

HEART *of* HOLLYWOOD

INDUSTRY EXPERT

Steve Longi

A Creative Producer
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To my dear friend **Alex Erwin**,
Memories can be eternal, thank you for sharing your time with my family and with me.
We will always keep you in our Heart.
I hope to see you again sometime and that you Rest In Peace as long as you wish until
you believe it is time to come back.
- Giovanna Salas and all who loved you while you were here.

Our sincere condolences to Alex's family

Giovanna Salas

Heart Of Hollywood Motion Pictures, LLC CEO

www.heartofhollywoodmagazine.com



Photo: Jac Wong

EDITOR'S LETTER

MOVIES, MUSIC, AND MOVING INTO A NEW SEASON

By Sandy Rodriguez

Wrapping up a busy summer! Heart Of Hollywood Magazine was honored to be a part of the Broadway International Film Festival, and you'll find the details in this issue. Emilio Vega, BIFFLA Executive Director, kindly invited our CEO and Publisher Giovanna Salas to be one of the MCs.

The festival was held at the Mexican Center for Culture and Cinematic Arts (CCCM), a venue within the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles. Follow @cccmla_ to read about events, courses, and activities offered here—there are many throughout the year, including contests open to actors and artists.

But I digress. After the first evening's films, the Heart Of Hollywood team members that attended the festival went for a drink at The Grand. This is a two-building complex in Downtown L.A. designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry, also responsible for the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall and international landmarks such as the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.

Whenever you're in Los Angeles, definitely stop by the Conrad, the newest luxury hotel in the area, which is inside The Grand. Enjoy the Conrad's bars and restaurants, featuring menus created in partnership with celebrity chef and humanitarian Jose Andres, not to mention spectacular views of the city.

If you're interested in entertainment gossip, drive around the general area to check out the nearby Eastern Columbia, where Johnny Depp lived with Amber Heard during their short-lived marriage.

Film and TV projects, much like marriages, can come to an abrupt end, as was evidenced by the recent Warner Brothers decision to scrap the \$70 million **Batgirl**, which was to feature Leslie Grace alongside actors such as Michael Keaton

and Brendan Fraser. Luckily, some shows I enjoy and recommend are still going strong—season 5 of **Cobra Kai**, for instance, returns to Netflix this month. This is a multigenerational show that appeals to an incredibly broad cross-section of viewers. Part of the appeal, to me at least, are the badass eighties jams.

I had a fantastic time rocking out to this type of music recently at a Motley Crue/Poison/Def Leppard/Joan Jett show at the SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. The electrifying tour is set to finish on September 9th in Las Vegas.

National Hispanic Heritage Month in United States runs from September 15th to October 15th. It's the perfect time to read my book, **Choose to Prevail**, which received a Gold Medal in the Best Health and Wellness Category at the International Latino Book Awards. It's meant to increase confidence and self-acceptance—something quite useful for people in the industry. Get your personalized, signed copy here <https://www.heartofhollywoodmagazine.com/product-page/choose-to-prevail-signed-copy-by-sandy-rodriguez-papeback>. While you're at it, follow me on Instagram at @choosetoprevail for book recommendations, lifestyle posts, entertainment news, and occasional giveaways.

On a more serious note, writer and video editor Alex Erwin tragically passed away. This wonderful man was involved with many, many Heart Of Hollywood Magazine projects, given that he was a good friend to our CEO and was also her constant collaborator. During several years, he helped execute the company vision. Rest in peace, Al.

Much love to all our readers.

-Sandy

HEART^{of} HOLLYWOOD



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BEAUTY AND BRAINS

Pageant Queen Luna Hinojosa Is Passionate about Acting and Psychology

Luna Hinojosa is an actress, model, and beauty queen. She is currently studying a second career in psychology.

“As an actress, I’ve participated in a play, as well as many short films and movies. As a model, I’ve been on runways and also had a lot of photoshoots with different photographers and brands. As a beauty queen, I have participated in two beauty contests. In the first one, I was Miss Beauty Turismo Tzintzuntzan. I’m currently Miss Pacifico Guanajuato, and because of this I will be a national pageant next October 2022,” she said. “I decided to study psychology because I love helping people. I love listening to people and helping them with their emotions and problems, especially people with mental issues such as bipolar disorder, depression, anorexia, bulimia, or anxiety.

Luna decided to become an actress when she was still a little girl.

“I used to watch movies and say, ‘When I grow up I want to learn English, move to Los Angeles, and act in movies.’ I used to watch films and imagine how beautiful it would be to bring a character to life and be in those beautiful settings,” she recalled. “There is magic in every movie. How exciting it is to bring amazing, wonderful characters to life.”

Some of Luna’s favorite actors are Naomi Watts, Octavia Spencer, Helena Bonham Carter, Tom Hanks, Anthony Hopkins, and Gary Oldman.

“Acting is my biggest passion and I also love studying, preparing for a role, and working very, very hard on my characters. I also love to listen to advice on how to do a great job with my characters. Establishing oneself in the film industry is difficult, but if you are devoted to this, are patient, and work hard, you can find a lot of opportunities,” she explained, and added that her dream is to work in Hollywood.

“Never give up on your dreams. No matter how hard it gets, no matter how many people say it’s impossible, follow your dreams. Believe in yourself and don’t give up. I love you all!”



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Photo Credits: Noé Martínez



Luna Hinojosa

Photo Credit: PANDA Studio

SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE

Better Than Sex - A Dessert Restaurant in Los Angeles Offers Delightful Sweet Treats

Better Than Sex - A Dessert Restaurant, located in Los Angeles at 7166 Melrose Ave., welcomes guests for a romantic night away. Outside of its playfully delicious beverages and decadent desserts, the restaurant provides an experience tailored to a couple looking for intimacy and privacy. As guests enter, they'll notice walls adorned with lustful yet tasteful works of art. The restaurant atmosphere offers a calm, romantic serenity ideal for a couple, a group of friends, or a night out solo.

As guests move further into its dimly lit halls, they'll find the private "Nookie Room" fit for a celebration over sweetly crafted desserts.

Reservations are available Wednesday through Sunday.

The concept of Better Than Sex - A Dessert Restaurant provides couples with a truly intimate and cozy experience. However, a homemade version of Better Than Sex - A Dessert Restaurant awaits guests on delivery apps DoorDash and UberEats. The restaurant invites guests to make a pickup order for a date night at home. Doors are always open to those hoping to spark a flame with a loved one over handcrafted desserts and delicious cocktails.



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AN OUTLET FOR CREATIVITY

Chris Bath Believes Acting Is a Fulfilling Form of Expression

Chris Bath is an actor currently residing in East Tennessee. His credits as an actor include participations in crime documentaries such as **Snapped: Killer Couples**, **Homicide Hunter**, **#Murder**, and **Dying to Belong**. He has also acted in a few commercials and worked as a background extra on two episodes of the CBS TV series **Tell Me A Story**.

He has done some modeling in the past as well, and while he hasn't done any work as a model in the last five years, he is still open to future projects.

When did you decide that you wanted to become an actor?

I first became interested in acting when I was in college, but at the time I decided to put acting aside to focus on my studies. However,

by the time I was finished with college, I became completely immersed in trying to support myself by working in a profession that I found to be unfulfilling and that, quite frankly, made me unhappy.

In May, 2014 I met an accomplished Hollywood actor who was local to my area and was giving a seminar at a local library. His name is Cylk Cozart. After Cylk was finished talking to the patrons, I spoke with him for a few minutes. He was a really nice and down-to-earth guy. I guess you could call it a chance meeting, because it was Cylk who rekindled my interest in acting, and from that moment on I decided to get the ball rolling and work towards accomplishing my goals in the acting world!

