INTO FILM

PRE-PRODUCTION

4. SOURCE COSTUMES, MAKE-UP & PROPS

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Source Costumes, Make-Up and Props

Review your script and storyboards to identify what costumes, make-up, props and set dressings you'll need. Sourcing these during the pre-production stage means you'll have everything ready for filming. It also gives you and your costume, make-up and set designers time to experiment and practise.

Costumes

If your film is set in modern times, your cast of actors can probably wear their own clothes, but think about how you can use style and colour to signify personality or character mood. For example, traditionally, villains will wear black or darker colours. Dressing a character casually or formally in a suit will change the way the audience perceives them. Costumes give the audience clues about job roles, aspirations or motivation – make sure you are giving the right messages to your audience. To keep costs down, borrow clothes from friends or family and see what you can get from charity shops.

Activity: Design a costume

To help you clarify your ideas about costumes
it might help to design some costumes.
Costumes could be designed by:

- Drawing designs onto our **Costume Design sheet** on page 5

- Dressing a model

- Using collage to add to a drawn design

- Using costume design apps or software.

Make-up

You may not need any make-up if you are creating a modern-day love story. However, if you are making a zombie movie, you will need to think about make-up and special effects. Fake blood and face paints can be obtained cheaply from high-street shops, especially around Halloween. You can also use cosmetics, toiletries and things you have around the house to create specific make-up effects. You can easily find images and "how to" videos online which are a great source of ideas and inspiration.

Activity: Make-up design

Age a young actor by:

- Lightly powdering your actor's hair with baby powder or dry shampoo. Make sure they close their eyes and shut their mouth so that they don't breathe it in. This works best on unwashed hair.

- Use a pale base colour or foundation on their face to make them look tired and use a pencil eye liner to lightly draw on some wrinkles. Don't do too many, though.

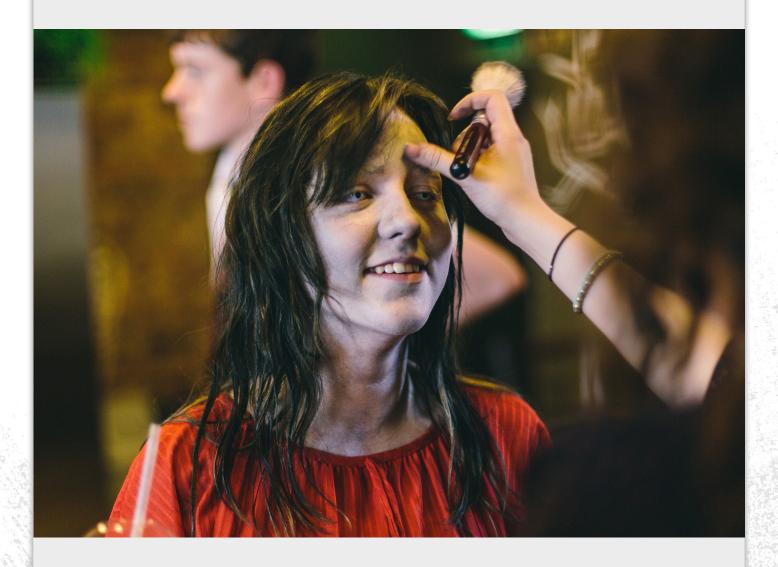Give an actor cuts and bruises by:

- Painting a plastic glue like Copydex onto their skin to build up the effect of a cut or scab.

- Paint over the glue with face paints in cut and bruise colours.

Top Tip

NB: You need to be aware of skin allergies when applying anything to the skin. Always ask actors about the sensitivity of their skin and do patch tests to test for allergic reactions. Check that any glue you use can be removed easily.

Props

Characters are only able to carry one or two props, so think carefully about what those props should be. You need to choose only props that contribute to the storytelling or tell the audience something about a character. For example, if a character carries a teddy bear, what does that tell the audience? Pick props an audience can read quickly and easily. For example, if your film features a queen, you might decide to use a crown to make this clear. See what you can borrow or source from charity shops. If you are really creative, make your own props.

Design a costume

Create a costume for a film character

Activity

1. Choose a character from your film or a character from a story, history or from another country.

2. As costume designer, your first job is to find out the sorts of things your character might wear. Use the internet, fashion magazines, clothing catalogues or the library for your research.

3. Now start to draw your design onto your model. Use a pencil so that if you make any mistakes you can rub them out! You will need to include a main outfit, hat, headdress or hairstyle, accessories such as a wand, jewellery or a bag and footwear.

4. When you have your design outline, think about the colours or materials you want to use. Now colour in your costume or make a collage of your design.

What next?

You may want to print off more model printouts to produce a set of designs for your character, depending on the occasion, time of day or activity they are taking part in. For example, a superhero needs at least two costumes!

You will need:

- Model print out
- Pencil
- Coloured pens and/or a selection of fabric

Design a costume