

Dear Andrea,



Andrea's words to live by....

SURVIVAL of 'Ugly - Beautiful'

ONLY THE STRONG MODELS SURVIVE

Well, who even knows what beautiful is in today's modeling world? By Andrea Patrick Forte.

Andrea's lesson to learn: "Things don't go wrong and break your heart so you can become bitter and give up. They happen to break you down and build you up so you can be all that you were intended to be."
- Charles "Tremendous" Jones, motivational speaker and author

Andrea's Tips

Be unique.

Set your own standards.

Survival is key.

Dreams are a wonderful adventure.

In my opinion, the best role-model we have on television for young girls is the character Betty Suarez that America Ferrera plays on the hit show *Ugly Betty*. Even though she only works at a fashion magazine called *Mode* where she is surrounded by models in her every day world, Betty exudes the kind of qualities that I would love to see young girls and women emulate. The word ugly is a word I very rarely use in my own vocabulary. But, in hearing this word again associated with a person whose character is coded as ugly, but is so beautiful, makes me wonder who has placed these titles on our society.

For instance, who ever said that models 5'11" and weighing who knows what with their rail thin proportions are beautiful? And, what makes healthy, attractive looking actresses starve themselves to an unrecognizable persona when they were already thin to those of us viewing them to begin with? Do they think that is beautiful?

So, for now, Betty is who I would advise all of you to look up to as a role-model. She may not be a beauty by traditional or contemporary standards, but she's a beautiful person, just the same. Betty certainly will never be a supermodel, but she is strong, smart, good, and she has values. And, in this Paris Hilton era, isn't that just the kind of heroine we've all been waiting for?

Being a model will typically mean having to deal with rejection and criticism- good and bad. You may be told you are too tall, too short, too fat, too skinny, too fit, too out of shape, don't have the right look, etc. You are going to hear it all! The point is, you may hear criticism a lot and it is important that you develop a positive means to be able to deal with criticism.

Models will work if they are viable and if they are professional, no matter what size they wear. But, one thing is for sure, if you stay true to yourself... you'll never need to be seen on a billboard, on a runway or in a fashion layout to feel good about who you see in the mirror.

possible pictures to send are shots of you appearing in prestigious, paid modeling work of the kind the agency specializes in. Shots from a national ad campaign beat snapshots every time. But most of you won't have those. If you don't, call and ask the agency what they prefer. Some (mostly fashion agencies) will want only simple Polaroid style snapshots. Others (primarily commercial agencies) will prefer well-developed composite cards or similar professional pictures. It all depends on the agency.

Every agency has a preference on how you should submit to them. Some have open calls, many do not. Some take email submissions, others do not. Some are happy to make appointments, most will not until they have seen something from you they like.

Dear Andrea,
How often should I check in with my agent once I have been accepted as a client?

Karina S., Las Vegas, NV

Dear Karina,
When you sign with a new agency, your agent will discuss with you their procedures with checking in. It could be that they like for you to call in once a week, email them or they might prefer that they get in touch with you. Every agent will have their own preferences. I know that with my hectic schedule, I like to have my models email me when they want to check in and I will contact them when I have a potential booking or casting. I can shoot off my responses to you quickly. I always like hearing scheduling updates and any news about your modeling progress.

It is important for you to keep in touch with agents as it puts you back into our thoughts as well and it is important for a new model to do so with your agent even if we do not communicate with you on a daily basis. Please note that we are actively working on your behalf and that with new faces it does take some time to get your modeling career off the ground and while we are working on your behalf, you should be too. But, hang in there!

Andrea's Words of Wisdom:
Instead of counting the days, make each day count.

Alluring, Bright, Courageous, Driven, Eye-Catching, Fashionista, Grounded, Head-Turner, Infectious

So, for all you beautiful people out there, here are:

Andrea's anecdotes

"To know a path, you must walk it in both directions."

"The best way to be accepted, is to open our doors and our hearts to all."

"Never let anyone rent space in your head for free."

Like the lyrics to the Cabaret song... "even though you're not beautiful, it's true, there may be beautiful things inside you."

So, for this season, I want you to:

Think Differently - Listen To Others - Open Your Heart - Be A Survivor

And, you just might see that what makes you unique will make you a model to remember!

Until next time, may your days be filled with all things good!

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 hosts, models, spokesmodels, and top entertainment. Magazine model, Hollywood actress and a former finalist to 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.