



**Fig. 603: The Muscles of Facial Expression (Anterior View)**

**NOTE:** 1) the muscles of facial expression are superficial muscles located within the layers of subcutaneous fascia. Having developed from the mesoderm of the 2nd branchial arch, they are all innervated by the nerve of that arch, the seventh cranial or facial nerve.

2) the facial muscles may be grouped into: a) the muscles of the scalp, b) the muscles of external ear, c) the muscles of the eyelid, d) the nasal muscles and e) the oral muscles. Frequently, the limits of the facial muscles are not easily defined and there is a tendency for them to merge. The platysma muscle also belongs in the facial group, even though it extends over the neck.

3) the circular muscles surrounding the eyes (orbicularis oculi) and the mouth (orbicularis oris) assist in closure of the orbital and oral apertures, and thus contribute to functions such as blinking of the eyelids and the oral ingestion of liquids and food.

4) since facial muscles can respond to thoughts and emotions, they are of assistance in communicative functions. The buccinator muscles are flat and are situated on the lateral aspects of the oral cavity. They assist in mastication by pressing the cheeks against the teeth, and thus, prevent food from accumulating in the oral vestibule.