

Behind the scenes

Watching beauty contests is always interesting, because only there you can see the most attractive women from all around the planet. In the frame they are gracefully walking in amazing dresses and never stop smiling, but what happens behind the scene stays a secret.

A story of what kind of passions occur behind the scenes of the respectable Miss Universe and Miss World will be told by Acelina Kuchukova.

There is an opinion that all the contests are the same, the only difference being that every year the changing participants, is that true?

This is absolutely not true, everything is different: countries where they take place, the organization, ideas of creation, goals, and of course, participants. Miss World is very different from Miss Universe 2010. Taking place in Miss World is a tougher process, getting there, a young woman has to show talent along with natural beauty. Approaching the island, the participants had a sport contest waiting for them, beauties were running, jumping and swimming, proving their superiority. There was also a fashion show, where they had to choose the best top model, and also the taking place of the auction, where every one of us had sell the souvenirs of our own country as expensively as possible. The money, obviously, went for charity.

Speaking of the intensity of schedule, which one of the contests was the most interesting one?

In America, where Miss Universe was taking place, the schedule was a bit tough, we were all occupied from early morning until 11 in the evening. In China our time we were occupied 24/7. We were travelling around cities, visiting various events. Taking part in the awards ceremony of the women golf tournament in Sanya and visiting the Great Chinese Wall gave amazing feelings and memories. Meeting with the professor of making traditional masks was interesting, I was especially good at masks for celebrations, the ones that are pleasant to wear and masks that were supposed to protect the house of evil spirits, the ones that people hang on the walls. Definitely, Miss World was a lot more challenging, but gave an opportunity to learn a lot of new things.

Was there really no time for rest?

The schedule was really unimaginable, we had to go to tens of local sights, this is why we almost didn't ever have time for sleep. Three hours was the maximum! This lasted for two weeks. As a result I lost 4 kilograms. We had to get used to

everything, starting from kitchen, different time zone, climate, different mentality and language. The thing is that it was hard to explain anything you needed. Apparently, the English pronunciation is different. Thus asking for slippers you could get a towel. We literally used our gestures to explain what we needed. Despite all the misfortunes, one has to remember that it is an important mission to present your home country, you are always “at the target” of the world society.

Organizational things are always a weak spot of any event, are beauty contests an exception or a ratification?

Las Vegas was more luxurious, starting from the meeting at the airport, limousines, expensive apartments. In China everything was a little more simple. I think the goal of the event is what matters. The organization is different. Miss Universe was chosen just for beauty, Miss World wanted to know all the talents too. You have to be able to be good at responses to press, be in good physical shape, be a singer, dance and others. I, for example, prepared a song in kazakh, a national style doll dance. The Gudler ensemble helped me a lot.

Obviously, everybody is interested in what you were wearing at Miss World.

Fashion house Jado presented a national dress from Kazakhstan by Zhadira Sahieva. At the talent show I was wearing a dress from a fashion house ErkeNur. Oksana Korby constructed a dress for yesterdays ceremony, where I was at the coronation of the most beautiful women in the world.

How do people react to beauties in America and China?

Americans are very emotional and the reaction was great, they were happy, smiling and willing to take a picture. In China it is a lot more discrete, their reaction was quite calm, without any emotional outbursts, yet the interest was felt there and it was incredibly pleasant.

Many young women assume that beauties get everything for free and they don't have to do anything...

On one hand we were given everything we needed, on the other you had to have a strong-willed character to get the room you want at the hotel or get honey for tea. If you don't take care of yourself, nobody is going to do so, that is the reality of contests. It is a pity, but Miss World did not have enough hairdressers and make up artists, this is why I had to do these things myself.

How friendly were the participants of Miss World?

There was tension. Everybody was smiling, exchanging contacts, but competition kept floating in the air of our apartments. Despite, there were moments, when

young women protected each other. I helped them with translation. Sadly enough, not all the beauties know English. Not even speaking of the help I have done in terms of creating the looks. I got used to the fact that you have to be able to do anything, makeup, hair, nails. Nobody knows what kind of surprises life is going to throw at us. You have understand that we need to always support each other with words and actions.

Traditionally, famous people are invited. Who did they not expect to see in China?

Award winning beauties from up till 1953 were there. These women are immensely beautiful today. Their style, their manners, everything spoke of their title "Miss". Meeting these women you start understanding what you wish to accomplish, their appearance at the contest was a pleasant surprise for all the participants.

You are one of the few models from Kazakhstan for whom taking part in beauty contest has become a common thing. I think your experience can be invaluable for our models, planning on taking part in the contests.

I was almost alone in overcoming all the difficulties that come with preparing contests, it is truly hard. Starting from getting a visa, getting a dress, speaking with sponsors. Going to a different country, you have to be ready for any kind of difficulties that come along the way: unfurnished apartments, hard interviews, provocations, immense competition, absence of support and others. Working as a model is beautiful, yet it is only on the podium. Behind it it is a cruel business requiring a lot of physical and moral strength. You have to keep in mind that the beauty industry is one of the most demanding, unfair and, unfortunately fleeting ones. Being at the peak of your popularity one day, you have to always be prepared to lose the flow, and that may be forever.