

# Photography

A Starting Out Guide to New Models



[www.originmultimedia.com/photography](http://www.originmultimedia.com/photography)



# Photography

## STARTING OUT

Getting in front of a camera for the first time (or first few times) can be intimidating. In fact, even pros still get cases of nervousness. So don't worry, it's natural.

We have worked with a number of first time models before and have a good understanding of what to expect and how to get the most out of shooting with someone new. The best advice we can give is don't worry about it. Relax. We will do whatever we can to create the type of environment where you can do just that.

We consider a photo shoot to be a collaborative and creative effort between the model, the photographer, and the make-up artist (if present). We welcome all exchanges of ideas and we are always open to experimenting and trying something new.

### *Posing*

Many first-time models worry about posing. When it comes to working with new models, we don't expect the person we're shooting to have an arsenal of different poses at their disposal. And we never pressure anyone to perform. We work with you with the skills you have and provide as much guidance and direction as you'd like until we're both happy with the results.

We always have plenty of reference material available at our shoots and you are more than welcome to bring your own. This includes magazines, posing books, photos, and anything else that might help you get ideas about looks or poses that you'd like to try. All of these items are freely available to refer to and get ideas from while we're shooting. Many of the experienced models we work with will still look at magazines while we're shooting to draw ideas from.

### *Posing and facial Expressions*

Although we provide as much instruction & direction as desired during a shoot, it is a significant help if the person being photographed has an understanding of what their body looks like in different positions and to also understand how their face feels when they're making different expressions.

We recommend that all first-time models, and anyone relatively new to modeling, practice posing and making different facial expressions in front of a mirror. It may feel silly to practice such things in front of a mirror, but it is a great way to prepare for what it will be like in front of a camera and should actually make doing your shoot easier and more comfortable.

Although interpretations of different expressions & looks may vary, please practice a variety of different looks so that you are at least somewhat prepared should you be asked for a specific expression, such as: "sexy", "intense", "serious", and "pouty". Again, We will provide as much direction as necessary to get the look & expression desired, but the more prepared you are, the better.

If you have a tendency to show a lot of your gumline while smiling, you should also practice smiling without showing as much of your gums. Don't worry, we'll get plenty of photos with your beautiful & natural smile, but the tendency in professional photography is to limit exposure of the gumline.

Some of the best reference guides for posing are fashion catalogs and magazines. Study them. Pay close attention to the position of hands, the different angles the body makes (including the tilt of the head, arms, torso, thighs, and legs), and facial expressions.



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## **Aesthetic and Cosmetic Preparation**

Be sure to take care of all hair removal prior to a shoot, but leave at least 2-3 days between when you wax/shave any sensitive areas (such as your bikini line) and your shoot date. This time is necessary to allow for any irritation to disappear before your shoot.

Take care of your nails. Be sure that your nails are neat and well maintained. Short nails are preferred. A natural, non-coloured, or French manicure look is preferable. If you plan on posing barefoot, be sure your feet and toes are in good condition. If you plan on showing your smile, be sure that your teeth are ready for prime-time. If your teeth are discoloured, you may want to consider having them cleaned/whitened.

## ***Your Wardrobe (Selection)***

Unless specific arrangements have been made in advance, the model is responsible for bringing her own attire.

If you plan to shoot photos of a certain style (Maxim style, fashion, glamour photos, etc), then it is to your benefit to coordinate with us before hand to discuss wardrobe options as well as props, backgrounds, and various ideas. If you are shooting with the intention of doing an "all-purpose" shoot, then bringing a variety of different types of clothes is a good idea.

We like variety and options. Please bring as many wardrobe changes as you like and we'll try to work them into the shoot. Options are always good and you never know when you'll feel like wearing something. And if you think you might want to bring something, but have second thoughts about it, bring it anyway. Models we've worked with almost always tell us that they wished they'd brought something that they'd thought about bringing but then

decided not to. It is better to always bring more than you think you will need, however it may not always be possible to shoot with everything you bring.

Please pack carefully. Clothes you intend to wear should be free of wrinkles and lint. In the event your need to remove the occasional wrinkle, we have an iron/steamer available. Please note that if you are shooting in the studio, our studio has hanging racks for your clothes in the changing/make-up room. If it is convenient for you to transport your clothing on racks, you are encouraged to do so.

