigs up North, make up designers, various freelancers, JT Studios, TV and film Industry links.

Progression

Successful completion of the course at Diploma level means that you will be in a position to progress to further study or you may progress directly into employment roles in the creative industries. Potential careers include:

- Research and design make-up for characters
- Work to production designers' notes and instructions
- Design and style hair for characters
- Create special effects make-up
- Be on set to apply and redo make-up and hair
- Remove make-up and maintain wigs and hairpieces

A career in this industry may mean that you will work work within theatre, TV, film, fashion and editorial.

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