# ALANA BUNTE

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**Is it true that you were discovered at the US Surf Open, the big sport-sports bash on the West Coast just up from Laguna Beach?**
Yes. I was only 14. Two weeks later I was doing New York Fashion Week: they dyed my hair and took off my braces. Surf Open is such a big event, kind of like Glastonbury. I was surfing with my mom when I was scouted; I wasn't surfing or anything.

**Was that around when you grew up as well?**
I was raised in Laguna Beach — a very suburban upbringing, in a sort of American bubble. I didn't even know who the prime minister of Britain was until I moved to London.

**So you saw more of the world once you started modelling?**
Well, when I started I only modelled in New York cause I was too young to work in Europe. So I didn't come to Milan or Paris until this season.

**You took a big break from modelling in between, didn't you?**
Yes, for eight years. My mom thought it would be too much, thank God. It's ever had a daughter I would never let her think of modelling, unless she was done with school and was old enough to decide for herself.

**Eight years is a long time to be away.**
It is, but I think it's worked out in my favour. I had like five half-term cameos. I remember shooting with Arthur Elgort when I was younger. he told me how to apply myself. He said, "Go take an acting class, take a ballet class, and then come back and see me." And I guess, coming back this time, I know who was who and how to take it all in fun.

**Was modelling something you were interested in before you were scouted?**
Yes. Well, not necessarily modelling, but I always wanted to perform in front of a camera. I was in *Mulgan From Space*! I was seven and I was an alien Mulgan. I'm in a nude bodysuit with a big alien head on and I'm bouncing on a balloon by a pool. There were six other aliens, two of them were my brothers.

**Are your brothers connected to fashion at all?**
No. One of my younger brothers is in LA studying business, the oldest's an athlete. My other brother.... My family actually make veggie chips — they're called Cobra Chips — and I'm voice that. They're really healthy: no trans fats, non-GMO, organic corn — they're really good! But I had zero desire to work there.

**You sound somewhat different?**
Yes. I always loved performing. When I was six or seven, I'd make my father film me while I pretended to be a newscaster. When modelling came along it was like, oh, this will do. People have to pay attention to me! But after a year and a half I grew to hate it, how superficial it was. I think it's because I was so young.

**So why did you return to modelling?**
It was really after I went to Central St Martins [to study Fine Art], and grew to love art as a performance that I saw maybe I could go back to modelling and use it as a way of expressing myself. That's why I wanted to go back into it. It was my choice. ●