

STUDIOSESSION

Shooting at OMP Studios with Desiree Starr and Markus Richter

One Model Place has a long history of bringing talented models and photographers together to produce stunning imagery. Creative lightning struck again in Fort Lauderdale recently, as New York native Desiree Starr **OMP Model #245758** and German artist Markus Richter **OMP Member #15302** collaborated recently at the OMP Studios for an all-day shoot.

Desiree is Divine in 1940s Fashions

Desiree started her career as a swimsuit model in Long Island, NY, working hard to build up her portfolio while also designing costumes and helping to run a professional studio. Relocating to Southwest Florida in March of 2006, she opened up an eBay store online to sell outfits and costumes. But modeling once again beckoned, and within a short period of time, she was asked to pose for a calendar. More modeling assignments soon followed.

“Believe me, Florida was the last place I thought I would be modeling. As it turns out, there are a surprising amount of local businesses here in Florida looking for responsible professional models to advertise their products and services. To borrow a phrase from a photographer who I recently had the pleasure of working with: ‘Walk your neighborhood!’ In other words, take a good look around — there are many places where you



can find work as a model. Think about it! Everywhere you look there are pictures of models promoting products and services. The reality is that there are no shortcuts. You have to work at it.”

Since joining OneModelPlace.com this past May, Desiree has been very fortunate to work with some of the best in the business — and meet a lot of interesting people from all walks of life. “One Model Place is, in my opinion, the best online community for models, photographers and artists to showcase their talents. If it

were not for OMP, I probably never would have had the opportunity to work with such talented and creative people. For example, I will soon be doing a Glamour Workshop with two of the wizards of OMP -- GW Burns and Doc Glidewell -- in Sarasota.”

The circumstances that led to her working with Markus Richter at the OMP Studios were fortuitous indeed. “When photographers Markus Richter from Germany and James Graham from my old hometown of New York called expressing interest in shooting me for some projects they were working on, I knew I’d have to make the trip. Our shoot went so well that, when Markus mentioned to me that he would like to work with me again while he was still in the States, we decided to set up a second shoot here in Florida. When I arrived at the

house that Markus was staying at, he surprised me by telling me he had arranged for us to shoot at One Model Place.”

Shooting at the OMP Studios turned out to be an ideal situation. “We had originally planned to shoot at a hotel in Miami — which had a specific look — but the OMP Studios suited our needs better. With access to so many different sets, props, backgrounds, lights, and wardrobe, not only were we able to get the images we were after, but we were also able to use other parts of the studio as well.

That allowed us to maximize the opportunity to work together and create additional images that we had not originally planned. Photographers could shoot at OMP for the rest of their lives and constantly get different images! From the minute we walked into the studios, we were made to feel very welcome. The staff was so warm and friendly that you really felt comfortable shooting there. Owner Brett Cramer gave us a tour of the impressive complex, and was very accommodating in providing us with everything we needed for the shoot.”

Markus came up with the idea that their shoot in South Florida should resemble photographs from the 1930s and '40s. Desiree explains, “After spending a few hours researching the makeup, hairstyles, and wardrobe from that era, I put together an accurate representation of what I would look like if I lived back in those times. I already had most of the props, like the long cigarette holder and white satin opera gloves. The only thing that was missing was the actual clothes one would wear if they lived in that era. While we were in New York shooting, we found a fabric store which sold material for 75 cents a pound. As I searched through the material that I had just brought back from Manhattan, I found exactly what I needed and decided to surprise Markus by making a long white body-hugging satin gown.”

With Markus’ dramatic lighting and angles, and the period clothing Desiree was able to replicate this style, the shots came out like a scene from an old-fashioned Hollywood film. “Markus set up a plain black background with an antique love seat, and we shot on that for the first set. Then I changed to a 1940s outfit, and posed in a set of black lingerie that I designed and created. We then went outdoors and shot for a while. In the enclosed courtyard,

we found all sorts of cool settings — including a staircase that lent itself to some wild pictures. We were able to get a nice variety of unexpected images. We were so impressed with each other’s talent and abilities, and pleased with the images we created, that we are planning a third shoot together in January when Markus’s exhibition opens in New York, and possibly a fourth session in Europe if our schedules allow.”

