

# STAR

CENTRAL

**FIVE  
TOP  
TIPS**

ON HOW TO  
PROJECT A  
CLOTHING LINE  
EFFECTIVELY  
IN CATWALK

**CREATIVES  
UNCOVERED**

DALIAN TEPPU  
MELINDA JENKINS  
REVOLUTION  
SARA ALJAISM  
COCO AFRICA

**HOW TO  
BREAK INTO THE  
MUSIC  
INDUSTRY**

**BE ONE  
IN A MILLION**

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FIVE  
TIPS**

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ARTISTS, ACTORS  
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Kasia Stelmach

Get to know this superstar in the making!



#### OPENING REMARKS



Social media is without doubt a significant communication channel and as such, needs to be addressed and taken seriously. That's why various publications and businesses have woken up to the need to establish an effective social media presence to keep in touch with their customers and readers on a more personal basis. Social media is definitely a solid part of the fabric of our publication hence the reason why StarCentral Magazine is working twice as hard to be active on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram because these channels present a great opportunity for personal feedback from our readers. So far we have over 200,000 followers across all of our social media platforms and I'd like to personally thank our readers and followers for continually following us and supporting us over the years. That said, please don't hesitate to give us feedback whenever you get the chance, we'd love to hear from you.

Mike Ilagan  
Associate Editor

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Creatives Uncovered

An amazing night of fashion, music and performance art!



editorial



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editor's notes

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Since the last edition of this magazine, I lost my beloved grandmother. She had been ill for some time and while some may reason that I have had time to prepare, those people obviously have never lost a loved one. Her death solidified two truths for me. One, family is everything. When my grandmother died our family had a reunion of sorts. While it was grief that brought us together, the celebration of her life meant that there was joy too. At one point, there were four generations of her family under the one roof! She would have loved that. The second truth is that faith can get you through anything. This was a truth I've lived a few times before and just like in the past, my faith was my strength, my comfort and my rock. But this time, it was also my link to my grandmother - she was the one who taught me about God.

Here at StarCentral, we've become another kind of family. The crew behind the magazine stood by me during this extremely tough time and even though I'm a writer, I don't have the exact right words to convey my gratitude. To all of you who paused to read this little note, I hope and pray that you too have that safety net, that security blanket, that source of wisdom that will get you through your darker days and help you find the silver lining.

Jenny Aluning  
editor in chief



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BE ONE IN A  
**million**  
TOP FIVE TIPS FOR ASPIRING TALENTS

Here's something most people aren't aware of - talent alone is actually not enough to make you succeed in the entertainment industry. Besides being talented, if you want to succeed in the entertainment industry you also need monetary investment, the right connections, dedication, persistence as well as a great deal of planning..

Now here are top five tips for aspiring artists, models and actors looking to break into the entertainment industry.

**1. Think smart**

In business, we call it strategy. In acting, we call it "attack." In every other aspect of life, we call it a plan. If you want to succeed, you need to be clear in what you want to achieve in your career. Be smart. Plan smart. Create goals and objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-based.

First of all, you wouldn't want to be wading in an ocean of all sorts of dreams of other aspiring artists, without you first having a definite idea what you are aiming at. You need to specify goals (either long-term or short-term) that can be quantified as doable. These goals should also likewise be pertinent to your career and should also be set to be achieved at a particular time.

If you want to move forward with your career then you need to be smart. Plan ahead and think smart.

**2. Network your way to stardom**

No one really got anywhere in their career by just doing his/her own thing without anyone's help. Over the process of building careers, personal as well as business networks

are likewise built. You will need the right agents, managers, and producers to help you out on your way to success and be the shining star that you are meant to be.

Can you think of any actor who did not go through personal connections or contacts before actually getting into the spotlight? I bet you can't even name one!

As you meet people in your quest to stardom, make sure that you keep in constant contact with them—even the most insignificant people you meet. You will never know who these people are related to unless you have already built a steady relationship with them.

Keeping a calling card will also come handy from time to time. Make sure yours had been printed legibly and with the exact details. Always hand them over to people any time there's an opportunity.





# TOP FIVE TIPS FOR ASPIRING TALENTS

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Katrina R

### 3. Leverage the power of the internet

Consider those people who were discovered through their video uploads via YouTube. Perhaps, you can also leverage on this social media platform as well as other online platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, etc. to meet other people who might be able to help your career in the future.

Did you know that Justin Bieber grew up in a small town, and that he didn't have an agent or any valid connections? He actually only started uploading videos on YouTube for his friends and family who couldn't make it to his singing competitions. Someone important came across his videos though and liked his voice and voila - Bieber fever was born!

