

MAKING UP THE IDOLS

How did your favorite *American Idol* finalists develop the variety of looks they presented during the show? How were the decisions made to create those looks? Who made them?

We turned to the show's make-up artist, Mezghan, to give us first-hand insight into the conversations and choices that were made on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mezghan also gives us some tidy observations of the boys and girls who entrusted her to make them look their best once the cameras rolled. The key product lines she used? M-A-C, Lancome, Adele and Chanel, plus her own signature line.

LINDSEY CARDINALE:

"She was very quiet and a little shy, but she loved the make-up room. Of everything to do with the show, that was her favorite part. She called it 'my room.' She's a beautiful girl but tends to have dark circles under her eyes, so I used a lot of concealer. We pampered her, and she felt like a million dollars."



BO BICE:

"What a Southern gentleman, all the way – opening doors for us girls, asking if we needed anything, getting on elevators after we did, always 'Yes Ma'am, No Ma'am.' He's very genuine. At the beginning, he was afraid of getting his eyebrows plucked for the typical guy reasons. After I did it, he saw how big a difference it made. It really brought out his eyes. After that, he went for it."

SCOTT SAVOL:

"He was very quiet, very polite. On Wednesdays, he'd always say his goodbyes in case he was leaving. 'Thank you for making me look good and not oily or shiny,' he told me. When he didn't go home, I'd keep saying, 'Look – you have to believe in yourself. This will open up many doors for you, and it depends on what you do with it.' I would shape and contour his chin. I also worked on his eyebrows."



NADIA TURNER:

"She definitely had her own style. She knew exactly what she wanted with clothes, hair and make-up. She was our high-maintenance girl, which is not necessarily a bad thing. I'd say, 'Honey, you look good, you look stunning. I'm not putting anything else on your face.' Then after a minute, she'd walk back in and say, 'Are you sure?' She wanted to be flawless. She's very beautiful and glamorous."



NIKKO SMITH:

"How could you not feel good for Nikko? I loved his voice. It was the chance of a lifetime for him to come back, and he knew it. He knew he was talented but didn't make a spectacle about it; what a sincere guy. With him, I used a bit of concealer, foundation and powder to even out his skin tone. At the beginning, like most guys, he didn't want anything, but he saw the difference once he was in front of the camera."



VONZELL SOLOMON:

"A beautiful, stunning girl, full of natural beauty inside and out. I always had a good time with her; she's extremely funny. I wanted to make her look a little like Beyoncé. After the first time I did her make-up, she said to me, 'You know that TV show...' She really listened and asked for my opinions a lot. I told her to always stick to who she really is, because she's a remarkable person. On Tuesdays, she would never speak; she was saving her voice. On Wednesdays, you couldn't keep her quiet!"



ANTHONY FEDEROV:

"He was very young and very impressionable, but he knew how to handle himself better than most kids his age. He'd always go for tanning. He wanted me to bronze him up, look darker for the camera. He always thought of himself as being too pale. Then he decided he was a natural make-up artist. He worked on a doll head (mannequin) in the make-up room. I still have that doll head; it's scary! It looks like someone drew all over it. Anthony, you're a great singer, but I don't think make-up is your best career choice!"



CONSTANTINE MAROULIS:

"He thought if I plucked his eyebrows, he'd look like a girl...What a rocker! I showed him how you can clean up thick eyebrows without losing anything masculine. He was very confident, sometimes very outgoing, at other times very quiet and distant. He'd have all of us laughing so hard with his stories of the L.A. party scene, which attracted him because he's a rocker. He loved the mirror – he mastered that look in the make-up room."



MIKALSH GORDON:

"From day one, she was a big favorite of mine because of her personality; there's never a dull moment with her! I had to really, really tone her down. Her lips and eyes are incredible features, but she overdid her lips and used dark eyeliners. She also wanted to use self-tanners. Here's a tip: Always exfoliate before you put on the self-tanner. When she came back for the Final Show, she hadn't exfoliated. I'm like, 'Mikalsh, have I taught you nothing?' I think she'll have her own TV show, as a comedienne."



ANWAR ROBINSON:

"He made me laugh so hard! He was very mellow and entertaining. After my first session with him, he wouldn't move his lips; he talked with his mouth closed. I'm like, 'Are you numb?' He said, 'No, I don't want to mess up the lip balm.' That's what he called the little bit of lip gloss I put on him. We couldn't stop laughing – he wouldn't move his face! He and Vonzell would do a duo, dancing in the make-up room. Together, they were two comedians having a blast."



JESSICA SIERRA:

"When she came to the show, she was insecure about her looks. She was 19 but looked much older. On the first group photo shoot, the photographer didn't want me to do much with the kids, but I toned down her eyes a bit. The photographer said to me, 'Her eyes are still too dark.' I said to Jessica, 'Honey, I will never let you look less than your best for the photo shoot, the show or anything else. I'll teach you techniques to put on just a little bit of make-up and look great.' Later, she had a lot more confidence in herself, and really trusted how I did her make-up. She's lovely."



CARRIE UNDERWOOD:

"She's very determined, very observant and extremely intelligent. She knew exactly what she wanted – to win it all. I reminded her, 'Always be comfortable with what you're doing, and find your comfort zone. Don't feel like you have to do something or you'll lose your style.' She's a glamorous, stunning, beautiful all-American girl. Before the show where she won, I used my eye shadows and sparkles to really accent her eyes. (Executive producer) Nigel (Lythgoe) came up to us and said, 'That's too much sparkle; can you take some of it off?' Carrie said, 'No! I love it!' Nigel said, 'OK; then it stays on.'"