

KIDS OF NEW YORK

ISSUE 02



CHRISSY

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MIA

ALI

DEANNA LNDN

SHAHNILA

ALBERTO

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EDITORS NOTE

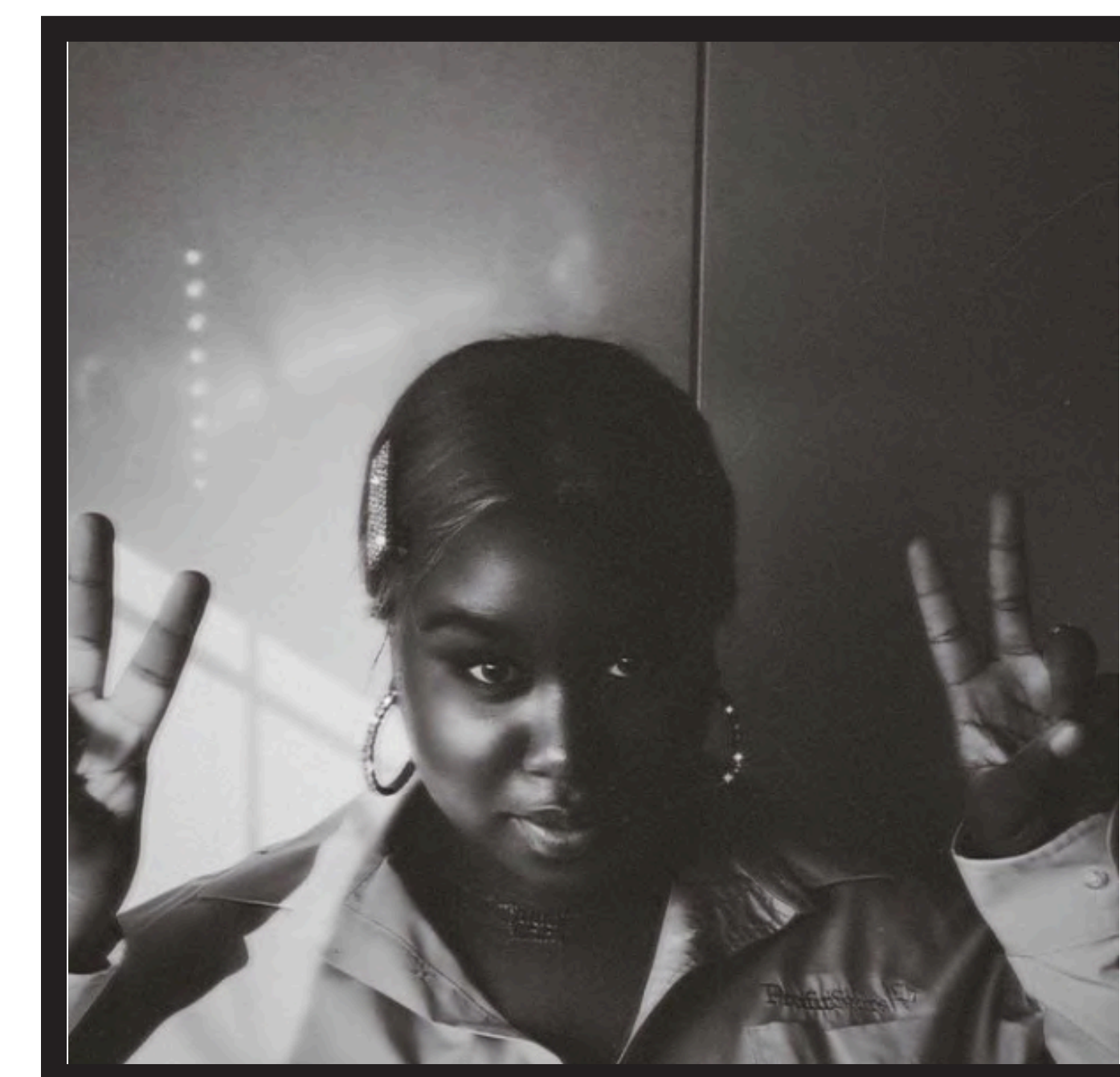
As we curated this second issue the only word I had in mind was “Spotlight”. Spotlighting has become very essential to me these past couple of months especially since the first release of the magazine. I want readers to focus their attention mainly on the people that aren’t all over the media. The people everyone doesn’t really know about. It’s always fascinating to see upcoming creatives work hard to get where they want to be. Especially when the creativity is driven by hunger, passion, motivation, and true talent. This was my way of making sure our visitors take time to read and understand our features stories and where they come from. This month I decided not to add a load of content for the fact that sometimes it can be distracting and takes away the curiosity readers may have when coming across a new creative. So that means .. FEATURE, FEATURE, FEATURE, and more FEATURES!

This month we also added two new segments as we get ready to expand KONY to more areas by next year. As you read this issue you will come across a piece called “Faces to Watch”, where we take the time to highlight upcoming models to tell their story. Also, we would like to showcase more talent in other places outside of New York State. So to test the waters for the first time we featured someone from Boston, Massachusetts. Since we are currently in September, I’ve also decided to add more features than usual, which expanded this issue by 20-25 pages. Inspired by Vogue’s September Issues of course. We will go back to regular programming for October. Overall, we worked super hard on this issue and i hope you all love it.

MECCA MONAY MALLORY

EDITOR IN CHIEF // FOUNDER

M3



KONY



“Formally, im Chris but people either call me Chrissy, Bhris, Bhrissy, or like any one of my alter egos. Im 25 years old and im from Boston, born and raised. I used to play a lot of sports but I realized that shit wasn’t for me so I got into clothes. I always knew I was into sneakers and clothes when I was young. When I was first able to do my own research and find out about these things, I just went nuts. I make clothes, I design, I do creative direction, I make music, I model here and there, and I write sometimes.”

CHRISSY

What was it like growing up in Boston? How’s the fashion scene?

