

The ultimate guide to the hottest beauty queens from all over the world

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GLOBAL

# ELITE QUEENS

NOVEMBER 2020

INTRODUCING  
**VINDY  
KREJCI**  
A QUEEN TO WATCH  
OUT FOR THIS YEAR

ONE ON ONE WITH  
**BRITTANY  
DICKSON**  
FIND OUT MORE  
ABOUT THE NEWLY  
CROWNED MISS  
EARTH AUSTRALIA 2020



INSIDE THE MIND OF  
**MONIQUE  
SHIPPEN**  
INTERVIEW WITH  
THE REIGNING MISS  
INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

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## GLOBAL ELITE QUEENS

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QUEENS



EDITOR'S NOTES

Unbelievably, we're already into the second half of 2020! Hitting the halfway mark in anything - a race, an assignment, the school year, a book, a fitness plan, even a meal - is usually the impetus to keep going. Thoughts of: "I'm halfway there, I can't stop now!" start going through your mind. It's a heady sensation and is great motivation to finish your goals. But what if you didn't start in the first place? What if those New Year's plans and resolutions never got off the ground? Well, get started now! There is nothing worse than looking back in frustration at those dreams that never came true just because of the simple reason where you NEVER TRIED. The journey to fulfilled hopes may be hard, but REGRET is a harder burden to carry every day. So, go ahead and emulate the beauty queens GEQ has had the privilege of meeting over the years. I guarantee that not one of them will tell you they begrudge the blood, sweat and tears it took to get them to where they are now. Don't wait, START, and get going!

Jenny A  
editor-in-chief



# EQUAL IMAGE SALON

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# MONIQUE SHIPPEN

Photography by Tony Palliser

Monique Charlotte Shippen is an Australian model, singer, songwriter and beauty pageant titleholder who was crowned Miss Earth Australia 2018 and represented Australia at the Miss Earth 2018 pageant. She also was crowned Miss International Australia 2019 and represented Australia at Miss International 2019.

Shippen was born and raised in Sydney, New South Wales and she started drama and dance lessons from the age of 4, keyboard at 8, private singing at 9 and self-taught guitar at 13. She sang in the St Mary's Cathedral Choir throughout high school, as well as the Monte Singers and College Choir at Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College.

At the age of 15, Shippen did a songwriting course with Erna Clark (former Australian Idol & XFactor vocal coach), where she co-wrote her first EP 'Not Guilty'. She returned to record a 10 track album 'Headache', at the age of 18, with music and lyrics written herself. Her debut single 'Electrifying' was released on iTunes and an official music video was released on YouTube. The debut single made the semi finalist list of Unsigned Only (2015, 2016) and the International Songwriting Competition (2016). She also toured in a Spice Girls Tribute Band called 'Viva Spice Girls' in 2014, where she played the role of Posh Spice.

Shippen obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Contemporary Music) from Macquarie University, a Certificate III in Early Childhood & Care and a Masters of Teaching (Secondary) Music at University of New South Wales. She is also a children's party entertainer and dresses up as princesses, superheroes and celebrities. GEQ Magazine recently caught up with Monique to discuss her journey in pageantry and here's what went down:

#### Can you tell us something about yourself?

I'm a singer, songwriter, teacher and children's party entertainer.

#### How were you actually 'discovered'?

As a singer, I entered eisteddfods every year from the age of 10-16. I also auditioned for a songwriting course with the former vocal coach of X Factor and Australian Idol when I was 15 and got selected, which eventually led me into recording my own album. As a pageant queen, I did my first community pageant "Miss Wow Blacktown" when I was 18 and won the title.

#### What are your favourite down time activities?

I live near the beach so I love going for walks. I also love discovering new nature walks. I love singing, arts and crafts too!

#### How did you start with beauty pageants?

I used to watch beauty pageants with my mum on the TV when I was little. When I turned 18, we heard about a community pageant and I decided to join. After such an amazing experience, I wanted to continue and join another one.

#### What do you like most about pageants?

Growing as a person, especially self confidence. I used to be shy

and seeing these confident women on TV inspired me. One of the best things is meeting amazing girls and working as a team for a cause. It's not just about the beauty, it's about the friendships and collaborating to make a difference in the world.

