

“Even at your first photo-shoot, you can impress your photographer and build a great portfolio by being prepared with the proper poses, wardrobe, hair & makeup”

Many models, when trying to build a new portfolio, are lost when it comes to how to prepare for their photo-shoot, and therefore get less than stellar results. Hopefully this article will help you prepare so you can get the most out of your session.

Wardrobe

A portfolio needs to be built like anything else – from the basics on up. There is no need to go buy new high-end clothing to get good photographs. Make sure to carefully consider color, style and variety. Accessories are key, but large overdone accessories are not. If you’re making an initial application to an agency, they’re going to want to see you in a more basic, lifestyle-type look as well as your headshots. If you’re an experienced model with an existing portfolio, or aspiring for international consideration, you may want to ‘glam it up’ or consider a more high-fashion approach. It’s really about considering your intended audience and the actual application of the images. Consulting with a fashion stylist will prove to be invaluable under certain circumstances.

Make-up

As with wardrobe, makeup should be kept flattering and relatively simple. If you want to play up a feature, then make sure you keep the rest neutral. For example, if your best feature is your eyes, play them up with dramatic shadow and lining, while keeping your lipstick a light or muted shade. Want to play off pouty, fire-red lips? Keep the blush to a minimum and the eyes light. Find a make-up artist (MUA) that is experienced and whose style you admire. As with photographers, you can often find MUA’s that need experience and will collaborate for free; however, if you choose to use them instead of hiring a demonstrated & professional one, you will notice the difference in the end photograph. My general rule of thumb is – hire one! I have a select group of very talented girls that I’ve had consistent success with over the years and I can easily source out the right talent for you. When the camera is zoomed in close to your face for beauty and head shots, you don’t want to play around. A model will find that her carefully applied foundation disappears under the flash to reveal every flaw possible and the bright eye shadow she saw in the mirror loses all of its vibrancy. There are techniques along with products that are necessary to produce a flawless finish in-camera. The photographer will greatly appreciate it as well, since it will reduce the post-work necessary to produce a perfect image.

Communicate

The biggest mistake made is not enough communication between model and photographer beforehand. Call, don’t simply Facebook, text and email. Make sure you are both on the same page and that your needs & wants have been clearly stated and accepted. Never be afraid to ask any question; a little discomfort now is better than a battle later. Especially when you are paying the photographer, make sure it is stated plainly what you are getting for your money.

Practice!!

This cannot be overdone. Research poses on the internet, in your favorite magazines, etc, and practice and perfect each one. Every model has a few best angles, stand in front of the mirror and find yours. Practice lengthening your neck, tilting your chin down just a tad and angling your head to feature your face at its best. You will have to be able to hit it without a mirror on the day of the shoot. Study your body angles and poses as well. Basic rule of thumb – closer to the camera, bigger; farther from the camera, smaller. For example, stand up straight in front of the mirror with your feet shoulder width apart and your hands on your hips. Look at your body. Now, push your tush out behind you, and lean slightly forward with your upper body. If you're doing it correctly, you will notice that your hips appear slimmer and your waist slightly narrower. By practicing in the mirror, you will discover many different optical illusions to flatter your own body type. A trick every model, regardless of size, can use to make their waist appear tinier is to simply stand to the side and twist at the waist to look forward. Wearing a bathing suit, shorts, or a skirt? Try crossing your legs at the ankles while standing. A huge mistake beginners often make is to keep their arm against their side, creating a very unflattering 'smoosh' effect. Instead always hold your upper arms slightly away from you. Put on each of your outfits complete with the planned accessories, and practice in each one to find ways to play up each individual outfit. Play with your necklace, the hem of your skirt, the brim of your hat, etc. This will help avoid the 'I don't know what to do' deer in the headlights panic look many models get during their first photoshoots. Because you will be prepared, and you will know exactly what to do!

If you come properly prepared to your photo shoot you will come away with some great photos. Photographers talk to each other, and they will often spread the word if they have worked with a model who is either really impressive or completely awful. Prepare, research, and practice to avoid falling into the second category or, worse, being completely forgettable. And lastly...have fun!

Get ready for your Model photo shoot / Fashion photo shoot / Glamour photo shoot

Before you even schedule your modeling photography session there are some things that will make you look amazing in front of the camera for your professional model photographs, fashion photographs and glamour photographs.

Tip 1. Practice expression before your photo shoot

Practice! Get the most out of your model photo shoot. Get in front of the mirror and search for expressions and poses. This is not a one minute run just for fun. You have to study your body. Learn how your facial expressions actually feel when you laugh, smile, frown or relax. Try to feel each muscle. You should develop your own methods of controlling yourself to produce a desired expression "on demand" so you can reproduce the look during your modeling photography session. Practice when you are alone, have time to concentrate and calm enough to listen to yourself.

Tip 2. Practice body poses before your photo shoot

Once you master this tip, you will feel much more confident about virtually any modeling photography assignment! Whether you're preparing for a model photo shoot, fashion photo shoot or a glamour photo shoot - search for body poses in front of a mirror without any clothing on. Why? Because without wearing anything to cover your body with, you will suddenly find that it is a challenge to find an attractive and natural position using only what was given to you by Mother Nature. With clothing on, you have pockets, textures and colors that distract you from the main object - your body.

Tip 3. Do some research before your photo shoot

Look at modeling shots from the fashion magazines and glamour magazines and pay a close attention to poses, arms and legs placements and facial expressions of the models. Analyze those separately and as a complete composition. Bring the modeling photographs from the magazines of your choice with you to the shoot so we have some visual creative ideas to work with during your professional modeling photography shoot.