

POWDER STATION



Gene Blevins/Special to the Daily News

A motley crew of makeover models show off scary new looks, including a clown face, at the Make-Up Designory.

School's classes strictly cosmetic

By Alex Dobuzinskis
Staff Writer

BURBANK — The gaping gash on Soraya Khalil's face created for a class project at a Burbank makeup school would look more realistic on the big screen than in person, but for an officer in a passing patrol car, it was cause for concern.

Khalil, 27, was standing on Olive Avenue near the Make-Up Designory, waiting to cross the street, when an officer pulled up.

"He just said, 'Are you all right? Could I get you any assistance? And do you need anything?' And I had to explain, no, I'm from MUD," Khalil said.

People at several Burbank businesses around the school at 129 S. San Fernando Blvd. have become used to seeing students emerge from it with makeup that makes them look like they are injured or even from another planet.

On Friday, a six-week class wrapped up in which about a dozen students learned how to create the kinds of creatures of fancy that movie and television viewers are used to seeing.

Jon Baker, manager of the neighboring Gordon Biersch Brewing Co., said he has seen aliens, dead people and dead aliens come out of the school.

"Usually they end up on the patio. They like to be outside there because they're cooped up all day," Baker said.

About 700 students, mostly



Rachel Eskeli puts the finishing touches on Katherine Bonenfant for a monster makeup class at the school.

young women, pass through the school every year, said Tate Holland, the president of MUD. Students pay anywhere from \$6,000 to \$10,000 to complete their training, which

usually lasts six months.

Among the 35 employees at the school is instructor Myles O'Reilly, 35, who on Friday evaluated the job his students did creating characters for their

final projects.

Working in front of mirrors recently in O'Reilly's class were students creating such characters as a mermaid hit by a speedboat, a victim of a plastic surgery gone wrong and a clown who was injured while juggling knives and a bowling pin.

"For me, when I get a student who understands what I teach them and then even does something better than I do, that's what it is for me" that is rewarding, said O'Reilly, who has a giant tattoo of a phoenix on his forearm.

On Thursday, students who had been made up to look like jaguars and other felines prowled the school's hallway as other students took a break from the mirrors and the intense lights of the classes to hang out in front of the parking lot at the school's rear entrance.

The Burbank Redevelopment Agency provided ample parking for the school, which was one of the reasons it moved to Burbank from Toluca Lake four years ago, Holland said.

Across the parking lot at the Bank of America, customer service specialist Shemaine Workman said she has found the students to be a "really nice group of kids," and that she has come to know a girl from Russia attending the school.

"It's something that she feels will help her get a job," Workman said.

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Manager of Gordon Biersch Brewing Co. on seeing students from the nearby Make-Up Designory