So I grew up in the projects, and it was cool. People make projects seem really bad but it depends on the people you grow up around. We ended up moving to this area called hyde park, it’s really quiet compared to the noise in the inner city. Growing up in Boston, it just really depends on if you’re active in certain places, that trouble is gonna follow you. If you put out a certain energy, that energy is gonna follow you no matter where you go. Just be on your P’s and Q’s cause you never know what can happen. Some people out here are cool and other people just look for trouble. In Boston, it’s really what you make it. As far as fashion goes, there’s only a few people out here from my perspective that I like, I fuck with their style ode. But im not gonna sit here and say it’s like new york.

So you’ve been to New York before?

Yeah, I was just over there, I be in new york all the time. I travel back and forth from Boston to NY a lot.

You have family and friends out there?

Yeah, I got both. I cousins in NY, some of them live in Queens, some of them live in the Bronx, and some in BK. I got a couple of homies out there, and then there’s people I just met off Instagram out that has shown me love and we just kick it and shit like that.



How would you describe your personal style?

Honestly it be everywhere. Mainly it’s like depending on my day and how I feel, I really really enjoy street style because it’s so versatile. It’s not really like you have to dress like this every day, you can see some dude in blazers, dickies, and some vans and he’ll be flee so to me it’s like im jumping all over the place but I mostly be wearing sneakers. If I feel like I gotta change my style then I’ll just change it immediately. But, it’s like a little bit of streetwear, a little bit of high fashion, little bit professional. I usually base every look I ever had around my shoes and my love for certain pieces.

If you can take away one fashion trend forever which one would it be?

No cap .. it would be these Fila’s, it’s slow for all of that.

As far as brands, who’s in your top 3?

Comme des Garcons, Des Pierrot, and UNDERCOVER

What’s your favorite piece of clothing that you own right now?

That’s tough. I would say one of my favorite pieces that’s never leaving my closet and that’s for a fact is my H&M x Maison Margiela belt jacket. That’s NEVER leaving my closet, that’s probably gonna go to my seed.

Tell us about your experience modeling for Pyer Moss.

I sent out an email of my pictures and they sent it back saying be available in new york this day so I took off work I went to new york, quick easy. It was a long-ass line and everyone was just asking me where I was from. The line was mad cool. I get into the room and I see everyone shooting, and the lady was like lets put you in makeup. Im looking at my skin like do I really need that shit? The dude Kerby was watching the lady do the makeup and he just looked in the mirror, looked at me, and did a nod. Im like aight bet I guess im in good spirits. They put me in the clothes and the stylists came over to assist. The photographer said if your uncomfortable that means im getting a good shot. He was kinda focused on me the whole time and I thought i was fucking up but I guess he just really liked my energy and aesthetic on set. He took two shots and he was like yup these are amazing, thats it. Next thing you know I get an email from the dropbox and seen the pictures like these are tough. It was a good experience I'll say. It was interesting especially it being my first time doing something like that in new york.

Let's talk about past projects that you had creative direction on. What did you do?

I have another Instagram page called @bhrissys which is basically bhrissys closet. No bullshit when everybody come to my crib the first thing that they do is try to see where my clothes are at. So, I directed and styled all my shoots and I style my homies. I even directed one of my videos that im about to drop for a few songs that I made. As a creative, on the scene if some-things not looking right, im fixing it or if someone isn't putting pazazz or character im like yo you gotta some of this or that. Your shirts not looking right? We gon fix that. Shoes not look-ing right? We gon fix that. On scene, im hands especially if you have a vision, its not gonna go right if no one is on the same page.

PHOTO BY PYER MOSS // KERBY JEAN-RAYMOND



Do you ever see yourself taking Bhrissy's Closet more serious and making it an official styling experience?

That's one of the goals because one of the things that I wanted to promote was that its a platform for people to really be comfortable. A lot of the times people follow what they see over here and over there. Your style is unique to you so you gotta push that shit. Don't try to be some-one else out here cause these niggas is not paying attention half the time they be so up their ass. The main purpose for me was wanting people to express themselves and be super free and really happy to be in these clothes. It can be your clothes or my clothes, but if you can express your personal style I think you're doing great. I would love for it to be huge, im definitely gonna make this big. I can showcase people doing what they do, even if its not clothes or style. Just a platform for peo-ple to see what's actually going on vs what they think is going on.

Are you inspired by anyone when it comes to fashion?

Pharrell, A\$AP Rocky, and Kid Cudi but, realisti-cally I be inspired by the people. People in the street ... They be decked out. I get inspiration from all my homies, and my parents too. When my parents go out they look fly as hell. My mom has her own personal style, she always looks nice just to go places.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Honestly, in 5 years, i see myself big as hell with my friends and family. Maybe getting started to owning an agency. Enjoying Life. Pushing our lifestyle. I see my-self having ownership of something and having it be successful as well. Im not gonna sit here and say imma be the next this and the next that, Nah imma be the next ME. Im gonna be the biggest me I can be.



ALI



My name is Ali, im from the middle east, Syria to be exact. I was born here and then I moved back with my family because my mom didn't like it here so I went back to Syria to finish school. I came back 3 years ago to study and do modeling as well.



What was it like living in Syria?

It was really nice before the war started. It started in 2011 and I lived through the war so it was pretty hard for me in the beginning. I lost a lot of friends, I’ve seen a lot of really bad views over there but I’ve gotten used to it. It’s gotten so much better now, and im glad. I can’t go back right now because all im focused on is modeling right now. Im trying to chase my dream.

How would you describe your personal style?

My style is kinda like NY style. I really like accessories and the classy hip hop style. It depends on my emotions and how I feel. I like to wear black that's my favorite color, I'll mix that with anything.

Do you have a favorite photographer?

Yeah, there’s a guy I worked with his name is Shawn, he’s really good. I should have another favorite soon because im working with a couple of big photographers and im really excited about that.

How do you plan on pushing yourself as a model in the future?

I’ve been meeting a lot of people that have been telling me modeling is very hard to get into and im pushing myself because I know I can really change the fashion. I can do something in this industry im just waiting for the right moment. I’ve been networking and doing runway shows and a lot of photoshoots. Im just gonna push really hard to get what I want.

