

Ask around before you sign with *anyone* to find out whether they have a good reputation in the business. Try to get references from others that the agent or manager has represented in the past.

- Few people enrolled at modeling schools, or a scam agency, know about "open calls" at modeling agencies. At least once a week, model managers and agents have an open call -- a day, or maybe a few hours, when they look over people off the street who want to know if they have a chance. Open calls are great places to start, because you will get free evaluations by experienced agents. Prospective models are required to bring a few snapshots and have measurements taken in a bodysuit.

Talent agencies are listed gratis in publications like Backstage Magazine, "Ross Reports", "Madison Avenue Handbook", and the "New York City Model Agency Directory". To learn about which talent agencies are reputable and what types of services they offer, read The New York Agent Book, by K. Callan, 3rd edition, Sweden Press, Studio City CA.

- Don't respond to subway, bus or classified ads that promise modeling and acting jobs for people with no experience, of all ages and sizes, etc. They are come-ons.

### **Tips on getting pictures and portfolios**

- Before actually looking for work, aspiring models and actors need professional test shots. No reputable modeling or talent agency will charge you for test shots. The agency may recommend a photographer, but you should be under no obligation to work with any particular person. You should pay photographers for film expenses and that's all. Get the names of several photographers and review their work before choosing one. If an agent strongly pushes you to work with a particular person, be wary.
- Adults starting out *should* not waste money on portfolio shoots. Portfolios are built over time, as you get jobs.

### **Tips on print books and videos**

- If you want your pictures and resume in a print book, do some investigating first. Find out who gets the book, then call them to see *how* much they actually use it. Ask the publishers how they market the book, and if they have working relationships with agents and casting directors. Try to get their names and do the fact checking yourself.