"Oh the Things They’ll Do to Look that Good Strutting on the Red Carpet"
by Sandy Cohen

With Hollywood’s awards season under way, fans will see plenty of stunning gowns, sculpted bodies, flawless skin and camera-ready coifs on the red carpets around town.

What they won’t see are the industrial-strength girdles, fake hair, and skin treatments beneath those flawless facades.

Stylists work overtime during the six-week stretch from the Golden Globes to the Oscars, and it typically takes a team of people to ready stars for their stroll down the red-carpet runway.

The first step? A body-enhancing airbrush tan, says spray-tanner-to-the-stars Jimmy Coco, who expects to wield his tanning wand at least 100 times before the Academy Awards.

These tans do more than lend a healthy glow. They can add muscle definition where none exists, says Coco, who has worked with Eva Longoria, Jennifer Garner, Jenny McCarthy, and Lara Flynn Boyle.

“If they haven’t quite been to the gym, I can make it look as though they have,” he says. “I give them an even glow and lightly etch in where the muscle is.”

Next come body-shaping undergarments. Stylists swear by Spanx, a brand of body shapers that promises to “rescue women from love handles, waistline spillage and cellulite,” according to the company’s web site.

“They go from under your bust line to the tops of your knee,” says celebrity stylist Inge Fonteyne, who has worked with models Gisele Bundchen and Adriana Lima. “It compacts all the blemishes you want to smooth out. The key is to be seamless and bumpless.”

Tape is a critical part of a stylist’s toolbox. Surgical (or even electrical) tape can be wrapped