You just walked in a fashion show not too long ago, tell us about that.

I had a gig from the marketing company I work with, and it was my first time going on a trip and traveling for a fashion show. It was in Delaware, it was really nice. It was based on the African culture, and im the kind of person who’s interested in learning about other cultures. See how they live, learn about their style, so I can one day create my own style. It was my 4th fashion show I’ve done and im doing NYFW a week from now.

What made you get into modeling?

I have a huge love for clothes, I love standing in front of the camera to show expression on my face. When I first got here I had this idea about modeling and said wow I can turn a thing I like to an actual job and since then I’ve been trying to have it as a career.

What’s it like being here by yourself? Especially with your family not being here.

The first year was really hard, it was the worst. I didn’t know anyone in this country. No one knew me. I didn’t go out at all for a whole year, all I did was work. I decided to go to school so I can make friends and everyone automatically thought I was from Soho or manhattan because they thought my style looked different. From there I started pushing myself and going out more. At first, I didn’t speak English at all, I would walk up to people and they would laugh at me because I didn’t understand. I just stood strong, I worked on my English, a lot of people know who I am, and I really model.

What’s your biggest inspiration?

I get inspired by people that are always positive and support others. I also inspire myself. Me moving out here with no family and living alone, I have no choice but to push myself.

It can be very hard for upcoming models today to get walk for fashion week, so tell us about your process? How did you get it?

It was very exciting, at first I went to the casting and there was A LOT of people there. I was like wow I hope I can get in. I walked the runway and he told me to stay after the casting. The whole thing was definitely a positive push for me to stay and keep doing this. Even my stylist told me to keep doing this and that my time was gonna come.



THE HISTORY AND EMERGENCE OF THE SNEAKER

WRITTEN BY AMBER DELAROSA

Footwear is “the captured image” when it comes to the essence of a fit. Imagine a woman in a Hermès long coat suit in off-white wool piqué with an inlaid collar – creating a flawless drape and a summer silhouette with black Saint Laurent opium sandals or Dior B23’S, and a stunning cashmere/silk Loro Piana scarf wrapped around her neck. When an individual with apparent style catches the eye, you often take note of the designer accessories or the overall look, but nowadays fashion-lovers into urban style will gravitate towards the footwear.

Do you ever wonder why we look for and crave the latest best thing? Celebrities are, arguably, the best influencers as to why we give up our paychecks for those fresh and fire pair of kicks. Celebrities such as A\$AP Rocky, Travis Scott, Pharrell Williams, PJ Tucker, and Kanye West all contribute to the mass marketing of kicks and setting trends in the fashion industry. It sparks discussion regarding the clothing/particular fit that day, how the sneaker looks, how they look, how it would make you look, etc. Essentially, sneakers are a way for people to establish a form of superiority and statement. Since the invention of the sneaker in the 19th century, it has been about much more than athletics; but merely the expression of ideas about national identity, class, race, and other forms of social meaning. Have you ever wondered how sneakers came to be?



ALEALI MAY
SNEAKER CON // SHANGHAI
2019



The story of “sneaker culture,” goes far beyond pairing the perfect Nikes with a little black dress. The sneaker, in its most basic sense, is much older than you might think. Rubber-soled shoes existed as far back as the late 18th century. However, these early versions of what we would later come to know as the sneaker would be barely recognizable to us today. Dubbed “plimsolls,” these shoes were about as basic as you can get; the design did not even include a discernible right or left foot. It was not until Charles Goodyear created vulcanized rubber in the 1800’s that the potential for a rubber sole was seriously considered. Shoes featuring vulcanized rubber soles, it was discovered, were perfect for athletic wear: the first pair was created for use in croquet, quickly expanding into other sports.

The first sneakers mass-produced in the US were Keds. They were marketed as a streamlined, basic shoe featuring a rubber sole that would hold up far better than a leather one in athletics. The Massachusetts-based shoe company Converse quickly followed suit. In 1917, they released the “All-Star” basketball shoes. This was the world’s first high top: the canvas was cut in such a way that it covered the ankle to provide support, while remaining lightweight and allowing the wearer grip. In the 1920’s, basketball player Chuck Taylor lent his athletic experience to the design process of his eponymous Converse shoe. This design has remained almost completely unchanged for nearly a century and is still extremely popular today as a leisure shoe.

“I love all of my sneakers. I cherish them like they my own kids. I’ve always loved sneakers but growing up my mom wouldn’t get me the sneakers I actually wanted because they were expensive and I would beat my sneakers. so now that I’m older with my own money I can cop whatever I want and when I want. It’s amazing.” – **ZIANAIR H.**



“Sneakers are a form of art and expression. They’re the base to each outfit, I typically wouldn’t buy an outfit if I didn’t have some fresh sneakers for inspiration.”– **DARIUS**



The popularity of sneakers continued to grow in athletics, and by the 1950's, this form of sports-wear began spilling over into street and casual wear. Sneakers were the perfect counterculture fashion; unlike more formal shoes, they were cheap, barely required any upkeep, and most importantly, were considered offensive to societal standards when worn off the field. Stars, such as Marlon Brando and James Dean, frequently wore them in films to cultivate their characters' "outsider" status. Gradually though, as the 1950's went on, dress codes began to relax, and sneakers became much more ubiquitous. Whole families wore them, and in the following decades, sneakers became cemented as a casual closet staple.

By the 1980's, the sneaker began its climb from footwear basic to an iconic trend. It was during this decade that modern sneaker culture began. In 1984, Nike collaborated and released a line of basketball shoes with the then-rookie Chicago Bulls shooting guard, Michael Jordan. The Air Jordan 1 generated a lot of hype, and not only from its famous namesake. The original Jordan's featured a flashy red and black color way that differentiated him from the rest of the team; and was fully against NBA regulation. Every time Jordan stepped onto the court wearing his signature shoes, he would be fined \$5,000 (he wore them anyway, with Nike footing the bill each time). The story of this controversy, combined with Jordan's individuality and incomparable skills on the court fueled fan's excitement for the sneakers, and the Air Jordan became one of the most famed shoes in history.