#### Downside to being a beauty queen?

There is no downside! There is big responsibility in being a role model and contributing to society - which can make you quite busy - but I love being busy. Being a public figure could be seen as a downside but I always look at the positives - which would be that it is a wonderful platform and opportunity to promote your causes or send a message to a large audience.

#### What has been the most memorable experience of your life as a pageant winner so far?

The most memorable would have to be coming to Japan to represent Australia and meeting women from over 80 countries around the world. The friendships are everything and I love hearing about everyone's causes, cultures and countries. It opens up your eyes to the world and I love to travel so I'm excited to have friends to visit on my next holiday! Working together is the biggest impact so it's great we can all be here together in the same place to "cheer all women".

#### You've been in the beauty pageant industry for a few years now, what has been the most valuable lesson you've learned. This can be about the industry or about yourself. Or both!

Even though in the end only one person will win the crown, the best thing is just to have fun, do the best you can, build relationships with the community and be passionate about your causes. If you just purely go in there to win, you will regret not making amazing memories with your pageant sisters.

#### Working in an industry whose only emphasis is on the outside characteristics of a person, how have you stayed grounded?

I have stayed grounded because I know if you feel confident and happy within yourself, your smile will radiate beauty and rub off onto others.

#### Is your family supportive of your career?

Extremely. They have always been supportive of my career as a musician, teacher and pageant title holder. They just want me to be happy with what I do in life, they are always there at my performances and give me support when things get really busy! It does get quite busy when I'm juggling three different jobs.

#### What are your future plans? Inside your career or out of it.

My future plans are to continue my advocacy as the reigning Miss International Australia - promote Ovarian Cancer awareness and Kindness In Action World Challenge. I am passionate about education and want to continue teaching children. If I had the opportunity to teach in other countries around the world, I would love to consider that. I also want to continue singing and writing songs - release some music very soon.



Photography by Dave Choo



Photography by Dave Choo

# SUSANA DOWNES

Susana Dawnes has always been a big fan of pageants but she didn't really get into them until back in 2015. After watching the Miss Philippines-Australia 2013 pageant, she thought she could do a pretty good job joining it, but she wanted to wait until she finished her Bachelor's Degree (which she eventually completed in 2014). She entered her first pageant, Miss Philippines-Australia in 2015 and ended up winning Miss Popularity and the Miss Charity Queen Australia title.

A driving force is what accentuates your resilience to remain committed through the hurdles of any given profession. Beauty pageantry is one highly competitive industry, hence it is not lacking in such hurdles. Susana's love for pageantry is her reason for her sticking to it through thick and thin. It's the opportunity to go on stage and express herself - passion and advocacy is her biggest take-home dividend.

Susana has admitted that she actually comes to understand herself through her struggles in pageantry. Her forte is her ability to get out of her comfort zone to develop herself, concerning the problem at hand. She keeps herself grounded by sticking to an amazing workout routine, eating clean and healthy food, and surrounding herself with supportive people that encourage her every day, like her parents, her partner, and friends.

Luckily, the Dawnes family has been nothing short of supportive for their daughter. Always providing her with the moral, physical, and financial support she needed especially during her early competitions.

Traveling the world as an international beauty queen has given Susana the opportunity to network with diverse people. This gives her the platform to meet new and amazing connections both locally and internationally. She has been able to form long term friendships out of these acquaintances which she is thankful for.

Susana Dawnes is definitely fast becoming a household name in the pageantry industry. This is due to the impact she has had on the global stage and her advocacy. We can't wait to see how Susana is going to use her platform to further promote her advocacy.

Photography by Dave Choo





Photography by Tony Palliser



Photography by Tony Palliser



Brittany Dickson is the recently crowned Miss Earth Australia 2020 and she's currently representing Australia at the Miss Earth 2020 virtual pageant. She stands 175 cm tall and she graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience majoring in Wildlife and Conservation with honours. Her goal in life is to work in wildlife conservation among legends like Sir David Attenborough and Jane Goodall.

Brittany is not a stranger to pageantry; in fact, she was part of Miss Earth Australia 2014 and was crowned Miss Earth Australia Air back in 2017. Last year, she was crowned Miss Charity Australia 2019 in the Miss Earth Australia pageant. True to her title, Brittany had volunteers her time for various wildlife groups and animal organisations such as the Animal Welfare League, the Save the Tasmanian Devil Organisation, and Greening Australia.

