



Body Art

If you love make-up, why stop at the usual lipstick, mascara and foundation? You could use your whole body as a canvas and turn every head in the room.

Berkhamsted's fairy godmother of party make-up, Zoe Thornbury-Phillips can help you steal the show at any event.

Once she has waved her brush over you and worked her magic you will be transformed into your alter ego or anything your imagination can think of.

She recently created the body painted men who were a massive talking point at the Berkhamsted Gym and Ashlyns School fashion show last month.

And her friend Shellie and her neighbours stole the show at last year's Halloween party at the Town Hall with Shellie winning best dressed female.

The type of party make-up she offers is for those going along to fancy dress parties, lavish balls, nightclubs or those who want to look different to the crowd.

"It's unique to what you're going to wear," she explained. "I pick out something on their outfit or jewellery like the shapes and colours and then come up with a design to complement it."

It breaks the barriers of only enhancing facial features to letting the face be a canvas for a design or pattern.

She has a great range of colours and can obtain glow-in-the dark paints and glitters.

Using hypo-allergenic water-based make-ups Zoe can do simple designs on different parts of the body or a half or full bodypaint for maximum effect.

"Usually it makes people feel very confident because it's not something they usu-

ally walk around in," she said. Face painting is not just for children. If you have a party to go to it can help turn heads your way. **Abena Bailey** meets the make-up artist who can make it happen...

ally walk around in," she said.

You have to be patient to be transformed, as face paint like Shellie's takes up to an hour and a half and a full body paint can take up to three hours. But Zoe's chatty personality helps to make the hours go quicker.

"Body painting is quite intimate. I usually start at the back so I'm not too much in people's faces. After I've finished it's really nice because there's almost a bond between me and the client."

She started the business - About Face - almost 12 years ago after she had her first child and realised that her life had changed so much her career should too.

"I got a book and a video out of the library and started going to conventions and seminars and built my business up starting with children's parties and then on to corporate events."

The corporate event side of the business has seen it flourish with Zoe bagging regular clients and being involved in the kind of lavish party ordinary people read about in Hello magazine.

With London party organisers MacGregor and Company as one of her regular clients she has had plenty of work creating human Greek statues for an event by ABN Amro bank, blue roller-skaters for a BMW party and a jaguar contortionist for a Jaguar event.

She often supplies her own models and is always on the look out for more.

"My biggest buzz is going to the parties, sitting in the corner with some champagne and watching people's reactions to it," she said.

If your party needs a little extra something or you want to wow your friends you can contact Zoe on 07866896954.





“It gives people confidence”