For as long as I can remember, I have had this very creative side that likes to be funny and entertaining, and this is what attracted me more to the acting profession as I grew older and more mature.

It provided an appropriate outlet for me to express this creativity, especially with improv, which has become one of my favorite types of acting!

Who are your biggest influences?

Clint Eastwood, Mel Gibson, Sylvester Stallone, and Harrison Ford were my favorite actors and had the greatest influence on me when I was younger. Over the years I've followed these actors. I have really enjoyed their films and the way they exude this tough guy persona in the roles that they portray. It's not just the movies they have acted in that I like, but also other films they have directed or produced.

What are your main strengths as an actor?

Work ethic and punctuality. When I commit to a project, I will stay with it to the very end.

How difficult is it to establish yourself in the film industry?

It's quite competitive! I'm always competing against many other actors for starring roles in film and TV projects, and I've been rejected many more times than I have booked roles in film and television.

What I have learned along the way is that it's a long journey which requires a lot of patience. You can't let yourself get discouraged if you run into setbacks!

What's your dream, your ultimate goal? Do you feel like you're on the path to this goal, or do you feel as if you already achieved that dream?

I can't really predict what the future will hold in store for me, considering that we are living in difficult times. However, my main goal in this industry is to be a regular working actor, and what I mean by this is working full time doing what I love. I'm not there yet, but God willing I can accomplish my goals within the next five years!

What is your message to all your fans?

I don't consider myself a celebrity, but whoever and wherever my fans may be, your support and encouragement are always appreciated!

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SEEKING ADVENTURE

Actor Sven Kennedy Enjoys the Challenge of Inspiring Others

Sven Kennedy is an adventurer, actor, artist, warrior, and poet. He aims to inspire, motivate, and challenge everyone he encounters. At this time, he works in film and television. His goal is to act, write, direct, and produce his own art.

When did you decide that you wanted to become an actor?

I was around 8 years old, and this happened right after I watched **Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark**.

I loved the adventurous aspect of this career path, the imagination and use of creativity. Plus, the thought of making blockbusters that make people fall head over heels in love with movies and their characters is pretty awesome.

Who are your biggest influences?

Harrison Ford, Denzel Washinton, Ang Lee, Mark Hamill, Jackie Chan, Sir Ian Mckellen, Chris Tucker, Jimmy Stewart, Clark Gable, Bruce Willis, and many others.

What is your strength as an actor?

Taking direction, improvising and using my body.

How difficult is it to establish yourself in the film industry?

It has been an interesting learning experience—it's been fun but tough! I was blessed to get to work with Ang Lee on Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk and I learned much about rising to the top.



What's your dream, your ultimate goal? Do you feel like you're on the path to this goal, or do you feel as if you already achieved that dream?

To write, act, direct, and produce art that inspires and connects us. That's my goal and I'm still working towards this. It's gonna be spectacular, just you watch.

What is your message to all your fans?

Believe in your dreams, they take you to wonderful places. And please take care of the earth; we only have one.

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OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Jacqueline Drexler's Difficult Path before Entering the Fields of Medicine and Modeling

Jacqueline Drexler's primary career is in the medical field. She is a phlebotomist who is studying to become a Registered Nurse.

"I have about 10 years of experience working in the field. I've worked in mental health as a tech, in hospital settings from Nevada to California, and alongside covid-19 patients, gaining an outstanding amount of experience, working in critical care with both nurses and physicians. When the pandemic started to slow down, my friend asked to be part of his movie, **The Bachelor Murder Mystery: Who Murdered the Bachelor?** Since becoming a part of the movie, I grew curious and gained the courage to seek out other opportunities in front of a camera", she said.

She then received a Miss San Fernando Valley title from US Nation Pageants and started connecting with photographers for shoots. Since then, she's moved toward her primary goal of becoming a nurse, while also working part-time in photography and fashion.

Getting to where she currently is required a lot of growth and confidence. When Jacqueline was around 11, her mother was deported.



In her view, her father became emotionally overwhelmed and had a hard time raising two girls on his own.

"By the time I was 13 years old, I started getting into trouble and hung out with the wrong crowd. Between the ages of 14 to 17 I had transitioned from a troublemaker to someone who wanted to become better for myself. I started to believe in myself, knowing that I was capable of doing greater things. I didn't want to go to school anymore, but I was convinced that rather than dropping out I should complete my high school credits faster, which led me to finish a semester earlier than my class. As soon as I received my diploma, I wanted to go into medical assisting. By the time I was 18, I was able to explore what I would enjoy in the field. My first job was at a chiropractor's office in Burbank. Changing my scenery helped me change the way I thought. I went back to college to begin my path into the nursing program shortly after," she said.

Her career path, however, was not a smooth road at all, and she experienced a mental health crisis of her own.

"Parental guidance was very limited, and my home surroundings could've easily taken me in. I grew up in an impoverished neighborhood, surrounded by gangs and crime. I was the eldest sibling, which was another disadvantage, since I had to figure it all out! My dad didn't have faith in me. I had to trust myself and believe that I could make it out of this. The biggest decision I had ever made in my life was to transfer out to Nevada to go live with my grandfather, whom I knew nothing about. It was also the greatest decision I ever made. There were more than a few struggles. I believe the biggest one was growing up feeling alone, believing no one was on my side, while refusing to ask for help," she recalled.

In the next 12 month's, Jacqueline will be completing her nursing program to gain a bachelors degree.

"I love critical care and currently I work in two hospitals, including a trauma center. I plan on applying to either or both hospitals to begin my journey as a nurse, to gain at least two years of experience before being able to apply as a travel nurse. I would also like to have the opportunity to work as a nurse outside the United States, to be exposed to under-resourced countries needing medical attention. The modeling career is just beginning. I'm not quite sure where it will take me but I'd love to work with young women who may need guidance or support", she said. "The best advice I'd like to share is to write down how or where you'd like to see yourself in the future. Write out how you plan to get there. Believe in yourself. You are capable of doing things to bring yourself out of something, things that can help you become a better you. Just because you reside somewhere doesn't mean it is who you are. You are who your heart says you are."

IMMERSED IN HIS CHARACTERS

Actor and Filmmaker Gregory Minton Is Not Afraid to Fully Inhabit a Role

Gregory Minton is an actor and a filmmaker in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He acts in films and also loves to model for photographers. He has been represented by The Clutts Agency for nearly two years now, and has also received his B.A. degree in Media Arts from the University of North Texas.

Whenever he's not acting for his agency, Gregory seeks to expand his knowledge on filmmaking and editing.

What attracted you to acting and when did you decide that you wanted to become an actor?

Watching my middle sister's plays throughout high school and watching all of the actors fully embody their characters– even after their performance was over– and watching Leonardo DiCaprio or Heath Ledger work their magic on the big screen had heavy influences on me when I began my acting career once I started college. Also, I got injured while playing football and realized I needed to find something new.

I decided that I wanted to fully invest myself into acting during my second semester of college.

Who are your biggest influences?

When we were growing up, my sisters would always play house. Being the youngest sibling out of the three, I always wanted to do what the two older kids were doing, because I looked up to them. Surprisingly, they would let me join, even though I was always assigned the "evil" roles.

What is your main strength as an actor?

