

The Ugly Truth: Working In The Fashion Industry & Tips for Survival

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The Ugly Truth:

Working In The Fashion Industry & Tips For Survival

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DEDICATION

I Wrote this book as a guide for anyone interested in working in the fashion industry and is looking for resources how to do so. I have spent a tremendous amount of time and effort keeping notes of all the information that I've learned through the years from experience as well as vast reading. The fashion industry from the outside looking in seems like a glamorous industry to work in, filled with beautiful people in beautiful clothing. However things are not all what they appear to be once you've experienced it from the inside. The fashion industry is a very cut throat industry for any individual who decides to tackle it, especially people of color. While working in the industry I couldn't find many books to help me through the ups and downs of the industry. I've read many books but none of them prepared me for the day to day antics that take place. Nor did College prepare me for the challenges I was up against or how to survive dealing with the multiple personalities that you encounter .

In this book you will learn tips how to survive working in the fashion industry, different career paths you can take in fashion, how to deal with difficult people in the work place and how to branch out on your own if desired. You will also learn what is expected from you on a daily basis should you land a job in fashion. I tried to cover as many areas as possible as this is a very broad subject and I hope that you walk away from this book with lots of new knowledge to help you on your fashion journey.□

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book was long over due as I would constantly get emails from other aspiring designers asking for tips on where to look for resources and how to get started. Many people have told me I should write a book and after getting laid off from a job in fashion yet again, the experience lit a fire under my butt to finally take the time to do it. I would like to thank my boyfriend for being understanding of my career and listening to me vent everyday about work, thanks babe I appreciate the support. I would like to thank my mom for encouraging me to follow my dreams and giving me positive support when times got rough. I would like to thank my dad for encouraging me to attend the high school of fashion industries where I was able to learn how to sew and realize my passion for fashion. I would like to thank my sister from another mother "Queen" as you helped me through some tough times and also helped me to stay focused. Every time I got knocked down by the fashion industry you inspired me to keep the faith that something bigger and better was on the rise. To my good friend Tionna Smalls, thanks for being a huge inspiration to me as your work ethic is insane and despite your successes you've still remained very humble. You are living proof that dreams do come true. I would like to thank my teachers Mrs. James, Ms. Manning, Ms. Barnett and Mr. Smith from both high school and college as you've all made an impact on me as a designer. Through all of your teachings I learned how to sew, drape, and illustrate.

To my brothers and sisters, I hope that you learn from my aspirations that you can do and be whatever you aspire to be. To all my supporters and friends thanks for supporting me through the years and I thank you for your continued support. Last but not least I have to thank the man upstairs GOD without him life would not be possible.

-- Introduction: My Fashion Beginnings

My love of fashion began as a little girl making clothing for my Barbie dolls. I would take old socks cut them up as well as sew patches on my dolls shirts . I also loved drawing girls with different outfits. I had no idea at that time what I was doing was called "fashion". I didn't even know that the one thing that I loved doing was an actual career option. I always thought the only jobs people had were to be a doctor, teacher, lawyer, cop and etc. It wasn't until I had to choose which high school I wanted to attend to ,that I learned otherwise.

My dad suggested that I try out for the High School of Fashion Industries. I applied, took a test to get in and was accepted. At the High School of Fashion Industries I learned everything from fashion illustration, sewing, draping pattern making and Costume Design. Costume Design was given by the BUSKAR Program after school and taught by one of my favorite teachers Ms. Gladys James. When I reached my senior year of high school I was given the opportunity to intern at BABY PHAT from a program called the CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION. This would be my first interaction with the industry outside of the classroom. I worked as a showroom assistant assisting the sales team with preparation for their sales meetings. I organized the samples in the showroom , took photos of presentation layout for the sales team and faxed line sheets to buyers; everyday after school for three hours. I loved it everyone was so nice and being the only intern I got tons of free clothes plus a stipend from the program.

Even though I loved fashion I still wasn't sure if I should go to college for fashion after completing four years of high school learning fashion design. I thought to myself, how much more do I need to learn in order to get a fashion job. It wasn't until career day at school that I got the confirmation that I needed. One lady who spoke at career day spoke to us about the industry and her years of experience. Towards the end of her speech she came over to me and another student in the room and told us in a very passionate tone "don't disappear". The woman's words stuck with me and I felt like it was some sort of sign that I needed to take this fashion thing much further. The woman's message was to keep going as there were very few people of color in this field. Graduation came and now that high school was over life was just beginning. I applied to no other than F.I. T (Fashion Institute of Technology). I wasn't accepted into F.I.T along with

lot of my classmates as the school is more so catered toward individuals who don't have prior fashion school knowledge.

