



MARIAN ÁVILA

Marian is a young girl from Alicante with Down syndrome who made her first debut on the catwalks as a model at the beginning of 2016. She did it together with the Valencian designer Lina Lavin at a charity event in Madrid to help people affected with fibromyalgia. It was a dream that she had pursued with all her might from her earliest childhood. And from that moment on, what seemed impossible began to be a reality. Talking with her she tells us about her first experiences and about all the dreams she's still longing to achieve.

PHOTOS: CUOCO CUERVO

Congratulations. You have been the first model with Down syndrome to parade in the New York Fashion Week, one of the most coveted goals for any professional in the sector. How did you live the experience?

I lived my dream to see New York and to parade in the Fashion Week. I felt very happy and thrilled, also with a lot of responsibility, nerves, excitement... but when I stepped on the catwalk I felt safe and calm. I said to myself: "everything is going to work out fine".

Can you tell us an anecdote?

The first day on the Fashion Boulevard I was stopped and congratulated and some girls asked me for a selfie. What a surprise: they knew me in New York!! I couldn't believe it. And another very special moment was of course when I met Kenzie, Talisha and Brogan. It was so emotional that we all started crying and all our make-up ran.

Last summer you also starred in an El Corte Inglés campaign, do you get recognised on the street now?

The truth is yes. I feel surprised and excited. They recognised me at the airport, on the plane, in a restaurant in New York, the other day at the cinema in Madrid, in Benidorm...

What new projects do you have on the agenda as a model? Will we see you soon in one of the major catwalks of the fashion industry?

Yes... I'm very happy but I still can't say anything.

On several occasions you have declared that the next step is to be an actress, how are you preparing for this?

I go to acting classes at the Primera Toma School and to vocal technique classes at the Voice Laboratory. I also prepare myself by reading a lot, practicing and learning monologues, articles...



Who are your idols?

In fashion it's Nieves Álvarez, she is so elegant, I love her. In the movies, Penélope Cruz, Rocío Muñoz Cobos... My favourite American actress is Cameron Díaz.

Do you prefer the cinema or the theatre?

I love going to the theatre, to musicals... And also the cinema. Since I was very little I've gone a lot to the theatre, to see musicals, to the opera, to ballet... I love them.

I'll tell you an anecdote: when I was eight years old we were in Barcelona and we met some friends from Benidorm who were all going to the amusement park but I preferred to go to the theatre.

It seems that you have a good life and you're doing well, but we know that you have a great family support and you've always been very hardworking. Have you had to deal with many prejudices and barriers?

Yes, we have to fight with many prejudices and barriers. I always say to myself: "I can". When I see injustices I go ahead and I say motivating phrases and I also say "let's turn the page".

Who would you like to work with?

With Custo Dalmau, Ágatha Ruiz de la Prada, Miguel Marín, Maya Hansen, Dominnico... I love Spanish fashion. I would also like to parade with Victoria Secret.

In the cinema I would like to work with Pedro Almodóvar, Penélope Cruz, the Javis (Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi)... I think it would be great to learn and grow as an actress and a person. Also with Javier Fesser, as my favourite movie this year is his "Campeones" (*Champions*). ✨

