

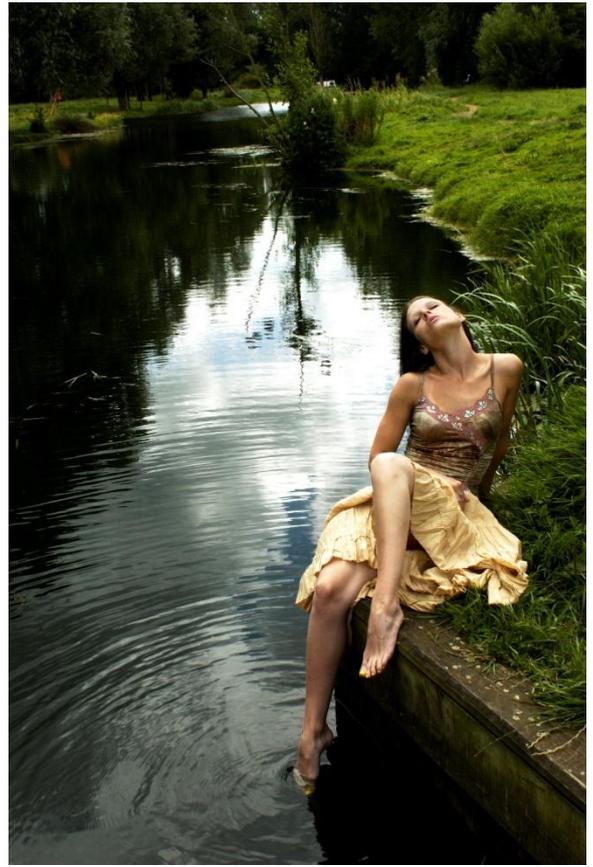
Modelling Advice

There are a few hard facts about modelling in an internet dominated world.

Am I going to earn a fortune? Probably not. There are a few top models who earn large sums of money. If you think you are one of these stop reading this and contact a London agency. Don't pay anyone for a portfolio they will sort that out and start you on a treadmill of 'go sees'.

Alternatively you could aim to join the small army of semi professional models who work locally for professional, semi professional and amateur photographers. Most of these models work to various levels of glamour and/or fetish work. Some of these models, through a combination of hard work and luck become 'names' in the glamour industry and begin to earn a reasonable income.

Aren't all amateur photographers perverts? Definately not. There are a lot of talented amateur photographers who produce some really stunning work that will look great in your folio. Take a few sensible precautions, don't go to some remote location for a first shoot, check out their work online and ask for references from other models they've worked with. Read the safety advice on sites such as Model Mayhem and Purestorm.



What are these levels I keep hearing about and which should I work to?

The first thing to consider is your location. Models who live in the sticks and do glamour/nude/fetish work will find that they get a lot more work locally than those who only do fashion (who probably won't get any).

The levels are generally,

Lingerie: which is fairly self explanatory but remember a lot of lingerie is see through.

Topless: also self explanatory.



Figure Nude: generally taken to mean non explicit nude and often considered to be quite 'arty' (See above).

UK top shelf magazine: legs apart letting it all hang out.

Continental or US magazine: Often stronger than UK magazine and may include use of toys etc.

The term '**Glamour**' can cover any or all of the above so check with the photographer that your definition of a level is the same as theirs.

Work to a level that you are comfortable with but remember, these pictures are going to end up on the internet and they are going to be there for a very long time.

What is a model release? A document you sign that allows the photographer or his agents to publish, distribute, sell, give away or do anything they like with the pictures anywhere and anytime. Legally in the UK a model release is only required if the photos are published in an advertising context so *any* photos of you could pop up in magazines or on websites unless you have a written privacy agreement. **Note:** *All portrait customers are covered by a privacy agreement that forbids publication or distribution by the photographer.*

Copyright: The photographer always owns the copyright of the pictures which means you cannot use any of the pictures for anything without (written) permission. Usually photographers are OK with you posting photos in online portfolios but start flogging them to your fans for a tenner each and you are going to be in trouble.

Do not use your real name if you post a portfolio on modelling sites and make sure the model release you sign states that the pictures will be published under your modelling or a fictional name. That way when your boss Googles you he won't get a shock.

Do I need a portfolio? Yes but quite often it's free. Getting a good modelling portfolio together is not down to how much money you have to spend. By all means pay a good photographer a decent fee to take some starter pictures. These should show you head and shoulders, three quarter length and full length but most importantly should show movement through different styles, moods and poses. A lot of photographers, myself included, will often do TFP which stands for time for prints (usually a CD of pictures rather than actual prints). This means that you don't get paid for the shoot but you don't have to pay the photographer for the pictures either.

What about travelling to work further afield? It always amuses me when models say will travel anywhere if expenses paid. Why would a photographer or client fork out extra cash when there are good local models? If a photographer wants to work with a specific model then they may pay exs.

What makes a good model? Reliability! It doesn't matter how great you look, how perfect your hair is, that your expressions are wonderful and you've loads of experience. If you aren't there I cannot photograph you.

Remember. *Most good models enjoy being in front of the camera, have great fun, meet some nice people, earn some money and sometimes get the great ego boost of seeing themselves in print.*

If all that hasn't put you off then contact me: Info9@viewfinders.uk.com

For more information and pictures visit:

www.viewfinders.uk.com or viewfinders.zenfolio.com



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