

Face & Figure interview, for 'Model Guide 2010'.

Translated from Dutch, by: **Gill Taylor**.

Foreword

... You have in your hands the Model Guide 2010. It's a very handy guide full of information for models such as the best addresses for professional photo shoots, an instructive interview with top model Suzanne Potts and an interview full of wise life lessons with Alexander Vidakovic

Frans Heslinga, the publisher.

Page 5

Alexander Vidakovic

'Compared to women I think most men are very boring!'

Alexander Vidakovic is a Make-up Artist. He is of Serbian origin. When he was eighteen he left his parents' home to follow his dreams. At the moment he is just back from his first world tour as 'Make-up Artist around the World'.

Face & Figure: What was your childhood like?

Alexander: Intense. In all ways. My father was an alcoholic and my mother a workaholic. Every morning they would slam doors, swear at each other and even fight. It was not really an ideal environment for a child – and certainly not nice to wake up to every day.

My father hardly ever brought his salary home. Later he was (wrongly) sacked and he stayed home. Ironically, both my granddads were very rich. They had a lot of land which was later split up. According to my mother she was “happily married in those days, and didn't want anything to do with the inheritance.” So while my cousins during, and after, my high school, drove around in new cars bought with that money (which was certainly good enough for their parents!), I either caught a lift to school, or cycled if the weather was good, because I often didn't have enough money for the bus or train.

Page 6

During my childhood I learnt that I had to fight for everything. I got nothing from home, either in a material or in a spiritual sense.

When I was eighteen I said goodbye to my parents and never went back, apart from a short visit now and again.

Face & Figure: Give a short description of your CV ;-)

Alexander: You asked for it! I studied law for two years but didn't finish. Too much partying! Besides, it was my mother's wish, not mine. It took a while before I realised this.

Meanwhile, I tried to get into the Academy of Arts a couple of times, but in ex-Yugoslavia this sort of course was either for influential snobs, or you had to pay a lot for a place. Maybe I wasn't good enough back then either – who knows.

When I first came to the Netherlands, I lived on the street for a while, in the Vondelpark. Then I stayed at a refugee centre for three years. After this I studied Dutch for two years. I still hadn't finished learning so the next course was Psychiatric Nursing.

I did that course for a good three years. I discovered that psychiatrists are all mentally disturbed and it's all about the pharmacy and not the patients. I reached a point where it was no fun any more so I stopped – after a huge argument with the head of the department.

Three days later I had another job. I shuffled crates in the warehouse at the Dekamarkt for three months. I didn't mind it at all. My pride and my self-image were more important to me than status.

After three months at the Dekamarkt I did a graphic and web design course for a year and a half, and worked as a graphic and web designer in ICT for four years. I followed that by setting up my own internet business which I've have for five years now. For the last three years I've been working as a make-up artist and I'm not planning to end this.

Page 8:

Face & Figure: How did you come up with the idea of the world trip?

Alexander: It's always been one of my dreams. Dreams are fine when you are dreaming, but they are incomparably more beautiful when you live them. I wanted to do it before I was forty, or never. I'm now thirty-nine so I was just in time.

Face & Figure: What was the best experience during the trip?

Alexander: I think back a lot about the parties I had with my Chilean friends, photographers and models from Santiago: Rodrigo, Mabel, Loreto and Sunna. The shoots with the Australian beauty Victoria Franco were just as good. I have many memories of wonderful experiences and cherish them all.

The funniest experience was definitely the fire in Malcolm's apartment in Sydney. I was alone in his house making a pizza when his oven caught fire. After the fire alarm had gone off, and I had the fire under control, I called Malcolm and told him I could hear the fire brigade coming. "Hide somewhere!" he said, laughing."

Face & Figure: *And the worst?*

Alexander: Most of the journeys in taxis and rickshaws. Not only in India, but all over the world, even in cities like Sydney. An alarming number of taxi drivers are out to cheat travellers. I am capable of refusing to pay if a taxi driver takes me for a ride all around town, while I know my destination is only a couple of blocks away.

Face & Figure: *Have you always had a thing about beauty?*

Alexander: Visually, there is nothing more fascinating in the world than the female body. Also the inner woman is very interesting – compared with women, most men are very boring.

I have seen many beautiful women in my life. Some were so beautiful that I thought 'my God, it's a crime to put make up on this face!' But then I keep my mouth shut and put some on anyway, otherwise I would come over as unprofessional.

'Many people don't realise how simple the concept of happiness is'

Page 9

Face & Figure: *Do you have any more dreams?*

Alexander: So many! Even worse, when you are realising your dreams, you start having more and more. I suspect there will never be an end. That's why, one day, far into the future, I'd like to look back and be able to say 'it has been wonderful, and it was just as I dreamed' whether I realise all my dreams or not. On my website there is a list of my most important dreams – from hair transplants to a journey into space.

Face & Figure: *Are you happy?*

Alexander: Absolutely! But I was happy already, also before my trip. My life changed when I started to think positively. I also realised that I shouldn't look for happiness outside myself. It's who you are, how you think and what you do. Don't keep thinking 'what would others think IF I ...?' Others can get stuffed! I do what I dream of doing, and I

do what I want. That makes me happy. Many people don't realise how simple the concept of happiness is, or they're easily satisfied with a householder's life, which is not an option for me except when I'm old and senile. Maybe not even then.

Page 10

It's one of the reasons none of my relationships have worked out. I haven't yet come across a woman who is searching for a similar kind of wise happiness inside herself, or has found it already and wants to share it with me. 'A partner in crime' as they say. I still have to find her.

Illustrations

Photographer: **Marcus Sudjojo** (<http://www.modelmayhem.com/1245622>) portrait picture of model **Valerie**, Alex and himself. Location: Jakarta, Indonesia.

Photographer: Marcus Sudjojo, **portrait picture of Alex**, cut.

Photographer: **Malcolm Grant** (<http://www.malfoto.com>) picture of Sydney model **Victoria Franco** (<http://www.modelmayhem.com/172011>) Location: Sydney, Australia.

Photographer: Marcus Sudjojo, picture of Geisha (model Valerie).

Copyright

Face & Figure, 2009.

Professional models magazine (<http://www.faceandfigure.nl>)

More info at

World Traveling Artist

<http://www.worldtravelingartist.com>