

Dorothy Shi Reflects on More Than 25 Years in New York Photography

New York photographer's career has spanned advertising, fashion, portraiture and professional headshots

NEW YORK CITY, NY, UNITED STATES, August 21, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- New York photographer Dorothy Shi is marking more than 25 years of professional work across advertising, fashion, portraiture and headshot photography.

Over the course of her career, Shi has photographed actors, models, children, executives and commercial clients, while working on photography projects associated with brands including Dove, Michael Kors, Levi's, Laura Ashley and Disney.

Shi's work has developed across several areas of photography, from commercial assignments and fashion imagery to actor headshots and corporate portraiture.

For Shi, one of the constants throughout that work has been the relationship between photographer and subject.

"Photography has never been about making someone look like somebody else," Shi said. "I want to see who they are and create an environment where they can be comfortable in front of the camera."

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Shi began building her photography career in New York more than two decades ago. Working in a competitive commercial and creative market, she developed an approach centered on observation, communication and direction rather than relying on a single visual formula.

That approach has allowed her to work with a wide range

of subjects, including experienced performers, first-time actors, models developing portfolios,



children entering the entertainment industry, corporate executives and individuals seeking professional portraits.

“The camera can sense when someone is uncomfortable, and so can the viewer,” Shi said. “Part of the photographer’s role is creating enough trust that the person can stop concentrating on the camera.”

Her career has included advertising photography, fashion photography, [actor and model headshots](#), children’s photography, executive portraits, [corporate headshots](#) and personal branding photography.

Shi has also received recognition within the photography and entertainment industries. She has been named a Best Headshot Photographer by Backstage four times and has received Fashion Photographer of the Year recognition twice.

Despite the changes in photography over the past 25 years — including the transition from film to digital photography and the growing importance of online professional and personal imagery — Shi says the fundamentals of portraiture remain largely unchanged.

The photographer still has to understand the person in front of the camera, she said, and determine how best to translate personality, character and purpose into an image.

Today, Shi continues to work with commercial clients, actors, models, children and business professionals in New York City and beyond.

For Shi, reaching the 25-year milestone is less a retrospective conclusion than an opportunity to consider what has remained consistent throughout her career: an interest in people and the process of photographing them.

“Every person is different,” Shi said. “That is what continues to make photography interesting.”

About Dorothy Shi

Dorothy Shi is a New York-based photographer with more than 25 years of professional experience. Her work includes advertising, fashion, actor and model headshots, children’s photography, corporate and executive portraiture, and personal branding.

Her career has included photography projects associated with brands including Dove, Michael Kors, Levi’s, Laura Ashley and Disney. Shi has been recognized four times by Backstage as a Best Headshot Photographer and has received Fashion Photographer of the Year recognition twice.

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