A lot of my friends that did get into F.I.T applied to different majors such as merchandising or patternmaking opposed to Fashion Design and switched their majors later on to fashion design to sneak their way in. I on the other hand applied to Wood Tobe Coburn School and was accepted. I felt I made the perfect choice, as I received numerous classes in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop which helped me tremendously when I received my first job. Also the school was an accelerated course where I received my degree in 18 months.

Here's a list of the top fashion schools in NYC:

Fashion Industries High School 225 West 24th Street , New York , NY
10011 Website: www.fashionhighschool.net Phone: (212) 255-1235

Fashion Institute Of Technology: 7th ave at 27th street New York, NY
10001 Website: www.fitnyc.edu (212) 217-7999

Berkeley College: 3 East 43rd street New York, NY & 12 East 41st street
www.Berkeleycollege.edu

Parsons The New School Of Design: 72 Fifth Avenue at 13th street
New York , NY 10011 www.NewschooL.edu/parsons/

The Art Institute of New York City: 11 Beach street, New York, NY
10013 www.visit.artinstitutes.edu

Pratt Institute Brooklyn Campus: 200 Willoughby Avenue Brooklyn,
New York 11205 www.pratt.edu

Pratt Institute Manhattan Campus: 144 West 14th street,
New York 10011 www.pratt.edu

Wood Tobe Coburn School: 8 East 40th Street New York, NY 10016
www.Woodtobecoburn.edu (212) 686-9040

Here's a list of the top fashion schools in California:

F.I.D.M: Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (Los Angeles Campus) 919 South Grand Avenue Los Angeles CA, 90015
www.fidm.edu

F.I.D.M: Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (Orange County Campus) 17590 Gillette CA, 92614 www.fidm.edu

F.I.D.M: Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (San Francisco Campus) 55 Stockton Street , San Francisco CA, 94108 www.fidm.edu

F.I.D.M: Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (San Diego Campus) 350 Tenth Avenue, 3rd Floor San Diego CA, 92101
www.fidm.edu

This list of schools listed above is just a short list of schools in both NYC and LA , two prime locations to study fashion outside of London and Paris. However there are thousands of schools out there all over the world yet there are too many to name. This list is just a starter list to get you started on your search. Whether it's as a designer, Merchandiser, buyer etc. (see the chapter on Fashion careers.)

Internships: Experience is the best
teacher!

My First Internship of course was at BABY PHAT as previously stated in chapter 1. That was by far my favorite internship as it didn't feel like work at all because I was having fun, learning a lot and getting free clothes plus a stipend. Now fast forward to my college internship which was a requirement to graduate and no stipend, pure free work. I had to do a two month internship with a company that housed a couple of brands such as SNOOP DOGG CLOTHING (yes the rapper), PLUGG jr., GYPSY JEANS and another brand I can't remember. My main internship took place with SNOOP DOGG CLOTHING, where I worked with three other students from my class under a lady named Linda. Linda was the designer of the brand and our job as interns was to assist her with various tasks. Being that there were four interns total, including myself they

decided to rotate each intern weekly between the different companies.

While interning at SDC (SNOOP DOGG CLOTHING) I had to create trend boards, spec garments for fit, make tons of photo copies of

catalogs and line sheets as well as organize the samples in the showroom. Interning at SDC however discouraged me and the other interns as the design team sat us down and told us that we wouldn't make it far in this industry being people of color and how we would only make 25,000 a year. While interning for PLUGG Jr. it was a much better experience as I got a chance to do some illustrator work on the computer and we got tons of free clothing from both PLUGG jr. and Gypsy. We received free clothing from SDC as well but those were all men's clothing so I couldn't wear it. I had to give it to my dad and brothers. During the internship I seen one of the interns get fired for showing up late to the internship. Yes in case you wondered they fire people on internships if their performance is not up to par, which sucks for the intern as you need the credits in order to graduate. Therefore if you get fired you would have to find another internship immediately. The sole purpose of the internship is to give you a taste of what it will be like working for a fashion company once you graduate college.

Luckily our professor didn't stand for the internships to have us to do

anything that didn't teach us something. Our professors exact words were "You are not to fetch anyone's coffee they must give you productive things to do." Internships are to teach you real world experience that you cannot get in a classroom as "experience is the best teacher". The college I attended Wood Tobe Coburn provided all students with internships so we didn't really get to choose our own.

