

Keep These Notes in Mind: Advice from Judges

- Make sure brows are defined, arched and extended properly, especially for the very fair or those with dark skin tones.
- All ages should have even-looking skin. Use the correct foundation, especially where cheek color is applied to prevent overly flushed faces. Avoid light-reflecting liquid makeup as it makes the face look too fair under stage lights. If foundation looks too light against the body try a darker shade of powder instead of foundation, to look more natural. Powder is a must to avoid excessive shine.
- Eye shadow should look blended and in neutral colors that do not fight with different costume changes. Avoid bright colors like blue, green, or purple.
- Eyeliner should be left open at the outer eye corners so eyes do not look closed and small. Beware of too much black eye liner unless the theme calls for that look, and never on the lower lid ridge.
- Wear false lashes. They do open your eyes!
- Cheek color should be used to flush. Use a contour cheek shade to define features.
- Lip liner should be used with lipstick to shape the lips. Keep sides of lips full for profile views.
- Don't let lips get too dry. Treat your lips regularly.
- Be cautious when using glitter. Apply only to key light-catching points. Never use on male dancers.
- When wearing a hat, especially those with brims that cast shadows, be sure to dress up lips using gloss, glitter or a dramatic lip color.
- When performing a classical ballet or any number that is ethereal, highlight with shimmer powder on cheekbones and eyes. Matte faces look plain and dull.
- When lots of skin is exposed on the back or midriff, add a shimmer lotion or sparkling powder over bare areas. For glitzy costuming, dress up your skin with glitter spray.
- Remember to choose appropriate makeup for the themes of your dances: for the 1940s era use a strong eyeliner on the upper lids with strong lips, for the 1960s use white shadow and white lips or for the 1980s use bright shadow and lips. (For much more about theme and era makeup, see chapter seven, page 111.)
- Makeup for traditional or cultural numbers like clogging, African or Latin should stay with the look of that culture.
- Avoid too many rhinestones. Neck chokers, earrings, bracelets or hair jewels, choose two—and keep it simple.
- Unless it's part of the number, avoid mouthing the words. It's distracting.
- Don't move the music tempo faster than the song is being played. Need a faster tempo? Find one.
- Think about your undergarments. Be sure they match and do not show under or outside of your costume.
- Watch facial expressions. Don't make faces (look strained, with lips puckered). Instead, make eye contact and smile.
- Wear costumes that are secure to avoid embarrassing wardrobe problems.