

Modeling 101

- lesson 8 -

*working with
other artists*



This lesson is here to offer you the best experience when it comes to working with other artists on the set of a modeling gig. When you're on set, there will most likely be a few other passionate, creative people that comprise the photoshoot team. In this lesson, I will help you avoid some of the mistakes I made early on and give you the *best practices* passed down to me by my experienced mentors.

It's really important that you develop an understanding about the people that might be involved on set during a modeling gig and all the other people you might meet along the way. When you're in this industry, things can move pretty fast and who you know is **everything**.



Some of the people you'll see on a photoshoot include:

- ☆ photographers
- ☆ hair & makeup artists
- ☆ designers
- ☆ other models
- ☆ lots of other incredible people!

It's important to remember that **they are all hustling just as hard as you** and nobody wants to deal with complicated people. When you're on set you must **respect the vision** of the person who hired you. This might require you to be *flexible*. It's really helpful if you can keep a *positive attitude* and support your fellow artists in any way possible. It's important to remember **you all have the same goal**.

Look out for these fabulous people on the set:

Photographers

The photographer already has a lot of stress to deal with because they are ultimately responsible for the success of the photo shoot. You really want to build rapport and trust with them so you can give them those money shots! It's up to you to connect with the camera and contribute to the mood of the shoot. It might take a few minutes to catch the flow of each photographer you work with because everyone is different.



Some photographers will guide you and have a full-blown conversation while you're shooting and others might stay quiet and just let you do the posing. Photographers are also great resources because you can always work with them another time to build your portfolio or get more work in the future. Another way to foster relationships with photographers is to tag them in relevant posts on social media.



Makeup artists & Hair stylists

Working with professional makeup artists and hair stylists is always a good time! This is one of my favorite parts of a photoshoot. These are the people in charge of your look for the photoshoot, and you'll be spending a lot of time with them. They've probably been given instructions on how to make you look and how to create a mood, using your body & hair as a canvas. It's important not to assume that they are going to make you look like your ideal image of beauty. You did not hire them, your client did. You need to be flexible and open minded about the style or work that they create for you. If you don't like what they have done it's actually not important. The client wants what the client wants and it's your job to help serve that vision. Hair & makeup artists are also great resources! When you're building your portfolio these are great relationships to have, so you can continue to create and start some of your own projects. And same advice here about posting their work and tagging them on social media!



Designers

You can usually tell who the fashion designers are on set. They are going to be running around checking on everyone and everything. When you're on a fashion photo shoot, you will be the designer's display. They will want to fit the clothing on you until it is draped and hangs absolutely perfectly on the body. Don't give your personal opinion on the garments unless they ask. Designers take their work very seriously and put a lot of heart and soul into their designs. If you do share your opinion, be careful not to be disrespectful or offend anyone. Be prepared to stand around and have people measure you, tug your clothing, pin things on you, and make you change a million times. Some designers are known for their melodramatic behavior so don't be surprised if you meet a one who is super eccentric. Don't take anything personally because at the end of the day it is not about you. You were hired to be a magical part of their creation. They appreciate you even if this isn't evident at first. It's your job to make their creation come to life. Developing a friendship or forming some kind of connection with the designer can help to ease the stress of the photo shoot and create more of a relaxing atmosphere, but remember: that is not why you are there. Confidence and humility are key.



Other models

Working with other models can be so much fun! Be professional and kind to them. Modeling can be a very competitive business and it's not surprising to see other models responding to that pressure. It's important for you to stay true to who you are as a person because at the end of the day everyone is just trying to work and get paid. I've had the privilege of making a lot of great friends in the modeling industry. I think the plus size industry is much kinder than my experience in other fashion forums. Other models can be extremely helpful if they're willing to share advice and past experiences of their own. On set, you should build off the energy of the other models. Find a rhythm. In any circumstance, you should never make a scene with another model because it might lead to you getting fired or even worse. Keep your composure, stay polite, and remember why you're there!

Other people

Some photoshoots will have a director. You might also work with various crew members. Don't worry: you don't need to impress anybody. You just need to remain focused on your job. Focus on doing what your director wants you to do, and doing it well. Stay alert and confident even if you feel like you're not doing your best. If you're uncomfortable with certain gestures or movements that they've asked you to do, you can always respectfully decline. Depending on the style of shoot you're on, directors could be working for long days at a time so do not be surprised if they are temperamental. Keep your positive attitude and have fun! Directors (and everyone on set) will love that. ;)

self-reflection:

- ☆ *Are you comfortable taking directions from others?*
- ☆ *How can you foster and nurture new relationships in the industry when working on gigs?*
- ☆ *What are ways you can contribute to the success of your jobs when working with others?*

video resources

Tips for Working with Other Artists:
<https://youtu.be/A-AV3ZneXNM>