

Little Women

Hair & Makeup Information

To help ensure a smooth and efficient backstage experience, all actors should have their own basic hair and makeup kit. Having personal supplies ready for each rehearsal and performance saves time during pre-show preparations and helps maintain good hygiene practices.

While some supplies will be available for shared use, any shared items will be properly sanitized between uses.

Each actor should keep their personal hair and makeup items in a labeled "ditty bag" stored with their costume pieces. A clear gallon-size freezer bag works perfectly for this purpose. Please label the bag with your full name so it can be easily identified backstage.

Most of the recommended items can be purchased at any drugstore, grocery store, or major retailer at a reasonable cost. Please have all required items purchased and packed in your ditty bag no later than the first dress rehearsal.

Because this production is set during the American Civil War era (1861-1865), hair and makeup should support a natural, period-appropriate appearance. Specific hairstyle and grooming guidelines for individual characters will be provided below.



Female Characters

HAIR

Wig Preparation

If you have been assigned a wig, it is your responsibility to arrive with your natural hair fully prepared before your scheduled call time. Instructions for wig preparation will be provided, along with guidance on using wig caps, hairpins, and bobby pins.

Please be prepared to assist fellow cast members when needed. Working together helps ensure everyone is ready on time and allows the Hair & Makeup Team to focus on final adjustments.

It is important to have a small, labeled bag for storing your hairpins and bobby pins. Keep this bag with your costume items and bring it to every dress rehearsal and performance. Label the bag clearly with your full name.

Hairspray and styling gel will be provided. You are also welcome to use your own hair products if you prefer.

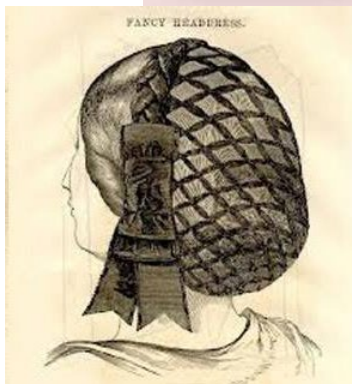
Natural Hairstyles

To help create a consistent Civil War-era appearance on stage, sample hairstyle photos are included in this guide. These images are intended to serve as visual references for the styles that may be used throughout the production. I have **linked 3 videos below** on how to easily create these styles.

Actors will be assigned a specific hairstyle based on their character, costume, and any quick-change requirements. The reference photos do not need to be copied exactly, but they provide a general guide for the period-appropriate look we are trying to achieve.

The Hair & Makeup Team will provide styling instruction, demonstrations, and feedback during rehearsals to ensure each actor is stage-ready. If you have questions about your assigned style, please ask before dress rehearsal so adjustments can be made in advance.

Please note: Some hairstyles may be modified to accommodate different hair lengths, textures, and individual needs while still maintaining the overall period appearance of the production.



Linked videos on how to create these looks



Makeup

For this production, makeup should be **natural and understated**, enhancing features for stage lighting while maintaining a realistic Civil War-era appearance. Makeup should help actors avoid looking washed out under the lights, but should not appear glamorous or heavily styled.

General Guidelines

- Makeup should enhance your features without drawing attention to itself.
- Avoid glitter, shimmer, heavy contouring, dramatic eyeliner, false eyelashes, or trendy makeup styles.
- The Hair & Makeup Team may request small adjustments to help create a consistent look across the cast.

1. Foundation or Base Makeup (Purchase Needed)

- Choose a foundation that closely matches your natural skin tone.
- Foundation helps create an even complexion and provides a base for additional stage makeup such as blush or contouring if needed.
- Drugstore liquid foundations work well, as do powder foundations such as Bare Minerals.
- Apply lightly and blend carefully, especially along the jawline and neck.

Optional: Concealer that matches your skin tone may be used to cover blemishes, redness, or dark under-eye circles.

2. Powder (Purchase Optional)

- Translucent setting powder or pressed powder can help set foundation and reduce shine under stage lights.
- You may bring your own powder, but setting powder will be available for shared use.

3. Eyes and Eyebrows (Purchase Needed)

Mascara

- Black mascara is recommended and waterproof formulas are preferred.
- It's not confirmed yet if false eyelashes are needed for this production.

Eyeliners

- Eyeliner should be applied very lightly and close to the lash line.
- Dark brown is preferred over black for a softer, more natural appearance.
- The goal is subtle definition rather than a noticeable makeup look.