### 4. Promote yourself

Your first follower is yourself. If you believe in yourself and you are passionate in what you can do then others will catch on and they will inevitably share that same belief with others they come in contact with. It'll be a ripple effect. Once a portion of water is activated it will set the surrounding water to create the same action.

Preparing your personal portfolio will come in handy any time. Just make sure that the data you include are updated, including the headshots. You should always stick to the truth. Your portfolio may be customised to how you think agents or directors might want to see in it, however the truth will always come out in the end so just be accurate and honest.

Think about Zac Efron who started by auditioning for the Disney Channel movie "High School Musical." All he did was turn up at the auditions and promote himself and now look at what he has accomplished: High School Musical 1/2/3, 17 Again, Hairspray...The list goes on!

### 5. Take Charge

Let your passion drive you to your way to stardom. Invest in yourself and commit to learning and mastering your craft. If you're an actor perhaps you can check out acting workshops or organizations who offer trainings and seminars. You can even start with your local theatre. If there's any available role you think you are able to perform, audition. Once you've appeared in a few performances, you'll have the experience needed to get an agent's attention that may be able to find other related jobs for you. A number of stage actors work in commercials, TV and movies, so your theatre colleagues will be able to advise you, and even recommend agents who may be able to help you.

If you're a model you can always start by doing things for free to get your foot in the door. Start doing portfolio shoots with legitimate photographers and start getting involved in various runway events even if initially it's for free to get exposure and you never know - someone important might spot you and give you the break you've been waiting for.

If you're an aspiring artist you always can start with the best and easiest social media platform out there - YouTube. Start uploading videos and start making appearances in various events even if there's no talent fee in the beginning because you'll never know who will be on these events. You need to start somewhere to get somewhere right?

Building a career is a process, as much as becoming one in a million and shining the brightest. Start with tip number one and then proceed with the other tips. This will pave the way for your next stop over—success!





# How to break into the MUSIC INDUSTRY

Dreaming to be the next singing sensation?

Who wouldn't want to be a singing superstar! Hordes of fans cheering you on as you perform on stage ... Countless endorsements ... Amazing perks that comes along with the fame.... What a life right?

Fame and fortune may come only once so the instant it comes knocking on your door, you need to make sure you are ready for it!

So what does it take to be singing sensation?

Marty Rendleman, the president of Dallas-based Rendleman Management Group gave us her thoughts on the matter. She acts as a consultant to a number of young artists, she evaluates countless of audition tapes on a daily basis and recommends improvements to aspiring singers' on their press kits. Through her years in the music industry, Rendleman has had the chance to work with a number of artists and she has also been associated with a number of music icons as well. She has this to say when asked about the most surprising advice for someone who wants to make it in the music industry:

"One of the most shocking things about the music business is that it's not all about a voice. You can have a voice and still not have a career. I try to encourage these kids to have more than one thing they can do. The

more things you have, the better your chances are. You've got to sing and play and maybe write songs, too. Then you've got to have a good management, the right label, the right entertainment attorney, the right representation. There's way more talent than there is record deals. We all can't have a record deal."

"I tell the kids to use their talent. Sing in the church choir, sing for your friends. Go to school. Get on a stage somewhere with a live band and sing if that makes you happy. Everyone wants to stand in the spotlight and hold the microphone, because that's everybody's dream. There are other things you can do besides that to share your talent. I say, don't get your heart broken if that doesn't happen. Put God at the centre of your life and get out of the way. His plans are going to be way better than anything you could come up with yourself," she added.

Perhaps you've seen contestants on Idols, The X Factor, The Voice, and all the other singing contests in TV where the next ordinary girl or guy turns out to be the next singing sensation in each series. What do you think they have in common though?

They all stand out from the crowd and braved every test, earned the confidence of the crowd and proved that they deserve to be the best among the rest! So if you want to be the next sensation then you need to be willing to do whatever it takes.



"One of the most shocking things about the music business is that it's not all about a voice. You can have a voice and still not have a career."

By Katrina R



## HOW TO PROJECT A CLOTHING LINE EFFECTIVELY IN

# catwalk

In the world of fashion, it's a must for every designer to find a model that can flaunt their designs and products in such a way that they can capture the audience's attention and eventually generate revenue.

In the world of fashion, it's a must for every designer to find a model that can flaunt their designs and products in such a way that they can capture the audience's attention and eventually generate revenue. Therefore designers need to hire models that are not just stunning but who can also make an impact and leave a lasting impression.