When it comes to acting, I am not afraid at all to submerge myself into a character and do whatever it takes to express whatever it is I believe they are feeling. I have always found this somewhat odd, since



I am much more shy in person. When I am a character, it is much easier for me to become more vulnerable and express emotions.

How difficult is it to establish yourself in the film industry?

In today's film industry, it seems very difficult to establish yourself. Preparing headshots, updating my reel, and balancing that with getting the necessary training and coaching for my auditions can get stressful from time to time.

What's your dream, your ultimate goal? Do you feel like you're on the path to this goal, or do you feel as if you already achieved that dream?

If I were to actually come to terms with an ultimate goal, I can remember my great grandmother telling me that she wants to see me on the big screen at least once in her lifetime. I constantly remind myself of her telling me that, every time I work on any film project, whether it be a student project, a small-budget project, or a projects given to me through my agency.

What is your message to all your fans?

If there is something in life that you know you want to do but are too afraid to do it, do it! Do not let anyone keep you from setting out on the journey that you have planned for yourself. In the end, everything is up to you!

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Model Anita Lain Stigler Says That Goals Can Be Achieved at Any Stage in Life

Anita Lain Stigler is a print, runway, and commercial model from Crest Hill, Illinois. She has devoted herself to service to others in the medical field. Anita loves having face-to-face interaction with patients and contributing to their care. She is also a mother of five boys, and has 12 grandchildren and a huge family.

What made you decide to become a model?

I just decided to step out on a limb and audition for a show in Chicago, and to my disbelief I was one of the models selected. It was the Chalazion Fashion event by Harvey Washington at the DuSable Museum in Chicago.

Who is your inspiration or role model?

I would say my grandmother Luverne, who raised me when my mother couldn't, and, of course, Beverly Johnson, darling.

What modeling experience do you have?

I have around four years experience as an amateur doing runway, print, and commercial modeling, as well as promotions. I recently had the amazing opportunity to be a part of the Fashion Life tour with House of iKons for the London Fashion Week, and also did other cameos around the United States.

What do you enjoy most about modeling?

I enjoy being a muse and I love the confidence I feel when I'm showcasing the designer's masterpiece. Also, walking or posing in front of the camera, strutting on the runway, and meeting wonderful, beautiful, spiritual women of all colors.

What are some of your biggest modeling accomplishments?

Getting over the fear. Wow, this question is difficult. An accomplishment is not taking it personally when I don't get picked. I just keep trying. I recently got picked to walk the runway for The Model Experience, and I had spent two years trying to get cast.

Other accomplishments are that I now travel across the world for destination shoots, and I do fashion shows and photoshoots. I'm getting booked more often now, and it's because of the dedication that I put forward to accomplish my visions and dreams this past year.



How do you prepare for a new photo shoot?

I communicate with the photographer to get all the info I need. I prepare my mind through meditation and my body with exercise and eating the right things. I also pack the things I need to bring. Last but not least, I relax and get plenty of rest!

Who is your favorite designer and why?

I have many favorite designers but I would say Rihanna, the pop star. She offers diversity in the industry and her brand Fenty is major. She became LVMH's first black female head of a fashion brand when she collaborated with the world's largest luxury conglomerate. Her lingerie line is off the chain. She is an incredible businesswoman who inspires everyone, men and women.

Why should an agency hire you?

I have something to offer with my flair, my style, my confidence, and my drive. I'm an energetic person with talent in my own way.

What is your message to our Heart Of Hollywood Magazine readers?

I want to be an example for women over 50 everywhere. I want to show that you can achieve anything you put your mind to. It's never too late to pursue your goals, no matter what life throws at you. You can and you will. Age is not a factor.

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TRUE BEAUTY

Model Nikoleta Morales and Her Additional Careers as a Journalist and a Publicist

Nikoleta Morales is an award-winning model, a pageant queen, an entertainment journalist, and a publicist based in Chicago.

She has won the titles of Ms. American Elegance Woman IL 2020, Miss Royalty International Duchess 2021/22, and Miss Royalty International Spokesmodel 2021/22.

Nikoleta, who has worked as a model for about two years now, has appeared in, and worked with, Supermodels Unlimited, Model Icon Inc., and Victoria Henley's Magnifique Modeling Show, among other events. She has been featured on the cover of Magic Image Hollywood Magazine, Supermodels Unlimited, Marika Magazine, and other publications. I was also selected as one of the Supermodels Unlimited models for group billboards in New York and for a solo billboard in Las Vegas. She has modeled for the highly prestigious New York Fashion Week and Chicago Fashion Week.

As a journalist, she covered the Oscars in person in 2019 and 2020. A custom-made dress was designed just for her by Mario & Jorge for the 2020 ceremony.

What made you decide to become a model?

I started doing pageants first, before I transitioned into modeling. Through my



Photo Credits: Billy Montana
Makeup and Hair: Juliana Jawarish
Stylist: Nikoleta Morales

journey, I discovered that I enjoyed modeling more than pageantry. Being a model inspires me to be creative, express myself and wear designer clothes that make me feel unique and confident. It allows me to tap into a different version of myself each time and have fun while doing so. I love the feeling of runway modeling and the energy that comes with it. What I love most about modeling photoshoots is that I get to be as creative and as authentic as I want, and to inspire other women to feel beautiful.

Who is your inspiration or role model?

I look up to women like JLo, Kim Kardashian, and Megan Fox because they are not only successful and beautiful, but are also able to inspire other women to feel sexy and confident, no matter what their age. They are also mothers like myself, and I can relate to the work that it takes to be successful and beautiful while still being a mother to your children. They are showing me that it is possible to do it all,

and do it successfully, while being unapologetically you.

What do you enjoy most about modeling?

The freedom to be as creative as I want and the opportunity to express myself without limits.

What are some of your biggest modeling accomplishments?

Being featured on billboards in New York, on magazine covers, and on my own solo billboard on the Las Vegas strip. I also won a few modeling awards and was featured at Victoria Henley's Magnifique Fashion Show this year. She is known as one of the America's Next Top Model contestants.

How do you prepare for a new photoshoot?

I tap into my higher self and my creative energy. I enjoy each shot taken as if it were my first. I also love having my makeup done and dressing accordingly, creating a perfect blend of confident and unique styles.

Who is your favorite designer and why?

My favorite celebrity fashion designer is Carolina Herrera. I interviewed her in person once in Chicago at her fashion show and she mesmerized me with her unique, clean, and beautiful designs which send the message that simplicity can be beautiful. She was extremely kind and she loved the outfit that I had picked for my interview. On a local level, I absolutely love Mario & Jorge; they designed my Oscar dress. Their gowns are beyond gorgeous. They make you feel confident and are extremely unique in design and style, with a touch of authenticity and culture.

Why should an agency hire you?

Because I know how to work hard, to hustle, to never give up on my dreams. I also

have a unique Eastern European look and star quality. Having worked among— and with— Hollywood stars for over 10 years, I have learned what it takes to be a star, a proper role model, and a professional. I also love modeling and have an extreme passion for it.

What is your message to our Heart Of Hollywood Magazine readers?

Always be your true, authentic self and believe in your dreams. Never let someone's "no" stop you from following your dreams. Remember that failure, just like success, is a part of life.



Photo Credits: Billy Montana
Makeup and Hair: Rebecca Major
Stylist: Nikoleta Morales

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WHO WE ARE

Heart Of Hollywood Magazine is a global enterprise devoted to fashion, entertainment, lifestyle, and empowerment. We offer local, national, and international content.

