

Exploration of the Makeup Design Art of Animal Stage Makeup

Yingmei Huang

Cinematography Institute, Ulaanbaatar, 11000, Mongolia

Abstract: This paper focuses on the art of makeup design about animal stage makeup, including its relationship with stage performance, design conception and production program and practical application research. It is found that the design of animal stage makeup not only requires artistry and innovation, but also precise realization techniques and methods. At the same time, mastering the design conception and makeup modeling production methods is crucial for stage makeup design. In addition, the development of modern makeup materials and techniques provides a broader creative space for makeup artists, and the education and inheritance of animal stage makeup cannot be ignored.

Keywords: Animal Stage Makeup; Makeup Design; Stage Performance; Design Principle; Conceptualization Method; Makeup Modeling Techniques.

1. Introduction

1.1. Research Background

Stage performance art has always been a comprehensive embodiment of multiculturalism, in which makeup styling, as an important part, is not only for the pursuit of beautiful visual effects, but also an artistic practice that can present the character traits, emotional state and story background of the characters in the play in a full-bodied way. In different types of stage plays, animal characters are often used to convey moral and create dramatic conflicts due to their uniqueness, and the design and application of animal stage makeup has gradually become the focus of stage stylists' exploration.

1.2. Research Objectives

The purpose of this thesis is to discuss the artistic points of animal stage makeup design, analyze its relationship with the stage performance, explore its design conception and production plan method, and conduct research on the practical application of animal stage makeup. The successful design and application of animal stage makeup can significantly enhance the overall artistic effect of the stage performance, enhance the expressive power of the characters, and bring a deep impression to the audience. There is still extensive research space in this field, and future technical and theoretical innovations will further push the boundaries of stage makeup design.

1.3. Research Significance

Studying the makeup design of animal stage makeup helps to improve the expressiveness and innovation of makeup styling in stage art. For make-up artists, understanding and mastering the key points of animal character make-up styling is a necessary way to improve professional skills and enrich stage visual effects. In addition, the results of this research are also useful for playwrights and directors in the creation and performance stage of the character setting and emotional rendering, and further give animal characters a deeper level of artistic vitality.

2. The Relationship between Animal Stage Makeup and Stage Performance

2.1. The Concept and Characteristics of Animal Stage Makeup

Animal stage makeup, as a unique branch of performing arts, is centered on allowing the audience to truly experience the animal qualities of the character visually. From the perspective of makeup, it is not only a pure visual beautification process, but also a deep-level artistic re-creation. Animal make-up requires the make-up artist to deeply understand the characteristics of the animal to be portrayed, such as its fur texture, color distribution, and even its movement habits and behavioral characteristics, and then through professional make-up techniques and material selection, to achieve a presentation that is both realistic and in line with the stage effect.

In traditional techniques, materials commonly used by makeup artists include oil or water-based makeup, wigs and masks. With the development of technology, special effect makeup materials, temporary stickers and advanced coloring techniques are also increasingly used in the design of animal makeup. Makeup design is no longer confined to literal reproduction, but pays more attention to maintaining the animal's qualities while creating a visual effect that suits the character's inner temperament and the needs of the plot.

In the design of animal stage makeup, makeup artists need to comprehensively consider the factors are:

The character's personality setting: for example, a lion usually embodies a sense of majesty and power; a rabbit creates an atmosphere of resourcefulness and cuteness.

The style of the play: for example, the animal makeup in Peking Opera will be significantly different from the way animal makeup is presented in modern theater. Stage effects: e.g. lighting and scenery will affect the final effect of the makeup, and the makeup design needs to be coordinated with it.

To further emphasize animal qualities, makeup designers may also employ techniques of symbolism and exaggeration, which are particularly common in non-realistic or allegorical

plays. By accentuating certain features or specific behaviors, the makeup artist not only helps the actor to better portray and get into character, but also allows the audience to quickly and visually identify the character's type and characteristics.

