



**TRANS +  
GLAMIFESTO**

*Makeup Inspo 4 All Genders*

# A *Message* FROM THE EDITORS



Makeup has always been about celebration and self-expression for me - as a non-binary person and as the founder of Turning Lewks. It's been central to my gender journey, as it is for many trans+ people. Turning Lewks is a space where makeup and identity intersect. The creativity and resilience of the trans community inspires me endlessly, and creating this zine has been pure joy. Makeup is universal, but the Trans+ Glamifesto has been made by the trans+ community, about the trans+ community, for the trans community.

**Darren**  
@TurningLewksPodcast  
@MxDarren\_

MAKEUP IS  
FOR  
Everyone

Makeup was my first tool of rebellion and revelation. I painted faces as a MAC makeup artist, built personas in drag and as a dancer, then used my makeup brushes to find a sense of gender euphoria in the mirror. Each contour, each color, each 'mistake' even, was a step toward myself. I still use makeup to reveal (or revel in) new parts of my genderqueerness. G(end)er Swap was born from this messy, magical process, and so, the Trans+ Glamifesto is for anyone who's ever used a makeup brush like a compass. May it guide you, affirm you, and have you come face to face with exactly who you are.

**Be Whoever, Wear Whatever** always.  
Much love, Santi

**Santi S. Founder of G(end)er Swap**  
@genderswap\_ | @santibabi



## Make-up Room

I taught myself to wear eyeshadow,  
In room five of a hotel, at Junction Thirty-six, (M6).

I learned I could find beauty in the contours  
of my lids and cheekbones -  
light shades creased dark.  
Soft powder touch.

When I first wore a dress  
I had goose bumps,  
Afraid to answer the door,  
or even to open the blinds.

I was always afraid even though, I know  
I am allowed  
to be,  
to be Bea.

Allowed to exist. Allowed to introduce myself.

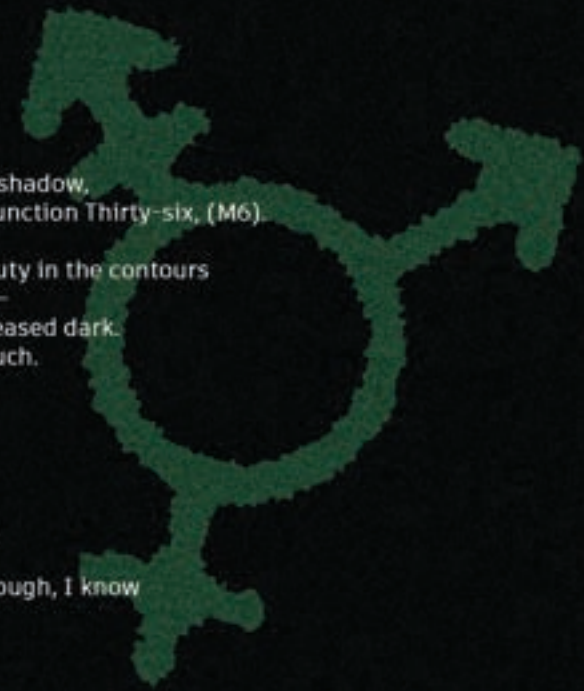
I learned I didn't have to grow my own wings;  
I could draw them on with the sharp point of eyeliner.

I learned I could  
wear dark purple lipstick topped with glitter gloss.  
The taste of bees' wax, the smell of strawberries.  
The taste of me, on my lips.  
Foundation, blush, a soft touch on the eyelid,  
A gentle stroke on the cheekbone.  
A pink kiss of powder.

I learned,  
in that drab hotel room,  
the world can be bright.  
Can be brighter,  
I can be bright.

That,  
You don't have to be afraid in the dark  
when you are your own light.

Bea Wohl | @enbybea



MAKEUP HAS  
NO Gender

# Femme Makeup Tutorial

@cairoimawali

## 1. Primer & Moisturiser



Every great makeup look starts with well-prepped skin. Begin with a moisturiser to hydrate and smooth the face—this creates a plump, soft base for your products. Next, apply a primer.

