Makeup for the Stage Notes

* Skillfully applied makeup can enhance or even greatly alter the image the actor projects
* Stage makeup can reflect the character’s age, health, occupation, physical characteristics, and even attitudes
  + If the play is realistic, the makeup should look natural to the audience
  + If the play is a fantasy or has many symbolic elements, then elaborate or imaginative makeup can be used to obtain special effects
* Straight makeup – makeup that enhances natural features and coloring; helps to make actors more visible and distinctive onstage
  + Essentials: foundation, liners, lipsticks, blush, powder, eyebrow pencils, brushes, mascara, makeup remover, sponges/cotton balls/etc
* Character makeup – additional makeup that changes his or her appearance drastically
  + Essentials: putty wax (for making false noses, warts, scars, etc.), liquid latex (liquid rubber used to build up facial features such as chins, noses, eye pouches), nonflexible collodion (clear, thick solution used on skin to make scars), crepe hair (for beards/mustaches), spirit gum (adhesive for attaching hair, false noses, scars,etc.), rubbing alcohol (to remove spirit gum), acetone (to remove collodion), and hair whitener (liquid or spray)
* Always adjust makeup to lighting
  + Red light subdues red makeup and makes green look black; if using red lights, use a heavy pink base and blush with a blue tint
  + Strong amber lights require heavier use of blush and use of a pink base since amber “eats up” red
  + Blue light makes red look purple or black; for a blue moonlight scene use a light foundation and very little blush
  + Green lights can make the face look ghastly – so that lighting is rarely used unless that effect is needed