Here are some 5 important tips that every model should know when it comes to effectively projecting a clothing line in the catwalk:

### Mind your shoes

In the fashion industry, the type of shoes that you are wearing actually describes your taste in fashion because it demonstrates how stylish and creative you are as an individual. Therefore you need to ensure that you are wearing the right shoes - wearing something like flip flops is a definite no-no! You should always practice walking on high heels all the time because walking on high heels needs to be second nature as they are a fixture in the fashion scene.

### Mind your posture

Having the right posture is actually not enough to work that runway. You need to learn how to project the clothes that you are modelling using your shoulders, arms, feet, legs, head and body in such a way that the clothes stand out not you. Try walking or standing with your shoulders protruding forward and your hands swinging backwards. You can also try bending your hips forward but just a little so that you will look like your leaning forward instead

of standing straight.

### Mind your stance

It is important to note what your feet actually looks like whenever you are standing or walking on a runway. Always remember that you toes should be facing outwards to the point that it creates a zigzag effect. Keep in mind that you are also modelling your shoes or your toes on the runway and making them face inward will create an unpleasing and disturbing sight.

### Mind your Facial angles

Whenever you are walking or standing on a runway, make sure that your chin is always elevated because this will actually create an illusion of a longer neck. When you are walking the runway make sure that you balance your walk and look straight ahead - lifting your head will give other people a chance to see your facial features. Lifting your head a bit higher will also project focus and glamour.

### Deliver the message correctly

Whenever you are walking on a runway with a designer's clothing line, keep in mind that you are also delivering a message to potential buyers. Make sure that you create your own signature walk and be confident about it to grab people's attention. You need to make people believe how great the outfit is or how comfortable it is because in a nutshell you are responsible for the product being sold in the market.







# KASIA STELMACH

With over 500 domestic and international interviews – including her attendance at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival, and guest appearances at the 2012 Monaco Grand Prix, Australian Film Festival and 2012 Melbourne & Sydney Fashion Weeks - under her belt, 26-year old Kasia Stelmach is no stranger to working in front of the camera.



With over 500 domestic and international interviews – including her attendance at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival, and guest appearances at the 2012 Monaco Grand Prix, Australian Film Festival and 2012 Melbourne & Sydney Fashion Weeks - under her belt, 26-year old Kasia Stelmach is no stranger to working in front of the camera.

Strangely enough, it was a chance encounter that landed her the biggest break of her young career so far.

"I came to Sydney to just recreate myself and I bumped into someone that said I had a great look for a project they were shooting and I should come in for a casting."

She did go to that casting where her measurements were taken and she got fitted into a dress – all the time not knowing what it was all for.

"And then Baz Lurhman walks out and with a cheeky grin, says, "Hi, I'm Baz Lurhman". I stop and think yep, I've been punked. The rest is history, apparently he and the camera man fell in love with me and hence, my film fest made it into the final edit of the film."

That "film" is *The Great Gatsby* where she appears in many guises throughout the film.

She also got to work briefly with Hugh Jackman on the set of *The Wolverine* – a fact she considers to be one of her most memorable experiences so far. She recalls of the encounter, "I didn't expect to actually work with him so, when he walked on set, I had a grin from ear to ear!"

Her passion for acting is drawn from the freedom of expression it provides and how it is able to broadcast a lesson to a broad audience in an instant. Surprisingly though, acting was not her first career – and the change in profession did not sit well with her parents at first.

"Like all parents they want the best for their children and having been successful at university and in my original career they were taken a little aback by my shift in career direction. But, they want the best for my happiness."

With a bright career ahead of her, she aspires to be this generation's Greta Garbo.

"I want to inspire people to dream, to get lost in worlds and crevices of their imagination. To reconnect with people. I want to be able to expose myself to as many experiences life can offer me and remind people to just live and laugh."



# movie review

## Metallica 3D

By Renae Smith

I was invited to review the new film by Nimród Antal, "Metallica, Through the Never" which was a 3D film presented by Hopscotch Films.

When it comes to Metallica, I would be lying to say I was one of their biggest fans. I have owned the odd Metallica shirt, I know the words to several of their songs but listing them in my top 10 bands isn't even close to happening. This presented a challenge for me - do I accept the job or do I decline based on the fact that I wasn't a hardcore metal fan?

I decided to go to the screening and see whether the movie was appealing to not only the "hard core" fans, but also people who may not have much "Metallica experience" under their belt. After all, it was 3D - who doesn't like 3D?

