

Make-Up artist

Description:

A make-up artist working in the film and television industry does everything from making Emma Watson look flawless to turning Ralph Fiennes into Voldemort in 'Harry Potter'. Make-up artists play an essential role in the film and TV industry; they breathe life into characters by making them appear more three dimensional. Where appropriate, make-up effects artists will design and create special make-up effects using prosthetics, latex and animatronics.

Make-up artists need to work closely with directors, actors and producers to produce the right make up for a character. They work very long hours, often for low wages.

Personal testimony:

At first you think it doesn't affect you, the whole copyright issue and illegal downloading. You think it only affects the guys who make the big bucks. But what eventually happens filters down, so the money that is lost is money that is not put back into film. First the film will be a few hundred short of budget, then a few thousand pounds short and eventually it will affect a runner, until it affects every person in every department. Money is always an issue when it comes to film, as the filming can haemorrhage the stuff, there is never enough money when it comes down to it. And it's not just the big wigs that miss out – it affects everyone. So if it's possible I might get hired to do two week's work, and there's no money for it, that means I'll lose out somewhere along the line.

Rob Pritchard make-up artist 'Hellboy 2'

Industry facts

Many make-up artists start out by working as assistants on a movie set or television show. Their first gigs may be for low budget films, so they rely on investment in these films in order to secure future work. Make-up artists will often work for free in the early stages of their career, in order to build up their portfolios. Most make-up artists work on a freelance basis, so they rely on more films being made to keep them in work.

Questions

- What sort of skills do you think you would need to be a make-up artist working in the film and television industry?
- How do you think make-up artists are affected by copyright infringement?

So why is copyright important?

- Copyright protects the creative work of people who work in the film and TV industries and makes sure that they are paid for all their hard work.

Notes

