

Change Is GOOD

Three actresses demonstrate how the best makeovers play up strengths, fulfill wishes, and allow a woman to look like herself, only better. **By Alyssa Kolsky Hertzig**

Makeovers are common. Good makeovers are rare. This is especially true in Hollywood, where transformations often push the envelope of physical and surgical possibility. But drastically altering yourself until you're unrecognizable isn't a makeover—it's Halloween. The best transformations are tailored to the individual and cleverly bring out her strengths. The goal is to create an enhanced, refined version of who you already are. To illustrate the point, *Allure* asked three actresses to undergo some strategic alterations to their usual hair, makeup, and styling routines. The results celebrate the most important character each woman plays: herself.

As a former model, actress Rebecca Romijn, last seen in *Eastwick*, has long been accustomed to putting aside her own style and playing new characters.

Off camera, the mother of twin girls isn't exactly one for dressing to the hilt. "I'm a typical jeans-and-T-shirt California girl—especially with babies at home," she says. For her makeover, the focus was on pure sophistication. With Lauren Bacall and Slim Keith as inspirations, Romijn got sleek, retro waves ("That Jessica Rabbit wave," she says), classic nude lips, and a clingy navy gown. The result feels fresh, but still within the actress's comfort zone. "It's just a stunning way to feel," she says: "Glamorous, soft, and sexy."

True Blood's Rutina Wesley was ready for some slightly more dangerous curves. A self-described "sneaker freak," the actress and dancer wears a steady supply of jeans and tank tops. "I'm sort of a tomboy-slash-girlie-girl," she says. The makeover plan was to bring that feminine side front and center. First, instead of braids, her hair was teased into a wild, Diana Ross–like mane. "I've been rocking braids since the '90s, and I love them, but change is good," Wesley says. Another big change was the sexy,

slit-up-to-there dress that revealed what she has been hiding under those jeans all along: one amazing body. "I felt very sexy. Look at the leg! It reminded me of Tina Turner. I got to be what I am in my dreams: the leading lady," says Wesley. "I felt like a princess."

Not everyone is so at ease showing off what they've got. Robin Tunney of *The Mentalist* tends to be fairly buttoned-up onscreen and off. "I've been friends with people for 15 years who still don't know I have boobs," she says. The stylists immediately nixed any dress that was too prim or long in favor of tiny, body-hugging numbers (including one that left little doubt about the existence of breasts). Her hair was bulked up with extensions, while the makeup artist created what she called a "dirty-sexy" look with shadow and so many false lashes that Tunney was finding leftover strays days later. "Being all done up felt sexy and fun," she says. "It was a real transformation, but it definitely felt like a version of me." And isn't that the point?



REBECCA ROMIJN



ROBIN TUNNEY



RUTINA WESLEY

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL THOMPSON



REBECCA ROMIJN

“[Makeup artist] Brigitte and [hairstylist] Serge knew my 19-year-old face,” she says, “and here they are working on my 36-year-old face, so I was open to anything.” Viscose jersey dress by Donna Karan New York. Gold-and-Swarovski-crystal cuff by Iradj Moini. Makeup colors: Luxurious Color Satin Eye Shadow in Platinum Glimmer, Luxurious Color Eyeliner in Black Velvet, and Matte Lipstick in Nude Attitude by Revlon. These pages: Hair, Serge Normant of the Serge Normant at John Frieda salon; makeup, Brigitte Reiss-Andersen; manicure, Ashlie Johnson. Prop stylist: Bill Doig. Fashion editor: Paul Cavaco. Details, see Credits page.

ROBIN TUNNEY

"Allure really wanted me to get in touch with my inner slut. There's something so liberating about putting on clothes that I would never normally wear," she says. "And, of course, it's always fun to keep people guessing." Stretch-satin dress by Karen Millen. Leather-and-Swarovski-crystal shoes by Christian Louboutin. Makeup colors: Eye Enhancers 1-Kit Shadow in Platina, Perfect Blend Eye Pencil in Basic Black, and Continuous Color Lipstick in In the Nude by Cover Girl. Details, see Credits page.



RUTINA WESLEY

“I hate saying the word ‘diva,’ because it sounds so egotistical, and I don’t mean it like that,” she says. “But I’m just like, ‘Wow, that’s me?’” Silk dress by Martin Grant. Quartz-and-freshwater-pearl bracelet by Iradj Moini. Suede-and-leather shoes by Christian Louboutin. Makeup colors: Pure Color EyeShadow in Slate, Double Wear Stay-in-Place Eye Pencil in Onyx, and Pure Color Crystal Lipstick in Crystal Beige by Estée Lauder. Details, see Credits page.

