

Rites of beauty

DITA VON TEESE
ON ARTIFICIAL GLAMOUR



Growing up in a small farming town in Michigan, I wasn't surrounded by women who wore make-up. The only exception was my Aunt Opal, who had flaming red hair, blue eyeshadow, red lipstick and long red nails, which wrapped around a cigarette holder. The other women in my family considered her vulgar, but I thought she was thrilling and glamorous. I loved watching her, catching flashes of her colourful rhinestone jewellery.

When I was a teenager I realised I wasn't a natural beauty, and that the women I admired the most were artificial. I could see really clearly that glamour could be created, instead of being something that you're born with. My Aunt Opal looked like a Technicolor movie come to life - that stuck with me early on, and is one of the reasons why I set out to give myself a big, retro-Hollywood makeover. My Aunt Opal passed away before she ever got to see my tribute to her, but even now, as I apply my colourful, obvious make-up, I think of her. ○

THE TREATMENT

ELECTROLYSIS BY ELAINE STODDART

Thread veins, or spider naevi, are tiny red blood vessels under the skin of the face that are tricky to cover using concealers and foundations. A two-second zap with Elaine's needle can dissolve them without trace. And the best news? It's no more painful than waxing. From £70 for 15 minutes; elainestoddart.com

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NAIL POLISH
by OPI, from opipolish.com. These long-wearing nail polishes last for ages. The colour range is huge, but my favourite shade, along with Big Apple Red and Lady in Black

HYDRA ZEN NEUROCALM DAY CREAM
£36.25, by Lancôme (lancome.co.uk). I absolutely love this moisturiser. It's a hydrating day cream that's quite thick, but not greasy. It makes my skin feel like silk.

TUMMY RUB STRETCH MARK BUTTER £23, by Mama Mio, from feelunique.com. I discovered Mama Mio products when I was pregnant with my first child and I haven't stopped using them since. Despite the name, I use this on my whole body.

VOLUMINOUS MASCARA £8.49, by L'Oréal Paris, from boots.com. If I could own only one beauty product, it would be mascara. This is lovely and thick - the thicker the better when it comes to mascara!

FACE AND BODY FOUNDATION £25.50, by Mac (maccosmetics.co.uk). I'm not normally a fan of foundation as it can often feel too cloggy. This manages to even my skin tone but doesn't feel at all heavy. I also use it on my body and it gives fantastic coverage.

Sonia Juttla, Judith Garcia-Talavera. Full Stop. Dita Von Teese launches Cointreau Privé in London on 29 November. It will be open for three weeks (cointreuprive.co.uk)