The movie starts with a sweeping aerial view of the city which eventually ends up in the car park where Metallica are due to play. Your stereotypical metal fan is losing his mind about being first to the concert and a skater rides past, interrupting the opening scene. We follow the skater inside the building where we find out his name is "Trip" and he works for the people who are running the concert.

The concert begins and for someone who isn't THAT into Metallica, I got goosebumps. The combination of perfect sound and impeccable graphics makes you feel as if you're right there, standing next to the band. The stage set up and lighting is phenomenal and the 3D crowd interaction gives you a 'next best thing' experience that I have never quite experienced in a music documentary format film before.

We are then interrupted by a roddie sending Trip on an urgent mission, meaning he has to leave the concert (which he has snuck in to watch from the aisles). As he gets in his old van, the screen is filled with a small blue and red prescription pill which Trip takes - I wasn't sure why he was taking this, but it was a deliberate scene and I felt I should take note.

As Trip is driving, strange things start happening. The doll on his rear view mirror begins to come alive and buildings begin to mirror special effects at the concert by shooting fireballs. The story flips back and forth between the Metallica concert and Trip's adventures which vary from smashing his car, countless explosions to being chased and beaten by a mask wearing horseman.

I was really getting into the concert parts of the film and found the flips back to Trip's adventures increasingly frustrating. They made no sense to me and I had no idea whether we were supposed to think they were really happening, whether he was



crazy or whether the pill he took was making him hallucinate.

The story of Trip continues with him finding a leather duffel bag in the back of a truck. His expression when looking in the bag is that of shock, or horror and you automatically want to know what is inside. He then carries this bag with him for the remainder of his nightmarish adventure until he somehow telepathically destroys the Metallica concert stage whilst fighting the horseman. Metallica plays on despite the fact their stage was somehow blown to pieces and two people were injured enough to have to be carried away.

After finishing their impromptu "garage band" set on the damaged stage, Trip can be seen walking back into the venue and dropping the duffel bag on the now eerily empty stage.

We flash forward to the next scene, which sees Metallica playing alone on stage and Trip watching from afar. The camera closes in on the duffel bag and then the movie abruptly ends.

We are never shown what is in the bag and it seems a bit pointless to have even incorporated this additional piece of the story, as it has no real relevance to the movie at all. As the film ended, I noticed that several people in the screening laughed or sighed and I felt I was not the only one to be a little confused.

I feel this movie would have been better left at a concert experience of Metallica. For someone who is definitely not a 'huge fan', the fact that I really enjoyed the music and the experience of their concert leads me to believe that the film would have been strong enough to stand alone, without the need for a side story which if anything, was more frustrating than appealing. The 3D is some of the best I have seen and the movie projects so much emotion that you cannot help but be carried away with the songs and the energy the band creates on set.

I am giving this movie 2 stars out of 5. Sadly, if the side story was left out, I would give this movie a 4...