2.2. The Relationship between Animal Stage Makeup and Character Selection

Character selection is one of the crucial aspects when making preparations for a stage play. For the makeup artist, this step is of guiding significance for the subsequent makeup design. From the very beginning, the makeup artist needs to work closely with the director and the playwright to clarify each character's traits, personality, and function in the play. After a clear characterization has been chosen, the makeup artist has to start designing makeup that accurately expresses those characteristics.

For example, if there is a cunning fox character in the play, the makeup artist might choose to use warm-toned facial makeup and some sly facial features to express the fox's cunning. The makeup design might also convey the character's cunning by way of eye makeup, such as applying narrow, upturned eyeliner to emphasize his or her character traits of cunning and resourcefulness. In terms of how the character is performed, the details of the makeup may be combined with the actor's performance, such as specific movements of the mouth and eyes, to create a three-dimensional and vivid stage presence.

In children's productions, a more attractive character look is usually required, so animal makeup tends to be more exaggerated and colorful, with the goal of attracting children's attention while also making the makeup more recognizable and understandable. In adult productions, on the other hand, directors and makeup artists may focus more on introspection and realism to more authentically represent the spiritual core of the animal characters and the depth of the story's setting.

Different types of theater and performance styles place different demands on character selection and styling. In traditional oriental operas, animal makeup often incorporates many elements of traditional culture, while in western stage productions, more emphasis may be placed on realism and detailed portrayal. Makeup artists need to take these cultural differences into account when designing animal makeup, and skillfully incorporate these cultural elements into the design to enhance the expressiveness of the characters and the cultural color of the play.

2.3. The Relationship between Animal Stage Makeup and Stage Performance

Stage performance is a comprehensive presentation of art, and the art of makeup is indispensable in the comprehensive effect of stage elements such as lighting, scenery, costumes and props and music, which provides the audience with a richer and more intuitive storytelling experience through the strong impact of vision. Animal stage makeup in the visual effect to let the audience into it, so that the animal makeup role performance effect is more three-dimensional and moving, to enhance the audience's sense of identity to the role, while enhancing the stage atmosphere, so that the stage effect to get a better enhancement.

Animal stage makeup as an important part of role-playing, a great impact on the performance effect, not only is the reproduction of the shape, but also an important medium for actors to put into the role, for the success of the stage performance is crucial. A reasonable and expressive makeup

can greatly enhance the actor's performance confidence and dedication, which allows the actor to better understand and experience the role, enhance their performance strength and emotional transfer, is one of the important means of stage performance. Makeup artists need to have an in-depth understanding of stage performances, so that they can design makeup that meets the characteristics of the character and adapts to the needs of stage effects. For example, with the development of the plot, the lighting on the stage may change, and different lighting will have different effects on the visual effect of the makeup. Therefore, makeup design must take these changes into account to ensure that the consistency of the character's image can be maintained in various environments.

In addition, makeup design needs to match not only the visual effect, but also the acting style of the actor. During the performance, animal makeup can be a tool for the actor to express the inner world of the character. For example, if the character needs to show inner struggle or emotional outbursts in the play, strong facial makeup may help the actor better convey these emotions. On the contrary, if the character is gentle and calm, a more subtle and lightened makeup is needed to reflect this.

On top of that, stage productions often require rapid scene changes and character transitions, which puts a higher demand on makeup design. Makeup artists must design makeup that can be quickly adjusted and transformed to fit the pace of the performance. In practice, this may mean using make-up materials or techniques that can be changed quickly to ensure that high quality make-up changes can be accomplished in a limited amount of time.

3. Research on the Design Points of Animal Stage Makeup

3.1. The Design Principle of Animal Stage Makeup

When designing animal stage makeup, makeup artists need to master the method of transforming these features into visual makeup on the basis of fully studying animal features. The design principles include but are not limited to the following:

Embodying animal features: when designing, the makeup artist will focus on the unique features and facial structure of the animal, such as the narrow eyes of felines and the nose features of canines.

Maintaining human expressions: while following the animal's figurative features, the actor's ability to make expressive gestures needs to be preserved to ensure that they are able to convey emotion and story during their performance.

Considering the actors' facial features: the facial structure of each actor is different, and the make-up design should be adapted to individual differences as much as possible in order to achieve the best visual effect.

