

Dear Andrea,



A lot of young girls at one time or another think about being a model. I am approached all of the time by parents that want me to speak to their daughters to encourage or discourage them about being a model. I always let the parents know that young girls wanting to be models can sometimes be going through a phase depending on their age, just like wanting to be a nurse, teacher or actress. However, finding your true calling in life is part of finding true happiness in life.

After experiencing being in the modeling world for even a short amount of time, you will know whether or not this is the career for you. You need to have a true passion for this industry, have an artistic and an inquisitive side, know the business side of modeling and know that in the end it isn't just about becoming famous and making a lot of money. That would obviously be the icing on the cake. However, it's about being a working model and always being professional and in the process being happy because you love what you do!

Anything worth anything takes time and hard work. Stick with it and it will pay off. Research shows that the most successful people have also failed the most. So, put in your time and enjoy the ride and along the way you might just realize that you have been happy even though you haven't even achieved your goals yet.

Dear Andrea,

My daughter is very interested in modeling. She has been in several beauty contests, but has been told she needs to be on a runway in New York. She is 6 feet tall and 18 years old. Please let me know how to get started.

Lori B., Florida

Dear Lori,

First of all, I would need to see your daughter in person to give you my personal opinion and at the very least I would need to see photos, even if they are snapshots. To be a fashion runway model in NYC requires a certain look and style, which you can start to work on right now. When it comes to runway modeling tips, you must realize more

Andrea's words to live by....

Happiness 101

Since this is our Holiday Edition and of course associated with the holidays is the term, 'Happy Holidays', it got me thinking about being happy in life personally and professionally during this festive time of year. By Andrea Patrick Forte.

than any other type of modeling, you are a human coat hanger. Your purpose when runway modeling is to display the designer clothes to whoever is watching. The other advantage is that this is a really good opportunity to get exposure for future bookings and since your daughter certainly has the height advantage when it comes to walking the catwalk, this gives her a 'leg-up'. She should watch professional models on the runway. Recording a fashion show would be good because then she can keep practicing her walk and style. After she feels com-

Dear Andrea,

I would first like to thank you for letting me be a part of your agency. I've read over the paperwork, and I have most of it filled out. However, I have a couple quick questions: I do not know what a 'modeling comp card' is, and I would like instructions on how to make/create one.

Gabrielle A. West Virginia

Dear Gabrielle,

A comp card is a card with one or more pictures on it, with your name, agency contact information and vital statistics: height, weight, hair and eye color, bust, waist, hips and dress size. It's called a comp card because it normally comprises several images in a composition (composite). Very often your comp card will have a headshot on the front and several different looks on the back. The size of the comp card can vary but is typically in the 5x7 range. Comp cards are designed to be printed in mass so that you can leave them with every agent and photographer you meet, so that they have something permanent to remember you by and also your agency's contact information to get ahold of you in the future when they need you to come and get your first paid modeling gig!

How do I go about getting my Comp Card?

Start off by finding a good photographer whose work you like and admire and who regularly photographs models. Make sure to shoot headshots and body shots in several different looks. Shoot as many different looks as you can afford, and don't be shy to experiment. Often a photographer will see something in you that you did not know was there. Take their direction - trust your photographer's eye! From the shoot, select the best images for your comp card. We will also help you decide which ones to use. Take them to a local printer or email them to an online comp card printer. Get at least 100-200 cards printed. Most comp card printers have templates and can advise you on the design and look of your comp card.

Andrea's Words of Wisdom... Dare to be different and wait for the magic to happen!

Tips for you to identify that will make you happy as a model:

Be passionate about being a model.

Be okay with failure.

Learn all that you can about modeling.

Don't be a model for the fame.

"If only we'd stop trying to be happy, we could have a pretty good time."
- Edith Wharton, American author.

Happiness is never about having or doing, it's about being. When we stop trying so hard to capture happiness and just allow it to flow into our lives, then the need to be happy ceases and happiness as a state of mind begins to settle in.

fortable with her walk, I would highly suggest participating in local fashion shows at area clothing stores, boutiques and malls to get experience.

Andrea's words of wisdom.... By learning how and where your look can be used, you will eliminate any wasted time, money or energy and this will bring you peace of mind.



So, remember during this holiday time of year...

Andrea's neccdots

You can't expect to get anywhere if you don't know what you want.

Do something you truly LOVE and you will NEVER fail.

Always show up escorted by confidence and you will never leave without making an impression.

So, for the holidays of 2006, I want you to... Be Passionate - Dream Boldly - Trust Your Instincts - Be Happy

And, remember success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success!

The Best is Yet To Come!

GOTTA QUESTION! You need to write to me! I want to talk to you. I am so proud to be affiliated with such a prestigious publication and delighted to offer to other models what I have learned as a way of giving back to an industry that has been so good to me.

E-mail me anything related to modeling that you would like to ask me to: andrea@patricktalent.com. And, your questions just might get answered in the next issue of SU!

Andrea Patrick Forte is the CEO and owner of Patrick Talent Agency - a national leading provider of television show lists, models, spokesmodels, and top entertainment. Magazine model, Hollywood actress and a former finalist in the Miss America and Miss USA pageants, Andrea has proven that having a dream and working hard to achieve it shows that dreams really can come true. For further information, visit: www.patricktalent.com.