Quickly after the Air Jordan, sneakers became immersed in the music industry as well. The shoes became closely associated with hip-hop. Run DMC's signature looks included almost head to toe Adidas gear, including footwear. In 1986, they released the single "My Adidas," leading to an endorsement deal with the brand. From then on, through the 90's and into the 2000's, sneaker brands and hip-hop artists collaborated frequently. Nike signed deals with Nelly and Wu-tang Clan, Reebok worked with 50 Cent, and Jay Z put out custom S. Carters under his own brand.

Today, many sneakers such as Converse and Air Jordans remain just as popular as they were when first released. However, there is still plenty of room for something new: high-end designer collaborations (such as Adidas and Yohji Yamamoto or Jeremy Scott) is yet another successful way brings more luxury into the already fashionable sneaker culture. Additionally, whether you love or hate Kanye West, it is undeniable that he has become a powerful player in the sneaker game. His Yeezy Boost 350's outdid Air Jordans for the first time in sales, and during his widely publicized deal with Nike, he helped draw attention to the issue of brands taking advantage of the athletes and artists in product promotion. Sneaker culture is still strong, and it will be interesting to see where it goes next.



FACES TO WATCH

As we all know, the demand for fresh faces in the modeling industry is at an all-time high right now, with thousands of opportunities just floating around waiting to be caught, so it's no surprise when you see another model strutting their way into the industry with the goal to make their mark.

From your screens on social media to the NYC streets, most of these women today are giving all they've got to not only prove a point, but to walk the walk, serve us face, and give us all a taste we've been yearning for.

On this side, subjects like Feminism, Race, and Passion are our topics of discussion on this miniature panel we call Girl Talk while Beauties like, Dean-na, Elizabeth, Mia and Shahnla are taking the world by storm and setting an example here at KONY by remaining true and staying consistent to get where they need to be.

In a society where many may turn their noses up to new and/or upcoming talent, The Kids of New York are always ready with open arms because we stan a new girl in town. As we add this new segment to this monthly issue, I highly recommend you keep your eyes open, because these are the faces you need to watch.



My name is Deanna London, I'm 22 years old and I'm from Fayetteville, NC based out of Queens, NY. Other than being a model im an all-around creative. I'm a singer-songwriter, actress, dancer, and photographer/videographer.

What made you get into modeling?

I used to watch ANTM with my grandmother. She's actually the primary reason why im in love with the fashion industry because from a very young age she taught me the importance of the different types of fabric that i wear. When i was watching ANTM, modeling to me was a way to tell stories with your body, with the clothing, with the pieces like what are you trying to sell other than yourself? I never saw modeling as "you're putting yourself on display" no, you're putting this piece on display. Your body just happens to help it be even more beautiful. More so, when I look at these magazines I don't see girls who look like me. I always wanted to do that. I also wanted to show other girls their bodies are beautiful and they can model as well. I wanted to be that everyday girl. A role model.

What is your biggest inspiration right now?

My family. They inspire me to grind the way that I do because im always very concerned about them and trying to take care of them and they always tell me, Deanna, that's not your responsibility. Shut up. You guys took care of me for so long and I know I can never really repay them in full so I won't try to but what I will try to do is just do whatever I can. That's one of the reasons I want to be successful. Not for fame but to put me in a better place to help. I just like to help.

DEANNA LONDON

You've walked with Khristyana on #TheRealCatwalk in times square, What was that like? How did you feel?

So that wasn't my first time doing a catwalk but it was my first time walking in my underwear, walking in public, like wow im in front of times square. It's Crazy because that morning I almost didn't go, I was freaking out like omg my body looks horrible ugh this is a mess, my hair is weird. I went to a party the night before got drunk as fuck, I woke up like oh my god im not prepared for this. But my ex was like you did not spend a whole month prepping for this just to not go. I was like "its gon be too cold" I don't wanna do this. I got out there it wasn't even that cold and I was like you know what everyone out here probably has their own set of insecurities and I was just looking at all the girls, all the bodies out there, I was like I know I don't have my little ass out here freaking out when everybody is out here so brave and so bold and just accepting of themselves, it was just so beautiful, so liberating, such a great experience.





A lot of models today are very big on feminism and women empowerment, especially because for them it connects to the obstacles that they've been through in their career. What's your take on it? How do you feel?

I believe that we as girls do need to support each other a lot more. Just because there is so much going on in society that is stacking up against us, I mean we got these crazy abortion regulations, we got men telling us how we need to handle our bodies. It's disgusting, so when I hear girls talking shit on each other just like these men and being spiteful and hateful for reasons of insecurity or jealousy or whatever is just saddening to me. Honestly, we should be our biggest allies. We need to lift each other up more, we need to be patient with each other, and be more understanding.

Going back to what you said about the difficulty of getting signed by an agent and the stories of getting turned down, what are you gonna do to keep on moving forward?

I just know that I need to keep my portfolio in tip-top shape, so that means being very picky with the photographers that I work with or the creatives that I allow myself to work with because I know how I want to present myself. I think that's really key for models to understand. Always ask yourself "How are you trying to present yourself as a model? Not as a person. As a model." You wanna walk in the door and have people recognize that you model. You don't even have to say anything they can just feel it. I've had plenty of times where people in the street walk up to me and say "are you a model?" yes the fuck I am. "Are you signed?" No. That shocks them even more. So, going forward as an inspiring freelance model, im gonna continue doing the same thing im doing right now, and just elevate my pictures, elevate my wardrobe like, yo its a whole thing. You gotta work for this shit! it doesn't just come overnight.

Now that you're in a good space and you seem to know what path you're on, If you could say anything you want to all the people that ever doubted you in the past what would you say?

I'd tell them thank you. Thank you for saying all that bullshit. It inspired me to push even harder. I already wanted it and now you've just given me another reason to want it more.