Heart Of Hollywood Magazine has provided many with a media outlet to give a voice to their stories and to share their message. Our values are to motivate, inspire and bring hope to all of those that have dreams. More than ever, we believe that the editorial content that we offer to our readers, is practical, useful, interesting and resourceful.

Across the globe, we are also a window into the industry for readers who want to know what is happening in Hollywood. We offer celebrity news, major announcements, and stories of people who have become legends in their fields. Every success story has a beginning, and we want to show you its roots.

Our story is the one that you share with Heart Of Hollywood Magazine.

Sincerely
Publisher/CEO
Giovanna Salas

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LADY IN RED



Designer Kiki Wang creates spectacular evening gowns in her signature crimson hues.

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Fashion Designer: Kiki Wang
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IG: @donnawilsonphotography





ENTERTAINING THE WORLD

Creative Producer Steve Longi Is Involved with the Full Filmmaking Process, from Finding Material to Releasing a Movie Globally

Steve Longi is a creative movie and TV producer who works independently to develop film and television projects to be produced in conjunction with major film studios and streaming companies.

He provides content for audiences all around the world. He is the one who finds material—usually a screenplay, book, or original idea— and then works with writers to develop the material into a screenplay. He then attaches a director and star talent, while also partnering with a studio or distribution company to co-produce the film and distribute it worldwide. He is involved in the entire process, from the start of production up until the release of the film.

You have worked on major productions, opened your own entertainment company, and worked with an array of stars, including Robert Downey, Jr, Whoopi Goldberg, Ray Liotta— rest in peace—, and many others. Can you tell me how your journey started?

I've always loved movies. I was 11 years old when I had a Super-8 camera, and would make movies in my backyard with all of the neighborhood kids as actors. After just barely graduating from high school and bouncing around various colleges, I started interning at a company called New Line Cinema, and also Cannon Pictures). I would do filing and get coffee for the executives and organize the supply closet. Real high-level stuff! But I was in the middle of the action, where I wanted to be. I was also reading screenplays and learning as much as I could while working as a bartender at night so I could pay my rent. I moved up to executive assistant and then vice president of a production company, and then produced my first film.

Where was the first place that you stayed when you arrived in L.A?

It was a low-rent motel on Sepulveda in Van Nuys for the first two weeks, and then a townhome in Northridge with three other guys. I'm still friends with them to this day.

What did Hollywood represent for you at the time?

As far as I was concerned, I had arrived in heaven. It represented everything I had dreamed about up until that point. It was the place where movies were made, right behind the walls of these legendary studios. I would get chills just seeing the Hollywood sign on the freeway.

Think back to your first movie. How did you get the job and how did it feel to be on set?

I was interning, in other words, working for free and college credit. My dream was coming true, so it felt incredible.

What are some of your most memorable experiences living and working as a film producer?

There are too many to mention. Working with Robert Downey, Jr. stands out. He's an amazing actor and human being. I learned a lot by just watching him work. He would do one take in a whisper and the other in a shout and they would both be great!

Being a producer, you get to go to so many interesting places, I've visited the Hopi Indian reservations in Arizona, which were incredible. I attended the Kentucky Derby and got to hang out with Ray Liotta one night in New Orleans. On Hacksaw Ridge, I was invited to see Desmond Doss's personal effects, which are held at Loma Linda University. That was an incredibly emotional trip. I also worked with the infamous Suge Knight and Death Row Records, but that's a story for another time!

What is your favorite movie?

This is one of the most difficult questions to answer because I have many favorites.

Almost anything directed by Stanley Kubrick, **Dog Day Afternoon** with Pacino, **Back to the Future**— a perfect movie in so many ways—, **Witness for the Prosecution** with Charles Laughton, many of Billy Wilder's movies, **The Big Lebowski**... again, this is a really hard question, but these movies pop into my head.

What do you enjoy the most about Los Angeles?

Hands down, the weather!

What is your definition of a creative film producer?

Someone who finds the project, develops the material (screenplay), attaches the director and actors, raises the financing, and produces the movie or TV series.

What is your perspective of the world and what do you feel is your role in the entertainment industry?

My perspective is that the world needs to be entertained, uplifted, inspired, and educated. I endeavor to produce movies and series that do this.

What are some of the new projects that you are working on at the moment?

I'm doing a limited series based on the book I published called **The Birth of Hacksaw Ridge**. I also have the rights to **The Betty and Barney Hill Story**. They were an interracial couple in the early 1960's who claimed, under hypnosis, that they were abducted by aliens who did horrific experiments on them. I think it will be one of the scariest movies you will ever see.

What is your message for those who dream of working in the entertainment industry?

Make your dream a reality by taking action. When I started out, it wasn't smooth at all. There were starts and stops and a few missteps, but I kept going and eventually I got lucky. Remember: hard work plus time equals luck. Find a mentor and offer some way to be of service. Learn everything you can about your field and stay on top of the industry news. Consult sites such as Variety.com and Deadline.com.

What is your message for our Heart Of Hollywood Magazine readers?

My message is that whatever you desire in life, be passionate about the process— and everything is process— but indifferent about the outcome. This will lead you to success.





*Be passionate
about the process— and
everything is process—
but indifferent
about the outcome.
—Steve Longi*

WILD DOGS

Chapter 4

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THE BIRTH OF THE SUN

A Novel by Delia Noble

Edited by R. A. Stermer

A Serial Novel of Hope and Resilience Told from a Young Girl's Perspective

Author Delia Noble is back with the fourth installment of Wild Dogs, a story centered on a child finding moments of beauty, joy and love in a difficult world. To read previous installments, please log on to <https://www.heartofhollywoodmagazine.com/blog/categories/wild-dogs-novel>

It was a dream. A radiant sun expanding its luminosity into the sky crossing behind the rising mountains.

I can picture my mother in a deep sleep, then waking up to her reality. What was going through her mind as she paced the floor looking at us as we lay sleeping? Was she feeling the baby inside of her? For a moment, I wanted to see through her eyes.

I wished she had shown me what she must have felt before making the decision to go back to the north, to our home. But it was not home anymore, it was a dream, an idea, and yet it was real.

I have a vague memory of my mother telling us that we were going back. I remember feeling sad. I had just made some friends at school. Everything had been moving so fast. Over the course of a year, we had already been to different states, houses, and schools.

And here we were, moving again! Helping to pack my brothers' and sisters' clothes was easy. I don't remember having any suitcases. Instead, we had a couple backpacks, two plastic bags filled with bread and small cartons of milk, and two blankets. That was our luggage.

We departed in the last days of April. At first, I thought that my mother

must have chosen the smallest and slowest bus ever. Then I realized that it was the only bus available.

We woke up very early that morning before the sun showed its rays. I had trouble sleeping the night before though, I was always dreaming. I hated to be up so early and must have looked like a sleepwalker.

That bus took us to a city where we got on a bigger bus that would then take several days to arrive at our destination. On the first day, we were excited, or rather I was excited. I had not taken a bus since we had left the north and that had been some time ago. I was almost ten and had not seen my dad for a while.

As we waited in line to board the bus I wondered if he would be waiting for us after we arrived. But I was quickly awakened from my daydreaming by the driver's voice. "You guys get inside!" It was blazing hot and my mom was wearing a long, heavy black shawl. I later discovered that she was trying to cover her pregnant belly because it was against public transport regulations to travel toward the end of a pregnancy.

As I stepped inside the bus, I looked at the passengers. Most of them had serious looks on their faces. These were long, hard faces. I don't remember anyone looking happy. My shoulders shrank and I hid behind my seat.