## 2. Colour Correction



I use a peach or beige tone under the eyes to cancel out blue and purple hues. Apply the same shade over the upper lip and beard area to neutralise any grey blue undertones. Correcting before concealing helps the skin appear brighter and smoother, whilst also canceling out eyebags, blemishes and any unwanted shadows from facial hair.

## 3. Base



Next, apply a foundation to even out the skin. Follow with concealer under the eyes, on the upper lip, and the centre of the forehead to brighten and lift. Add cream contour around the forehead, cheekbones and jawline to gently shape the face. Use circular blending motions for this—this helps maintain softness and roundness, which are typically associated with feminine features. The goal here is balance, structure, and a smooth, flattering base.

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## 4. Eyebrows



Eyebrows play a major role in framing the face. For a more feminine appearance, aim for a higher brow with a thinner and gentle arch. Keep the front of the brow soft and gradually build shape towards a clean, defined tail. Higher, lifted brows open up the eye area and help soften heavier brow bones.

## 5. Powder & Contour



After setting your base with translucent powder, go in with a cool-toned contour powder. Cool tones help mimic natural shadows and are better suited for soft sculpting. Focus on the cheekbones, temples, jawline, and sides of the nose. Blending in circular motions helps maintain the soft structure you created with creams.



## 6. Blush (Powder)



Blush adds warmth and vitality to the face. Apply to the top of the apples of the cheeks and sweep upwards toward the temples for a lifted effect. Lightly dusting blush across the nose bridge can also give a subtle, doll-like glow. Pink tones are especially effective at softening angular features, making them ideal for feminising makeup.



**DONE!**

Use a setting spray to bring everything together. This step melts powders into the skin and adds a natural finish. At this point, you can apply lashes, lip colour, and a touch of highlighter to the cheekbones and nose for extra glow. The final result should feel seamless, balanced, and authentically you. Feminising makeup isn't about hiding—it's about enhancing and these are all the tips I've learnt throughout the way!



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# LIP GLOSS AND *Liberation*

*What role does makeup play in your day-to-day life—ritual, armour, celebration, something else?*

**Triple Minor:** I would definitely say makeup plays a celebratory role in my day to day life. Whether it's a full glam beat or a simple touch of lip gloss on a no makeup day, there is a certain joy and celebration of the person looking back at me in the mirror. I am still here and I am doing me in the best way I can and that in itself makes me enough.

**TRIPLE MINOR**

@tripleminor

*Do you have a go-to product, technique, or look that feels especially affirming for you?*

**Triple Minor:** I am a lip oil/gloss girlie - ha! It's the one product in my most affirming look. Over the last few years I have worked hard on learning to love myself just as I am. So when it's all stripped back, just a touch of lip gloss/oil I feel just as good and affirmed as I do with a full face on.

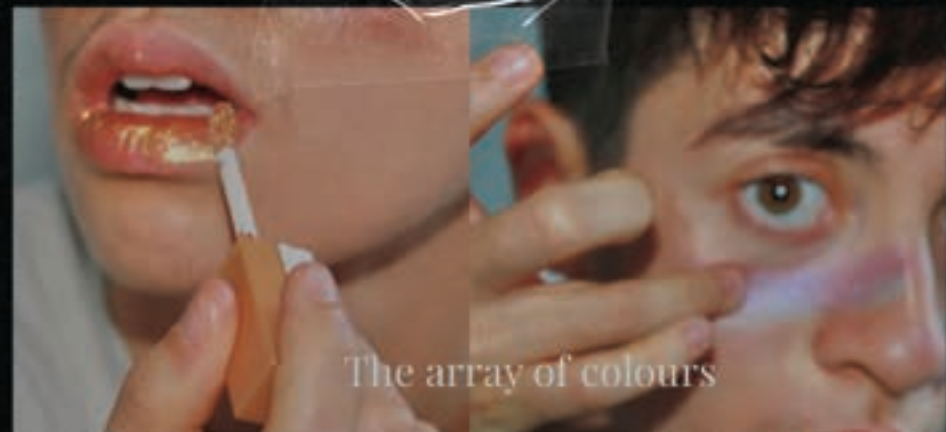
*What would you say is the most liberating part of playing with makeup as a trans+ person?*

**Triple Minor:** I find I enjoy the freedom of being able to be creative and the liberty of self expression most. There is something about the process of having an idea of how you want to look on that day and going through the process of creating and bringing that idea to life that is so satisfying. My style of makeup is not super dramatic but I really enjoy painting the way I do. My most important step is blending. I love my finished look to appear seamless be it eyes, cheeks or lip combos. Overall I would say the ability to present externally how I feel internally as a trans+ person is the most beautiful, freeing and liberating part of playing with makeup.