GEQ Magazine recently caught up with Brittany to discuss her journey in pageantry and here's what went down:

**Please tell us 3 fun facts about yourself.**

My name is Brittany Dickson, I'm 25 years old and I'm your Miss Earth Australia 2020. I like to spend a lot of time outdoors, cuddling my pet birds, and getting involved volunteering with the community.

**Tell us about your advocacy.**

My advocacy is all about wildlife conservation. I am an animal lover and feel so connected to all creatures great and small, so this is what comes naturally to me. Biodiversity loss is amongst the biggest environmental issues we are currently facing – biodiversity provides ecological life support, impacts our global economy, and has immeasurable cultural significance across the world. The amazing thing about working towards addressing biodiversity loss is that by doing so – we also contribute to reducing the impacts of other major environmental issues like climate change, ocean pollution, and waste management.

**Why did you decide to join Miss Earth Australia?**

I wanted an opportunity to reach a larger audience with the messages I was already living by. I saw it as a chance to grow, learn, and to leave my mark on the world. I joined Miss Earth because I know that there is so much more that can be done to benefit our Mother Earth. I was looking for the chance to lead by example, educate, inspire, and bring excitement back into conserving the beauty of our planet.

**Can you give a summary of your reign last year?**

Over the last year, I had the pleasure of being a part of clean up events, tree plantings, fundraising opportunities, and community events such as our recent COVID-19 food drives and the international women's day forum. I had an amazing time connecting with my sister queens across these various events and have made what I hope to be lifelong friendships where we can continue to work together to contribute to that positive change we want to see on the environment.

**What are you looking forward to this year?**

I'm looking forward to this year's international competition! It may be virtual but it's still such an amazing opportunity to project my message around the world for people to connect and resonate with. It'll also be a unique chance to showcase our country that we don't usually get to do apart from through the national costume. After the competition – I'd really love to visit the Great Barrier Reef to volunteer on reef restoration works and continue to get involved in plenty of other environmental initiatives around the country.

**Any other information you want to add about yourself?**

I'm absolutely honoured to be representing the land down under, my home – Australia. I hope I can make each and every one of you proud. Win or lose, I will forever be an eco angel and wildlife warrior working towards creating an earth that can be enjoyed for the many generations to come. I've proven my dedication and resilience and hope to have your support over this next whirlwind of a year ahead! Much love and thank you so much.



Photography by Tony Palliser

**BRITTANY**  
**DICKSON**



# GLAM NEPAL

Glam Nepal International is a global brand in the making in the world of fashion runways which aims to showcase the diverse and unique designs of Nepal. It gives the designers of Nepal wings through the Glam Nepal International network to conquer the global market via International exposure. The Revolution is from Australia itself. . . Will you join us?

Glam Nepal International also intends to produce role models as opposed to just merely supermodels who will be able to inspire the millennials to do better in life. The goal is to redefine the fashion industry - to shape it with role models and an eco-friendly clothing industry.

Furthermore, Glam Nepal International founder Deepak Gyawali aspires to take the runway show to different countries in order to exchange cultural values and religious tolerance bringing people together through fashion and lifestyle.





MAKE WAY FOR

*Abi*

GRIGSBY

Abi Grigsby, the beautiful, charming, and angelic model has established herself as one of the hardest-working models in the industry. She initially got into the modelling industry by entering beauty pageants. She first joined the Top Model of the World Philippines pageant back in July 2016 within 2 weeks' notice. The pageant needed a certain number in order for the competition to go ahead and she was contacted by the director of the pageant to join. She eventually became the second runner up, which shocked her as she had no previous experience at all in pageants so she wasn't even expecting to make it into the Top 5.

The following year she entered a pageant called "Mutya Ng Pilipinas Australia" (Pearl of Australia) beauty pageant. She gained a lot of exposure in the modelling industry by joining this pageant which lead her into me meeting the majority of the photographers that she now works with regularly. When she competed overseas she also gained several contacts with various modelling agencies and photographers over there and throughout 2017 she also competed in the Miss International Australia pageant where she finished as Second Runner Up, as well as winning the Miss Model of the World Title. Furthermore, she competed in the Miss Teen Universe Australia pageant in December of that year. All of these competitions lead her to meet so many creatives in the industry; photographers who were looking for fresh faces to shoot, as well as makeup artists who needed a model to work on for skill enhancements. Slowly, through these connections, she was able to build the network that she currently has.