"Im owning what I have, and then letting people appreciate that .. or not, and just not giving a fuck"



SHAHNILA

My name is Shahnila, I was born and raised in Montreal, Canada. My first language was french so I had to learn English and thankfully my mom spoke English so I learned through her. I moved to new york when I was fifteen, now I live in Connecticut, I go to school out here, im studying engineering and on the side, I model. But I also wanna start doing music.



What made you get into modeling?

Growing up I’ve always been slim but I wasn’t tall, people always told me I should try modeling but I never wanted to, because im only like 5’4. My mom is really short, and my dad’s family is really tall but I never got the tall side. I thought modeling was just about the really tall females, I used to watch America’s next top model and Victorias Secret shows and that’s all I saw. So I was very discouraged about the modeling idea until I got to college. My sophomore year, somebody saw me on Instagram and asked me if I wanted to do a photo shoot, and I said no I never did a photoshoot and im camera shy but he pushed me and my best friend pushed me to do it and that was my first photoshoot and after doing the shoot I realized that I really enjoyed being behind the camera. Me being camera shy forced me to tell a story through the camera and learn how to be in the moment. Getting into modeling, empowered me as a person.

What do you think the modeling industry needs more of and less of?

I think they need fewer rules because a lot of times I wanted to go to castings for runway it was always a minimum for females like height being 5’7 or 5’9. To me, it’s a shame because theres so many talented models who are petite and the average female is about 5’5. These modeling agencies have so many rules like you have to be this thin and this tall, and you have to be this experienced. However, I do like that it is getting more diverse, im starting to see plus-sized and petite models more. I want the modeling world to focus less on looks and more on realism like how people really look in general.

With you being a model, what has been your biggest challenges so far?

I feel like my biggest challenges are monetary wise. I don’t work full time because im in college as a full-time student, and whenever photographers hit me up for a shoot, a lot of times my money goes towards buying outfits and traveling back to new york which is really expensive. Overall, the financial side of being a model is expensive.

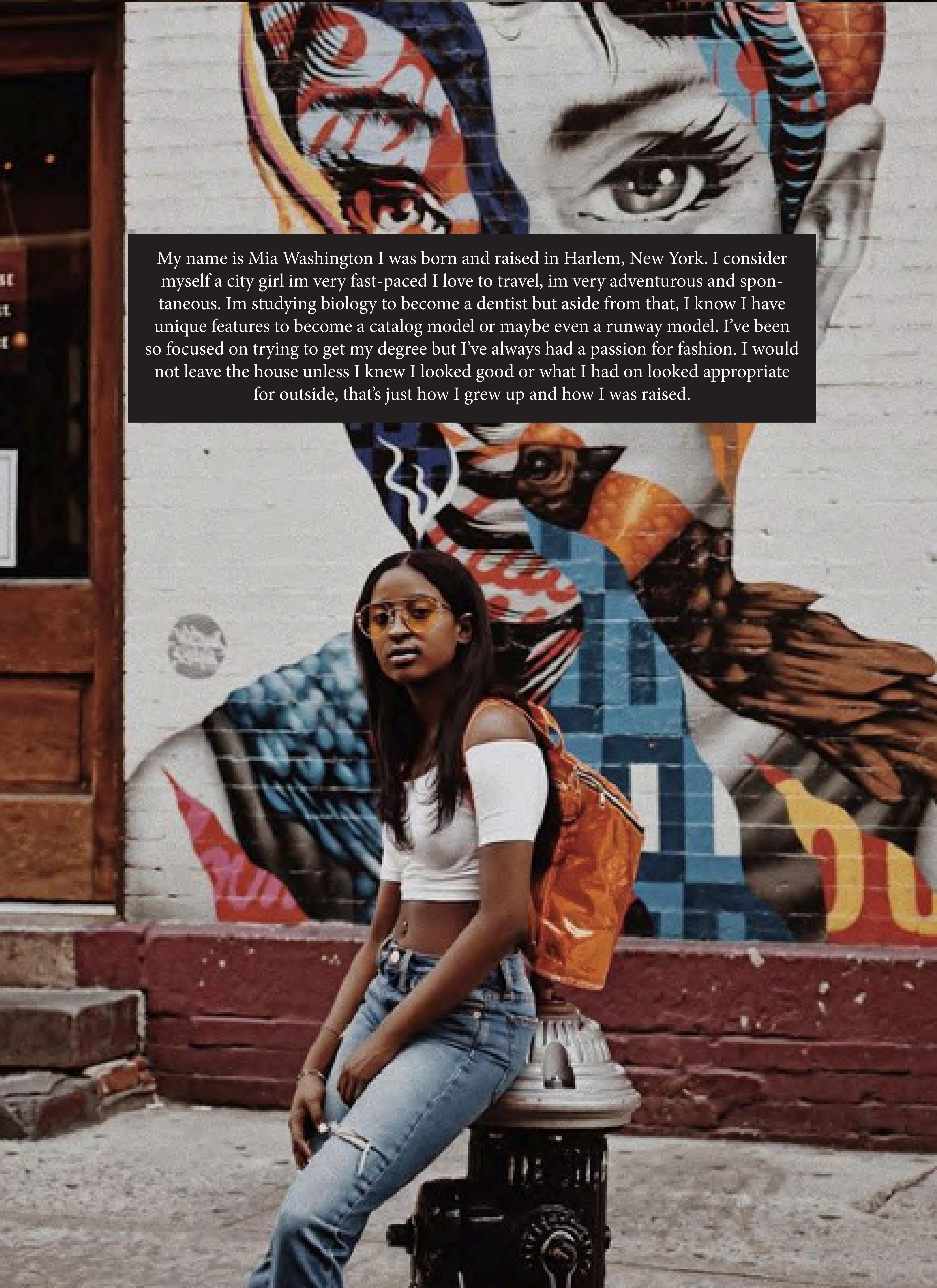
How do you plan on pushing yourself as a model?

So my next goal is to walk NYFW. I’ve always done fashion shows in college and when I was walking the runway I remember feeling so overwhelmed and I would walk too fast or wouldn’t pose. So I definitely need to do more runway. I also want to get into more video shoots, I’ve actually done 3 so far and I realized its completely different from taking pictures. You have to be in the moment, you have to know how to act, and it teaches you how to interact with other people while screening.

