



## BEHIND THE SCENES - HOW A WAX FIGURE IS MADE

Take a glimpse at how a wax figure is made at Madame Tussauds.

New techniques are constantly being explored, but the fundamental process of creating a wax figure hasn't changed since the world famous attraction was founded – the figure making team still even use processes employed by Madame Tussaud herself.

### **The Sitting**

At the sitting up to 200 measurements are taken and photographs shot from every angle of a star to ensure their portrayal is 100% accurate. Their eyes, hair and skin are also all colour matched from samples, so the team has a complete reference to work from.

### **Sculpting**

A metal armature is constructed to support the clay mould, which is then built up using meticulous detail. The head is worked on separately and can take between four to six weeks to sculpt and achieve an exact likeness of a famous face.

### **Moulding**

A plaster cast is created from the clay sculpture then melted wax is slowly poured into the mould to avoid air bubbles. After 50 minutes, excess liquid wax is removed to leave a hollow head, into which the eyes and teeth are inserted.

The body of each and every figure is moulded in the same way, but is then made from fibreglass instead of wax for durability.

### **Finishing**

10 layers of oil based paints are applied to the figure to create realistic skin tones.

Real human hair is individually inserted into the wax including the eyebrows and eyelashes. The hair is then cut and styled to match the desired look.

Finally, the complete figure goes through a rigorous number of critiques with key members of the team to achieve sign off before appearing in the attraction.

### **FACT**

From initial sitting to press launch, a typical Madame Tussauds figure takes around four months to make, utilises a team of around 20 skilled artists and costs £150,000.