GEQ magazine recently caught up with Abi to discuss her journey in the modelling industry and here's what went down:

**What do you like most about being a model?**

The thing I enjoy most about being a model would have to be the newfound confidence that I have gained over the years as a model. I was someone who really used to struggle with self-esteem issues, but it wasn't until I started modelling that I came to accept and be happy with how I look, and the person that I am.

I have also been fortunate enough to work with various creatives who each provided a different style for each shoot, which has given me the option to explore with different looks. I started modelling for Milliner's designs in late 2018, my first designer being Anna Bella Millinery, who is based in London. I modelled at the Melbourne Derby Day, showing off her dress designs and her hats with other models. I also modelled for Felicity Northeast Milliner for her spring collection in 2019, which was featured in Mornington Peninsula magazine.

I had never modelled such high-class designs before, so this experience itself really helped me feel comfortable in my own skin, and opened me up to another world!

**The Downside to being a model?**

The downside to being a model that I have encountered would have to be that people tend to make assumptions

"A lot of people will make assumptions about you based on your profession, but I try not to let this bother me and stay focused on what I want by working hard and not allowing room for distractions."

about you and your personality when you tell them that you're a model. I've had a lot of people tell me that they thought I'd be a snobby/conceited person because of the fact that I model, rather than taking the time to get to know me first.

A lot of people will make assumptions about you based on your profession, but I try not to let this bother me and stay focused on what I want by working hard and not allowing room for distractions.

Another downside is that many people who aren't in the industry assume that modelling is easy, or requires little to no effort at all. To be a model takes great perseverance and determination, as many models such as myself face constant rejection and negative comments about our appearance/body. It takes a lot of work to get into the industry, which is something that many people look over. It can get discouraging at times, but I find it's best for myself to always remind myself of the hard work I have gone through, and to realise that I don't owe everyone an explanation.

**What has been the most memorable experience of being in the modelling industry so far?**

Thinking back to when I started, I can't actually pinpoint an exact memory from modelling that has stuck with me. I've thoroughly enjoyed every step, but the most memorable experience of being in the modelling industry would have to be the whole experience that comes on the day of a photo shoot. I live an hour and a half away from Melbourne city, which is where the majority of my shoots takes place. I always enjoy the travel into the city, as well as travelling to where my photoshoots take place, as the majority of the time it is not at the same place. Aside from the travel, I do enjoy dressing up and getting glammed up for my shoots. I feel most like myself when I am dolled up and in front of the camera!

**Who have been the most interesting people you've met so far?**

I'd say the most interesting people I've met would have to be some of the photographers and makeup artists that I



meet while I'm on set. Many of the creatives that I work with are a lot like me, they often take up photography/makeup as a side job, rather than their full-time job. It's nice to meet people who are similar to you, and share similar interests while also working other jobs, and working incredibly hard so they are able to project themselves further in the industry.

**What has been the most valuable lesson you've learned while in the modelling industry?**

The most valuable lesson I have learned would be to not compare myself to others. Before I began modelling I never thought I would have a chance, as I compared myself to many other high profile models, such as Miranda Kerr. I always assumed that because I didn't look like these girls I saw in billboards and commercials that I wouldn't make it at all in the modelling world.

However as continued on and booked more jobs, I realised that every different look will serve a purpose for each job/photographer. There will always be someone out there who will need a look like yours for a certain job/promotion, so I've learned that I shouldn't bother worrying about looking like someone else when looking exactly the way you do is more than enough.

**Is your family supportive of you being a model?**

Yes, fortunately, my family is very supportive of my modelling! My mother wanted me to start modelling when I was 13, however, I had very little confidence back then and I was also very shy. I did not see myself as someone who could get far in the industry at all, and I also at the time had assumed that people would think of me as very conceited if I started modelling. I didn't have a very positive view of the modelling world, or of models themselves, which was a real deterrent for me at that time.

