

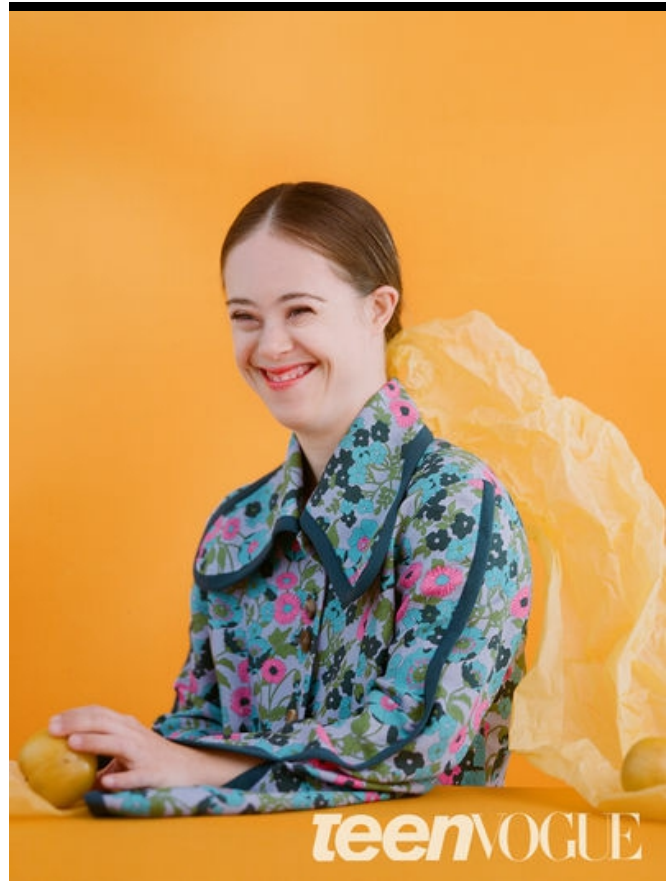
A SEPTEMBER ISSUE THAT SHEDS LIGHT ON DISABILITY

By Holly Friend

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The New Faces of Fashion by Teen Vogue, US



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US – Amid growing inclusivity in the fashion industry, Teen Vogue has dedicated its September issue covers to three disabled models.

Authored by Keah Brown, a writer and disability advocate with cerebral palsy, the issue's **in-depth lead article** calls out the fashion industry for its exclusion of disabled models. As well as drawing attention to the brands that have made steps towards inclusivity, such as Aerie and Tommy Hilfiger, Brown talks to three disabled models about their personal experiences in the industry.

'There wasn't anyone who looked like me in any magazines or mainstream media, TV, or anything. It was definitely confusing because I knew my worth in the world,' says Jillian Mercado, a model with spastic muscular dystrophy. 'I knew that there are [so many] people out there like me, but we are never included in any conversations.'

Alongside fashion brands, UK model agency **Zebedee Management** is working to increase the representation of people with disabilities in campaigns and in the media. However, brands are being challenged to ensure that inclusivity is wholly integrated into their business, so it **does not become tokenistic**.