What’s your biggest inspiration?

My biggest inspiration is my mom. My dad hasn’t been there my entire life. There was a time where he had to leave for 10 years for personal reasons, so my mom raised us and she was very strict when I first told her I wanted to model. She’s like no, I want you to go to school, which I get because she had to quit school because she had me and my brother really young around her early 20s. Raising us she got us stuck with the idea that school is everything. When I showed her my first beauty shoot she was so happy at the results that now she’s been pushing me to model.





My name is Mia Washington I was born and raised in Harlem, New York. I consider myself a city girl im very fast-paced I love to travel, im very adventurous and spontaneous. Im studying biology to become a dentist but aside from that, I know I have unique features to become a catalog model or maybe even a runway model. I've been so focused on trying to get my degree but I've always had a passion for fashion. I would not leave the house unless I knew I looked good or what I had on looked appropriate for outside, that's just how I grew up and how I was raised.

MIA

What made you get into modeling in the first place?

It was the comments I used to receive from outsiders led me to actual castings and auditions and actually putting myself out there. But I think if it wasn't for other people telling me their opinions and viewpoints, I think I would've never pushed myself as far as I am now. I probably would've liked the idea of being a model but never do anything about it. What made it a passion was watching ANTM and wearing my mom's heels walking up and down the hallways with my cousins and we would just act like models. My mom would put all of us in a line and say work it girls and we'd just walk behind each other.

How do you plan on pushing yourself as a model?

Because of my height, I think it would be best for me to become a catalog model because you can alter pictures to make a model look way different than what she is. So I was thinking that I can just take advantage of photos, do more shoots, and increasing my portfolio while working with different photographers from all over. All it takes is for one person to notice you and give you a boost. I also have plans of becoming an entrepreneur and naturalist.

A lot of models today are big on feminism today, what's your take on it?

Im 100% for it. Im always about women empowerment, I can see a woman in the street that looks good and I'll compliment her. I think if women were to support each other more, there would be more positions for women in power, I truly think so. It's just the misogyny that goes around today, it's almost impossible for women to empower each other. It's just the way they portray things in the media, it doesn't help, and a lot of people are just brainwashed by white supremacy. As a young black woman that's really what it is, everything is black and white, everything is harder for black women. We have to go twice as hard even in the model industry.

There's tons of competition in this industry, in the future what's gonna make you stand out from other models?

My height, my personality, and my humor. I feel like I have this off the chain spontaneous humor that for a lot of people you have to really be on a certain awareness and realness in today's society to understand. That's what's gonna make me stand out the most.

What's your biggest inspiration?

The fact that I don't have the required height. I think that's what pushes me more to become a model, it's like to prove to myself you don't have to be standard, you don't have to have that requirement. You have the look, you have everything you need except one thing. Why let that stop you?





If you can send an empowering message to women around the world, what would you say?

“Live with no regret.

It happened yesterday .. so leave it there.

Continue forward.

Also, start living your life fearlessly!”





My name is Elizabeth and I was born in the Bronx after a few years I moved to Westchester. While attending hunter college in manhattan, I've met some models and friends who model for fun. I've been trying to build up my modeling portfolio for the past 6 months, maybe more. I also volunteer at a makeup academy and model for makeup artists.

Do you have any short and long term goals?

The short term right now its just finishing school, being well and meanwhile making friends that are doing the same as me in the entertainment industry. Whether that be photographers, filmmak-ers, or models. Just enjoying school, and meeting people because for me school isn't just about learning its also about networking. Going to school in manhattan there are so many opportunities at my fingertips. Long term, after I graduate I do wanna move to new york and I would love to have income by jobs, not just one specific 9-5 job. I see myself doing a mix of paid acting and/or working as an extra. As far as modeling, I really would love to reach out to companies on Instagram and other social media out-lets and have modeling on the side.

What inspires you?

When I go on Tumblr or even see ads for simplicity, im in-spired to just seek out that in my own life. Especially look-ing at white and neutral colors. As well as clothing and fashion in general, wearing and trying on clothes at a store for instance, I get so excited to just put an outfit together and go hang out with my friends. I love getting inspiration from some Instagrammers too.

What are some of your strengths as a model?

Relating to a photographer or even just the stylist on a personal level. I know there's obviously the professional aspect but when you vibe with someone's personality, you also vibe with their working style. Also, while im working I like to ask the photographer has in mind like what poses are you looking for and what types of mood are you going for? I never want to make all the decisions, I like to ask a lot of questions while shooting. Overall, communication is a strength for me.

What about your weaknesses?

I think for now my greatest weakness is posing. I know when I did a shoot with one of my friend we had differ-ent setups, locations, and lighting. I remember all of that time every time she snapped a picture it kinda forces you to think about what pose to do next. I found out that I was always in the same position or I didn't really know how to move. I think with time im definitely getting better.

ELIZABETH

What are you most passionate about?

I definitely know that acting is a dream for me. I would love to be in a movie, with tv shows I would take every opportunity I can get but I feel like for me I like watch-ing movies better than I like watching tv. For modeling, I would like to somehow become a fulltime model and work with ballgowns and more formal wear as well as jewelry. I just know for a fact I wouldn't do runway modeling be-cause im not tall enough and I don't I can walk in heels that well.





INTRODUCING ALBERTO

When did you first get into photography?

Im gonna say the sophomore year of high school, but it wasn't really my intention to be a photographer. I went to a school where we had to wear a uniform, so dress down day was the day that we were like yo get as fly as you can. I had a friend who had a rebel t3i and he would bring his camera on dress down day and take photos. It kinda started off like I wanna have the most HD photos on Instagram and have the flyest photos out there and then it kinda just grew out of curiosity. I would ask him questions like how do I make the background blurrier? How do I do this? How do I do that? Then after I started doing some research I ended up buying my own camera, a rebel T3i, you know team canon for life. I spent all my Christmas money on it and I just started shooting. It was just for fun at first, kinda like take some photos here and there, and do some photos for my friends. It turned serious when I got to college. My first photoshoot was for a fraternity, which was a favor because im like these are my friends I got you don't worry about it and I ended up getting paid for it and I wasn't expecting that. My sophomore year of college, Photography ended up being something I always turned to when I was going through a rough place mentally and I found a way to express myself, so senior year was the year I knew I wanted to do this full time as a professional.

