



# PARTY COUNTDOWN

That sound you hear is not just jingle bells a-ringin', but the clock counting down to the party season. Renée Batchelor maps out a **28-day timetable** for a beautiful year-end party face.

PHOTO: SALOMON PHILIPPE | MAKEUP: JESSICA WONG | HAIR: KELVIN CHIA

## DAY 28 TO DAY 14

When you have two to four weeks to go, book treatments that take time for the best results to show – and arm yourself with party beauty know-how.



### Face Time

Now is a great time to go for a powerful face peel to get rid of

stubborn pigmentation. Dr Patrina Wong, a general practitioner with special interest in aesthetics, at LinC Aesthetic Clinic, recommends a Cosmelan Peel at least a week before a big event. The reason for this recovery time? Following the discomfort-free peel, your skin will experience redness to varying degrees and dandruff-like peeling. But like a snake moulting, what you'll reveal underneath is an "even and fair skin tone, reduced blemishes and a nice tinge of blush", promises Dr Wong. This is followed by a prescribed 10-to 20-week home programme, so it's best to do this at least a month before the party season, to allow it time to take effect.

**HOT TIP:** Want to try some at-home face smoothing? Try Dr Brandt's Pores No More Vacuum Cleaner Backhead Extractor, \$70, to get rid of unsightly blackheads.



### Practice Makes Perfect

Take the time to learn how to apply makeup and to experiment with new colours, textures and products. Michael Pierce, international trainer and makeup artist with Hourglass Cosmetics, is a firm believer in the importance of priming skin, so makeup stays on longer. Products like Hourglass Mineral Primer SPF15, \$76, smoothes skin for a silky finish, tones down redness and waterproofs makeup.

Pierce also recommends experimenting with eyeshadows. The brand's beautifully-pigmented shadows can be used dry or foiled (worn wet) for a glowing effect. If you aren't great with liquid eye liner, practice with an easier option, like the Hourglass Calligraphy Pen, \$47 – it leaves a super fine line and glides on like a dream without dragging the skin.



"And because it's not a dye, it won't stain skin. If you've made a mistake, simply rub off with water," says Pierce.

Learning how to set makeup is another handy trick when you're attending parties. To set a bright lip colour, like a vibrant red, Pierce says, "Begin by using concealer on the whole lip, and then apply your lipstick with a brush. After applying lip colour, dust a little loose powder over to set the colour. Re-apply the lipstick over, if necessary." With these extra steps, even after wining and dining, the lipstick stays put.

**HOT TIP:** Want pretty lashes that are actually yours? Try using a lash enhancing product like Foltène Eyeash and Eyebrow Treatment, \$58, some 14 days prior to the party season.



### The Great Hair Affair

You might think that the later you highlight or colour your hair, the fresher it'll be. Surprisingly, most hair professionals

disagree. "Usually, it's recommended you do your hair just two weeks before an event," says Pamela Loh, of L'Oréal Professionnel. "It's a comfortable timeline for the hair to 'settle' and look good. It's also safer to give yourself a little more time in case your stylist accidentally botches it up." Jackie Ng, the technical director of Toni & Guy, The Heeren, agrees. "Hair looks best one to two weeks after it has been highlighted as it looks softer and more natural." To prevent fading post-colour, Ng advises, "It's

best to avoid shampooing for the first 24 to 48 hours after your colour service. And stay away from swimming or over-exposure to sunlight as these can cause hair colour to fade prematurely."



Redken Color Extend range, from \$34.

