



Hannah Humphrey — Makeup Design for “The Wizard of Oz”

What do you consider to be this production’s biggest challenge?

The overall technical aspects of this show present a great challenge. From what I’ve seen throughout the design process, this show is massive. It’s going to take precise coordination and communication from all departments of this show for it to run both safely and smoothly. Personally my biggest challenge has been creating Cowardly Lion’s makeup. For this makeup I have built a prosthetic piece that will alter our actress’s face in order for it to be like a lion with whimsical features. The challenges in this are finding the right material to cast it out of so that there is enough flexibility for the actress to be comfortable and able to emote through it.

What about this production excites you the most?

I would say that it’s very exciting to see GTA creating its own version of such a specific and classic show. For the most part, when you think of “The Wizard of Oz”, you generally think of the movie classic; I think that GTA is going to take it a step further and really blow away any preconceived notions or expectations that our audiences might have.

Which character’s makeup did you have the most fun designing?

My favorite to design was definitely the Tin Man. It was definitely the most conceptually challenging because I’m trying to stray away from how his look has been done over the years. So, I’ve taken some inspiration from Cirque makeup styles and shapes and have added in some really cool 2D structural aspects to his face that I think will be one of the many factors that really brings this character to life.

How much of a role did the 1939 film play in inspiring your designs? What inspired you the most?

Honestly, I tried my best to avoid taking inspiration from the original movie. I knew that the other designers for the show were putting their own spin on the atmosphere and characters, so I wanted to do the same with my makeup design.

How are you and your crew going to get the actors in and out of these makeup transformations during the show?

We have chosen materials and types of makeup that are easily applied and removed. Some of our actors will be tackling their own makeup and coming to us for touchups while we work to execute the larger makeup looks—such as that of Lion, which will take 1-3 crew members to fully get her into makeup, hair, and costume. As for getting them out, we’re using very specific adhesive removers to get the prosthetic pieces off, and we have also discovered that applying cold cream over the makeup and wiping it off with a towel takes it off in seconds.