

MODELS OF DIVERSITY

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WIMBLEDON SUSTAINABLE FASHION WEEK

Models of Diversity had the amazing opportunity to be a part of London Sustainable Fashion Week on the weekend of the 17th September.

In collaboration with some incredible designers and organisations, the event was full to the brim with workshops, catwalks, pop up stalls, and inspiring talks.

Marina and Denisa, founders of hosts Go Inspire, said they've been imagining this event for quite some time, and I'm sure it lived up to their expectations!

You can follow them at [@goinspire.wimbledon](https://www.instagram.com/goinspire.wimbledon)

We spoke to MoD models, fashion designers Diana Goldie and Dani Hawks, and makeup artist Danika, at the event to get some insight into the modelling world and sustainability.

Ambassador and model for MoD, Louisa, opened up about being a model with cerebral palsy.

She said: "I definitely get nervous before catwalks. My legs don't work properly, and my arms can get wobbly- I only have one arm that works. I've got a disability, so I started my modelling journey to build self-confidence and build a better relationship with myself. Doing modelling with MoD has definitely helped me with my self confidence. There were no disabled models to look up to growing up."

We spoke to our MoD models, and here's what they had to say!



Who would be your dream designer to work for?

Samantha Nelson: I just adore Chanel, they would be a dream to work with!

Dior Raper: Dior, for obvious reasons!

Jacqueline Ramnarine: Vivienne Westwood would be a dream. I once did attend a casting for her but I didn't know I was there for

VW casting- when I walked in I was shocked!

What sustainable changes do you make in your life?:

Jacqueline: I probably buy new like once a year. I'm very much about up-cycling. I'm vegan, so I'm always thinking about the environment.

Winnie: I also redesign my own clothes. I'm not a sewer but I can cut here, cut there, add something, Make clothes new!

All the models at the show looked incredible in all three catwalks! I'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who took time out of their day to speak to me!

"I want to show that you can do it- no matter if you have a disability. You can still be beautiful."



WORDS FROM THE DESIGNERS AT WSWF

I got the chance to speak with the incredible Dani Hawks ahead of her up-cycled runway collection, and this is what she had to say about her designs.

Q: Where did your brand begin?

A: My brand DIFA stands for: Designed Individually For All. Before I made clothes I made DIFA dolls- each design was made individually for that person because I couldn't find any black dolls for my daughter. From then on the name just continued. All the pieces I make are different and individual- it makes it hard as a designer but you cant get my outfits anywhere else!

Q: What inspired your clothing designs?

A: In lockdown I decided I needed to do something with all the clothes I bought that were piling up in my room. So I started doing these videos where I had a boring outfit on, and then a transition into the new outfit. I did one with an IKEA bag outfit and my following spiralled and now I like to work with crazy materials.

Q: What's the craziest material you've ever worked with?

A: Probably a plastic bag! There's no material I wouldn't be able to work with- you can do anything you put your mind to.

If you want to See more of her designs, check her out on insta @isitdanihawk



I also got the opportunity to speak to the amazing Diane Goldie about her unique artwork and what inspires it.

She said: "My designs are all about authenticity, and it's about who the person is thats wearing it. Generally when i make for people, I am telling their story not mine. It's kind of halfway between a therapy session and helping people self actualise. I often invite women to wear their own image on their backs."

She also noted that her work is based off her neurodiversity.

"I am part of my designs because I see things in a certain way. I have to keep my eyes very excited, which is why you may see some colour clashing. When I'm creating I keep going till I get the feeling. It comes very much from how I see the world.

On sustainability, she said: "I take stuff thats been discarded and make something new, eg I take all my straps and iron + patchwork it all together to reuse it. I don't have a chain of exploited workers and there is no transport costs, I do everything straight from my home.

AMANDA AKOKHIA X MOD- CASTING CALL

We are looking for people who identify as male to join us in raising awareness of mens mental health

If you have experience with mental health problems and want to raise awareness on this charity photoshoot, please contact us on

OFFICE@MODELSOFDIVERSITY.ORG for details

Want to advertise with us? Be part of the newsletter? Have anything you'd like to see us talk about? We'd LOVE to hear your thoughts, let us know by clicking [here!](#)



All photos from WFSW are credited to Miatta @mc.archives



OCD AWARENESS WEEK

Shaun Flores opens up about being a model and living with OCD

Whilst discovering the modelling world, Shaun lost himself, so he walked away from fashion, thinking that it was the cause of his issues. However intrusive and suicidal thoughts continued to grow until he couldn't recognise himself. He said: "It took a breakdown where I experienced an intense suicidal thought, I believed I wanted to die. I called my friends and said goodbye. I saw no hope, nothing. I pleaded for help." Shaun found his therapist Emma Garrick via Instagram, saying he "saved her life". He was then diagnosed with 'Pure OCD'

'Pure O' refers to distressing internal intrusive thoughts, as a result of these thoughts the individual does invisible mental compulsions. Intrusive thoughts are sporadic and unwanted which can cause torment to an individual's life. OCD is often misjudged as being just about 'cleaning' which can be harmful for those who are suffering with it.

Shaun said: "Through her help, care, concern and actual love for me I have been able to share my story to help others. To bring myself and others with OCD out of hiding because of shame and embarrassment for the thoughts we have.

"Some days thoughts will try to get my attention alongside crippling anxiety. It can be hard to get out of bed. But Modelling has been a creative passion where allowed myself to experiment. It is still a world so far from my upbringing and shows me something new every single time." Modelling has given Shaun the chance to deliver talks about mens mental health, and help inspire others struggling. He said: "The future is bright for those with OCD.

"Representation matters. Most importantly we matter, and in a society that is encouraging inclusivity I remain grateful and hopeful I pray this inspires you to tell your story and to never give up."



Shaun, photographed by Michael Aji



MOD ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

if you think you could spare a couple of hours to help out our charity,-please contact us at office@modelsofdiversity.org