

# Joan's Model Citizens

BY ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff Writer

Project. Smile. Lift your chin. Make your eyes sparkle.

Professional model Joan Baker uses these words often in training models of all ages in personal development, posture, graceful walking, personality, wardrobe, fashion, skin care, make-up application and etiquette for basic and professional modeling careers with attention to job interview and career preparation and pageantry.

Joan King Baker has been teaching for eight years in classes at Kings Mountain Community Center and offering private instruction. Her trained models are available for all types of fashion shows, including the popular disco shows, photographic print, product sales promotions, films and TV commercials.

She has accompanied her students to conventions, seminars, workshops and modeling com-

petitions in New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Georgia, Orlando, Florida and is quite proud, and rightly so, that her students have followed in her footsteps and have reaped a number of handsome modeling awards.

Two of her graduates, Donna Mathis, six foot tall beauty from Gastonia, and Pat Littlejohn, graceful beauty from Shelby, are cast in lead back-up roles in Earl Owensby's "The Living Legend" while pageant winners from her school have included Lisa Beeler of Patterson Springs, Miss Junior Miss for Cleveland County who placed fourth in the Miss N.C. Junior Miss competition; Karen Penner of Kings Mountain, Miss Junior Sweetheart; Sharon Jarvis of Gastonia, Miss Gastonia 1978; Janice Bane of Gastonia, Miss Gaston College 1978; Patricia Steerman of Gastonia, Miss Gaston College 1979; and Tammy Fraley of Cherryville, Gaston County's Miss Sweetheart. Pam Jenks of Gastonia was Teen Model of 1976 and Photographic Model of the Year 1977.

One student won a personal interview and is being considered for a contract with Welhelmina Agency, one of the two top modeling agencies in the country. Another student won an award for the Most Beautiful Hands in speciality modeling, among others.

Sixteen other students are cast for bit roles in E. O. Movie Productions' "The Living Legend."

A native of Kings Mountain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis King and wife of KMSHS teacher Steve Baker, Joan Baker is a graduate of Libby Stone School of Modeling, Charlotte, of which she remains a director.

Mrs. Baker stresses self awareness as a major goal for her students, encouraging them to realize their talents and potential for happiness and success in their personal lives as well as in their chosen careers.

The Baker modeling studio at KM Community Center is a beehive of activity as models perform, using a ramp and before mirrors. There is an area for make-up study and application and an area for wardrobe and fashion emphasis.

"Use the three o'clock position with your feet, hold your shoulders up, smile, project," Mrs. Baker, a striking brunette points out as her students parade down the runway in graceful form.

Mrs. Baker has all the qualifications required to instruct charm classes and poise and is the epitome of a successful model.

Her personal modeling credits are impressive.

She was the World Modeling Association's first place fashion model of the year in modeling competition in New York City, was first place American model in Washington, D.C. and first place Sophisticate Model in New York City. She was photographed in a national television commercial for "Whirlpool" and photographed for a

Carowinds brochure, Chevrolet Magazine, Knitting Times and Southern Living Magazine.

Mrs. Baker has done fashion modeling for Ivey's, Belk, Coplon's, Montaldo's, among others, and served as a free lance fashion coordinator and fashion show producer, including disco shows. She has co-ordinated shows for malls and cities promoting as many as 16 stores for one showing as Sales promotion director.

Joan Baker has served as a choreographer of photographic layouts, as a wedding director and for stage presentations. She directed the successful Miss N.C. Wheelchair Pageant at Radisson Hotel in Charlotte and two disco fashion presentations for benefit of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Disco modeling is moving onto the fashion scene, said Mrs. Baker, and her students tell us they enjoy performing in area disco shows.

Youngest model in the group is seven-year-old Cheree Farris of Bessemer City, a petite child model, who recently completed her basic training in Joan's school. Terrie Plonk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Plonk, is a new student and Carla Bridges of Kings Mountain is a recent graduate.

Many of the models told us they enjoy modeling high-fashion clothing and both Donna Mathis and Pat Littlejohn are excited about their back-up roles in "The Living Legend."

Learning to perform in pageants and on the stage has proven invaluable training for the students, many of them who plan to pursue modeling careers and fashion merchandising careers after graduation from high school and college.

Self-awareness is the program aim and is working for all the Baker-trained students.



GRACEFUL MODEL - Pat Littlejohn, a striking model in a cranberry dress, walks the runway at Joan's Modeling School as Donna Mathis, left, and Carla Bridges, right, project big smiles in Kings Mountain Community Center studios.

Photos  
by  
Tom  
McIntyre



APPLYING MAKE-UP IS AN ART - Terrie Plonk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Plonk, applies make-up as her instructor, Mrs. Steve Baker, observes in the

Baker modeling and personal development studios in Kings Mountain. Terrie is a new student of Mrs. Baker.



BEAUTY WINNERS ALL - Lisa Beeler, Cleveland County's Junior Miss, Karen Penner, Miss Junior Sweetheart, and Tammy Fraley, Gaston County's Miss Sweetheart, left to right, are all area beauty pageant winners and are students of Joan Baker, professional model and instructor of personal development, modeling, pageantry and career preparation in Kings Mountain.



TRAINING MODELS - Mrs. Joan Baker instructs five students, above, in posture and graceful walking in preparation for area fashion shows and beauty pageants, as well as for personal development. From

left, Carla Bridges, Cheree Farris, Pat Littlejohn, Donna Mathis and Terrie Plonk. Cheree is Mrs. Baker's youngest student, at age seven.



CHILD MODEL - Cheree Farris, seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Farris of Bessemer City, has completed a basic training course in child modeling

in Mrs. Joan Baker's school of instruction. Mrs. Baker, right, discusses the program with Cheree, above, in studios at KM Community Center.