

Local 706 at the BET Awards

The highly anticipated 2025 BET Awards marked a monumental celebration of Black culture and excellence on June 9, 2025, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. IATSE Local 706's team of skilled make-up artists played a pivotal role in the event's undeniable success. With the event's 25th anniversary on the line, the make-up artists behind the scenes ensured that dancers, presenters, and a multitude of high-profile celebrities looked their best as they graced the stage.

The ceremony was hosted by comedian Kevin Hart

Celebrity Dancers, Presenters, and Backstage Touchups

Local 706's team of professional make-up artists were tasked with providing flawless looks for the evening's performances and presentations. They meticulously created high-impact glam for the dancers, presenters, and talent, including well-known actors, musicians, and influencers, to ensure every moment captured on camera was as polished as it was captivating.



L-R: Kokeeta Douglas, Dept. Head April Chaney, Rachel Olson, Naima Jamal, Jenny Garcia, Starlynn Burden, Vanessa Dionne, Cool Benson. Not pictured Levi Vieira

"Our team was excited to be a part of such an iconic celebration of Black culture," said Local 706 lead make-up artist April Chaney. "Being backstage at the BET Awards is an opportunity to elevate the beauty and performance of some of the most influential figures in entertainment today. It was a privilege to help bring their vision to life."



April Chaney



Naima Jamal



Cool Benson



Kokeeta Douglas

CO-OP CRAFT SALE

BY MARIA SANDOVAL

Local 706 make-up and hair members are creative people, and since we are all artists, those creative ideas are endless... So as the film and TV work in California slowed down, many 706 members turned to their creative “side hustles” to make ends meet.

To date, more than 120 members have participated in the “Hair Stylists and Make-up Artists Co-Op” sales since the first was organized by me and Amy Sparks during COVID. Five years and seven events later, the little idea that sprang from boredom, lack of creativity, and the need for financial assistance is still going strong (and there is an eighth fair scheduled for November 22, 2025).

So far, we have raised more than \$8,500 to help our fellow artists pay their dues. In addition, the vendor participants have had the opportunity to sell their crafts (and various odds and ends) to the general public. After the devastating fires swept through the Palisades and Altadena, the proceeds from the fifth and sixth fairs (plus a donation from fellow member Raissa Patton) were used to cover a quarter’s worth of dues for nine

members who were affected. We have done all this without any official sponsorship, and with our only costs being the venue (Local 80) and its staff. Our advertising is completely word of mouth and social media blasts from the vendors themselves, as well as the IG and Facebook accounts created for the events. Volunteers (including high school students, fellow union members, and friends and families of the vendors themselves) assist in setting up the tables and running the raffle.

Generous item and gift certificate donations from many members and their friends, hair and make-up product lines, and businesses (such as Nigel’s, Friends, and Naimies), have turned the raffle into a popular event for people seeking crew swag, autographs, and handmade items and/or services. These people in turn also shop from the vendors, bringing in much needed income. We have secured relationships with various food truck vendors who donate their time to the event in exchange for whatever proceeds they might bring in on the day. We have used the stage at the venue for celebrity

autograph signings, a food drive, and even offered hair and make-up services to the shoppers during the Halloween season!

What was once just a fun way to socialize and express our individual creativity has turned into an event that has been beneficial to so many members! The day of the sale is always a great way to reconnect with each other outside of the workplace and support each other during what has become a much longer work lull than any of us anticipated.

Amy and I would like to thank everyone who has participated, donated, and volunteered at the events so far. If anyone is interested in helping us with future events, or is interested in being a vendor, please reach out to either of us and follow us on IG and Facebook @craftyglamsquad.

A sixth event is planned for October with the addition of make-up & hair styling opportunities being offered for patrons attending Halloween parties. Keep an eye out for emails from Local 706 announcing table sales. Follow @craftyglamsquad on IG or Facebook and check out the vendors on social media to purchase items!



Anna Rose Kern



Amy Sparks



Vance Hartwell



Maria Sandoval



Liz Chang



Emily Aznavourian



Veronica Rodarte