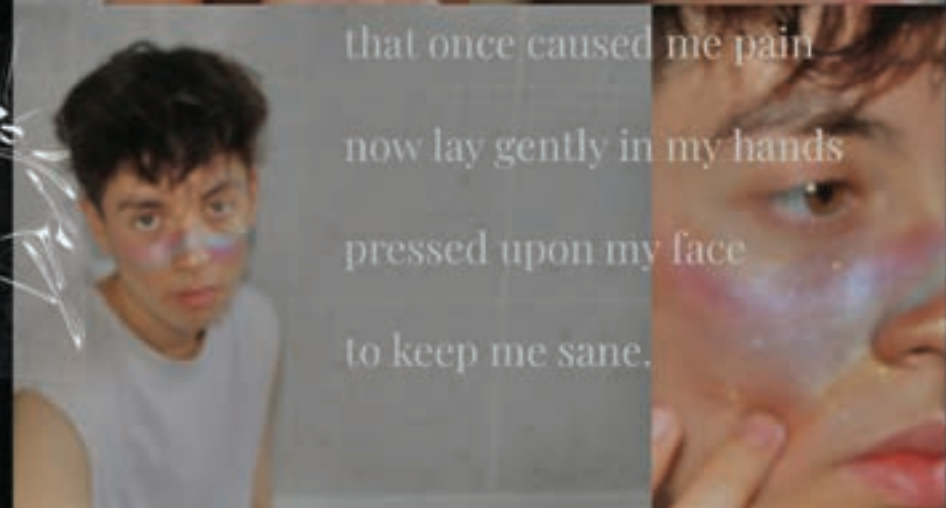




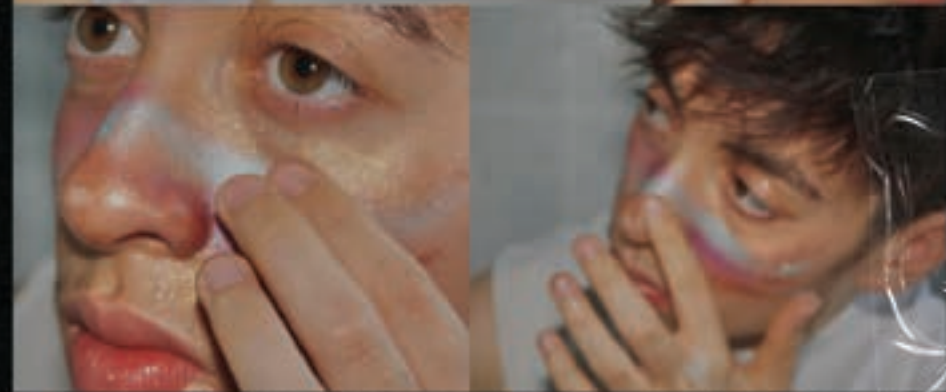
Ela O'Loughlin | @ela.oloughlin



The array of colours



that once caused me pain  
now lay gently in my hands  
pressed upon my face  
to keep me sane.



Callum Savva | @bearwithcallum

# Masc Makeup Inspo

@mistersaintpatrick

I'm Patrick, a Stone Butch T-Boy drag king!  
Using makeup to look "masc" depends on your style goals, here are some of my go-to's.

## 1. Classic Butch



Accentuate eyebrows, sideburns, and draw a slight moustache (all with pencil eyeliner), then lip tint (on cheeks and lips), and hair gel.

## 2. Clean Boy Aesthetic

Use minimal makeup: a brow pencil, lip tint (lips and cheeks), and fake piercing gems. Skin care is key: niacinamide, hyaluronic acid and barrier repair cream for dewy hydrated skin.



## 3. Soft Drag Look



Use minimal makeup: opt for glitter and shimmer powders to highlight your face. I love Disco Crush by Two Faced cosmetics!