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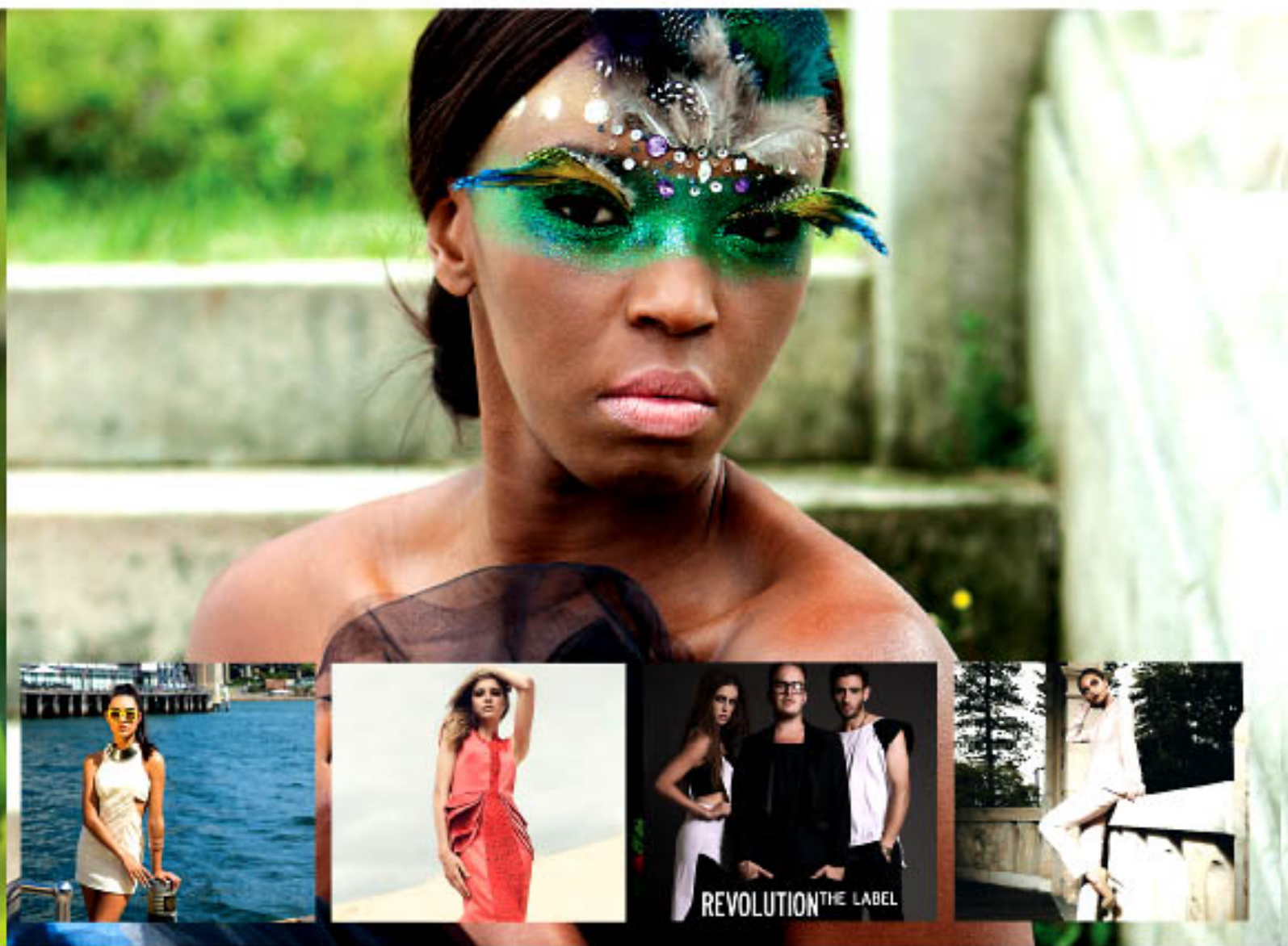
# Creatives Uncovered



## ABOUT CREATIVES UNCOVERED

Creatives Uncovered is the brainchild of Sharon Garrard and it's an amazing night of fashion, music and performance art. This event is being held at a prestigious venue built in 1867 featuring fashion by Dalian Teppo, Red Sky at Night jewelry, Melinda Jenkins, Revolution the label, Wa - Nyko, Millo studio, Sara Aljaim and Coco Africa. Proudly sponsored by [yellow tail] and 28 black.

# Creatives Uncovered



## MINDY

Aiming at the individual who craves luxurious effortless style whilst maintaining her natural elegance. Melinda Jenkins sets out to create a visionary effortless aesthetic. With a modern fresh take on the classics. Melinda Jenkins designs is all about daring cutwork and pieces that highlight the beautiful female form for subtle, sexy looks.

## DALIAN

The Dalian Teppo brand is known for its high elegance, quality and richness, incorporating historical elements with a modern contemporary flair. It's also known for its luxurious, authentic appeal that expresses forms of elegance, presenting itself as a fashion forward, modern refinement association through its use of rich and delicate fabrics.

## REVOLUTION

Revolution The Label's debut collection is about aesthetically pleasing basics with a neo grunge edge but altered with an urban cult tone - Think music revolutioners' The Brian Jonestown Massacre. Inspired by the French revolution - this collection is for the people, taking us back to where we came from to where we all want to be.

## SARA

Currently continuing her studies in post grad Business at the University of Technology Sydney, Sara hopes to make her mark in the Fashion industry. She prides in creating gowns that has a timeless elegance, that encapsulates a sense of femininity and grace. An Aljaim gown is to empower women's confidence, while it embodies the true female form.





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# Creatives uncovered

Photographed by Nancy Tran

## COCO AFRICA



Coco Africa is an online store with collections that features bold designs and a variety of colours. They are committed to bringing you the finest fashion of African inspired clothing for men, women and children. Their African fabrics are chosen carefully and integrated in an innovative way to precise European cuts; each piece is made in limited numbers to ensure exclusivity and individuality, which means that their customer can always be assured to find high-quality, boutique style pieces at very affordable prices.

## CHARMAINE BINGWA

Charmaine is a young vibrant performer, whose high energy performances and Laissez-Faire songwriting style is garnering loads of attention. Born in Perth, she intuitively picked up the guitar at age 12. Although it would be easy to dismiss the attractive singer as "just another pop starlet", underneath her beautiful exterior lies a lot of heart and soul, as demonstrated by Charmaine's first ever performance at the eulogy of her father's funeral."

