

A reputation for excellence.

Charlie Timmons is a highly experienced make-up artist who owns a dynamic training centre for make-up artists, Facepaint: Professional Make-up School, located in Paraparaumu.

Based in London until she was 30 and with a make-up career spanning over 15 years Charlie began assisting established make-up artists after studying at The London College of Fashion. Upon finishing her training, she began freelancing and sourcing her own make-up work. Soon, she was very much sought after and gained a reputation for excellence.

Her work is clean, clear and precise and her attention to detail is paramount. She has had a wide range of experience that ranges from T.V., film, music promos, fashion, advertising, weddings and corporate events, here in New Zealand, as well as London and Italy.

Charlie's studio has been running for 18 months now and doing extremely well. She is enthusiastic about owning a business like this in Paraparaumu and commented, "I love the Kapiti Coast, many people see it as a sleepy place to retire but it is so much more than that. There are so many exciting things happening and it is home to many fantastic artists!"

Have you always been artistic and have you always wanted to be a make-up artist?

Yes, I wanted to be a make-up artist since the age of 10, I was always very creative and wanted to express that.

Who inspires you?

I met several make-up artists in London who inspired me. Charlie Duffy and Ruby Hammer for example; after I watched them work I was hooked. These make-up artists have been in the business a long time in London. I think their expertise and professionalism speaks for itself. Louise Constad is also in the same category. They are highly respected and are at the top of their working career.

How did you decide to start the studio and was it a daunting step in your career?

After emigrating to NZ, I always knew that I wanted to carry on with my make-up career however, I wanted to take it in a different direction. At first it was scary but it has always been a dream of mine to open up a school and I knew I would regret it if I didn't. I realised that other than a little bit of money, I had nothing to lose and so I went for it.

How did you decide to move to NZ?

I had the opportunity to move to NZ with my children- it was on offer and I could not turn down the incredible quality of life offered here. I wanted to give my children a more outdoors lifestyle and seek new opportunities with my work.

What is your favourite part of teaching others this art form?

People who have passion and ability inspire me. People who are willing to strive and not give up and are willing to take the rough with the smooth. Being a make-up artist does not just involve application there are many more attributes that are really important that you learn along the way.

What advice would you give someone who wants to pursue this career path?

The best advice to aspiring make-up artists is keep on chipping away. If you have passion and drive opportunities will follow. It is important to have good training and mentoring along the way. Try to do everything that's offered to you as you do not know where it may lead. Then as you become more established you can choose what work you want to do.

What has been the most challenging project you have worked on?

Setting up Facepaint Studio. Creativity with make-up artistry actually comes easily to me. However, I am constantly learning and coming up against obstacles and challenges. The creativity begins when the course or workshop begins. There is a lot of strategic work that has to be applied before getting to that point.

As for a practical example, many years ago I was maintaining a whole group of young models. It was for a video shoot on a hot day and involved lots of shine and glitter. It was very challenging!

What is unique about this art form compared to other art forms?

It is a specialised field of work that requires learning many skills - once you have those skills the opportunities are endless. The world of make-up is unique and you don't have to be great at drawing or art because that can all be taught depending what area of make-up you want to work in. Most make-up artist's days are filled with practical skills which opens it up to a wider range of people than other art forms.



10x2

10x2

10x3