As the years went by and as I developed a love for beauty pageants, it also shifted my focus onto modeling, and it wasn't until I started my first few photoshoots that I really started to

enjoy what I was doing, and then made the decision to go as far as I possibly could in the industry.

**If you could go back in a time machine to the time when you were just getting started, what would you do differently?**

The main thing I would do differently would be to not jump at every opportunity that comes my way, no matter how big of a deal it may seem to be at first. I used to do this a lot when I first started in the industry, and I would just throw myself out to any opportunity that came my way, without thinking things through clearly. This resulted in a lot of waste of time and money for myself, as I was promised certain jobs would lead to very high exposure/good money, while actually resulting in none of that.

So if I could go back in time, I would tell myself not to rush things too much and to take it slow. Not every opportunity is what it claims to be, and when the time is right, the right opportunity will come!

**What is the best advice you have ever been given?**

The best advice I have ever been given is to take my time. Often I've been really impatient and have compared myself to others who have gotten further in the industry in a shorter amount of time. I'm fortunate to have a close group of friends who support me fully and encourage me to remain patient and on track, and who assure me that things will work in my way if I continue to remain focused and not be put off by others in any way.

**What are your future plans? Inside your career or out of it.**

My future plans are to travel overseas and to pick up both modeling and acting overseas. With the current Covid-19 situation, that will likely be put on hold for a while. My plan was to travel towards the end of this year for a few months and to then see if I could establish a career in a different country, but again, I will need to remain patient in my endeavours, and hopefully, things will be able to pick up for my career in the near future.







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# THE AUSTRALIAN GOLDEN SASH AWARDS

## AWARDS

The 2019 AGSA (Australian Golden Sash Awards) was spectacularly held on Saturday at the City Tattersalls Club, and hundreds of Australian beauty queens graced the prestigious red carpet much to the delight of keen photographers and various media personalities. The event was a joint collaboration between StarCentral Magazine and MS Events Group – wherein MS Events Group was the main producer of the event while StarCentral was the media partner.

The Australian Golden Sash Awards is a ceremony aimed at showcasing Australian beauty queens who have made the most outstanding contributions to the pageant industry during the year. This annual event is a first of its kind in Australia and in its inaugural year, the cream of the crop in the beauty pageant world attended the high profile industry event in their beautiful sashes and glittery crowns. If you want to find out who the winners and gridders were at the 2019 Australian Golden Sash Awards then here they are:

- Best Children's pageant of the year:** Follow your Dreams by Kylie Drew
- Best pageant dress company of the year:** Visage Boutique by Kim Cancellier
- Best pageant hairstylist of the year:** Celle Dionisio
- Best pageant makeup artist of the year:** Visi Carlyon
- Best pageant Photographer of the year:** Raymond Bartholomeusz
- Best pageant host of the year:** Jojo Sebastian
- Best Pageant of the year:** Miss Diamond Australia
- International queen of the year (20 and above):** Sue Turner
- International queen of the year (19 and below):** Emmy Gelardi-Bunyi

- Most Promising Newcomer of the year (20 and above):** Poonam Rani
- Most Promising Newcomer of the year (little Miss category):** Serenity Charles
- Most Promising Newcomer of the year (19 and below):** Summer Hogan
- Social media queen of the year:** Analize Bella Newton
- Miss Natural Beauty of the year:** Jasmine Grace Alessio
- Charity queen of the year:** Chantelle O'Donohoe
- Miss Photogenic of the year:** Henna Perez
- Pageant king of the year:** Jordan King
- Humanitarian of the year (little Miss category):** Rica Lee Calimag
- Humanitarian of the year (19 and below):** Kyla Sevilla Brack
- Humanitarian of the year (20 and above):** Nathalie Nicol
- Beauty Queen of the year (little miss category):** Ava Da Silva
- Beauty Queen of the year (19 and below):** Kaelyn Theresa Coker
- Beauty Queen of the year (20 and above):** Cora Bojarski
- Ultimate Role model of the year (little Miss category):** Ellie Bojarski
- Ultimate Role model of the year (19 and below):** Destiny Lyons
- Ultimate Role model of the year (20 and above):** Robbie Canner



