

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME:

Five Beauties Defy Traditional Model Stereotypes — JILL JOHNSON



LANOLIN TROWER

"I always wanted to model, but I felt that I wasn't thin enough," says 20-year-old Lanolin Trower.

Her mother heard about the Wilhelmina Model Search and encouraged her daughter, who is 5'9" and a size 12, to submit a photo. "The weekend in New York was such a nice introduction to a modeling career," says Lanolin. "I was nervous about the fashion show, but once I got out there I loved it! And I loved all the girls."

Lanolin, a sophomore, is a Douglas scholar in Rutgers University's honors program in New Jersey. She plans to balance school with modeling.

grace is thrilled to give these five gorgeous women a slice of the limelight by sharing not only the beauty which makes them winning contestants, but also the full lives which make them winning role models. And now agencies and clients are looking for something different: women with curves; women who represent real people. The Wilhelmina Model Search seeks size-10+ women—confident, radiant, healthy women who can wear a pair of heels without looking like they stole them from Mom's closet. Wilhelmina received over 10,000 photo submissions from would-be Kate Dillons across North America in the fourth annual search, and 30 finalists were brought to New York City to compete. After interviewing the contestants and viewing them in an INC Woman fashion show at Macy's Herald Square, the judges — including Wilhelmina agents, model Mia Tyler, and fashion photographer Doug Bizzaro — faced the challenge of picking the five winners — Congratulations Ladies!

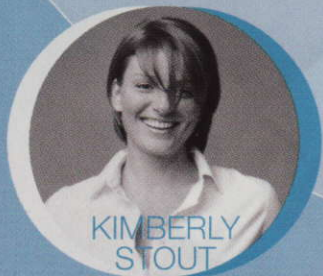


LAURA HUMPHREY

At age 22, Laura Humphrey is one of the babies of the group. "I tried to model from age 14 to 16, but I couldn't fight with my size any longer," explains Laura, who is now a size 14. "When I heard about plus-size modeling and Wilhelmina's Ten/20 division, I decided to try again." Laura is the tallest of the winners, standing over 5'11" tall.

When she heard her name called Laura says, "I felt blessed because there were a lot of beautiful girls and I've tried so hard to get into the industry."

A speech pathology major, Laura will graduate from the University of South Florida at the end of the summer.



KIMBERLY STOUT

At 5'9" Kimberly Stout always had the height for modeling. "I modeled when I was younger, but when I got more curvy, clients would ask me to lose ten pounds in a week to fit into an outfit — it just wasn't healthy to try to be a size that my body didn't want to be," says Kimberly.

She moved on to a musical theater career in New York, where she landed a role in the national tour of *Annie*, but only after losing 20 pounds to get the part. When she was chosen as a winner in the model search, Kimberly finally felt "very healthy: To finally be accepted as a size 12 is very healing for me."

"I want to model on the side for fun and also as a way to celebrate my body."



TRACY CALHOUN

Tracy Calhoun is a mother of two. The 5'10" L.A. native modeled in her hometown as well as overseas from '90 to '95.

"I gained a little too much weight and Elite (agency) was no longer interested in a girl like me!" Tracy, size 10-12, says with a chuckle. She was thrilled to bond with 29 new friends during the weekend in New York.

"It was so nice to be around all these women who were all dressed so sexy and loved their bodies. I didn't really care about winning, it was just so special to go to lunch and eat and talk with these confident women and learn to appreciate my body. Winning was the icing on the cake."

4TH PLACE:
\$5,000 MODELING CONTRACT



CASEY MCCABE

Of Philippino and Irish-American heritage, 27-year-old Casey McCabe used to think the modeling world had no place for her ethnic look and size-12, 5'9" frame.

"I thought, I'm not white, I'm not skinny; there isn't a market for me." She was "astounded" when she was chosen as a winner. "I couldn't believe it," she says, "I had pretty much given up."

Casey, a University of Rochester grad, hasn't modeled before, but she's ready to pursue her modeling career full time in New York. "I'm really excited. There aren't a lot of Philipinos out there. I want to give younger girls exposure to a different type of beauty—people who look real."

2ND PLACE: \$15,000 MODELING CONTRACT

5TH PLACE: \$5,000 MODELING CONTRACT

GRAND PRIZE WINNER: \$30,000 MODELING CONTRACT

3RD PLACE: \$10,000 MODELING CONTRACT

STYLIST: JACKIE CADDICK; HAIR: YOSHIO FOR ARTMIX; MAKEUP: LANDY DEAN FOR VINCENT LONGO N.Y.

WILHELMINA • GRACE

MODEL SEARCH 2002



Wilhelmina "It Girl" Mia Tyler with the 2001 winners.

Now that the 2001 model search winners are out of the gates and racing toward cover girl status, it's time to start thinking about next year's contest and YOUR chance to be a star.


"The contest is a great way for new talent to find their way into the market very economically," says Wilhelmina owner Dieter Esch. Contestants need only send a snapshot (see the sidebar for tips) and a processing fee of \$20, which is nominal considering the earning potential of the winners.


"Top full-figured models can pull in six figures," says Susan Georget, director of Wilhelmina's Ten/20 division, which represents about 60 curvaceous beauties. "Last year's winner, Rachel Thomas, has been the Tommy Hilfiger girl for two seasons in a row," comments Georget, "and Jordan Tesfay, a winner two years ago, is one of my top earners. Every year the winners are getting more and more work."

This is not surprising, considering how the market for more voluptuous women has grown—just as Esch predicted back in 1991 when he launched Wilhelmina's Ten/20 division. "Wilhelmina was the first agency to launch a plus-size division, and the market has been growing from the first day—even in a bad year like last year," says Esch.

"There's a trend toward using more voluptuous models—it's cool to be full, to have a curve," says Georget. "There's such an expanse of clientele (Lane Bryant, Liz Claiborne, Playtex, German catalogs, English clients . . .) looking for such a range of sizes (from size 10 to size 20) and ages (from new faces to women in their 40s) that the full-figured model has always had a longer career span than a straight-size model," adds Georget, who fills

some of this demand with the model search winners that land Wilhelmina modeling contracts of up to \$30,000!

The Wilhelmina • Grace Model Search is open to women age 15 and up (as of Nov. 30, 2002), and size 10 and up only. All photo submissions, which should be post-marked by November 14 and received by November 29, 2002, will be reviewed by Wilhelmina agents and 30 finalists (ten from each of three age categories: 15–21, 22–29, 30+) will receive all-expense-paid trip to New York City next February for the finals. Contestants can enter as many times as they like, with a separate entry form, photo, and processing fee with each submission. 

For the price of a roll of film and a few million-dollar smiles, you could be on your way to the Big Apple and supermodel fame! 

PICTURE PERFECT

Photo Submission Tips

from Contest Director Stephanie Coughlan

The photo you submit should:

- be no smaller than 3" x 4" and no larger than 8" x 10".
- be an original photo or a Polaroid.
- be color or black-and-white.
- not be a slide, transparency or photocopy.
- have the entrant's name printed legibly on the back.
- be good quality and in focus, but professional photos are NOT necessary.
- be shot in good lighting and clearly show your face (but doesn't have to be a headshot).
- highlight your best features and your personality.
- not show you in too much makeup or in inappropriate clothing.
- show you in your favorite color/outfit/top—something that makes you feel comfortable.

Judges look for good hair and skin and a model who is comfortable in front of the camera. A proportional body, regardless of size, is a real bonus.

Says Ms. Georget, "It all comes back to the same thing: a good positive attitude, a security with your body and how you are always translates to a winner."

Go to gracestyle.com to enter