Cooperate with costumes and props: Animal stage makeup needs to be integrated with the overall look, including costumes and props, to form a coherent character image.

Take "The Lion King" for example, the success of this show is largely attributed to its impressive animal makeup design. The show's makeup artists used a variety of techniques and materials to portray a range of animal characters. Among them, the masks and makeup designs are skillfully combined to accurately present the animals' features

while fully leaving enough space for the actors to show their humanization. We can see the ways in which the characteristics of African wildlife are expressed through the art form of makeup, and how these add to the drama and capture the attention of the audience.

3.2. Animal Stage Makeup Design Conceptualization Methods

The design conceptualization method of animal stage makeup is a comprehensive creative process that involves the following steps:

Research on animal appearance characteristics and behavioral habits: the makeup artist first has an in-depth understanding of the animal's appearance form, texture, color and behavior.

Brainstorming and Design Conceptualization: Creative conceptualization and exploration by combining the animal's characteristics with the character of the theatrical role.

Inspiration and Design Drawing: Key elements are extracted from the research, and the ideas are visualized through design drawings, which are gradually refined into specific make-up solutions.

Multi-dimensional joint conception: Considering the structure of the animal's five senses and the actor's five senses, through creative merging, to achieve the makeup design with animal characteristics without losing the sense of human rationality.

3.3. Makeup Styling Production Method of Animal Stage Makeup

The development of animal stage makeup is driven by the advancement of material technology and innovation of creative concepts. At first, animal stage makeup focused on roughly expressing animal features with makeup and simple props, while modern technology makes makeup design more detailed and complex. Makeup techniques include the use of highlights and shadows to create three-dimensional facial features, as well as the use of a variety of colors to reflect the texture and color of the animal's fur. The use of oil paints provides a wealth of color choices and blending possibilities, allowing the makeup to more vividly reproduce the animal's image. The application of special make-up materials, such as prosthetics or skin made of latex and silicone, is also widely used to reproduce animal forms more realistically. During the styling process, a clear makeup scheme and styling procedures are crucial to the successful portrayal of the character:

Make-up scheme: The make-up scheme should clearly define the visual characteristics of the character and contain the color scheme, the detailing of the animal, the special materials to be used and the make-up procedure.

Styling Procedure: The makeup artist should carry out the makeup operations in a sequential manner, first defining the basic colors and then further refining the animal's features to ensure an accurate and long-lasting look.

Hair styling: Designing hairstyles or applying wigs according to the needs of the characters and combining them with animal makeup to enhance the credibility of the character's image.

Styling techniques: how to use special materials and props to enhance the makeup effect, such as using fake hair to achieve the animal hair effect, or using specific materials to create the animal's teeth, horns, claws, skin and other features.

Through the detailed production plan, the animal features

and makeup design of the character are combined with the props held or worn, and the selection and production of props should be considered to be in line with the character's qualities, such as the use of masks with animal textures and the design of movable tails, etc. These elements can enhance the infectious force of characterization and the overall performance effect.

4. Research on the Practical Application of Animal Stage Makeup

4.1. Application of Animal Stage Makeup in Different Kinds of Plays

Different kinds of stage plays have unique requirements for the design and realization of makeup. In opera and ballet, since the audience usually watches the stage from a longer distance, the makeup needs to be more exaggerated to ensure that expressions and animal features are clearly conveyed to the audience. On the other hand, experimental theater and small theater productions tend to be more subtle and realistic due to the relatively small size of the venue and the audience's closer proximity to the stage. These makeup designers need to be highly skilled in skillfully blending subtle expression changes and animal features.

Taking Peking Opera as an example, animal character makeup is usually designed in-depth to match the character's personality, social status, and plot direction in the play. For example, the makeup of Sun Wukong, the Monkey King in Peking Opera, should not only show his monkey's physical characteristics, but also his witty and lively character traits. The make-up artist will use specific colors and make-up techniques to emphasize the characteristics of the Monkey King's image, such as his remarkable red face and distinctive eyes.

