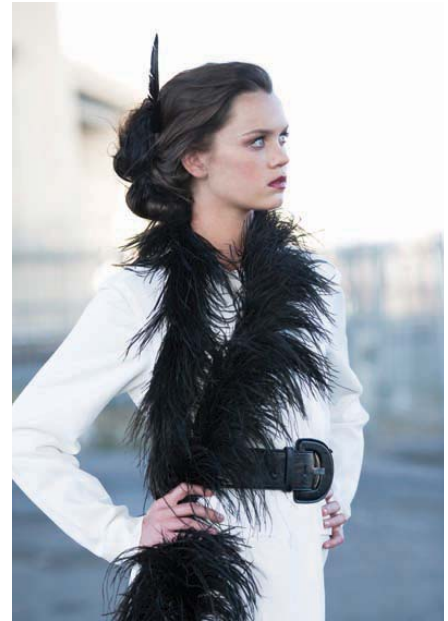


**iPOP Convention dates:** Winter 2009 iPOP takes place Jan. 3 - 6 in Los Angeles, Calif.; summer iPOP will be held in July 2009 in Las Vegas, Nev.. Visit [www.ipopconvention.com](http://www.ipopconvention.com) for more information.

## FINDING FAME AT IPOP!

Two success stories share their advice for getting discovered at iPOP. **BY MICAELA MYERS**



Every year hundreds of kids and teens attend the International Presentation of Performers, better known as iPOP, held each July in Las Vegas and each January in Los Angeles, in hopes of making it big. For some, that dream comes true, with the convention opening doors to a career in show biz. Here two success stories share their advice for getting the most out of your iPOP experience.

### MODEL CHRISTIANNE KINDER

Now 15, Laguna Beach, Calif., resident Christianne Kinder, a student at the Orange County JRP, attended iPOP in January 2008 and received awards for Top Ten Commercial Print, 3rd Runner Up for Runway, 2nd Runner Up for Swimwear and 1st Runner Up for Model of the Year. But best of all, Kinder received many callbacks. "I got 17 callbacks (from talent and casting agents and model management companies) for the face-to-face interviews," she says. "I am now signed with Next Model Management in Los Angeles and New York. Had it not been for iPOP, I would not have known about them. It turns out that they are the largest model network in the world and get a large portion of commercial bookings."

Kinder's successes include the Teen Vogue Young Hollywood Fashion Show, Los Angeles Times editorials, and a fashion show for Laguna Beach High School and Montebello Mall. "With Next, I have booked editorials and fashion shows," she explains. "They are helping me develop my portfolio through test-

ing with photographers and have sent me on many go-sees and castings."

Kinder has the following advice for success at iPOP and beyond:

1. Take full advantage of the training offered by your JRP school. "I felt that the JRP training I got for iPOP helped me become more confident and assertive, while providing me with an understanding of the inner workings of the modeling and entertainment industries," Kinder says.

2. Listen to your coaches. "When modeling on the runway, confidence and attitude are the keys!" Kinder says. "You need to have a vision of what you are wearing and portray an attitude that best shows it off! Sometimes a smile is best, and sometimes being serious, energetic, or giving an air of sophistication is even better. You need to know which to use, and when to use it. It is all part of an act. Your teacher or coach can help you."

3. Be nice and be prepared. "Bring many zed cards to distribute. If you are both an actress and a model, bring both types of cards," Kinder advises. "Be nice and courteous to the hairstylists and make-up people. They like it when clients try to get to know them. Show them what you will be wearing, tell them about your hair and whether or not it holds a curl, et cetera. They are artists, and artists need to have a vision. Also it saves time. When you are in desperate need for a retouch, they will definitely remember you, find the time to help you, and do their best! Always be positive with them and do not criticize others in front of them."

That courteousness and preparation also applies to the callbacks you may get after iPOP. "When you get a callback, before the callback day, do some research on the companies," Kinder says. "When you talk to the scouts, ask good questions related to your research; it shows your interest and that you put in some extra effort."

#### CHILD ACTRESS SHELBY ZEMANEK

When 6-year-old, soon to be 7, Shelby Zemanek, of Graham, Wash., attended iPOP in July 2007 as a student with JRP Seattle, she came with a resume made only of big hopes, but she left with awards in TV Beauty and Best Commercial, as well as nine callbacks with agents and managers. "iPOP was the gateway to her future success," Shelby's parents Dan and Chris Zemanek explain. And they didn't let the opportunity pass them by. "We set up appointments with each agent or manager that wanted to meet with us. We took two days and flew to L.A. simply to conduct those meetings. We were pleasantly surprised that everyone, save one agency, wanted to sign her." Shelby signed with Coast To Coast Talent Group and has been booking jobs and commuting between Hollywood and Washington State ever since.

"She is in the [December 2008] film 'Yes Man' starring Jim Carrey," her dad explains. "Her latest role is in the film



Actress Shelby Zemanek on set with Jim Carrey.

'Angels & Demons' starring Tom Hanks and directed by Ron Howard. That film is actually the 'prequel' to 'The Da Vinci Code.' It is expected to be out in April or May of 2009. Shelby has also done two national commercials—one for Betty Crocker and the other for AT&T. She has booked guest appearances on the show 'Cold Case' as well as on 'How I Met Your Mother.' We couldn't ask for more. In the eight months we have spent in L.A. she has booked eight great parts."

For kids hoping to find similar success at iPOP, Shelby advises lots of practice, trying hard, listening to your teachers, and last but not least, when the big day comes, look for your parents in the audience if you get nervous in front of crowds. But both Shelby and her parents say the most important thing is to enjoy the experience. "Our approach was to simply have a lot of fun," Dan Zemanek says. "You certainly want your child to be prepared with their material; the last thing we wanted was to have Shelby worried about remembering her lines." That said, Shelby's parents didn't want her to over practice or feel stressed and lose her personality. "We wanted her to still be naturally Shelby," her dad continues. "We also felt that this was Shelby's thing, not ours. We

have a great life as a family at our home in Graham, Wash. She really wanted to do this and we felt she had the personality and ability to do it."

Shelby's personality and letting her be herself is what her parents believe helped her get noticed at iPOP. "Getting discovered is all about someone seeing something they like about your child," Dan explains, "and that doesn't show through if your child is always trying to be something or someone they think someone wants to see."

While the Zemaneks are enjoying life in show business, their priorities are clear. "When the cameras stop rolling and the job is done, we know this town will move on to the next project," Dan says. "It's our job to make sure we have a well adjusted, humble, happy kid. If the day comes that it stops being fun, that will probably be the day we move back home. We don't see that happening. Shelby has met, in her words, some pretty cool people, and there are many more she would still like to meet. We have enjoyed the ride thus far."

And so far, Shelby's indeed enjoying the experience and staying humble. "I really appreciate it when I get jobs," she says. "It's really cool to meet famous people." [AFM](#)