Let's talk about your Instagram handle @zenial.pro, where did the name come from? What does it mean?

Well, zenial is my last name backward but zenial does have an actual definition but it's spelled with an x instead of a z. Xenial means to be your own boss and choose your own destiny. I kinda remixed it and put the z instead because I just always found that unique. I like the message behind the word, so I decided to take it on.

You recently got the chance to work with 24.oursstudios and intern there, how is it so far? What's it like?

I love it. Its been a dope experience, the environment is very welcoming, from day one they welcomed me with open arms. I didn't have to change the way I talk, I didn't have to be someone I wasn't to get the job, we were just vibing off each other during the interview. My first day on the job was definitely a little difficult because it was a lot of things happening, but once you get the hang of it, it's a dope experience and I've met some amazing creatives that are working on some cool projects. I've just been able to network with people because the studio is not strict in terms of trying to help their interns out. They expect us to get out there when we have people visit or when people are using the studio and we're assisting and kinda just get to know them, promote yourself, give out business cards, and network. All of that has been very beneficial for me.



I'm Alberto Lainez, 22 years old, Born and raised in Brooklyn. I recently graduated from Syracuse University and im currently an intern at 24:OURS Studio. My goal in life is to be a photographer, i wanna shoot for magazines and billboards and, eventually i do want to teach it as a professor. So imma do what i gotta do now, hustle and grind, and get the business stuff out the way so I can enjoy life further on down the line.





Where do you see yourself and your career in 5 years?

I see myself as a published photographer. I'm very confident that if I continue working hard doing what I have to do I would have no problems getting published. My goal in life is to become international and I've also been considering going back to school to get my masters in visual communication. I want to be busier, in terms of the work that I'm doing and how many clients I have and start my own team. My short term goal is to open up my own studio and start a nonprofit organization for the kids in my neighborhood. I wanna create a program where we're able to provide cameras to the kids and teach them how to edit photos and videos. Just give them an outlet for expression beyond being on the street and hanging out with people they shouldn't be hanging out with, and doing things they shouldn't be doing. Especially in the minority community, most of the issues are that we're so emotionally oppressed. It would be a great outlet for expression where they can do something positive with all the anger that they have or whatever their feeling and putting it into something bright.

So far what are some challenges you've encountered with photography?

The biggest challenge would be learning how to differentiate yourself from other photographers. Tryna find the niche where you're the best at like this is where I fit in as a photographer. Also definitely learning how to always stay motivated, I feel like a big thing photographers do is compare themselves to other photographers and im guilty of that too sometimes. That can be very unmotivating. Looking at a photographer like they're so amazing, and I wish I had the equipment they had. The biggest thing people need to realize is that it doesn't matter. That shouldn't be motivation for you to stop, it should be motivation for you to push harder.

Do you ever see yourself shooting with film?

I've always been a DSLR person, im always hooting digital, but I've been curious when people shoot film, I think its a really cool retro thing. At the same time its something I feel like I wouldn't do normally. I would give it a chance, I don't mind shooting film but for me where im most comfortable is digital. Definitely, in the future towards the end of my career, I would start shooting film because I want the whole photography experience.

What's your favorite subject to shoot?

I like to shoot people in their most natural form, other than that I take a lot of landscape shots. I like to take photos of things that look cool. I can be walking around and see something out the corner of my eye and say that would be a dope photo, so I'll just whip out my camera and just take a picture of it.

Who are some photographers that you admire?

My professor Gregory Heisler is one of my biggest idols. Im into people like Peter Mckinnon and this Instagrammer named Calop who does a lot of photoshop work as well.

Black and white or Color?

I've always been a color photographer but imma have to go with Black and White. I feel like B&W is such a simple form of photography yet such a very complicated thing to do in the same way. When you're just shooting B&W it's like how do I make this photo pop out? How do I make this photo interesting? But I like it because in a way it kinda oversimplifies the world. In that photo/frame it's like this is what I want you to see. I think they provide a different kind of aesthetic.

If you can take your art in any direction without the fear of failure or rejection, where would it lead?

Honestly, I want to create an atmosphere where we highlight everyday people. I feel like the people that we've grown so accustomed to and seeing in these magazines are celebrities or "models" but I feel like its a model in all of us. I kinda wanna move past just highlighting that there has to be a certain sense of who a person is in order for them to be a model and promote the idea that everybody should be able to have this opportunity. Everybody deserves to feel happiness in front of the lens.

Whats a piece of advice you can give to a new and upcoming photographer?

Ask questions. ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS.

What do you want your viewers to take away from your work?

Did I do a good job in invoking some type of emotion in you? Did I do a great job conveying what I wanted to show you? I always want people to have this hunger to see more so as long as a person wants to see me and emotion is involved, I feel like I did my job as a photographer.

KEVIN BAQUE

THE FUTURE KING OF STREETWEAR

Why did you get into modeling?

I remember being very young looking at TV and seeing all these things with people modeling and I was always intrigued by clothes. It all started with clothes. I loved the different kinds of designs I was like wow I would love to wear that. I always dreamed that someday I would be doing those things and being able to wear those clothes. That brought the inspiration of modeling itself, and later on, I was able to tie it to something that can be given more meaning which is showing clothing that has a certain meaning or message.

When did you know you wanted to take it seriously?

It all started once I modeled for my brother which was about 3 years ago, for a clothing brand he was creative directing for. He asked me like would you like to do this for me and it was a gift to me like of course, I would love to. The whole thing was just something I fell in love with and since then it's just been something I've been constantly trying to pursue?

Who and/or what inspires you?

