



Mustache wax and spirit gum is applied before the mask goes on

3 hairy hours to go ape

By CHRISTINE WALDEN

Since some people get bottom lifts, face lifts, tummy tucks and nose jobs it really isn't all that amazing that in less than three hours other people can become apes, orangutans or any other

simian in less than three hours. Of course, it's all part of that wonderful world of make-believe brought to you weekly on TV via "The Planet of the Apes."

And all hairy, sunken-eyed, big-mouthed animals are the masterpieces of dedicated make-up artists and actors who have learned to sit still.

Seven days a week make-up men perform the complicated task of transforming people into their predecessors (if you believe in Darwin).

The initial make-up takes three hours, but it's all-day job keeping every hair in place during filming.

To promote the show and keep the monkey business going, Dan Striepeke, who helped create the ape make-up and supervises make-up for the "Apes" series, arrived in town with his suitcase of plastic molds, wigs, spirit gum and make-up.

And in less than 30 minutes he al-

most painlessly transformed one human being into an simian.

First, Striepeke selects the mask best suited to the subject's face. The mask comes in the form of a soft rubber mold equipped with teeth, thick brow and other accents necessary for an ape image.

Next, since most subjects have eyebrows and other facial hair, mustache wax is applied to prevent pain or permanent stick when the make-up comes off.

With mustache wax in place the subject is now ready for a coating of spirit gum, a little pressure and the mask. Once the mask is on some feel as though it won't come off again. They also have problems judging where their face ends and air begins.

While the mask is the base from which the rest of the transformation evolves, it is by far the easiest part of the application.

Make-up must be applied and blended to match the mask. Hair, attached

to a lace backing, is a added—followed by more make-up to blend it in. For the series, actors have individual hairs applied to their fingers.

Striepeke explained that everything must be perfect, particularly for close-up shots. And applying the make-up isn't a one shot deal. The make-up men are as important as the actors in "Apes."

He added that the beauty (if one can find any in an ape) of the make-up is that the personality of the actor comes through. With eyes still visible and a mold contoured to the face, the make-up merely becomes an extension of the individual.

As a motion picture and now as a TV series "Apes" sports a science fiction theme appealing to millions.

But with Striepeke making cross-country tours and transformations it may be that "Planet of the Apes" isn't all that fictitious.



Don Striepeke carefully molds the mask to the face



Once the hair is in place, the mask is blended in with make-up



Striepeke applies the finishing touches

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Apes go ape but humans are blase

Probably the only one to react strongly to an ape-faced human being was a monkey in the TV-studio of the Mike Douglas show. When Douglas (who had just been made-up like an ape) turned around and said "Hello" to the monkey, the little critter went ape and tore up the place.

But with not a monkey in sight local strollers just passed by an ape-faced woman without a second glance.

Evidently, streakers, halter tops and other by gone spectacles have put ape faces in the passe category.

It all did or didn't happen after Don Striepeke, make-up supervisor for the "Planet of the Apes" TV series completed the transformation of a local subject. Make-up in place the subject decided it was time to be let out of the "cage."

THE FIRST WITNESSES were two little boys with a mother in tow. The boys watched only slightly bewildered. The mother giggled and commented "Oh my goodness."

Meanwhile, an older gentleman had caught a glimpse and was leaning against a lamppost, slapping his knee and laughing. He continued to chuckle as the ape planted a kiss on his cheek.

Another man, obviously undaunted by the appearance of an ape-faced female, said, "Women are looking better all the time."

ONE LITTLE BOY in a barber shop was quite disturbed, perhaps by the hair-cut, but the appearance of the ape sent him further under the towel.

And a little girl saw the ape, put her hands to her chest, screwed up her face and started screaming "Danny, Danny" to an older and oblivious brother.

Then there were the unruffled.

One stoic gentlemen, even when pressed for a reaction by the ape's "Hello" continued with his head-down walk.

AND WHILE many women emitted a little chuckle, the overall reaction was one of looking the other way.

It certainly makes one wonder, if an ape face can't get a rise out of people, what can?



A little girl couldn't believe her eyes

Photographed by

Mitchell E. Booth