Desiree would advise others to use the OMP Studios “in a heartbeat! If I did not have a three-hour ride home and Markus did not have to catch a flight back to Germany the next day, we could have literally shot there all night!”

She offers a helpful hint for photographers and models when shooting at the One Model Place Studios: “Bring Chapetto (OMP’s canine webmaster) a treat, and he’ll be your friend the rest of the day!”

In addition to her One Model Place portfolio, you can find more images of Desiree at www.desireestarr.com.

Artist Finds Inspiration from Bygone Era

Markus Richter was born to a family of artists. His father was a musician and his grandfather was a great painter and photographer. “I was very interested in photography as a child. After leaving school, I completed training in photo engraving and worked as a draughtsman for a cloth printing company. After my duty in the military, I undertook studies at the Education Centre for Digital Media, which introduced me to digital photography very early. I worked for several advertising agencies as a designer and photographer. In time, photography became my passion.”



The photographer has made a name for himself in his home country of Germany, so much so that nowadays companies contact him for projects. “I’ve worked for several agencies and publishers, in the areas of fashion and advertising.” For example, Markus once was hired by Kodak to test a line of cameras in New York.

He first became a member of *OneModelPlace.com* in 2002. “I didn’t know how important being listed on OMP was at that time. Many publishers and companies found me on the site, and I got involved in several projects in the United States. TASCHEN -- which is the number one publishing house and publishes books from Helmut Newton, Terry Richardson and David LaChapelle — found me through One Model Place. OMP has been a big part in helping me become a known photographer.”

Here’s the scoop on how Markus came to work with Desiree Starr at the OMP Studios. “OMP’s Model Ambassador for England, Michaela **OMP Model #6858**, is one of my best friends. Micki helped me prepare for

my tour through the United States. She contacted models and photographers for me, and she had the idea to contact Brett Cramer at One Model Place in Florida. We didn’t know which days the OMP Studios were booked, so we went to meet with Brett. The studio, and we had the opportunity to work in it the whole day. That was great!”

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The spacious studio served well for their shoot. “I had worked with Desiree a week before in Manhattan. We had the idea to do something from the 1930-’40s. She made

her own period clothes, and we looked for props we could use. There were so many items like an old radio, furniture and other props which were good for the shoot — too many to use in just one day. We went to an upper room to shoot her in the white dress, then later we went to another part of the studio where I shot her with a feather boa in her black 1940s dress. As the sun came down, we went and worked outside. It was getting dark, but we took some lights from the studio, and placed them where we needed them. We got excellent results!”

He would definitely advise others to use the OMP Studios for their shoots. “There is a lot of space inside the studios and a lot of very good lamps, flashes, and other equipment — anything a photographer may need — plus the large area outside. I want to do some commercial work next time I am there.”

Markus describes the shoot as being very creative and spontaneous. “We talked about what we want to do ahead of time. As we started shooting with the white dress, Desiree came into her poses very easily. Later we involved Mike Duggan into the shoot. He had a black suit on, so we took a hat and a bottle of champagne and placed Mike next to Desiree. The shot turned out like a screenshot from an old black and white movie. It was Mike’s first time as a model but he did it very well. We used a break to shoot outside some images by daylight. As the sun came down, we moved inside to a different area of the studio.”

He passes along some technical tips for photographers and models when shooting in a studio setting. “When I shoot black and white, I use available light only -- I never use a flash. When I work with film, a light meter is my best friend. When I use a digital camera, I have my settings between ISO 400 and 1600, controlling how much light I dispense, and I shoot RAW only.” ✨