Since her first EP launch, Charmaine has enjoyed a whirlwind of success - having performed overseas, had her music appear on television, radio, performed songs on TV shows such as *Come Dine With Me*.

Playing at venues and events such as FairDay, Bondi Festival, Oxford Art Factory, The Gaelic Club, Will & Toby's, Opera Bar, Icebergs, The Civic, and loads more she is creating a name for herself purely through her solid performances locally and overseas.

Her unique sound is a special combination of her "straight from the soul" vocals served over pop-centred tunes.





# Mona Lisa

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## TRUE CONFESSIONS: MY EXPERIENCE AS A GANG MEMBER

HOW I WAS INITIATED INTO A GANG

I was 15 years old at the time when my friend asked me to join a gang. I was a naive hot head then so I felt that joining a gang would be a good idea because I would always have people covering my back whenever I got into a fight.

The initiation was pretty intense. The moment I arrived at their headquarters the 'master' told the newbies or 'neophytes' to immediately strip down and get naked - they were going to beat us all up to toughen us up. After stripping our clothes off we were blindfolded and then lead to the edge of a cliff. I could feel strong winds pounding on my face at the time and I could also hear the echoes of the masters' voice so I knew that we were standing in front of a really deep cliff. The master then tied a rock to my 'member' and asked me if I still wanted to be part of the gang. I yelled 'yes master!' as loud as I can and then he said that as a test of allegiance he will drop the rock down the bottom of the cliff whilst my 'member' was tied to it! I still yelled 'go ahead master' and suddenly he dropped the rock! My heart stopped as the master dropped the rock but luckily the rock was only dropped near my feet and not over the cliff - he was just testing to see how far I would go to join the gang.

The next part of the initiation was the tough one - we were all lined up in front of a roundabout of some sort. All the other masters were all around the roundabout armed with bats, pans and paddles ready to pound on the neophytes. We were all asked to run around the roundabout as fast as we can whilst being punched, kicked and battered with bats and paddles. If we made it to the finish line then we're in - I was scared like hell!

I was the fourth one to run around the roundabout and as I watched the other three, I saw one fall down and the masters just ganged up and beat up on the poor kid! One of the other neophytes also got smashed in the head with a frying pan and he was knocked out cold! It was finally my turn to run and I was planning to cover my head and let my body take the beating. My body can take a punishment; I'll be able to make it as long as I cover my head.

So I ran covering my head and then I felt it all in one go - a baseball bat shattered through my ribs, a paddle whacked my lower back. I felt a few more baseball bat blows on my thighs

as well as punches and kicks on my head. I nearly fell down once when I got struck by a baseball bat on my leg but I managed to get back up and keep running probably due to adrenalin.

I eventually made it to the end of the roundabout so I was finally in. Next up I was sworn to brotherhood with the rest of the other neophytes who also made it. I swore an oath to be brothers for life with the rest of the gang and then I was through. I went home sore with bruises all over my body but quite satisfied that I was finally part of a gang.

Over the course of 3 years I got involved in a number of brawls and at one stage I came to a point where I was actually spiraling downhill. Luckily I had to leave the country for good because I had to move overseas and to date I feel that it was the best decision I ever made in my entire life. At the end of the day all I got to show for being a gang member were plenty of bruises; being part of a gang actually made my life a living hell because I had to always watch my back wherever I went just in case another gang decides to jump me and beat me up. If you're reading this then I hope that you don't make the same mistake that I did. You honestly don't need to join a gang to prove your manhood.

By publishing this article, StarCentral does not aim to sensationalise being involved in a gang nor do we also aim to minimise its dangers. We always try to bring to light situations that our readers may find themselves in and perhaps in reading the article, be inspired to take action. If you do find yourself in this situation and would like to change it, please seek help from a trusted adult (your parents, teachers, etc.) or trusted organisations such as Boys Town ([www.boysstown.org](http://www.boysstown.org)).





# The ugly side of the Entertainment Industry

By: Juliet Israel

I remember a male classmate in college - tall and handsome with fantastic brown skin, full of dreams of becoming a star. He was just named '1st Runner-Up in a (now defunct) national pageant for men when he was approached by a very popular gay fashion designer who asked him if he was interested in joining his pool of male models, persuading him with talk of using this opportunity as a stepping stone to stardom. Knowing that taking up this offer would indeed open many doors for him, my friend, understandably became excited and was quite ready to say yes. But, he had noticed that the designer began to make disconcerting physical advances towards him. Repelled by even just the thought of it, my friend shut down the offer and along with it, all his dreams of fame and fortune.

