

Amazing opportunities and experiences in modelling and acting



by Lucy Carpenter

Since creating our Instagram account back in 2017, Sammy and I have had some amazing opportunities and experiences.



After doing quite a few photoshoots, I believe Sammy and I have mastered getting around any issues that we come across. In my opinion, the most important thing is to communicate with the photographer, as it is important to be able to speak up about anything we need, and thankfully, everyone so far has been extremely accommodating. One issue we face in every photoshoot is the lighting since Sammy and I are very light sensitive, either the studio lights or the sunlight always hurt our eyes. We have learnt to overcome this by either taking some photos with our eyes closed to give them a rest or closing our eyes and after counting to 3, opening them for the photo. These strategies work very well for us, and our photographers are always happy to make the compromises.

One of the most exciting experiences we have had so far is being extras in a movie. We played heretics in the film "Judy & Punch". We had never been on a movie set before and were nervous about meeting everyone and how we'd get around set due to our vision impairments. Thankfully, all of the staff were very helpful and we were able to spontaneously incorporate wooden sticks as props to help us walk around while shooting without tripping over or bumping into anything. For the role we played, there were many other people with disabilities in the same scenes as us which made us feel included and not singled out. The staff were amazing to everyone on set and were very accepting of the different disabilities everyone had.



Our most recent event was participating in a runway fashion show for VAMFF 2020 that was held by Guide Dogs and Kangan Institute. We were worried about how we would get through our runway walk safely and comfortably but thankfully we came up with good strategies with the staff to help us. We were able to walk down the runway a few times before the show started with a staff member and we were guided to the start of the runway during the actual show. Luckily the stage was white and the floor of the venue was black so there was a good level of contrast for us to see the edge of the runway and I was able to use my cane to get down the runway and back safely.



There are always extra struggles to face with vision impairment, however, there are also always ways to get around them and create a safe environment for you.