

A: I've never felt comfortable with nudity - I compare what I look like with what they look like. It was a friend of mine too, which made it even more embarrassing. I remember going bright red and thinking I would never do it again.

Q: Do you still get embarrassed?

A: You become more relaxed about watching guys strip but, for a long time, I would still get embarrassed when they asked how they should pose or if they should get a hard-on. I'm better now, though I tend to leave the room and ask them to shout when they're ready.

Q: Are most guys happy doing nude work?

A: If a guy has a reasonable body it's almost required that he does some body work. I've found straight guys have the most confidence. Gay models tend to have a bigger problem with self-image. I think it's something to do with the gay lifestyle.

Q: What do you mean?

A: Well, by the time a gay guy gets into modeling he will have been out on the scene and probably left his number with numerous guys who have never called back. That could make him less confident. Some gay lads can't understand why I want to take their photo even though they're really good looking.

Q: Is there a big market for male photography?

A: Advertising has changed a lot. Ten years ago, you would hardly ever see the male figure - it would always be

the woman's picture with, perhaps, a man draped around her. Now it's often the woman in the evening dress draped around a half-naked man. It's almost like it's not politically correct to have nude women any more but it's okay to have nude men.

Q: Apart from the obvious, what qualities do you feel make someone a good model?

A: Guys who don't think they're owed a living just because of the way they look. It helps if they have a good attitude. Some models will say they only want to wear particular clothes or pose in a certain way and are not prepared to listen. The best models are those who are willing to learn and show some humility. Even if the guy is quite shy, as long as he has a little bit of personality, he will photograph well. A guy's personality does come across in the pictures.

Q: Who's the best model you've worked with?

A: It's difficult to say because I've worked with so many good people. It's someone who doesn't have to try to look good - they could wear a sack and still look great. A guy called James was one of the easiest to work with and he always looked good. Paul (see page 12) is someone else who's good to work with.

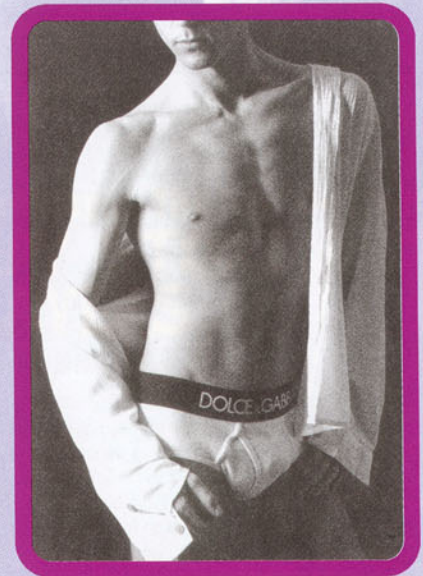
Q: Have you photographed anyone famous?

A: I've done some work for the music business with Take That and Upside Down. I've been on the Mizz mag and Smash Hits tour and photographed a lot of bands of that ilk and era, like Boyzone, Peter Andre and East 17.

Q: Are there any celebrities you would like to have in front of the lens?



A: I think any gay photographer would like to work with David Beckham. He's an attractive guy so there's no denying there's a personal element to it but I've seen pictures of him and thought how I would have liked to have taken them. I'd also like to photograph Adam Rickitt. I want to be the first photographer to take a full frontal of him. He's done just about everything else, so it would be nice to be the one to take those shots. I see photography as a constant challenge - to do shoots with people who aren't keen to have their pictures taken.



Q: Who in the photographic world do you most admire?

A: On the male photography side, I would say Bruce Weber. He's not someone I would like to emulate or copy but he's done some very good work. It's a bit like with my musical taste, I can like someone's work but then there's other stuff of theirs I don't like. But Bruce Weber has done some very good photographs.

Q: What would you like your epitaph to read?

A: I'd like to be known for taking good pictures, you know, that have real quality there. But I would also like to think the people I've worked with have the view I treated them well, like people rather than lumps of meat. That's very important to me.

You can check out Steve's work on his website at www.stevenbrewer.co.uk