Meet the winners and gridders from the 2019 Australian Golden Sash Awards



Photographer AMAN SHRESITHA



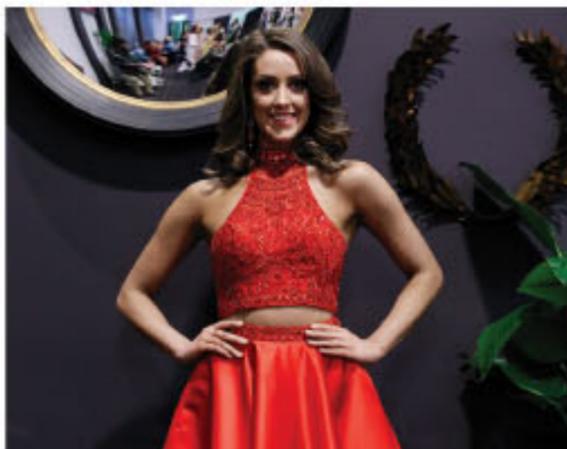


The 2019 Australian Golden Sash Awards was held at the City Tattersalls Club - the 2020 Australian Golden Sash Awards will be held at the Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport.





The Australian Golden Sash Awards is a ceremony aimed at showcasing Australian beauty queens who have made the most outstanding contributions to the pageant industry during the year.



# TOP TEN famous FASHION MYTHS

By: Jase Hernandez

Is your wardrobe ready for 2021? In case you haven't heard yet, flattering our body through the trendiest and stylish clothes is a full-time job. It requires a sophisticated sense and a smart discernment to know what fits our style otherwise, you'd be a full-fledged fashion disaster trapped in an awkward and highly-outdated collection!

Inexplicably, fashion has been a reflection of women's empowerment and equality. We have Tory Burch, Donatella Versace, and Coco Chanel whose names are all hailed in the glittery world of fashion. The truth is, as much as it holds a glamorous and powerful impression, dressing up in trends can sometimes be daunting especially if you are haunted by the enormity of misconceptions that might salvage your way towards dreamy couture and elegance.

As the end of the year kicks in, let's take a fashionable glimpse at the most popular fashion statements that we might be holding on to for years.

## 1. Black makes you look skinny

Is your diet fooling you around? Because your pretty black dress won't. It is a well-founded truth that black makes women appear slimmer due to its ability to hide body outlines in the background and it can easily make flabs and folds of fats disappear.

## 2. Maxi dresses won't suit Petites

This one absolutely holds no truth. Maxi dresses in summer are great and anyone regardless of height and weight can definitely pull this off so long as you know your body frame and shape. You should know your ideal length and wear it!

## 3. Denim on denim

Well, time changes. What might look unfashionable years ago may appear trendy in the age where anything can be styled and enhanced. Denim on denim may be a brave fashion statement but really it's just a matter of elegantly mixing colours and design.

## 4. Sequins all day and night

Due to sequins' highly-stylish nature, many deemed that it can only be worn at night but as fashion evolves, sequins are, in fact, a great piece to wear any time of the day since they give a huge eye-catching factor.

## 5. Tall women should avoid high heels

Fashion icons know that high heels can make legs look great. Women gifted with height should not shy away from wearing heels as these complete a classy glam-up look.

## 6. Too many bold colours are too much

Like the comeback of vintage styles, mixing bold colours more than once is considered fashionable. Figure your body like a canvass waiting to be painted on. Combining different hues, either bold or bright can launch a push take on your wardrobe.

## 7. Open-toed shoes and stockings do not go well together

Some might still argue on this but wearing stockings with open-toed shoes or sandals may appear really inelegant.

## 8. Horizontal stripes can make you appear bigger

Stripes are actually one of the famous prints that can turn your fashion look in an impressive direction. Choose stripes that are fitted well to your body and the ones that highlight your assets.

## 9. Your shoes, purse, and belt should match each other

Honestly, who bothers adhering to this fashion rule anymore? The tip is to find these accessories in the same colour family and make them complement your outfit.

## 10. Wear the real you

This, in fact, is the biggest truth in fashion. While following trends and styles may be fun and exciting, your taste should not be dictated by other's views of it. Dress according to your personality and be proud of it.



