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# DONYALE LUNA



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BLACK SUPERMODEL?

**D**onyale Luna: Breaking Barriers in the Fashion Industry | Until the 1960's, European beauty was acknowledged as the professional standard in the fashion world. That is until Donyale Luna entered the scene becoming the world's first African American Supermodel, Luna introduced diversity to the industry by presenting her beautifully distinct features as well as her unique outlook on life. She stood up for black women who had not been represented before in fashion and won the world over with her charm.



DONYALE LUNA - PHOTOGRAPHER: EZEKIAL LEWIS



## A Tale of Two Worlds: From Detroit to Europe's Runways

Reflecting on her time modeling in Europe, she contrasted it with her upbringing in Detroit, where she felt her looks were not appreciated. Her striking appearance was not lost on everyone, however; Verna Green, a fellow student at Cass Technical, remembered her as unforgettable, yet Luna remained unaware of her beauty. Her fashion sense was simple, opting for black skirts and long-sleeved tops. Sadly, she was ostracized for being different and speaking and looking differently at Cass Technical. Luna recalled, "I grew up realizing I was strange." Despite this, she achieved a significant milestone in 1966 by becoming the first African-American model to grace the cover of *British Vogue*. She paved the way for young black girls to be authentic in their imagination. She captured the essence of how unique black beauty really is.





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