



MELISSA N ITWAR - MAKEUP DEPARTMENT HEAD (HOD) - IATSE 873 + 822 Permit
Toronto, ON | 416-823-5716 | mel@melissaitwar.com | Melissaitwar.com

Accomplished **Makeup Department Head (HOD)** and **Technical Educator** with almost a decade of verified on-set leadership. Specialized in high-volume production management, complex Special FX, and character development for international networks including **AMC**, **BET+**, **SKY**, and **TFO**. Recognized as a Subject Matter Expert and Guest Speaker for **TIFF NextWave** and **Digi60**. Offering nearly three decades of combined expertise in SFX, Film/TV, and Beauty

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Production Leadership:** Departmental budgeting, team assembly, and multi-episode continuity management
- **Special FX & Prosthetics:** Out-of-kit trauma, character aging, bald caps, as well as custom prosthetic sculpt and application.
- **Technical Mastery:** Period-accurate makeup (Medieval to 2020s), airbrushing, and tattoo/scar coverage
- **Inclusive Artistry:** Expert grooming and makeup for all genders, ethnicities, and skin textures

FILM & TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

The Body (Season 1.8) | Netflix

Daily Makeup Assistant (IATSE 873) | 2004-Period Young Adult Drama

Interview with the Vampire (Season 3.6) | AMC

Daily Makeup Assistant (IATSE 873) | Prestige Period/SFX Production

Love You to Death (20 Episodes) | SKY (UK)/BET+ (US)/Paramount+/AppleTV

Makeup Department Head (HOD) | True Crime Docu-Drama Series

Ainsi Va Manu/Hogtown (Seasons 1 &2) | TFO/TV5

Makeup Department Head (HOD) | Award-Winning French-Canadian Series

Vertical Drama Series Portfolio (9 Titles)

HOD (5 Titles)/Assistant (4 Titles) | Specialist in high-speed, mobile-first production

Feature Film Credits (8 Titles)

HOD (2 Titles)/Key (2 Titles)/Assistant (4 Titles)

Commercial Clients

Tim Horton's, M&M Food Markets, MiO, Healthy Planet, MLSE, Beyond Meat, Kraft Singles

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION

Industry Guest Speaker & Panelist

- **Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival:** Vertical Short-Form Drama Series & The Freelance Life Panels 2025 - *Industry Expert*
- **TIFF Next Wave:** Young Creators Co-Lab 2024 - *SFX Specialization*
- **Generations Performing Arts Centre:** Tween Arts Camp 2024 - *Guest Instructor: SFX Workshop*
- **The York School:** Senior Film Program 2023 - *Guest Instructor: Entry to Film Makeup Careers*

Professional Mentorship

- **Annual Co-op Placement Host:** One of few Toronto artists providing consistent year-long on-set mentorship for emerging talent in partnership with Ontario secondary institutions.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Honours Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing Management)

University of Guelph

Leveraged for production budgeting, departmental management, and brand marketing.

Honours Makeup Artist Diploma

Canadian Beauty College - Toronto Campus

Certifications: WHMIS, Workplace Health & Safety, Barbicide Sanitation, Class G Driver's License, Abstract Learning Introduction to Styling & Creative Direction

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- **Specialized Kits:** Full Beauty, SFX, Silicone & Bondo Prosthetics, Hair, Nail (Gel Manicure), and Grooming kits maintained to IATSE standards
- **On-Camera:** Appeared as featured artist on *Sunny's Quest* (TVO), recreating traditional Niq'sat tattoos. Lead actor in Toronto International Shorts Festival Official Selection *Chemistry*
- **Clientele:** Canadian Screen Awards Nominees, International Models, and Network CEOs (APTN)