In the process of realizing animal stage makeup, makeup artists also need to consider how the props and costumes work together. Animal makeup usually does not exist independently, but needs to be integrated with the whole character's stage look.

4.2. Innovation of Animal Stage Makeup in the Application of Modern Stage Technology

With the development of modern stage technology, animal stage makeup has undergone revolutionary changes in design and application. The application of innovative technologies not only enriches the design means of makeup artists, but also provides more performance possibilities for actors.

One notable technology is 3-D printing and digital makeup look simulation. Makeup artists utilize 3D scanning and printing technology to create masks and makeup props with highly detailed layers, which allow for rapid makeup changes without damaging the actor's skin. Digital makeup simulation allows makeup artists to design and test makeup looks on a computer to minimize mistakes in the actual makeup and speed up the overall design process.

In addition, the use of LED lights and projection technology has revolutionized animal stage makeup. Using these technologies, the actors' makeup can be dynamic as the play progresses or the light changes, adding to the visual magic of the performance. The interactivity and flexibility of this lighting makeup has made its use in stage productions increasingly popular.

The application of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) is also changing the traditional animal stage makeup design. With AR technology, complex makeup effects matching animal features can be generated in real time on an actor's face. The audience can see these effects through special glasses or screen devices, which further closes the distance between the audience and the animal characters on stage.

4.3. Education and Inheritance of Animal Stage Makeup

The education and inheritance of animal stage makeup is especially important in the continuous artistic practice. This is not only related to the future of makeup art, but also affects the continuity and development of stage art.

Animal stage makeup has been included as an important part of the curriculum in many art schools and professional training institutions. These courses usually focus on basic make-up principles, facial anatomy, color science, and methods of observation and reproduction of animal features. Through the combination of theoretical study and practical operation, students gradually master the skills of transforming animal features into stage makeup.

Meanwhile, with the development of technology, some advanced teaching methods, such as virtual reality makeup simulation, have begun to be introduced into the teaching process. This makes the learning process more intuitive and interactive, improving learning efficiency and interest. In order to pass on the art, veteran make-up artists and artists often organize workshops and master-apprentice training courses to pass on their years of experience and skills to young students and beginners.

The process of education and transmission also means constant cultural exchange and innovation. Many makeup artists share their experiences and insights with their peers around the world through international seminars, open classes and online courses. In this cross-cultural context, the educational approach and content of animal stage makeup is constantly being refreshed and improved.

5. Conclusion

After a detailed discussion and analysis of the relationship between animal stage makeup and stage performances, the key points of makeup design, and the practical application, this study draws the following conclusions:

First of all, animal stage makeup is a unique form that combines artistic creativity and makeup skills, which not only can show animal characteristics, but also is a powerful visual art language. In stage plays, the reasonable use of animal

stage makeup can greatly enhance the expressiveness of the characters and the infectiousness of the dramatic conflict, and improve the stage art effect.

Secondly, the design of animal stage makeup not only requires a high degree of artistry and innovative design ideas, but also precise realization techniques and methods, and mastering the key points of makeup design is crucial to the design and production of animal stage makeup. The design process integrates a deep understanding of the character, a detailed study of the nature of the animal and a sensitive use of visual art, and the design of animal makeup in different cultural backgrounds shows a rich cultural expression and diverse aesthetic concepts.

Again, the development of modern makeup technology provides new possibilities for the design and application of animal stage makeup. Three-dimensional printing, LED lighting and AR technology have opened up new paths for makeup innovation and visual effect presentation.

Finally, the education and inheritance of animal stage makeup is the key to ensuring the continued development of this art form. Continuous education not only helps the new generation of makeup artists master the necessary skills, but also energizes the innovation and development of this ancient art.

In conclusion, the importance and influence of animal stage makeup as a means of artistic expression cannot be ignored in the past or in the future. This study calls on industry professionals and scholars to continue exploring and researching the possibilities of animal stage makeup, while encouraging makeup education institutions to enrich their teaching content and adapt to the changing times, so as to cultivate more makeup artists who are able to shine in the field of stage art.

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