Soon I would discover that what I thought was going to be an exciting adventure would be disturbed by the cries of my brother Rogelio, the temperament of my pregnant mother trying to keep four kids quiet, and my constant car sickness. The passengers were giving us some very ungraceful looks. They must have been really irritated.

When the night came, the temperature dropped and we had to hug each other to keep warm. It was so cold that our feet ached and I could not sleep. I just stared out the window. At first, the lights were moving fast, and then we continued on, into the darkness.

I looked up to see my mother. She was looking out, straight ahead, forward. No feelings were showing in her countenance, and the contrast of the light and shadows were hitting the structure of her jaw and the contour of her eyes. It was a beauty that I didn't recognize. This was, most likely, the first memory that I had of my mother as The General.

It's not easy to get out of the south. As I break myself into pieces to find memories of the past, I pick up the crumbs of bread that have fallen to the floor of the bus.

The sun is up, the kids are awake and anxious to open the bag that carries the bread. With happy faces they pull out the *birote*s and start eating. They sip from the cartons of milk and are satisfied. Through the windows, we see landscapes and the changing colors of the sky. Then, there are people walking around in a city.

The bus stops and everyone gets out. It's a bright, shiny day. I am sick to my stomach and feel like I'm dying after puking all over the ground. But the day is great!

I look around briefly, I see the merchants and colors. Colors! Colors! Colors!

Everywhere there are colors! The artisans are selling their wares. Soon we hear the voice of the driver saying to get back inside the bus. As we do so,

he stares at us with upset eyes and an eagle's glare, telling my mother that we have to clean up after ourselves and keep quiet. My mom looks at us and does not say anything but we quickly understand. The look she gives us is subtle, delicate, and powerful.

We go back to our seats and I continue looking out the window. I see the moving landscape and start wondering where I'm going.

I was happy to be traveling on the bus but there was an eerie feeling of uncertainty and I felt alone.

The journey continued. I felt that I had only closed my eyes for an instant and then it was morning. All the passengers were exiting and through the windows I saw men with uniforms taking the luggage out from the bottom of the bus. We did not have any luggage so we proceeded to exit.

There was no one waiting for us.

We were hungry and started walking toward the street in silence. My mom stopped a taxi and we got in. We rode for an hour and after that we took another taxi. When we exited the next time, I felt the air touching my face. I could not have been more happy to see my aunt Eve's house and my two cousins, Fermin and Chuy. Fermin was six and Chuy was eight. They had seen us through the window and came running out. Soon we were inside the house and my aunt exclaimed "*¡Dios mío! Están muy flacos*", meaning we were too thin.

My aunt pulled out some pots and pans and started cooking. While we were waiting for the food, Fermin brought some toys and he handed me a *conchita*. It looked delicious! I opened my mouth wide and— Ouch! It was made out of plastic! To this day I cannot stand to see fake food. Oh! How I was wishing that the *conchita* was real! I stared in disbelief.

A week later my mother went into labor and we witnessed the birth of the sun. It was a girl! My mother named her Diana.

CELEBRATING AND RENEWING

Movies and Music at the First Pioneertown Film Festival

By Vincent Walter Jacob

The golden age of Western films may have passed in Hollywood, but the genre still lives on. As Western movies evolve, they are no longer necessarily associated with saloons and tumbleweeds swaying in the wind. I was curious to see what they had to say in 2022 so I headed to the first edition of the Pioneertown International Film Festival.

The first thing that struck me was the location itself. Pioneertown was created in 1946 by two of the biggest names in the Western film genre, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. They set up their film studio near Yucca Valley and shot over 50 films in the 1950s. An entire street of wooden buildings with typical 1880s facades forms Mane Street. Truth be told, the most impressive thing about the city is not the buildings, but everything that surrounds them. Joshua trees everywhere, orange sand that tickles your nose, and a scorching sun that bathes the rock formations in a light that is unreal: these are the true charms of the Mojave Desert.

Pioneertown Film Festival's first highlight was undoubtedly the premiere of **The Last Manhunt**, produced by **Game of Thrones'** Jason Momoa, one of Pioneertown's newest residents. This desert town captured his heart and he wanted to pay homage to it by re-making a classic Robert Redford movie, **Tell them Willie Boy Is Here** (1969). **The Last Manhunt** is the latest adaptation of this type of desert Romeo and Juliet, whose main characters, Carlotta and Willie Boy, are natives of the local Chemehuevi tribe.

"We're not only proud to premiere 'The Last Manhunt' on the merits of it being a great film, but we also feel that the reimagining of the Western genre from an indigenous perspective is a very profound and powerful step in the right direction."

— Julian Pinder, Festival Director

Although it was a film festival, music was a big part of it. They had a very eclectic but strong music program. A Dandy Warhols concert opened the festivities on the first night. Portland's uncompromising group took over the same wooden soundstage for an unforgettable and electrifying performance. I got lucky enough to meet the band at the nearby Red Dog Saloon after their performance and spend the rest of my night hearing them talk about touring with David Bowie and building their own studio/wine bar in Portland, Oregon.

The next morning, I watched my personal highlight of the Film Festival: **Swamp Lion**. The film is a real tour de force, considering that it was shot on a very modest budget. With only \$70,000, one wonders how this team of Scandinavians managed to make such a thrilling, believable and touching neo-western set on the Mexican border somewhere in Texas. Torben Bech, the Danish director and screenwriter, tells a classic story of a respectable couple who must raise the money for cancer treatment for their son. The mother finds no other option than working as a stripper while Jim, the father, turns to his brother, a petty thug with ties to the local cartels. It is Michael Ray Escamilla who portrays this beleaguered father who finds himself

THE WESTERN GENRE

forced to become a drug smuggler to save his son. A moving performance, which was heightened by a sense of sadness when I learned that it was his final one. Michael Ray Escamilla passed away just before the film was completed in 2021. At the end of the screening, I had the impression that I had watched an important film, a feeling shared by the jury since it was awarded Best Feature.

It wasn't just the newest films in competition that made the festival beautiful. There were also some special screenings and interesting panels celebrating the past. Rediscovering **Heartworn Highways**, a 1975 documentary about Nashville alternative country artists, was an exciting experience for me. Documentary filmmaker James Szalapsky and producer Graham Leader followed then-unknown artists who grew on to become legends in the "Outlaw Country" world. Townes Van Zandt, Guy Clark, and Steve Earle are probably the most famous artists featured in the film. The misfits of Nashville music are shown trying to make ends meet through their music and, most importantly, through building a tight-knit community.

Upon exiting the screening, I noticed people covered in cream. To the delight of everyone around, pie duels were taking place. There were so many activities and animations that happened around the festival, and that was another perk. After I swiftly avoided being targeted by one of the pies, I walked to the Red Dog Saloon again, partly because it was the only place with free wifi and reception, and watched one of the local musicians perform, an avant garde electro-rocker named Jesika Von Rabbit.

The time had come for me to meet the real stars of Pioneertown that were announced to close the festival after the awards ceremony: The Sons of the Pioneers, the oldest band in the world. Roy Rogers himself started them in 1933. Do you remember? The same Roy Rogers who starred in Western films and was a founder of Pioneertown in 1946. His band was the inspiration for Pioneertown's name!

There are no original members left, of course, but the band has never stopped playing since its formation. Whenever one of the members retires or dies, they are immediately replaced. Many attendees were moved to tears by their closing performance. It evoked something immutable in American culture, something that will never change no matter how the society evolves. It is the indestructible faith in the possibility of a new world. Even if the myth falls down, it will always get back on the horse. Happy trails!