# INTRODUCING VINDY KREJČI

Vindy is a half Vietnamese and half Czech model who's currently based in the Czech Republic. She won the title Miss Karkulka Mácha in 2015, she placed 3rd runner up in the Miss Caddy 2014 pageant and she also placed top 10 in the national beauty pageant, Miss Czech Republic.

Vindy Krejčí initially never had any plans of becoming a model, but when opportunity knocked on her door – she decided to take a chance and now she couldn't be happier with her decision. Vindy is a half Vietnamese and half Czech model who's currently based in the Czech Republic. She was fifteen when she appeared in her first fashion show and she loved the experience so much that she went on to appear in more fashion shows. Besides modeling, Vindy has also done quite well in the pageant world, she won the title Miss Karkulka Mácha in 2015, she placed 3rd runner up in the Miss Caddy 2014 pageant and she also placed top 10 in the national beauty pageant, Miss Czech Republic. GEQ Magazine recently caught up with Vindy to discuss her journey in the modeling industry and here's what went down:

#### **Tell us your name and something about yourself?**

My name is Vindy Krejčí, I'm 22 years old and I'm based in the Czech Republic, where I've lived all my life. I'm half Vietnamese and half Czech and I'm currently studying in university. In the year 2014, I started building my modeling portfolio, I was 16 years old at the time. I was working with a few modeling agencies, however, I was still a freelancer. I've never dreamt about becoming a model, it just happened and now I really love my job. To be around creative people and watch how they make something amazing together is great! But I knew it's a time-limited business and I wanted to also focus on building my skills and experiences in various fields. As time went I eventually got an offer to work in modeling and production agency called FA FASHIONABLE. I also took part in several beauty pageants in my country where I was fortunate enough to have had success. I won the Miss Karkulka Mácha 2015 pageant and I placed 3rd runner up in Miss Caddy 2014. In 2016, I placed top 10 in the national beauty pageant, Miss Czech Republic. In 2017 I got an offer to represent Vietnam in an international beauty pageant called Miss Global 2017. Regardless of my height, I placed in the top 20 and won the title Miss Global Photogenic.

#### **What does it mean to you to be a model?**

Opportunity. Being a model is flexible – it gives me freedom. What I like the most about being a model is that each project is different. Different styling, different visage, another team of incredibly creative people. I enjoy it every time I get a new transformation. On this basis, I present the "personality" they have created from me. I also enjoy the opportunity to travel and work with people from all over the world.



**What do you think is the biggest challenge to modeling?**

I would say that anyone who wants to get into modeling must be durable, have healthy self-esteem and be balanced with him/herself. He or she needs to be able to handle stress and have thick skin. I think "commercial" models have it a little easier than fashion models. Their magic is made up of their entire personality, their face, and their character. And so they can be forgiven a few centimeters at the waist for example.

**Have you always wanted to be in the modeling industry?**

No, not really. As a child, I heard negative things about the modeling industry. But when I was fifteen and I appeared in my first fashion show, I started to think differently. When I did my first catwalk, I suddenly had the urge to join more shows. I eventually met an amazing, creative man who motivated me with his story and personality. Today he is my future fiance. Luděk Šmehlík.

**What's your personal mission in life?**

To be a role model for my children and other women. I'm not a feminist, I'm not a careerist, and I'm not a housewife either – I'm a bit of everything. We women are very capable, hardworking and imaginative. Our empathy and intuition make us unique. And I admire every woman who can do what she loves and follow her heart.

**What has been the most memorable experience of your career so far?**

The most memorable experience of my career was participating in the international beauty pageant, Miss Global in Cambodia. It was in 2017 and since I was half Vietnamese, I represented Vietnam. I was truly honoured to represent one of my nationalities. There were over 60 finalists from all over the world and the organisers took great care of us. I didn't see it as a competition, I saw it more like an experience. I was myself and it paid off. I won Miss Global Photogenic and ranked among the top 20.

**Who have been the most interesting people you've met so far?**

Definitely my man! There's also pageant coach Mommy G and choreographer Chieko Hidaka, whom I met in Miss Global. Their personal charm is unreal. Both were strict but very cordial at the same time. I'm very grateful for all the help they gave me.

**What are your future plans?**

It may sound a little lax, but so far, it has always worked out even though I never planned anything. So I just want to let things flow.



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