## ***Props***

Unless otherwise arranged, clients (you) are responsible for supplying their own props for a shoot. What are props exactly? Props are any items you can help "accessorise" your photos with and potentially give it extra impact. Props can be anything from a cane or an umbrella, a mask, a magnifying glass, a furry rug, or satin sheets for a glamour shoot. If you have any items you think might be cool in a photograph, please consider bringing them. When in doubt as to whether you think you should bring something or not, please feel free to consult with us.

Clients that supply their own props tend to bring things that have significantly more meaning than what the typical photographer might provide. Plus, photographers who repeatedly use the same props over and over again in shoots tend to have photos that all look the same (or at least less distinctive).



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## Ideas for Photos

Our photo shoots are a very collaborative process and clients are encouraged to share any ideas they may have for photographs they'd like to try and take. Although this can be done at any time, it is best done at least a few days prior to your shoot date so that any necessary preparations can be made ahead of time.

Often times, a pre-existing photograph may provide the inspiration for a new one. Clients are encouraged to share with us any photographs they've come across (online, in magazines, etc) that they find interesting, inspiring, or both. You can do so by emailing us photos, directing to web pages with photos, or by bringing in magazines that have photos you find inspiring to your shoot.

Many ideas can be found by simply paying attention to what a model may be wearing, any props that are used in the photo, the location where the photo was shot, and any effects used in the shot (if any).

## Bring some one for Support

Chaperones are of course optional, but welcome at all of our shoots. However, if you're under 18 you must bring one of your parents, or an older female model with you, to act as a guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a model release form for you. We encourage any new model working with a photographer for the first time to bring an chaperone to their photo shoot in general new models find having someone there for support and confidence helpful.

Please be aware that some new and many pro models have issues being comfortable posing for photographers in front of their girl/boyfriends and relatives, so if you do bring someone please make sure they are respectful of the photographer and do not interfere with the shoot.

If you are just starting out, we suggest that after an introductory period and you and your chaperone are both confident that the photo shoot is going well, that the chaperone leave (or at least monitor the shoot from a distance) for a period of time to allow the model to feel less self-conscious while getting used to shooting.

## Make-Up

Models who are adequately skilled at doing their own make-up are welcome to do so. Understand, however, that using make-up artists can be a huge advantage when attempting to capture compelling and attractive imagery. Using a make-up artist does not mean you have to wear a lot of make-up. Oftentimes, a little can go a long way, depending on the type of look you are trying to achieve.

Make-up provides ways to substantially accentuate your features, even out your skin tones, and hide any potential problem areas. If you are not extremely confident in doing your own make-up, but are serious about capturing professional level photographs, it is always a good idea to consider hiring a professional make-up artist. Hiring or arranging to have make-up artists at your shoot is the model's responsibility.

However, if you would like assistance in hiring a make-up artist for your shoot, or would simply like more information, please don't hesitate to contact us. We have working relationships with a number of make-up artists in this area who are ready to assist you (if provided with enough advance notice).

Regardless of whether you're working with a make-up artist that we've referred to you, all communication and arrangements between you and the make-up artist will be your responsibility.

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## How long does a shoot take?

We like to shoot for a minimum of two hours. Most unscheduled shoots that we do tend to average around four hours (and it usually flies by).

The length of a shoot is generally dictated by who we are working with (and that is often determined by the number of wardrobe changes & the specific goal of a shoot).

We love to shoot, so unless we have other obligations, we are always happy to continue shooting for as long as a model wants. we've shot for 12 hours over the course of a single day.

### ***The best shoots come last***

Over the years we've noticed that the majority of the best shots from photo shoots nearly always occur at least an hour after shooting has begun (and most often get progressively better until the end of a shoot).

We suspect this can mostly be attributed to everyone getting warmed up, used to each other's style, temperament & method of work and communication. We also believe it has tons to do with a model's confidence. Having confidence while shooting is a huge advantage in capturing great photos.

This is why we always suggest (when a schedule will allow it) that regardless of what we're shooting, that we start out conservative and leave the best and most interesting components of a shoot for the latter half. This includes elaborate make-up, exciting outfits, and exquisite locations.

## Model Release Form

A model release is a written agreement between the model and the photographer (Origin Multimedia Design), where the model has granted the photographer permission to use the photographs commercially and/or for self-promotion. Model releases generally permit the use of the image(s) for all purposes, with exceptions for controversial, sensitive or defamatory uses. All of this will be explained to you before the shoot, so nothing really to worry about, its all just legal stuff.

## Contact Us

If you have further questions or queries please get in contact with us and we will do our best to answer your questions. We at Origin Multimedia Design want you to have a amazing experience and will do our best to make that happen.