



Beyond The Fringe

With her trademark dark hair, wry smile and great comic timing, Claudia Winkleman has become one of the highlights of Saturday night TV. Beauty editor Nadine Baggott catches up with the popular presenter to get up to speed on her make-up must-haves

I first met Claudia Winkleman when we appeared on Granada Breeze TV together many years ago, when she was starting out. Back then, she had a reputation for always laughing and giggling on screen, so it is comforting to know that, despite her huge success, she has not changed one bit – she remains as charming and self-effacing as ever and she still loves to laugh.

Little wonder, then, that the co-host of *Strictly Come Dancing* has won over not only the family audience that makes up the show's fan base, but also pretty much everyone else, too, as her appearances on comedy panel quiz shows like *8 Out of 10 Cats* and *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* demonstrate. Marks & Spencer is certainly a fan, which is why it asked Claudia to collaborate on a collection of make-up and Christmas gift sets.

With the festive countdown now on, **HELLO!** caught up with Claudia to see what she has planned for the big day and to get the lowdown on her new cosmetics range.

Congratulations on being the first person to realise the importance of combining Percy Pig sweets with eyeliner. Could this be why, really, you decided to create a beauty range for Marks & Spencer?

"M&S are adorable and magically they called me and asked if I'd be interested in creating a make-up line with them. I almost dropped the phone. I've always loved their shops – for socks and for macaroni cheese. I said, 'Have you got the right number? Have you seen what I look like? Did you see me at the GQ Awards? You know I only believe in black eyeliner and pale lipstick?' And they said, 'Yes, come in straight away.' It was sort of love at first sight. They're brilliant and even said I could give away Percy Pigs with some of the make-up. Win-win."

How involved were you in the process of creating the make-up and putting together the gift sets?

"We sat down and talked about what I feel strongly about. I like make-up that looks like you might have slept in it; I like sweets and I also love shiny hair. We created a conditioner that I'm particularly proud of and they let me move into the lab while they put together the best lipstick colours on the planet. I'm sure they wanted to chuck me out, but they let me drive them mad, shrieking, 'No, this is too beige!'"

What were your must-have products for the range?

"Black eyeliner, the greatest mascara on earth and a really

Your signature eye make-up is super-cool and slightly lived-in. What is the best way to achieve the look?

"Well, I do it extremely fast – which is why it looks like my four-year-old has done it. I want it to look like it's five days old. My style icons are Captain Jack Sparrow from *Pirates of the Caribbean* and Steve Tyler. I use MAC Feline Liner for the inside of the eye, plus my new Game Changer eyeliner from M&S. It's glossy black and glides on very easily – I am in love with it. Then stick on loads of my Pile It On mascara, smudge it up a bit and you're done. Not neat, not clean and not perfect – that's an eyeliner crime."

Who is your beauty icon?

"Chrissie Hynde."

Do you enjoy getting your make-up done for TV or do you prefer to DIY?

"I don't mind either way. Debbie Dannell has done my face for TV for about 100 years. Every time I leave the house looking repulsive I lose her a lot of work. Can I say sorry here? She's amazing and really fast. I'm not very good at sitting still, so we can stick it on in about eight minutes."

And your hair – who is responsible for keeping that fringe looking great?

"An actual hair genius cuts my hair. He's called Michael Charalambous and his salon is Nyumba in London. He gives me that 'Has she just woken up?' hair that I love."

Name your two favourite hair products...

"Aveda Shampure shampoo and my new conditioner for M&S. It's sort of 'the one'."

Are you high or low maintenance when it comes to beauty?

"I think I'm low. I've never knowingly taken my make-up off. I don't sit and play with eye creams. But saying that, I've been known to almost openly weep in Diptyque. There are so many extraordinary products and I can go pretty nuts over an oversized room candle."

Do you have a signature scent?

"Opium is the sexiest scent on the planet. No question."

What is the best beauty advice you have ever been given?

"Sleep a lot."