



Monday, August 08, 2005



Kansas Moment

Designer Monica & model Shandi

Thursday, August 04, 2005

(NEW YORK) They're not in Kansas (or Kansas City) anymore, but designer **Monica Byrne** and *America's Next (Almost) Top Model* **Shandi Sullivan** still have plenty of country-girl soul left in them. At last night's press preview in Monica's Soho apartment/studio, where Shandi modeled Monica's latest collection, the up-and-coming hautes discussed fashion's latest inspiration: Crop circles.

So you're both from Kansas?

Monica: Yes, I went to school in Kansas.

Shandi: I actually live in Kansas City [Missouri], but it might as well be Kansas.

Is there anything Kansas in these designs?

Monica: Yes! I think the colors, the deep reds and yellows and oranges, look like fields and sunsets. And I actually get a lot of inspiration from overviews of fields, and crop circles. You can see in the Fall '05 designs, where I grew up is very desolate, and the colors are very beautiful. You don't find them here.

Shandi: I've seen crop circles, and Monica's designs include a lot of the patterns and the colors. I can really see it. Is it weird that I've seen crop circles?

No, it's weirder that you've seen Janice Dickinson. Have you seen her lately?

Shandi: Well, I'm doing some stuff for *Top Model* but it's a big surprise and secret, I can't talk about it! But I'm not replacing Janice, they already have someone for that: **Twiggy!**

Monica: Is it Twiggy? I'm so out of the loop!

So did you not know that Shandi was on TV when you hired her?

Monica: No, I just think she's beautiful and she has an amazing personality! Immediately when she walked in here I wanted to work with her. Shandi is a classic-looking woman and her colors are very complimentary to my clothes. And she carries the clothes very well.

Shandi: But before *Top Model*, you know...the one thing I took away from that show was confidence. I had no confidence, I got on the show because there was pressure from the boyfriend to apply! He was a huge fan of the first season and he was like, "You could totally do it!" And I was like, "No, I look like a mouse!" So I guess it's like a Cinderella story.

Monica, would you ever go on reality TV? Like *Project Runway*?

Monica: No way. I personally would just not do well with a camera around me.

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I'm very, like, introverted, and I don't really get too much of it out in public. Plus I'd think I was fat. I hate to say that but it's the truth! I would be so self-conscious!
FARAN KRENTCIL

more scene :

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