

SMART

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COVER GIRL

TRACY BAUTISTA

Local girl Tracy Bautista always has time for Hawaii. That's one of the many reasons why **SMART** just adores her. Busy as she is living a model's life in Hong Kong, she was able to come back to Hawaii and do the photo shoot for our cover. It's great that there are local girls out in the world (!) like Tracy who are making careers as models. It's true: Hawaii has the most beautiful women in the world.

Hometown?

I grew up in Wailuku, Maui, but was born in Hilo, Big Island.

First modeling job?

Fur coat catalog in Niigata, Japan. On my first day in Japan I was sent to the airport alone, with job voucher and plane ticket in hand. I vividly remember nervously calling my Mom at the end of the day because I had no idea where I was and my flight was delayed because of a snowstorm.

How did you get into modeling and get discovered?

When I was 15, my Mom was concerned about my tomboyishness and enrolled me at a finishing school on Maui. I was really involved in sports, especially softball and volleyball, and didn't know how to put myself together at all. While I was in class, the agency submitted my photos to a Japan model search campaign on Oahu, which I won. I was then offered a contract to work in Japan for 2 months. Having accumulated enough credits to graduate early, I was able to leave during the spring term of my senior year at Baldwin High School and model in Japan.

What is it like living in Hong Kong?

Hong Kong is one of the most dynamic and exhilarating capitals in the world...a pulsating city bursting with energy and excitement. As the most densely populated place in the world with seven million people in such a small area, one has to get used to crowds. There are also endless places to see, and thousands of places to eat and drink, sometimes the options are bewildering.

Favorite Hong Kong things/places/etc.?

SHOPPING, SHOPPING, SHOPPING! It's a shopaholic's dream. I spend countless hours during my free time in the fashion factory outlets in Mongkok and TST. Victoria Peak is the highest point above HK island and offers the most spectacular views of Hong Kong, including the romantic Peak Cafe restaurant. It's accessible by a very steep tram ride that has a floor that's angled to help passengers stay upright. Lastly, I'm looking forward to visiting Hong Kong Disneyland which just recently opened.

What do you like to do when you are in home in Hawaii?

I spend lots of time with my family and friends. I do cherish these times as I'm hardly at home. I also catch up with the latest movies since we get them late in Hong Kong. Things that I usually am not able to do when I'm away, like drive a car, admire a sunset, eat local food, not having to drink bottled water...things like that.

Modeling career highlight?

I have two: First, appearing in three concerts with a famous Asian singer at the HK Coliseum with over 30,000 people. I almost fainted backstage when I heard the screams before I came onstage. I played an angel in his music video. Second, filming a TV commercial for "Westwood Properties" (Shanghai) a few months ago in Los Angeles. Since I'm relocating there soon for my acting career, this was a nice intro to the city for me. Filming in a Jaguar driving down Rodeo Drive with police escort, then in an exquisite mansion up in the Hollywood Hills, and then frolicking up close with the "Hollywood" sign was an unexpected experience for my first time in LA.

What are you most proud of?

The fact that I've been able to live in eight countries—not only visit, but immerse myself in each culture. It's a different story reading about places rather than actually living there. There is such a big world outside of Hawaii and so much to learn and experience.



Describe your fashion style.

I have my own fashion sense and don't go along with every trend that comes along. The fact that I'm often dressed up in a mix of international designs for shoots has helped me in finding out what works...though I do enjoy clothes that are comfortable, fun and sexy.

Favorite clothing items?

I have an extreme fetish for designer jeans right now—7 for All Mankind, Blue Cult, Yanuk, Hudson and Citizens of Humanity...you name it. I also love clothes from Da-Nang, Mango, Miss Sixty and especially Juicy Couture! I can never have enough Juicy...they're so comfortable to travel in and at the same time can be used for a night out. I also have this thing for big rhinestone embellished rings—the gawdier the better. I wear at least 3 at a time. Lastly, I cannot live without my designer handbags...to me they totally can save the most dingy outfit. I adore my LV Murakami Speedy bag.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Ronen Zilberman

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