Vincent Walter Jacob is the creator of the webzine and podcast *Hanging On Sunset*, dedicated to covering the rock music scene in Los Angeles. He's also a film photographer, a published writer and a musician.

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Photo Credits: Ernie Tyler
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EXCUSE MY BACK PRODUCTION

DELETED

SILENT FILM

DELANO BRAVE FILM

WELL ON HIS WAY

Darryll Lloyd Is Making a Name for Himself with Films in the Dark Thriller Genre

Darryll Lloyd, who grew up on the Southside of Chicago, has done full-length as well as short films. He is consistently training in his craft and has a YouTube channel where he teases upcoming projects and films he's working on currently.

Discover his dark thrillers and other projects here
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCC4517f4JhteKN995NSwOIQ>

When did you decide that you wanted to work in the entertainment industry?

I knew this from the moment I picked up a comic book as a child.

What attracted you to an acting career?

As a child, I started reading comic books and watching cartoons, and fantasized about being the characters.

Who are your biggest influences?

My biggest influence is my mother. She raised my brothers and me as a single parent while working multiple jobs and going to school. She helped me overcome a lot. I wouldn't be where I'm at right now without her. It's all thanks to her.

Photo Credits: Delano London

What is your main strength as an actor?

My strengths as an actor are my hard work, confidence, high imagination, dedication, charisma, and energy.

How difficult is it to establish yourself in the film industry?

It is very hard to establish yourself as an actor. There's not many opportunities to grow and I'm hoping that someday that will change.

What's your dream, your ultimate goal? Do you feel like you're on the path to this goal, or do you feel as if you already achieved that dream?

My dream is to become a professional actor, and I feel like I already achieved two goals, because I'm constantly training and I'm making films for which I get credits.

What is your message to all your fans?

Dream big! Strive to be the best version you can be.

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YT: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCC4517f4JhteKN995NSwOIQ>

CRITIC'S CORNER: Science vs. Religion, Feminism vs. Patriarchy

The Essex Serpent, Apple TV, 2022

By Doly Mallet

Knowing the title and the context of **The Serpent of Essex**, set in the Victorian era, one can assume that this drama will address topics such as repressed sexuality, sin, and how history has often blamed women.

The story evokes tales such as **The Scarlet Letter** or **The Salem Witch Trials**. In this case, Claire Danes plays Cora, a widow abused by her husband, who enjoyed both hurting her and giving her expensive jewelry. When she finally finds herself free, she decides to pursue her dream of studying biology, so she goes to Essex, a small village where a giant sea serpent, like the one in Loch Ness, supposedly lives.

When she arrives, she discovers that superstitions abound, that a girl has disappeared, and that the locals believe that the serpent is the Devil, punishing them for their sins. Fortunately, and surprisingly, Reverend Will Ransome (Tom Hiddleston) does not share their magical thinking and tries to be the voice of reason. Cora and Will bond immediately, as they are probably the only highly-educated people in the area and its surroundings. However, he is married to Stella (Clémency Poésy), the epitome of the perfect wife. People start gossiping and claim Cora is a witch who put a spell on the Reverend. Also, more people are dying and disappearing, which in their view is her fault as well.

Based on the novel by Sarah Perry, **The Essex Serpent** is your typical Gothic romance filled with suspense, forbidden love, and mystery. Oh, and yes! There are love triangles, not only because of the Reverend's wife, but also because of Dr. Luke Garrett (Frank Dillane), a genius scientist who falls for Cora.

This six-episode series is very enjoyable to watch. Tom Hiddleston and Claire Danes have great chemistry, and even the supporting characters are interesting. A good example of this would be Martha (Hayley Squires), Cora's housemaid, a communist who wants to change the world.

Different women in the story—Stella, the wife; Martha, the singleton, and Cora, the widow who falls in love for the first time—are powerful and fight for what they want:

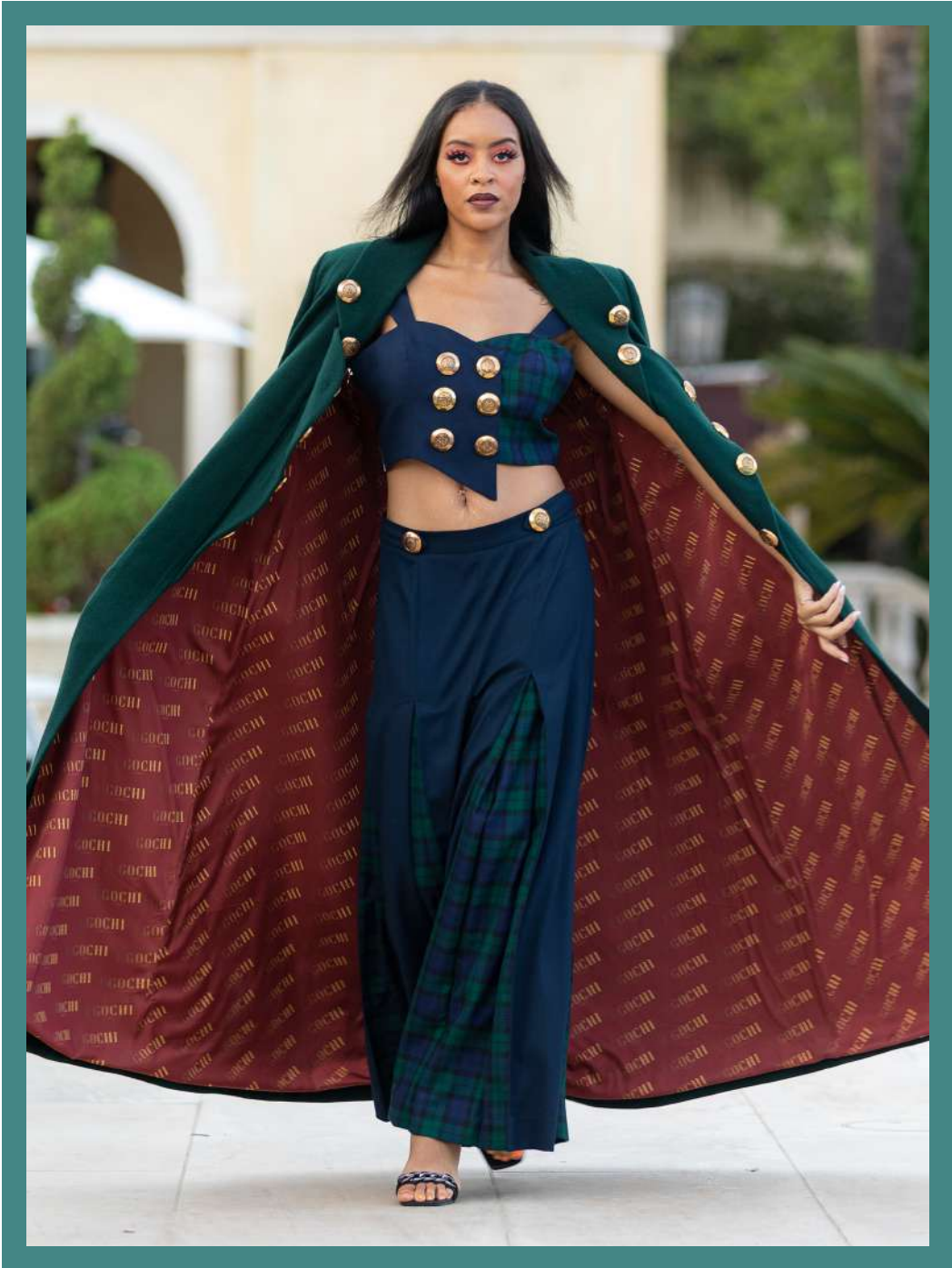
The portrayal of extremist religion as superstition is evident, and this is mixed in with patriarchy (the serpent tempted Eve; therefore, women are always guilty of falling for temptation). However, many men portrayed in the series act in a reasonable manner, so the criticism is directed more toward a system of old beliefs that are ridiculous and do not allow people to grow and evolve.