Similar incidences, unfortunately, are not new to the entertainment industry. There was a reported and documented incident where a gay manager was caught on camera committing indecent acts on aspiring male models when they came in to audition for him. The term, 'casting couch' has therefore gained a dubious connotation in the industry. The despairing truth is, the victims, at that point in their careers would have felt that they had no choice but to endure the humiliation lest it mean the end of their fledgling journey to the big time if they refused. Hollywood A-listers like Meryl Streep, Susan Sarandon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Charlize Theron, Thandie Newton and Lisa Rinna have already opened up about their awful experiences with various entertainment industry professionals in the early stages of their acting careers. While 'casting couch' experiences can happen at any stage in an actor's or model's career, it is the newcomers that suffer the most. Their inexperience plays against them as they are lured with promises of roles or photoshoots which more experienced professionals will know immediately are false.

Another challenge facing not only aspiring actors and

actresses, but established stars, is the question of nudity. While nudity can mean more sensationalism and therefore more attention to the film, its relevance to storylines is increasingly being questioned and has actually pushed some actresses (such as Jennifer Garner, Rachel Bilson, Olivia Munn, Megan Fox) to include a 'No Nudity' clause to their contracts. This does not mean that the pressure to go full frontal is not ever-present in the industry. Some, like Amanda Seyfried in her latest film, 'Lovelace' admits that going topless was 'liberating', the act was in keeping with her character and with the movie's plot. Distressingly, many other nude scenes have no reason to be in the movie at all - only a gratuitous show of flesh.

It is perhaps naive to hope that these unsavory practices will cease to continue in the industry as more and more people come forward. No aspiring (or established) talent deserves to be treated in such a manner, to have the dreams manipulated to such a sad end. But one can always stand to hope. One can hope that superstardom can be achieved through sheer talent, hard work, dedication and passion for the craft. Hope that that combination will be enough to create a fanbase. But that hope also rests on the public. Now privy to the dark underbelly of the entertainment industry, the public needs to make informed decisions as to which movie or TV show to watch. If their patronage veers towards entertainment with more substance than flashing flesh, maybe, just maybe, the horrors and humiliation that my classmate (and others who can relate to this story) endured will no longer happen to another unsuspecting hopeful.

Sources: 'Tales From The Casting Couch: Hollywood's Ugly Open Secret': ([abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com)) and 'Women On Screen: Less Nudity, More Substance': ([forbes.com](http://forbes.com))





# The five keys to becoming a successful artist

By: Erlita Annas

Artists, models and actors are born artists, models and actors. Generally called artists, they possess skills, talents, imagination, inclination and passion in the arts in its broad spectrum of music, theatre, dance, performing, film and literature. Nonetheless, these are skills which can be cultured and honed to be considered in the upper echelons of their craft.

To be called an artist, however, is not easy. Skills and talent alone are not enough, and even when paired with imagination and passion, success and recognition is still not guaranteed. Many do succeed, but others fail and even more remain mediocre - just like in any other profession. So, how do you escape the middle ground? The following are keys to becoming successful artists:

Foremost is training. The reason why training is a very important factor is because the arts is a well-studied discipline. It stems from history, theory and practice. Here, it refers to its study and practice wherein it can be earned in full or part time studies as a degree or certificate; workshops; and daily class/training. Examples include degrees or certificates in fine arts; acting workshops; modeling workshops; classes for ballet, etc. These trainings include routines and disciplines which define and hone skills. It explores imagination of talents through complex and comprehensive mentoring. Thorough and consistent training are keys to mastery. Furthermore, training gauges the level of performance of the artist.

Secondary is discipline. Early on in the training, one has to breathe in discipline. It becomes second nature

like doing warm-up exercises and stretching prior to joining a ballet class, for example. Discipline includes coming to class prepared and on time. Preparation includes the materials or costumes as needed. Some training require coming to class very early than the scheduled time. Hence, discipline is necessary.

Third is attitude. There should be focus in coming to class. Attitude encompasses skills, talent and passion. When attitude towards a particular activity is attained, the artist is most likely on the right track and will reap the fruits of his labor in due time. Patience is a virtue.

Fourth is apprenticeship. Always look for opportunities to become an apprentice in your chosen field. This will be a proper thrust to a budding career. Success starts small or unrecognized until your talent is acknowledged. Aim to stand out.

