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Category: Photogenics

Photogenics

Dictionary.com defines Photogenic as "forming an attractive subject for photography or having features that look well in a photograph". While the photogenic category is often just a small portion of the overall point total every point counts so submitting a great photo for judging is important.

The first step in taking a great photo is to read the rulebook. Knowing exactly the type of photos needed for the pageant and how they will be used helps both you and the photographer prepare the setting, clothing and lighting used. Many pageants are now going with electronic submission so you will not need to purchase hard copies (although you really will want some for your scrapbook).

Practice your hair and make-up prior to your appointment. Seek professional help if you have little to no experience with appropriate rodeo queen hair and make-up. If you are only required to provide head and shoulder shots then you will only need to take blouses and tops (or a dress that has a flattering neckline). Choose several different styles of blouses to shoot. Fabric blouses are often more casual than heavily adorned leather blouses and emit a different feel for the photos. Even though you won't see what you are wearing below your bust line, tuck your blouse in to get a good fit.

Avoid going the inexpensive route and opt for a professional studio photographer. Lighting and background are very important in forming a photograph that is pleasing and places you in your best. Professional photographers have the experience to adjust their lights and camera settings to take exceptional photos. Remember, a fancy camera does not make the photographer. An exceptional photographer can take exceptional photographs with almost any equipment.

Take samples of rodeo queen photogenic photos to the photographer so they understand what type of photo they are aiming for. You can also send links to photos in the internet prior to your appointment so the photographer is prepared.

When it is time to take your photographs it is imperative that you SMILE. Rodeo queens are supposed to be friendly and welcoming. Serious photos may be appropriate for keepsakes but they are not appropriate for competition and promotion. In the same vein sexy photos are also not appropriate. You are to portray a wholesome image at all times.

Not all pageants require a photo for judging but will use the photo for promotional reasons. This is often the first impression the judges will have of you and while it's tempting to go the mom or neighbor route for these photos we recommend not doing so. If you are going to be entering several pageants in a season make the investment to have good photos taken for all of them.