In the end, it seems like *The Essex Serpent* does not intend to provide any social message, but rather to entertain the audience. Still, it raises questions that will lead us to reflect. Therefore, the show will probably open our eyes to different issues.

Doly Mallet is a bestselling author and a professional film and TV critic.



ELEVATE YOUR LOOK



Ugochi Iwuaba offers gorgeous pieces in sumptuous materials. Add any one of them, such as this jacket, to upgrade your fall wardrobe.

CIM Exclusive Models
Casting Director: Raven Wilson
Model: Rhyann Caldwell

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BOOSTING COPING SKILLS THROUGH STORYTELLING

Writer Alycia Rene Wright
Promotes Kindness and Tolerance
through Her Books

Author Alycia Rene Wright is a unique individual who has a vested interest in the development of a healthy psyche in adolescents and children. She is a Registered Nurse by profession and has been in behavioral health since her career began over twenty years ago.

Writing had become her passion since she was a child trying to cope and make sense of the world around her. As she aged, she learned that some basic coping and dealing skills were missing in her life. Many of her poems and stories were dark, dim and uniquely unusual. As time passed, she lived life and adopted a specialty career. It then became apparent that she was not the only child who had a troubling upbringing. This gave way to her desire to teach children by way of storytelling.

One of her books, called **The Skin I Am In**, is a true story of her personal view of growing up in the sixties.

What inspired you to write this book?

As a child, I had issues that were difficult to discuss, thereby suffering my young school years in torment.

Can you tell me about the book?

This story is narrated by a beautiful black girl in middle-school.

Was the character inspired by a real person?

Myself.

Where do you get your ideas?

Unfortunately, the story tells of real experiences.

What is your writing process like?

My writing in prose seems to be a gift. A situation may spur an idea which I may compute or conceptualize into a story.

What advice do you have for writers?

Writing is an experience like no other. It has become a way to be introduced to all my life experiences and has given me access to volumes of words and

experiences buried within the recesses of my mind.

Do you want each book to stand on its own, or are you trying to build a body of work with connections between each book?

I have three series of children's picture books to date. **Lessons: The Key of Life Series** delves into current-day issues a child may face. The aforementioned book comes from that series. Others are **A Journey Home: Teaching a Child About the Loss of a Loved One** and **Me Too. Alphabet Soup Animal Series**. This last one is geared toward creating a set of encyclopedias for ages between toddlers and first graders. A book published in this series to date which is very popular is **Callie Polly-Oli Cow**. There's also a book scheduled to be released early next year by Metro Films of Los Angeles. It is called **Larry the Llama!**

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CREATIVE FULFILLMENT

Actress Sarah Jillian Relishes Expressing Her Dramatic Side and Her Sense of Humor

Sarah Jillian is a chameleon of an artist who has morphed from actress to graphic painter to professional clown to children's book author, and now back to full-time working actress. Recently she appeared in two feature films, and now currently has been cast in a television series called **The Old City**, created by and produced by Diane Crow.

When did you decide that you wanted to become an actor/actress?

It was at a very early age. I was enrolled in acting school at the age of 6, with a very strict acting teacher from England named Josephine Barrington.

What attracted you to acting?

I was attracted to acting because I have a dramatic, emotional side and a humorous side, and both were able to be expressed through acting, which gives me a sense of happiness and creative fulfillment. I enjoy having other people experience laughter, and acting has given me the opportunity to make people laugh.

Who are your biggest influences?

I was influenced by early Charlie Chaplin movies. I was then since my grandma would take me to the afternoon matinee at the early age of 6. I also loved Ginger Rogers very much, because of her gracious dancing and singing.

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I loved Shirley MacLaine movies and her sense of humor, as well as Lucille Ball and her wonderful, humorous antics.

What is your main strength as an actor?

I think my strengths are my creativity and my willingness to express myself without limitations.

How difficult is it to establish yourself in the film industry?

It's difficult only if it is not natural for you.

What's your dream, your ultimate goal? Do you feel like you're on the path to

this goal, or do you feel as if you already achieved that dream?

I always think big, big, so my dreams are big. I would love to one day win a Golden Globe, a Tony Award, an Oscar- or all of them.

What is your message to all your fans?

I think that if being creative in the acting business is where your heart is leading you, stick with it, because you will feel fulfilled. Patience is key. Rome wasn't built overnight. Stay faithful to your dreams. Stay focused, and eventually your dreams will come true.



BROADWAY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Heart Of Hollywood Magazine recently had the honor of being a part of the Broadway International Film Festival, which showcased short films from different countries, with a strong focus on Latin America.

Headed by Executive Director Emilio Vega, BIFFLA was a three-day event held at a beautiful venue in Downtown Los Angeles, the Mexican Center for Culture and Cinematic Arts (CCCM), nestled within the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles. This event space boasting a gallery and a movie theater welcomes Mexican and Mexican-American talent, as well as any other artist who works in a Mexican cultural milieu.

The opening night, on August 24th, included a red carpet, a cocktail reception, and a ceremony where Marcela Celorio, Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles; the tireless Emilio Vega; and actor and producer Jerry Velasco and Heart Of Hollywood CEO Giovanna Salas were the MCs for the evening.

Representatives from the Consulates of Paraguay, El Salvador, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Guatemala were in attendance.

Cynthia Prida, Cultural Attaché of the Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles, was also present, along with guests of honor such as Carla Hool, casting director; Ambassador Vivian Panting, cofounder of the Broadway International Film Festival Los Angeles during her tenure as Consulate General of Honduras; Yanalte Galvan Kent, Lo Maximo radio and podcast anchor; Danny Pardo, film and TV actor; and businessman Donald Portocornero, accompanied by his wife, Dr. Nancy E. Portocornero.

Actor, producer, and Heart Of Hollywood Magazine cover model Halas Wilbourn flew in from Georgia to autograph copies of the latest issue of our publication. Heart Of Hollywood Magazine editor Sandy Rodriguez signed her award-winning book, **Choose to Prevail**, which caught the eye of numerous festival attendees.

Halas and Sandy were joined by additional Heart Of Hollywood team members, including Markus Herrera, Henry Nunez, Angela Nunez, Richard Stermer and Hugo Arvizu.

Crooner Manee Valentine walked around the event space, regaling guests with moving, romantic songs. Day two of the program featured a panel discussion about the present and future of cinema. The third day's closing ceremony was led by Executive Director Vega and MC Gabby Rosales, a respected TV news reporter.

The event drew a very large crowd, including actor Terroon Kibwe, fashion entrepreneur Shagun Gupta, and Karla Silva, a public relations and real estate expert. WPS Events was among the providers ensuring a perfectly-executed experience on the red carpet for guests. The event was a true success.

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Photo Credits: Donna Wilson
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ILLUSION WITHIN THE ILLUSION

A Magician Reflects on the Nature of Reality

By Lion Badree

"I'm a magician, me, as Lion Badree. I wonder what is that In this spaceship you call reality?"

