

[Back to your search results](#) | [Return to the search page](#) | [Printer Friendly version](#)

Archive Search Result

MTV PEERS INTO LIFE OF YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL

DANIEL CHANG, dchang@MiamiHerald.com

PUBLICATION: Miami Herald, The (FL)

SECTION: Front

DATE: February 21, 2006

EDITION: Final

Page: 1A

Don't hate them because they're young and beautiful and pay no rent on their oceanfront townhomes.

Life can be rough for the wannabe supermodels of MTV's newest reality show, 8th & Ocean. Shot on location in South Beach, the show debuts on March 7 and promises to reveal the real lives of 10 fashion models - warts and all.

Gathered in a town house at the Shelborne Hotel, where they lived during the two-month shoot, the models bristled that the world has long made unfair assumptions about their profession, their lifestyles and their intellect. And they're hoping 8th & Ocean will set the record straight.

``People automatically think when they see [models] in pictures, 'Wow, that's hot.' But it's not," said Britt, the fresh-faced Kansas girl who, adhering to MTV policy, would divulge only her first name. ``Modeling is hard work. We get up early. It's not the '80s. We're not out there partying. It's not just standing there. There's production and lighting. . . . It's a lot like acting."

Who knew?

Apparently, not many people, said former model and South Beach talent agency empress Irene Marie, who counsels the aspiring supermodels through the peaks and pitfalls of their careers.

WHAT IT'S LIKE

``I don't think there's any show that realistically shows to the general public what is the life of a model," Marie said. ``This is truthfully what happens everyday in a model's life. What is the relationship between a model and a booker? What is a booker? What is it like for a model, being paid, to be on a set and do her job? What is it like for a model to go on auditions, try out for a job and not get it? What are the challenges?"

On South Beach, Marie said, there are many: too much nightlife, drugs and bad characters. Then there's the bane of many a youth - a lazy work ethic.

``There are some young adults who deal very well with that and some others who don't," she said.

But it wasn't this bubbling cauldron of temptations alone that lured producers to South Beach.

``It's got visual beauty. The architecture is so different," producer Tony DiSanto said. ``The people, the feel, the Latino flavor, all of that comes across, and it's such an important part of this world and this story that we're trying to tell."

It was also important for DiSanto that 8th & Ocean not look like just another reality show. A producer for MTV's Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County, which documented the lives of a clique of privileged Southern California high schoolers, DiSanto said MTV wanted to give 8th & Ocean the same unscripted, cinematic treatment.

``We moved away from documentary storytelling devices like confessionals and voice-overs," he said. ``We wanted to make it seem like you're eavesdropping on conversations and peering into this world in a sort of voyeuristic way."

Don't let the allusion to voyeurism fool you, though. For those with unsavory expectations, 19-year-old Britt throws cold water on them: ``We're not in lingerie having pillow fights," she said.

And unlike Tyra Banks' America's Next Top Model, a reality show where models compete for contracts, 8th & Ocean is not a contest. No one is subjected to the rantings of an egomaniacal host. No one is voted off. And no one is forced to eat animal innards or otherwise endure humiliation for fame or fortune.

So what exactly is there to see on 8th & Ocean? Without so much as a pilot, The Miami Herald can't say. But the models assure MTV fans it will be an engaging half hour of TV.

WHY WATCH?

``I think a lot of people when they start to watch are going to be, `OK, why are we watching these chicks?' " said Kelly, whose sibling rivalry with twin sister Sabrina is certain to be a persistent thread in the story, MTV publicists said.

``Like, when I first started watching Laguna Beach, I was like, `Yeah, these rich, cute kids from California. What am I going to find interesting?' " said Kelly, a native of St. Petersburg. ``But I really think in each episode [of 8th & Ocean] there's going to be something very connecting in each character."

Unfortunately, it appears that some of the most dramatic moments in these models' lives won't be documented because they happened in the past.

``The worst part of this career is the beginning," said Vinci, 23, whom MTV publicists describe as a `` Puerto Rican heartthrob."

``I call it The Black Moment," Vinci said. ``You're broke. You're hungry. You're not going to ask for money from your parents. You're suffering..."

``That was my beginning."

Now, Vinci is awash in the glow of flash bulbs.

``Everybody gets jobs here," he said.

Maybe. But Marie cautions that aspiring models should not be fooled by the illusory ``glamour" of the modeling life.

Her hope is that 8th & Ocean will encourage young wannabes to search deep within and ask whether they have what it takes.

If not, then Marie hopes to at least get a little piece of the action.

``Hopefully, they will question themselves more," Marie mused, ``cause they're going to see what these kids have to deal with and what they have to do.

``And then what will they do? They'll contact Irene Marie."

Meet the models of MTV's newest reality show, 8th & Ocean. The show, shot on location in South Beach, premieres at 10:30 p.m. March 7.

Britt, 19

A fresh-faced girl from Kansas and daughter of a preacher, Britt has led a fairly sheltered life. Will her wide-eyed curiosity and the tempting scene in Miami Beach lure this innocent beauty into trouble?

Kelly, 21

She often outshines her twin sister Sabrina, nabbing all the high-profile modeling gigs and causing tension by unabashedly bragging about her success.

Sabrina, 21

Although she's very competitive, Sabrina is clearly the underdog twin. She lacks the confidence to gain the big-paying jobs. Will she ever be able to come out from her sister's shadow?

Tracie, 25

The senior model of the bunch, with more than eight years experience, is watching her career slow down; bookings are now few and far between. Will she be able to hang or will the new crop steal her thunder?

Briana, 21

This Navy brat has a tough exterior but is gentle and kind under it all. Her worldly experiences are a benefit. She carries herself with confidence and sex appeal that helps her book gigs almost every time.

Talesha, 24

Strong, confident and outspoken, she's the first to start an argument. She's not just beautiful to look at; she also has a stunning voice and would love to juggle careers in modeling and singing.

Adrian, 19

Born in Santiago, Chile, and raised in Miami, Adrian's favorite job-related perk can be summed up in a word: women. He loves to use his charm to woo the ladies.

Vinci, 23

This Puerto Rican heartthrob's smooth ways are constantly getting him in trouble with the ladies. And his lazy work ethic causes problems with the bookers.

Teddy, 19

A native of Youngstown, N.Y., all he has to do is flash those baby blues and the girls flock to him.

Sean, 24

This fun-loving native of England loves the life of a model and takes full advantage.

- Source: MTV

MiamiHerald.com: To view a photo gallery of the models participating in MTV's reality show, click on today's extras

Caption: CHUCK FADELY/MIAMI HERALD STAFF MODELING WORLD: The cast of MTV's new reality show, 8th & Ocean, which debuts March 7, gathers around South Beach talent agency empress Irene Marie, left, Tuesday for a photo shoot for the show.

CHUCK FADELY/MIAMI HERALD STAFF RISE TO FAME: The cast of MTV's 8th & Ocean gets ready for a photo shoot Tuesday. The show, shot on South Beach, hopes to reveal the real lives of models.