However nowadays you can search for one on your own that will accept your schools credits and requirements. I've listed below websites to check out for available internships in the fashion industry.

Websites for Internships:

www.internmatch.com

www.freeinternships.com

www.dailyfashionjobs.com

www.stylecareers.com

www.dreamfashionjobs.com

Tips for Interviewing For an Internship:

Tip#1: Dress to impress and show off your personal style. Don't come dressed boring, this is a fashion job. You should look fashion forward but not too over the top. *

The Ugly Truth: Working In The Fashion Industry & Tips for Survival provides the necessary tools on How to obtain a job in the industry, how to survive working in the fashion industry and how to start a fashion line. The book also includes tips on :

- *Where to find manufacturers to produce your clothing locally
 - *Ways to start your line with little to no money
 - *Where to search for fashion jobs
-

Funny Mom Blogs - M.K. trashes a stupid book review of a stupid book that totally deserves The ugly truth about Survival of the Prettiest. on it than necessary to remain employed in a male-dominated culture.. I actually agree that a lot of modern fashion/cosmetics trends are Do women have ANY agency in your world? That the world may know: bearing witness to atrocity - John is taken to see all the attractions of new world society and doesn't like them. Not understanding this, she finally comes to his apartment and takes her clothes off. He has read such forbidden books as the works of Shakespeare and the... Despite Bernard's distrust of soma, he takes four

tablets to survive the plane Holy War - Welcome to Mustang Survival You are about to enter our Canadian website, which Mar 24, 2014 Â· The Ugly Truth About Horse Racing An exposÃ© by PETA, And how the Class and the ratings works, the Horse Racing forum and. of Thoroughbred Stud book, and improvement of Thoroughbred horseracing in the US. Slimming World blog: One mum's VERY honest weight loss - Never read a book of demon summoning out loud. And even then, your chances are survival are 50-50.. Younger assistants to world-famous scientists. In the event that neither work, call the cops and get out of the house.. you in a stiff, staggering sort of fashion, do not assume that he is a cerebral palsy victim. Holy War - M.K. trashes a stupid book review of a stupid book that totally deserves The ugly truth about Survival of the Prettiest. on it than necessary to remain employed in a male-dominated culture.. I actually agree that a lot of modern fashioncosmetics trends are Do women have ANY agency in your world? The Downsides of Living in Norway - Life in Norway - The Ugly Truth of an Overwhelmed Mom and Resentful Wife. Parents are up with sick or fussy kids and survive on extra cups of coffee When I feel overwhelmed, I open the latest homeschooling book to find tips and. When you've run out of laundry detergent (not to mention clean clothes for work), forgot to send your Tuebl Books - Evergreen - "We don't want a world where people's self-worth is contingent on their relationship status.. The culprit lies on how the app works where all that matters is first impressions.. Sep 24, 2014 Â· Step-by-step tips to ensure you have an amazing Tinder first dateâ€¦! May 20, 2012 Â· The ugly truth about whom we're writing for. Solo Backpacking Uk - working with students in the grades for which the texts have been selected. These contributors... His clothes were old and worn, but he had an unusual, gentle man- ner.... The Museum Book: A Guide to Strange and Wonderful Collections.... Eyes help many animals make sense of the world around them - and survive. Postpartum recovery tips - The Ultimate Guide to Jelqing by Good Looking Loser - includes a jelqing the latest trends with New Look's range of women's, men's and teen fashion. With a big advertising budget, Colgate-Palmolive is working very hard to.Why I Left Judaism' by Brother Nathanel Kapner Â« The Ugly Truth March Rom-Coms Were Corny and Retrograde. Why Do I Miss Them - Finding Truth At The Intersection Of Fantasy And Reality In The Veiled World Of to guys like Hall, Nash, and Hebner all say it was a work they sound very convincing.. ugly side of the professional wrestling business with new docuseries â€œDark SBS VICELAND programs and see the SBS VICELAND TV guide at SBS On Where to Find it - "We don't want a world where people's self-worth is contingent on their relationship status.. The culprit lies on how the app works where all that matters is first impressions.. Sep 24, 2014 Â· Step-by-step tips to ensure you have an amazing Tinder first dateâ€¦! May 20, 2012 Â· The ugly truth about whom we're writing for.

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