

## Becoming a Model

Modelling offers great opportunities that most people may never experience. One of the biggest and best things is the chance to travel all over the world (how many people do you know that have travelled to France, South Africa, Germany, NY, England, etc?) Oh yeah!!! Don't forget to bring your surf and snow boards because there is plenty of sand and snow across seas.

Also, there is the chance to meet new and exciting people (we met Elle McPhearson at the opening of Fashion Cafe in Spain, Cindy Crawford on a shoot for Rolling Stone magazine, Charlie Sheen at a dinner club in London).

Now, that we have told you some of the perks about modelling, lets get started:

## The business of modelling

Most Agencies have open calls, therefore, the best thing to do is get some Polaroids or an inexpensive photographer to shoot you. A basic head shot that shows your face and hair and some of your body will be fine.

There isn't really a need to do a full shoot because most likely the agency will want to change your look, or they may have some specific things they would like to see you in.

One thing that we do stress is not to pay a lot of money for a professional to take pictures of you.

Even we got scammed out of money: we had just gotten into the business and our agent set us up with a photographer who charged us \$500.00 for pictures that stunk.

That was the first and last time we would spend that kind of money to get a test done. A little bit after that shoot we ran into Marko Realmonte, now our business partner. He was very kind to us and didn't charge us that much. He knew a lot of the business and taught us early the ins and outs. Not to mention, he has taken the best pictures of us throughout our careers.

The lesson to be learned is that there are just as many photographers that need models in their book, as there are models who need them. If you have what it takes to make it in this business the only thing you should have to pay for is the printing cost.

Once you have a few pictures, call an Agency and find out when they are available to see you (we have provided links to our agencies on our links page or search the Internet for modelling agencies: some of the big ones are Wilhelmina, Ford, Elite).

A list of legitimate agencies which are approved by SAG (Screen Actors Guild) is available from SAG. Real agents need to have licences so **CHECK THEM OUT**.

If perhaps you live some place that does not have an agency near by you can try sending some Polaroids to an Agency asking them what they think and remember to enclose a self addressed envelope so that they can send you a response and your pictures back.

You may ask yourself "how do I know if this Agency is good or not?" You can call the Better Business Bureau or better do some research and ask around (We feel that word of mouth usually produces the best results). Also, you can find many reliable agencies in major cities like NY, LA, South Beach Miami, etc.

Watch out for scams!!! There are many newspaper advertisements trying to get you to join there schools and for a small fee of \$\$\$ "you will be the next big thing".

Although there might be some schools out there, that can help you out we think it is better to get an agent first and let them teach you the things you need to know.

A big question that is always asked is "Am I tall enough?" Now, that is a tough one, because it is definitely an advantage if you are 5'8 and up for girls and 6'0 for men.

If you don't meet these requirements some clients won't even see you. But on the other hand certain people don't want tall models and there are a lot of models that do well out there that are not that tall.

An example is the Japanese market, their clothes are smaller and therefore they need smaller models.

### **The interview**

Make sure you go in with a positive attitude, wear something that you feel comfortable in, smile and just have fun.

### **Things to do when signed on by an agency**

Always make a diary of the days events. Therefore, you can always recall what castings you went on, the photographer's name that you worked with, when the pictures will come out for whichever magazine you shot with, and the date you worked.

All of this information will come in handy to keep track of your taxes, your pay checks, and when Entertainment Tonight calls to do a special on you: You will have everything handy for past jobs and upcoming ones.

It is beneficial to check in with the agency a couple of times a day and to carry a cell phone. Sometimes the agency might call with a casting that you have to be at within an hour.

If at all possible, don't make modelling your life. Get involved with other things because you will want to be ready for your next career when the industry says your time is up.