

Shannon Fennell

Make-Up Artist



BODY PAINTING

INFORMATION FOR MODELS

This information is to brief you on what to expect from being body painted and what is expected from you as the model.

The term “Body Painting” typically covers anything painted anywhere on your body – from simple fake tattoos to a complete covering of the naked body in make-up/body paints. Whichever form you will be participating in the following information will be of interest.

Body painting is a very personal thing and you need to be comfortable with having someone you don’t know touching you all over your body (depending upon the project) and using sponges or brushes to apply paint to locations not usually visible to others. If you are uncomfortable with that you may need to rethink being a body painting model.

1. Preparation: If you are going to be painted please exfoliate as much as possible. Depending upon the extent of the painting to be done you may need to remove hair from the bikini line, underarms and, if excessively hairy, other areas. The artist will explain what is required in your specific case. Moisturize well the night before you are to be painted, but **DO NOT** apply any creams, lotions, perfumes or other products the day of the painting. These products can interfere with the make-up products that will be used to paint your skin. Also, if you have used any tanning products (creams or spray on) in the week prior to being painting please inform the artist immediately as this may cause a problem.
2. Nudity: Depending upon what is to be painted you may be required to wear nipple covers or pasties. ***These may be made out of latex – if you have any allergies now is the time to make them known.*** Latex nipple covers are attached with medical adhesive and will hold well until removed with alcohol or removers. For full bodies a thong is required to be worn in most cases – the thongs should be the string variety and made from lycra or a blend of lycra. No large seams, decoration or lace and flesh coloured are preferred. If laws require the breasts be clothed then a strapless, seamless, undecorated bra in a lycra/lycra blend will be required. Usually flesh coloured is preferred but this will be confirmed by the artist. Lycra is the preferred fabric as it will absorb the paint without stretching or becoming transparent. Painting can be done over top of bathing suits or bras and shorts.
3. Bodily Functions: Something to remember for a full body painting is that once you have been painted in your lower regions it may be difficult or impossible to use the washroom... depending on whether you will be expected to perform or are being judged in a competition you may be stuck for many hours without the ability to use the washroom. Please be sure to take the last opportunity offered to relieve yourself during the painting process and watch your intake of liquids! There is a knack for moving the thongs aside, but it takes practice to do so without causing damage to the paint job.
4. The Painting Session: I make every effort to make the painting process as comfortable as possible for you. If you are being full body painted it can take six (6) hours to complete, or longer depending on the designs required. Bring warm socks, loose slippers or thongs, a silky robe (a slippery fabric will not smudge the paint) and loose clothing to wear home. Painting is done in stages and you will be given breaks and refreshments when possible. When I have control of the venue only you and the artist(s) will be present, exceptions are up to you if you wish to have others present, or the job may dictate differently. Paint will be applied with sponges, brushes and on occasion hands. Once an area is painted it cannot be scratched or rubbed – if you have an itch ask the artist to handle it for you.
5. Products Used: I only use products that are specifically designed for use on the skin. I use a variety of brands and choose what I need for each project as required. The face and body paints are all water based and wash off with soap and water. If oil based make-ups are being used they come off with make-up remover and/or a little moisturizer followed by soap and water. Some colours may linger on the skin but this is only temporary – moisturize well and wash again. If using alcohol based tattoo inks they are removed with alcohol (70% isopropyl alcohol = rubbing alcohol.) ***If you have any allergies or concerns please ask me to perform a patch test PRIOR to the scheduled painting session to check for any sensitivities to the products I plan to use on you.***
6. Photography: I will ask you to sign a release form so that I can take photos of my work on you. If you are uncomfortable with photos at any stage please let me know in advance. You may be being painted specifically for photographic purposes in which case the photographer would also be asking you to sign release forms. In no case will I permit other photos to be taken during the painting process. If you wish to have photos taken for your own use that is your prerogative, please let me know ahead of time that you wish this. Once you have been painted and are out in “public” you will be photographed by all and sundry, particularly in competition venues. Again if you are uncomfortable with this you may need to rethink being a body painting model.
7. The Gig: The reason you are being painted may vary – personal photographs, party entertainment, walk around, promotional event, serving, etc. I may be painting you on location, somewhere else, or at my studio, so you may need to be transported to where you need to be. Bring a silky robe and slip on shoes to wear to protect the painting, and cover you up during transport to the location. What is expected of you on the job is between you and the company/person who you are working for. Be aware that the products painted on you can run if they get wet, can be smudged and smeared by contact, areas of creases on your body (knees, elbows, arm pits) will wear out and smudge quicker than other areas and transfer of colours will happen. There are products available that can be sprayed over the finished painting to protect them from wearing off... however these make removing the make-up very difficult. If this is something that you or your employer feel is required for your specific role, please discuss with me well in advance. Typically I have found this extra step is not necessary but situations vary.

Any questions? Just ask!

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