There is zero detail in others' minds about who you are, where you are located, what age you are, and what sorts of responsibilities you deal with on a typical day.

Given the absence of detail, no one can visualize why you feel the way you do. So here is a generalized answer:

At some point in an introspective person's life, they have a subconscious realization about the absolute impossibility of reality.

All of your developmental years of childhood are spent becoming familiar with the world you are born into. In those years, whatever happens to you ends up expressing itself as an adult, once the age of adulthood is reached.

Childhood is a short but intense training program for adulthood.

When we are young, vulnerable and curious, the world is full of colors. Of truths spoken by our parents. Of raw emotion amongst peers. Of attachment to materials and locations. And a perspective of the world as a flat plane where mankind is and has always been king.

Then we go to high school and they teach us about planets and space and stars and gravity. All of this seems cool to most of us, but only the rarest of the bunch get incepted by this knowledge.

The rare ones connect the dots to realize that everything is absolutely nuts. Planets float. Dimensions exist. Time is irreversible. Color is a lie. Consciousness remains unsolved. And mankind is capable of self-destruction.

Once these dots are connected, it is hard for the child inside you to accept that what he or she had once understood about the world is not how it is.

When this internal tension arises between newfound knowledge and conditioned knowledge (things such as being told that you have to get good grades to be worthy of attention), one is able to mix reality with illusion.

But reality is an illusion.

And illusions have always been real.

Humans barely know anything about what things are. We simply know how they work here on Earth and we make guesses as to how they might work elsewhere.

I am a giant structure of dots talking to your mind through black shapes. When I was a child, I never thought that this could be a reality in which I could exist. Back then, my body seemed to be a unified fabric.

So what I would suggest is a celebration. You are lucky to have found it within your mental powers to realize that there is a lot more to be discovered.

Find time alone, play a favorite song, read this again. Then, I bet you won't be able to keep from mustering a smile at the fact that your childhood dreams of being a space traveler have come true."

WEB: <http://www.lionbadree.net/>



3 MISTAKES ACTORS MAKE AT CALLBACKS – AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

By Aaron Marcus



Photo Credit: KoolShooters

The first thing actors need to know is exactly what a callback is. This term refers to when a director, producer, or other person involved with deciding which actor is booked for a role shows interest after watching someone's audition and wants to see them again. So, they call the actor back for another read.

When you receive a callback, you are not booked for the job. Not even close to

booking the job. You simply gave an audition that interests people and they want to see you again. So, don't start telling anyone that you are hired or almost booked. A number of people can be called back after the initial audition.

The first mistake some actors make at the callback is to look different than they did at the initial audition. You have to remember, they liked your look and thought that

it was right for the character. So, look the same way you did for the initial audition. I always wear the same clothes to the callback as I did for the audition.

Don't make any drastic hair changes, use makeup to give yourself a different look, or even comb your hair differently. Give them the same look that they liked and expect to see.

The second mistake actors make at callbacks is to let their ego get in the way. Some actors like to show off during a callback. Their intention is to let those watching them know that they are so talented and have such a wide range that they decide to read their lines in a completely different way than at the initial audition. Don't do that! They brought you back because they liked how you read the lines. They found something interesting in your audition. So, read it the same way you initially read. I understand that we are not computers and can't simply read things the exact same way we initially read. However, you will remember things about your character, what you want your character to get out of the scene, if there are any obstacles blocking you from your character's needs, and so on. Read again with those same concepts in mind. If they want a different read, they will let you know.

The third mistake actors make is not understanding the reason behind getting directions at the callback, which sometimes happens. It is easy for some actors to get upset or distracted when receiving an audition note. They think that the casting director or the director didn't like their read. Keep in mind, you would not have been invited to a callback if they didn't like your performance at the audition and think you were right for the role. The casting director and the director know much more about the storyline than you. They can share new ideas with the actor and see what he or she does with this additional information.

Don't take their request as a criticism. It is just the opposite. View it as someone rooting for you who wants you to be great. That is why they are spending the time to give you additional notes.

Another reason for wanting to see a different read is to make sure you have the ability to make changes in your performance. It is not unusual for a director to ask an actor on set to make adjustments to their performance. Even though they might have loved how you read at the callback and believe this would be the way they will have you read during the shoot, they just want to make sure you do have the acting skills to make changes if needed.

So, just like at the audition, your goal for the callback should not be booking the job. Instead, your goal should simply be to have a good time. At the callback, you will have the opportunity to act and play. What a fun thing to do!

WATCH THE VIDEO

Aaron Marcus created a quick tip video on the three mistakes actors make at callbacks – and how to avoid them.

You can watch the video and subscribe to Aaron's free Acting and Modeling Quick Tips Channel at <https://youtu.be/PP5OTfG7Qmg>



LEARN MORE ABOUT AARON MARCUS

Aaron Marcus has been a full-time actor and commercial model for 36+ years, with over 1,290 jobs to his credit. He was cast in the soon-to-be-released Netflix feature *White Noise*, the HBO miniseries *We Own This City*, *A Man Called Otto* (with Tom Hanks), and the ABC pilot *Heart of Life*. He worked on the feature *Irresistible*, Amazon show *Thespian* (recurring), Netflix show *House of Cards* (recurring), *Gotham*, *Mr. Robot*, *Do No Harm*, *Law & Order: CI*, and *The Wire*, to name a few projects.

He is also the author of *How to Become a Successful Actor and Model*. You can read more about his work and book at howtoactandmodel.com.

Aaron has offered his *Book the Job* seminar over 800 times, on three different continents. He saves five days each month to privately mentor people online and help them break into the industry or advance their career. Find info at howtoactandmodel.com/mentoringprogram. He also created an incredibly helpful acting and modeling quick tips channel with 260 free quick tip videos. Subscribe today at https://www.youtube.com/c/aaronmarcusactingandmodelingquicktips?sub_confirmation=1

Get on Aaron's mailing list and receive acting and modeling information (including auditions and jobs) at Howtoactandmodel.com

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MEET MODEL AND ACTOR DOUGLAS M. KAMPNER

Douglas M Kampner is represented by MJB Talent Agency and Fontaine Model Agency for modeling opportunities, as well as by the Savrone group as a commercial actor. Currently, Douglas Kampner is on his 30th-year anniversary of acting, commercial, print ad, hand and fashion modeling, and other types of entertainment. The beginning of Douglas's career started as a youth, growing up with Hollywood actor Bing Crosby being his neighbor in Hillsborough, California where they lived two houses away.

Throughout these past 30 years, Douglas appeared in many significant projects. He was, for instance, a lifeguard on **Baywatch**, a student with the crew of **Beverly Hills 90210**, as well as in the final episode of **Cheers**. One highlight he achieved was being a cast member of Academy Award-winning film **Argo**. Douglas had a national commercial with the iconic David O Russell, director of the also Academy Award-winning **The Fighter**.

Douglas does not follow trends that other Hollywood entertainers are following. He is in a league all by himself.

He has a natural ability for modeling, partly due to the fact that he is quite physically and mentally healthy. He stays on a certain diet and exercises constantly to make sure he is physically fit, and he combines that with meditation and yoga to keep himself grounded.

He has many additional talents, which include athletics, such as basketball, football, golf, and tennis. One of his other true talents is in the art community. He has developed his artistic ability since childhood to the present, producing paintings that to this day are included in many art galleries in California.

Douglas M. Kampner recently booked a National Southern California commercial for Advent Health. Douglas has been involved in all types of advertising and print media, and this will be a solid commercial for all to see!

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