

put on your party face

THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF SPECIAL OCCASION MAKEUP IS TO HELP YOU HAVE FUN. HERE'S HOW TO GET YOUR PARTY ON. WORDS BY GILLIAN SAMUEL

If there's ever a reason for busting out your inner glamazon, it's a party. Just applying your usual makeup won't cut it – this is when you should express the fun and sexy side of your personality. Party makeup is all about drama and fantasy.

There are a number of looks you can try for a special night, depending on your taste and personality.

Siren

Go for a movie star look by using old Hollywood-style eyeshadow in peacock colours such as emerald green. Keep the focus on your eyes by piling on the mascara and adding false lashes, leaving the rest of your face fairly neutral. Your lip colour should be low key, such as a soft pink.

Pop

This is beauty speak for a colour that brightens the face and accentuates the features, like a pink blush on the cheek apples, purple shadow on green eyes or red lipstick. Vivid colours, either for the eyes or lip, will amp up the impact of those features. Apply red, purple or bright lipsticks with care, using a nude lip pencil and blotting before a second pass to ensure your colour stays the distance.

To enhance brown eyes, try a pop of yellow shadow in the centre of the lid or pink faded gently from the outer crease to the tip of the eyebrow.

Sparkle

Parties are the perfect venue for glitter-ball effects. You can spray spangles into your hair, tap a fingerprint of metallic or tinsel shadow into the inside corner of your eye or just on one area of the lid, such as the middle or outer corner. Swoosh a trail of fairy dust over the tops of your cheeks, shoulders, cleavage or wherever your fancy takes you. Keep your touch as light as a feather to avoid looking like a carnival kewpie doll.

Sultry

Smoky eyes lend themselves perfectly to a party because they look better as the night goes on. The updated smoky eye uses a dark-toned shimmery base colour over the lid and in the crease. You can build intensity with darker colour closer to the lashes, dark pencil on your inner eyelids, eyeliner and mascara.

Glow

Luminescence is a stealth beauty effect, illuminating your skin to enhance all your features. There is a huge number of products that deliver glow, in formulations you can simply skim over bare skin or on top of makeup. Sweep a veil of luminescence over the tops of your cheekbones, forehead, the outline of your upper lip or a dab on your chin or nose.

Expert advice

Sydney makeup artist Stoj Bulic took some time out from creating party faces to share a few tips.

Her advice for wearing bright colours is to keep it simple. 'Unless you're an artist, it can be a little hard to know where to place them. Try putting a colour like yellow just on the eyelid and then add lots of mascara or false lashes. You could also apply bright colours on the lid, then use black liquid liner and flick it up at the outer corners.'

With vivid green and blue eye shadows, Bulic suggests teaming them with a more neutral colour for balance and extra definition.

