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Crazy celebrity stylist girl fashion and makeup blogs

The relationship between a celebrity and her makeup artist is a sacred thing, one that requires a lot of faith, understanding and sometimes even mind reading (yes, thought reading – we explain later). At the end of the day, makeup artists are often the people celebrities trust the most - those who see them without makeup (sans filter or good lighting), those they travel with, and those who get up close and personal with their pores. We are endlessly fascinated by the inner workings of the celeb beautifying ritual, which is why we decided selfishly to pick the brain of a top celeb makeup artist to see how it's really like behind the curtain. How long does it usually take to get a client red carpet-ready? What's it like to travel with a celebrity? Do you only get hordes of free makeup sent to you on a daily basis? We asked all these questions and more to the talented Daniel Martin, Dior Beauty brand ambassador and makeup artist (and friend) to the likes of Jessica Alba, Kate Bosworth, and Olivia Palermo. If you've ever been curious about what's really going on in the holy hour (or two) before a celeb hits the red carpet, you'll keep reading. Keep scrolling to find out what it's really like to be a celebrity makeup artist! @dmartnyc BYRDIE: Describe a typical day in your life. Coffee, Uber, get to work, come home, play with my cat, watch either *The Walking Dead* or RuPaul's Drag Race. Hallelujah for Uber, because it's really changed the landscape to get around with your makeup set. I think for a makeup artist in New York, half of the struggle is to come to work. Can you tell us about your set? Do you have different to different jobs? DM: I have three different kits, and depending on the job, I knock out my set a lot. It can be a carry-on bag for a large bag that I take with me to Paris - it definitely swings depending on the job I have. I have a full-time assistant who helps me with everything. He gets my set together, he organizes my conversation sheets, he's in touch with my agent [at the Wall Group], and he fills up my makeup. I'm lucky to have him. Have you always had an assistant? DM: I've been very lucky to have a wonderful assistant who went on to be their own person [represented by the Wall Group]. When she moved on, she mentioned Kelvin, my current assistant, to me. He was on my show team, the team that works under me during fashion week shows. I have a team of 20 assistants on rotation during that time. He's fantastic and talented, and a lot of that too, etiquette is set with customers – you don't see him and you don't hear him. He's very attentive and just great. When he became my full-time assistant, he came to London with me, and he came to Paris with me twice for fashion week. When I was in L.A. for the [Golden] Globes, he came with me. It helps to have a couple of other hands. @dmartnyc BYRDIE: You work with so many dynamic leading ladies. What do you think makes them call you again and again? DM: I have been very lucky to work with truly independent, strong, confident and driven women. I'm only attracted to such women. I know my role — it's a supportive role. It is a community. There is a confidence - there is no strange competitiveness. I've been working with teams before where it is, we need to get this photo or take a selfie. It was so much about getting this false pretext. There's a whole generation that doesn't know what we all went through while we were working on fashion. How does the entire ordering process work? Do your customers contact you directly or review your agent? DM: It's 50/50, depending on the ratio. Or they'll contact me, and I'll let my agent know, and that's cool. There is the ebb and flow of business. That's what's going to happen – you work with these girls for so long that they become family. And sometimes there is no price, and they really want you, and you still do it as a favor. That's the beauty of having these conditions. Everyone has their backs to each other. They feel good knowing that you make them feel good. We're just lucky to be able to do this. The Met Ball just happened - do you have any crazy Met stories? DM: It was one year, punk-themed year, when I ended up doing four people for it. My third person made me late for my last person and I literally had 15 minutes to make up on them before they went out. Ever since then, I've never done more than two [clients]. It was a favor for my last client. I just felt bad. It was terrible. That's the madness of the Met Ball. @dmartnyc BYRDIE: How long do you usually have to do a client's makeup before an event? DM: They usually give us two hours for hair and makeup for a red carpet. That full two hours is maybe an hour and a half of both hair and makeup at the same time, and about 20 or 30 minutes for touch-ups and get dressed. Can you walk us through your typical makeup process? DM: If it's a red carpet - the Globes, the Oscars - for me, it's never about hair and makeup. It's always about the dress. So you definitely do not want to create anything for elaborate - it depends on the comfort zone of the girl. For hair and makeup, it's always going to be one or the other. If the hairdresser has an idea for funky hair, I have to tone it down with the makeup. I always start with skincare first – usually an eye mask or face mask. I always do eye make-up before skin color. That way, if I make a dramatic eye, all that fallout can be easily cleaned up. Also, when working with a hairdresser at the same time, they are usually standing behind the client and usually start at the bottom of the neck and work their way up to the crown. With me, beginning by the eyes, it's almost like a yin and yang - you kind of move with each other. There is a rhythm that you are able to create after years of doing this. So I always do skin, eyes, foundation, and then end with lips. What is part of people maybe not expect? DM: You have to listen. People can tell you how they feel, but you really have to listen. You need to pay attention to body language and read between the lines as well. They may say: I want a smokey eye, but their smokey eye is so different from what you think a smokey eye is. If I'm working with a new client, I'll take my iPad with me. Pinterest is a wonderful thing. You can never go in and say, I think you have to do this. Or if you bring something to the table, you have to explain why. I think you have to do a red lip because of X, Y and Z, I don't think you have to make a red lip because you look great in a red lip. You really have to listen. A lot of makeup artists and hairdressers think I'm an artist, and I'm going to do this. No. It's never going to happen. Sometimes you can do it when you have a relationship with the client. It takes years to say, no, let's not do it. @dmartnyc BYRDIE: What's the most satisfying part of your job? DM: Just knowing that my customers are happy with what I've done. It's the worst thing, when you can feel that they're uncomfortable. When they're not comfortable being beautiful, you didn't do your job. That's why you're employed. [Laughs] You're hired to make her feel good and make her feel the best. You have to suck it up and lose your ego – at the end of the day you offer a favor. What would you say is the most challenging aspect of your job? DM: Handling different personalities. Because we are all creative. We're all emotional. Especially when you're at a photo shoot and you're dealing with the photographer, and the art director, and the creative director. You're dealing with so many personalities. You have to learn how to adapt, instead of trying to go against it because of your own artistic integrity. That's the hardest part. @dmartnyc BYRDIE: Now on the fun questions - what's the craziest thing that's ever happened to you through your job? DM: Well, I rode on the Thames in London on a private yacht with Helen Mirren. [Laughs] Tell you, DM: I worked with Greta Gerwig for the premiere of *Arthur*, who was five years ago, maybe. This was the beginning of her career and her first major film. Greta and Helen Mirren invited us to the premiere, and we got there by boat. We were on this boat with Helen Mirren, her husband, her publicist, and maybe 10 other people, drinking champagne, riding along the Thames to the premiere. My partner and I sat there and said, I can't believe this is happening. The production said, come with us, they'll take the red carpet, and we'll go to dinner. But then we got on a boat, and then we picked up Helen on her own pier. Nothing can top it. I also met Michelle Obama when I was with Jessica [Alba]. It was pretty amazing. We have to ask – other than riding along the Thames with Helen Mirren, we are sure that your job has many other advantages. Can you share someone with us? DM: The endless free makeup from generous brands, flying first class internationally, and staying at the most incredible hotels, designers will also give you thoughtful gifts too. I've been working with Proenza Schouler for 10 years and I have a pretty amazing collection of bags that would make any girl jealous. Follow Martin on Instagram @dmartnyc for more daily makeup inspiration, and see his tips for making your pores disappear with make-up. Makeup.