It's definitely my brother, he's technically my half brother. We were apart for a long time, and one day he just decided to meet up and I kinda got to know his world and the things that he does, he's just such an amazing person. I found out his passion has always been streetwear. He's always focused more on finding meaning for it, giving back to the community, and focused on bringing back awareness. He uses his platform for that so he can raise that voice that missing.

What are some brands you would love to work with in the future?

For sure, PALACE and AWAKE NY.

You got a chance to model for OAMC, tell us about that experience.

I really fell in love with the actual clothing, it was just amazing being able to be in this different setting and just kind of capture this essence and capture the background and myself being apart of that it just showcasing the best features of the clothing, the creativity that went behind it was mind-blowing.

How do you plan on pushing yourself as a model?

I want to build more on my platform in a sense of Instagram, etc. Putting myself more out there, being active in the community, and being more involved. I wanna be more inclusive and take action. Also, meeting new people and build meaningful connections.

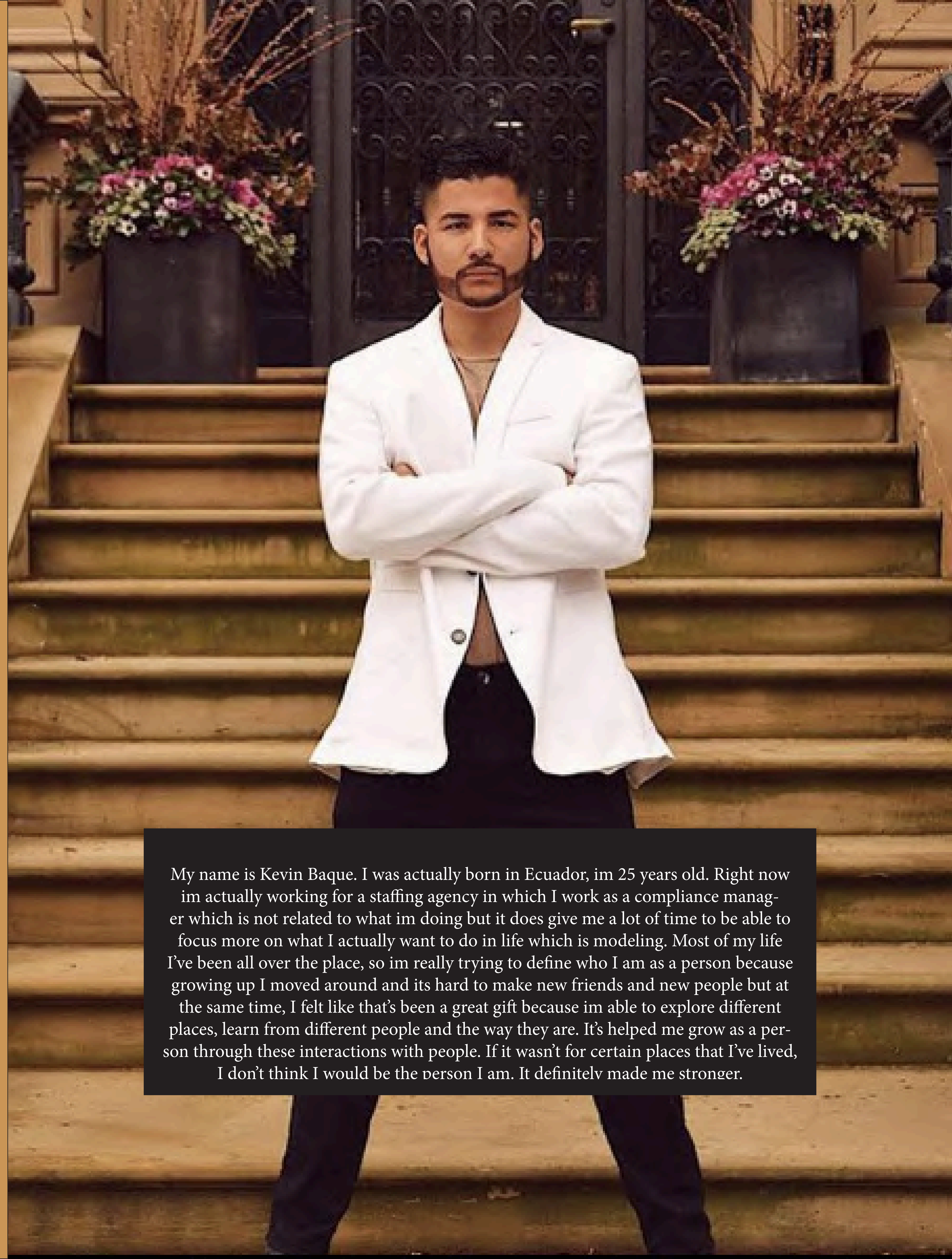
What are some of your goals right now?

I want to be able to at least break the industry by being a model for these brands. I definitely want to be a part of it and learn more. Modeling is kind of a short term goal because I have other aspirations as well. One day I want to create my own clothing line because I want to represent something that's really truthful to me.

How do you think you contribute to the youth culture? How would you want to?

By actually being a voice, especially inside of the streetwear community. The biggest thing for me is having an influence. Everyone is not gonna read the newspaper or something on the media. It has to be something that shows their interest so that way they can not only be able to be a part of it but to spread it as well. That's another reason why I love clothing because it's a statement that's on you and you're able to show that to whoever you come across. You can talk about it, it starts a conversation.

My name is Kevin Baque. I was actually born in Ecuador, im 25 years old. Right now im actually working for a staffing agency in which I work as a compliance manager which is not related to what im doing but it does give me a lot of time to be able to focus more on what I actually want to do in life which is modeling. Most of my life I've been all over the place, so im really trying to define who I am as a person because growing up I moved around and its hard to make new friends and new people but at the same time, I felt like that's been a great gift because im able to explore different places, learn from different people and the way they are. It's helped me grow as a person through these interactions with people. If it wasn't for certain places that I've lived, I don't think I would be the person I am. It definitely made me stronger.







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