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INTERVIEW WITH CELEBRITY MAKEUP ARTIST LILIT CARADANIAN

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Ever wanted some exclusive tips on how to create the perfect contour and highlight from a makeup artist to the stars?

SHESAID recently chatted with Los Angeles-based makeup artist Lilit Caradanian about all things beauty, her makeup master classes in Australia, and who she would love to give a makeover.

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How did you first get started as a makeup artist?

Good question! My mum has actually been a hair stylist for about 35 years now. So I decided to go to makeup school just for fun, help her out, and do some makeup and hair together.

So it started off as a hobby?

Definitely! It started off just for fun.

What is your favourite look to create on someone else?

I like the effortless glam. A beautiful face, flawless canvas, emphasis on the lashes, and gorgeous brows. Enhancing someone's natural features is my favourite type of look.

What are some of the most common makeup mistakes you see other people make?

I would probably say that the most common mistake is not blending the contour enough! So you actually see the lines all around the face. Another thing would probably be not blending the eyeshadow enough either. I guess the key word there would be blending!

How long do you need to blend? I feel like many women have that problem.

Yeah, it's a little tricky. If you blend too much, you can over-blend and get rid of everything you've done. So, try to blend until you don't see anymore lines.

What are some of your favourite blending brushes to use?

I use brushes from every brand actually. I have a few different precision brushes from a variety of different brands that I cannot live without. There's nothing specific or from one particular brand.

What are a few tips every girl needs to achieve the perfect cheek contour?

You definitely need a transitional colour, that is the key. I know that the average girl does not have the background knowledge of contouring, so they just take a dark colour and line it all over their face.

But you actually need a transitional colour because the dark colour needs a medium shade in order to blend into the skin. If you're using contour powder, you also need to use a bronzer along with it.

Do you have any tips for girls with thin or over-plucked eyebrows?

There are actually some great products and pomades that are long-lasting, so your eyebrows aren't melting off after a few hours on a hot day. Try to keep it very natural and very soft, it's all about layering the product and not going too heavy with it.

Regardless if it's a pencil, powder, or gel, you want to keep it subtle and make sure to layer the product.

How can you achieve a perfect highlight without looking too greasy?

There are actually very subtle highlighters instead of the shimmery ones, so you can use something like the *MAC Cosmetics Mineralise Skinfinish (\$47)*. They have a little bit of sheen and they give the cheek a subtle glow without all of the glitter.

Do you think it's all about layering the product, as opposed to loading too much on the brush?

Yes, absolutely! It's all about layering the product, and if you are going to use shimmer, then it has to be one that suits your skin type. If you have oily skin, you can't go for a shimmery product all over the face because it will look very muddy.

You're currently in Australia for a series of makeup master classes. How do you think this would help women with their makeup?

I think it will help them tremendously because all of the girls that are attending actually are makeup artists, and they're all amazing! But there are little tips and tricks that will completely change the finished product. It's not so much about

what you're using, but how you're using it.

And finally, (past or present) who are some women you would love to makeover?

Absolutely, Kim Kardashian! She is the queen and the pioneer of the most trendiest makeup looks, and she has the perfect features for them. That is someone that I've always looked up to as a guru in the makeup world.

What about an icon from the past?

For me, the iconic beauty has always been Sophia Loren. She would be the ideal face for me.

Celebrity makeup artist, Lilit Caradonian is currently in Australia running an exclusive series of masterclasses for WeddedWonderland (www.weddedwonderland.com), the country's leading online wedding magazine.