

Summer has come to an end and a new season is upon us. Mother Nature is casting her spell of brilliant color here in the Northeast and the leaves are already turning vibrant hues of red, orange, and yellow. This is one of my favorite times of the year because of the beautiful scenery that envelops the season. Fall also provides a variety of natural props and backdrops, perfect for photo shoot opportunities. Though the new season is exciting, I would be remiss if I didn't say I am going to miss the warmth of summer.

Labor day traditionally marks the end of summer, but for me the end of the season is evident upon the annual OPP Virginia Beach fashion shoot. This vacation destination has been used for fashion shoots by my parents since I was a child. Virginia Beach offers a surf and sand setting for creative summer photos for my parents, while it holds more intimate memories for me. Traveling with my family to the beach each year was sentimental and exciting. I have warm memories of playing in the sand with my father and walking along the ocean shore with my mother. I also remember scaring both of them when I took my first surfing lesson at the Sandbridge private beach resort. (not sure what they were worried about, I was awesome. lol)

Due to my busy school and work schedule I have been unable to participate in the Virginia Beach fashion shoots for the past several years. This year, however I was fortunate enough to make room in my schedule to attend. As we began our journey toward the beach I was overwhelmed with nostalgia. It was nice to calmly reflect on my youthful days before the hustle and bustle of the shoots began.

My photo shoot was scheduled for early Saturday morning. Did I say early? Waking at 4:00am to reach the beach by sunrise at 5:30am was a herculean task. Something about the tranquility of that time of day however, made it all worth the effort. The weather started out a bit gloomy with threats of a tropical storm, typical for early September in Virginia Beach. Fortunately we avoided all storms and the windy weather proved challenging, but perfect for the shoot. It was exciting to be photographed Oceanside, as the sun lifted, wearing my beautiful "Tony Bowls" gown. The shoot was a success and I am very pleased with all of the photos taken. Be sure to check out Max and Ashley Mason's "Cinderella Closet and Boutique", they supplied all the beautiful gown's for the Virginia Beach fashion shoots. Not only will they be using the images of all the girls for their advertising, the magazine has forwarded all of the images to the designers as well.

After my own photo shoot it was time to prepare for the other models. This year I was honored to do the make-up for the fashion shoots while Miss Tammie Parker created some incredible hairstyles. Sadly for Miss Tammie, there just was not enough "IT" hairspray in the world to hold up to those tropical winds on the beach. Everyone looked beautiful and did a great job modeling for their shoots.

It was so nice to be reacquainted with old friends at the fashion shoot. Girls that I haven't seen in years, like the beautiful Delaney Barr. I hadn't seen Delaney since the Emerald Dream Pageant (so you know that it's been years)

She was so little then. Delaney has evolved into one of the most insanely beautiful young ladies I have ever seen, and she has an amazing personality.

I can't forget about Annabelle Watkins, she was so much fun. As an only child, I love little kids and Annabelle had me laughing the entire weekend. After the shoot we went for a snack with Annabelle and her mom, and of course she kept us entertained. The show didn't stop there either, I was given the BIG SHOW by Annabelle once I got back in my room. Tara may have been perplexed by her daughters antics, but I have never laughed so hard. Annabelle is a fabulous dancer!

It was a wonderful weekend in Virginia Beach. I created lasting memories with old friends and new friends, and I look forward to working with all of them again soon.

Looking ahead, I am very excited about the "Glitzy Girls Winter Wonderland Pageant" being held this January. We have so many surprises planned, and I can't wait to crown our new "Snow Queens". Till then, let your beauty shine!

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- editor-in-chief



Photo: OPP Studio 3305 www.studio3305.com

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