Eyebrows

- A brow pencil or brow gel that closely matches your natural hair color may be used to fill sparse areas.
- Keep brows looking natural and well-groomed.
- Avoid overly dark, sharply defined, or heavily sculpted brows.

4. Blush and Lip Color (Purchase Optional)

- Blush is recommended to add healthy color to the cheeks and prevent faces from appearing washed out under stage lighting.

- Blush will be provided, or actors may use a personal shade if approved by the Hair & Makeup Team.
- Lip color should be one to two shades deeper than your natural lip color to create a natural onstage appearance.
- Avoid bright, glossy, or overly dramatic lipstick colors.
- Tinted lip balm is also a good option for many actors and often provides sufficient color and moisture for a natural Civil War-era look.

5. Makeup Removal (Purchase Optional)

- Makeup remover wipes are convenient and easy to use after rehearsals and performances.
- While not required, many students find them helpful before heading home.
- Baby wipes will be available for cleaning hands and small touch-ups, but are not intended for full makeup removal.

Male Characters

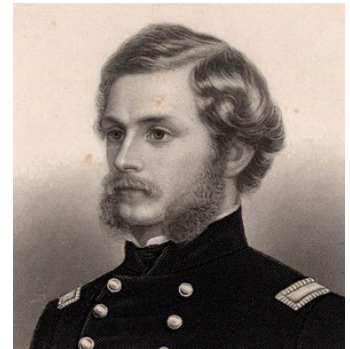
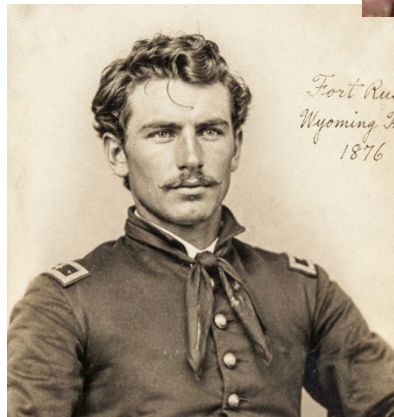
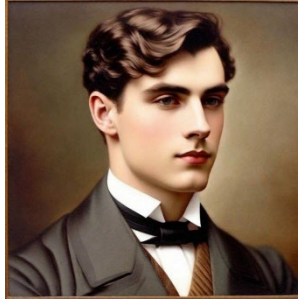
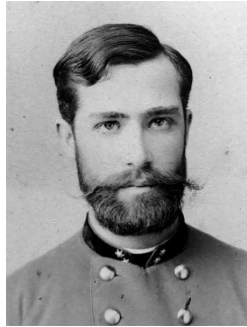
HAIR

For straight hair, short on sides and back, parted on the side. Does not need to be “gelled down”

For curly or wavy hair, side part hair and use gel but allow for natural wave.

Be sure to get your haircut before dress rehearsal.

It is recommended that you lightly dampen hair first then apply hair gel. Water spray bottles, gel, hairspray, combs, and hair brushes will be provided. You may also bring your own products.



MAKEUP

Makeup for male characters should be subtle and natural. The goal is to create an even complexion and provide enough definition for facial features to remain visible under stage lighting while maintaining a natural appearance. Makeup should enhance features without appearing obvious and help prevent actors from looking washed out on stage.

General Guidelines

- Makeup should not be obvious to the audience.
- Facial hair should be maintained in the style approved for your character. In some cases, facial hair may be required – and provided.

1. Foundation or Base Makeup (Purchase Needed)

- Choose a foundation that is two times darker than your natural skin tone.
- Foundation helps create an even complexion and provides a natural base for stage makeup.
- Drugstore liquid foundations work well, as do powder foundations such as Bare Minerals.
- Apply lightly and blend thoroughly, especially around the jawline and neck.

2. Powder and Blush (Provided)

- Translucent setting powder helps reduce shine and keeps makeup looking fresh under stage lights.
- A small amount of blush may be applied to add warmth and prevent faces from appearing washed out.
- Both powder and blush will be provided by the Hair & Makeup Team. If approved, you may use your own products.

3. Eye Definition (Purchase Needed)

- Stage lighting can diminish facial features and make the eyes less visible from the audience.
- A dark brown or black eyeliner pencil may be used to lightly define the upper lash line if requested by the Hair & Makeup Team.
- Waterproof products are recommended.
- If using a pencil eyeliner, please bring a sharpener.

4. Lip Color (Provided as Needed)

- During rehearsals, the Hair & Makeup Team will determine whether lip color is needed for individual actors.
- If required, a natural lip color will be provided to prevent actors from appearing pale under stage lighting.