

TEEN MODELS

Many teenagers dream of becoming models. They imagine a glamorous life full of fame and fortune. But what is modelling really like for the teens of the catwalk?

British supermodel Kate Moss was “discovered” when she was just 14. She was signed by an agency but she was not allowed to start working full-time until she was 16. Nowadays models start working as young as 12. Many people say this is too young.

What are the dangers for young models? Once a teen starts mixing with other people there is pressure on the young models act older than they are. They are often exposed to drink and drugs at an early age. They work long hours and often eat badly because they are afraid of putting on weight. They often work and consequently fall behind in their studies.

Why are teenage models so popular? Designers like young models because they say that their clothes “hang” better on their thin frames. There is a lot of competition in the fashion world to be the first to discover a new trend or model. Agencies are constantly scouting for young models who will become the next Naomi Campbell or Kate Moss.

Studies have shown that eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia are mental illnesses. They are not caused by the current trend for skinny underage models. However the culture of skinniness makes it more difficult for anorexics and bulimics to recover. Models and actresses are thinner that they have ever been. Being thin is often seen as being successful and loved. This is a very dangerous message to give to people suffering from eating disorders.

Jodie Kid became famous for being thin. She started modelling when she was 14. People hated her for her thinness, and that was scary for her. Three years ago, she decided it was time to take a break. She knew that she was too thin, but she was also getting really sour and really jaded. During her brake from the fashion world she put on 15 kilos and is now slim rather than skinny. Jodie returned to the catwalk two years ago with a new attitude. She looks much better now and she knows it. Before, she thought everyone hated her when they looked at her. She really enjoys the catwalk now.

The British government asked fashion magazines to stop using unhealthily thin models and to encourage models with more “normal” body shapes and sizes. I think that super models don’t take away young people self-esteem and confidence. We just see another world, world of skinny modelling and beautiful clothes.

I really like this article because I like watching models and it is nice to know something about them. I think that it’s not easy being a model.

REFERENCE: Sure (November 2003)

GLOSSARY:

catwalk (noun): narrow stage where models walk

consequently (adv.): as a result

eating disorder (noun): illness caused by bad eating habits

expose to (verb): to put someone in a situation that may be harmful or dangerous

fall behind (phr. verb): to not finish something by the time you are supposed to

fortune (noun): a lot of money and luck

frame (noun): the shape of somebody's body

jaded (adj.): exhausted

mix with (verb): meeting and talking to other people, especially people you don't know very well

mental illness (noun): illnesses affecting the mind

scout for (verb): to look for something

skinny (adj.): a skinny person is too thin

self-esteem (noun): self-respect, self-confidence