## 4. Classic Drag Look

Add masc details- like a forehead curl! For my beard, I use grey makeup (try theatre face paint or black mascara with white cream paint).



## 5. Natural Goth

Fill in and thicken your eyebrows! Contour cheekbones and jaw line with a cool brown contour, and add red or black liquid liner to the eyes.



## 6. Trad Goth

Add white face makeup and swap out the contouring colour around the cheeks and jaw for a slate grey tone.



# CREATING WHO *You* WANT TO SEE

*What role does makeup play in your day-to-day life—ritual, armour, celebration, something else?*

**Patti:** For me personally, I'm very lucky to be at a stage in my transition where I feel quite comfortable wearing no makeup. Day to day, I mostly use makeup to take me a few steps away from looking like I belong in a grave and on the odd occasion when I'm going out, on camera, or doing something special, I'll dial up the glam.

However, in my job working with trans femme people, I use makeup daily as a tool to help others unlock the femininity they're struggling to see in themselves. I'm continually amazed by the power of makeup and how liberating it can be for so many of us. Plenty of my clients either struggle with the technical side of makeup or simply aren't in an environment where they can experiment. Many have never seen themselves fully made up and presenting femme so to have that experience for the first time can be incredibly gender-affirming, empowering, and even life-changing.

**PATTI BATSON**

@pattibatson



*Do you have a go-to product, technique, or look that feels especially affirming for you?*

**Patti:** Mascara and Blusher!! Specifically, Maybelline Sky High but any blusher in that red-to-burgundy range is my go-to. Like I said, I'm quite comfortable not wearing makeup. However, my daily routine usually consists of generous lashings of mascara (which I'm quite specific about) and, let's be honest, probably a bit too much blusher. A lot of non-binary and trans femme people, including most of my clients, feel most comfortable wearing a full coverage base. One of the downsides of that, though, is that it can leave the face looking a bit flat. The key to avoiding that? Bring the colour back! Whether it's with bronzer, blusher, contour or all three it really makes a difference. I especially love using products that add a little glow. My usual routine is a full coverage matte foundation (Charlotte Tilbury's Airbrush Flawless is my fave), followed by cream blush and contour using a few Made by Mitchell products. Then I finish with the NYX Buttermilk Blush/Bronzers... they give a really natural, skin-like glow to a full coverage base.

*What would you say is the most liberating part of playing with makeup as a trans+ person?*

**Patti:** It's the ability to create whoever you want to see. Many of us in the trans+ community grow up in bodies we don't feel connected to, and learning to experiment with makeup can restore a sense of control over how we look and how we're seen. I discovered makeup as a teenager and spent countless hours after school practising in the little mirror in my bedroom. It became my escape from the mundanity of everyday life. I was and am a confident, proud trans woman, with her own successful business, who gets to look forward to what tomorrow brings.

## THE ART OF BECOMING: A HISTORY IN *Drag, Glam, AND Gender*

@cjdebarra

I was 22 when I first went out the door in what I thought was drag. I smeared blue, purples and greens across my cheekbones in a feather-esque look that felt distinctly...something. I didn't have a word for it yet. Eventually, dramatic make-up became my signature for every event I went to.

In 2000, the Sunday Times Magazine arrived at my parents' house with a double-page spread on the Club Kids, ahead of the release of the movie *Party Monster*. The Club Kids were a group of young, flamboyant partygoers who emerged in the late 1980s/1990s in New York. They were known for extravagant fashion, gender bending and wild behaviour in nightclubs. Although their stardom considerably dimmed in their later years through association with Michael Alig and drug use, their make-up was DIY, avant-garde, all in a blaze of colour.

Make-up was a crucial part of their identity, albeit for one night only. It combined elements of punk and New Romantic style, but elevated them with heavy contouring in extreme colours, intense eyeshadow, and overdrawn lips in bright tones.

England had artists like Leigh Bowery, who was both shocking and surreal. He used art materials, such as latex, paint, and fabric, as makeup. He wasn't afraid to experiment with distortion, for one by using caricature such as

overdrawing lips, or garnering unsettling attention by adding extra eyes on to his face.

Another legend of this era was Boy George. His androgynous, colourful expression was fashion forward while still rooted in club style. One of my earliest memories is my mum showing me the video for *Karma Chameleon* when I was a child. I would later dress up as him on Viva Glam days at MAC Cosmetics, where I worked. I'm not sure that's what my mother had in mind, but I found his use of shocking colour against doll-like, flawless skin with dramatic eyeliner inspiring.

Make-up facilitates escape from the rigid confines of gender. Go back to the Victorian era, when transgender performers Frederick Park and Earnest Boulton were arrested for 'conspiring and inciting persons to commit unnatural offences.' Their house was raided, where a pot of 'pearl powder' was seized. This was a powder made from pearls (or cheaper substitutes), used to lighten the complexion or conceal blemishes.

Make-up was used in the 1920s and 1930s by gay men such as Quentin Crisp, who used it as a form of self-expression and to challenge gender rules. In fact, when the Second World War was announced, Crisp ran out and stockpiled two pounds of henna. However, it wasn't until the latter half of the 1900s that glam and

punk rock expanded on the idea of make-up as a rejection of gender roles, for example, Marc Bolan and David Bowie. Annie Lennox's use of bold colours, blush, and hair dye matched Grace Jones's androgynous look. Jones teamed bold artistic choices of sculptural line and angular shapes to emphasise razor-sharp cheekbones. It blurred the lines between man and woman, presenting her as something closer to an artwork through her use of eyeliner and body paint.

Ultimately, the legacy of such creatives lives on, not just through every neon pigment or dramatic glitter but in every face that dares to challenge, defy and turn their gender expression into art.



# *Infinite* **FACES,** *Infinite* **SELVES**

*What role does makeup play in your day-to-day life—ritual, armour, celebration, something else?*

**Hunter:** Make-up has become a less prevalent and, in a way, more intentional part of day-to-day life. It's gone from being something I felt I needed to 'fit in', to being an exploration of my gender presentation. It's now guided by my mood, how feminine or masculine I'm feeling and often, whether I've given myself enough time to do it. It gives me time to sit with myself at the start of every day and say 'how would I like to look today?', 'which version of myself would I like to be?'

*Do you have a go-to product, technique, or look that feels especially affirming for you?*

**Hunter:** I really enjoy the e.l.f. cosmetics halo glow contour wand, I often find a lot of contours to be too warm toned for me, but it's the perfect cool tone for the kind of masculinising contour that I like to do. Another kind of product I enjoy is an eyebrow gel, not only can it be used to make your brows appear a bit more bushy, but I also use it on my upper lip hair, it's a really simple and quick way to create a natural-looking, darker upper lip to give the illusion of a lil moustache.

*What would you say is the most liberating part of playing with makeup as a trans+ person?*

**Hunter:** Before I came out as trans-masculine, I started exploring drag (I have now been a drag king for 3 years), it was a way for me to explore both ends of the spectrum of femininity and masculinity in extreme ways. I think it helped me to discover the joy in both as well as landing more comfortably in my daily self expression. Drag was a way for me to continue to express myself artistically and in an even more exaggerated way. It has also allowed me to discover within myself, that how I choose to present physically, doesn't need to align perfectly with everybody else's ideas of what I 'should' look like. Wearing a sparkly lid and funky eyeliner doesn't make me any less trans-masc.

## **HUNTER GATHERER**

@hunter\_gatherer\_drag





Top L: @the\_queer\_wan Top M: @irisomakeup Top R: @wet\_mess Middle: @dominiquefleek  
 Bottom L: @spiritdolluk Bottom M: @curlyfemfashion Bottom R: @rhya\_sa

# Thank You TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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For many of us, makeup isn't just about aesthetics. It's a mirror where we finally see ourselves. It's a piece of armour, an act of rebellion, and a celebration of gender euphoria. Since the first time I used makeup as a creative outlet, to how I use it to affirm my gender, the possibilities that come from experimenting with makeup is endless. Designing these pages and bringing peoples' experiences to life has been an honour.

No rules, no binary, just beauty on our own terms <3

**Zel Hallam**  
 @z3lart | @z.elust



BE WHOEVER  
WEAR WHATEVER



TURNING  
LEWKS  
PODCAST

*Funded By:*



COMMUNITY  
FUND

CONSORTIUM