Fifth is finding support. It is your responsibility to find support from parents, siblings, friends, etc. You will encourage their approval by showing them that you are worthy to your artistry. Investment is as important a factor to be able to continue training.

The above points only serve as guidelines on how to become successful as artists, models and actors. The list can go on and on. But if you can pocket those basic guidelines, opportunities are endless in the arts industry. Don't stop. Strive. Keep on looking until you get hold of what fits you best. There is so much talent to be exhausted when there is proper training and avenue. Do not settle for less - reach for the star!





A close-up, back view of a woman's head and shoulders. Her dark hair is styled in a large, elegant bun. She is wearing long, dangling earrings. In the background, a camera flash is visible, suggesting a red carpet or event setting.

MEET STARCENTRAL'S  
**HOT LIST**  
OF THE MONTH



# Dannielle BONNER

It was 5 years ago when modelling captivated Dannielle Bonner, StarCentral Magazine's Sexiest Woman of the Month for July 2013. A combined photoshoot with a friend meant for fun ("I absolutely loved it") resulted in what is turning out to be a lifelong passion.

Five years have passed since that fateful day and Dannielle still can't find any downside to her chosen profession. "I love being able to meet new people and working with many talented people. I love being in front of the camera, this is where I feel so comfortable and relaxed. It's the only time I stop thinking about everything and focussing on the present." She looks back at her fledgling days and realizes how much she has grown since that first shoot, and how much she is still evolving. "I've grown so much in my modeling...with every shoot I do I feel I'm learning all the time."

Originally from the UK and now based in Australia, Dannielle has met her fair share of interesting individuals ("amazing photographers, which have helped me create such a great portfolio which I am proud of") and has had many memorable experiences. One experience that has left an indelible mark on the 26-year old was an event she took part in called 'Strut For Soldiers'. Organised by a group of young women from Birmingham University, it was a fashion show showcasing military trends that raised awareness and money for the organization, 'Help For Heroes.' "As my brother was a brave soldier in The British Army, this event meant a lot to me. The event was held on my brother's anniversary, which is another good reason why this event is so memorable...not only did I feel a massive sense of pride when I walked out on the stage, but meeting so many people that felt so strongly about our heroes made me even more proud of being a part of something special."

The down-to-earth British beauty has learned "to not take everything too seriously" during her time as a model. Knowing how easily one's self-esteem can take a battering while working in the industry, Dannielle cannot emphasise enough how important it is to "have fun!" "I think it is very important to stay positive and always be proud of who you are. It's not always about what you look like, it's about what's on the inside that counts. It's about your beauty within! This will always, always shine through."

The full support of her family has been invaluable to Dannielle during her career especially that of her mother, whose constant encouragement from the beginning has meant that "I am still doing what I love five years later!" With that support and her own talent and drive, Dannielle will no doubt grace many more catwalks and magazines for many more years to come!







# VICTORIA BILTON

Victoria Bilton or 'Vix' (StarCentral Magazine's female model of the month for July 2013) as she is known to her friends is an auditioning musical theatre performer as well as an experienced model.

As an A average student and quite the academic, Vix had every intention of entering the world of University, studying either Communications or Journalism. Whilst filling in forms though, she came to the conclusion that she simply could not start this path without at least trying to do something she was passionate about. So Vix decided to curb any potential "what if's" and decided to follow her dream. Vix trained at The Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts in London and graduated in 2011. With career highlights such as playing Katherine in The "Taming Of The Shrew" and modelling for Channel 4, she is well into her acting and modelling career.

Vix explains that although she always knew she would do performance of some sort, she did not really entertain the idea that she would be a model. The modelling industry has a stereotypical image of 6-foot women weighing under 50kg and Vix admits she even found it 'funny' when she started having success in this industry. Being a creative person, she has always loved art, literature and photography. Through modelling she is able to express her creative side in an entirely unique way. We sat down with Vix to delve deeper into her journey thus far...

**What has been the hardest thing to overcome?**

In this industry, self-acceptance is key. You can look around yourself and say well she's prettier or thinner or more talented. But at the end of the day, it's all subjective. One person's love is another person's hate. That's why you get such diversity in the industry and that's why I love it. When I first went to Italia Conti I thought I was a dancer, I swiftly realized I was more of an actress, that was hard to accept. The same with modelling, I remember doing a catwalk show and thinking all the girls were so tiny compared to me, then when I did my walk

when I did my walk I was approached by some of the other models and complemented on my shape, it said a lot to me that not everyone admires the same things. Also, rejection is common and you just have to realize it genuinely isn't personal.

**What do you hope for your future both short and long term?**

In an ideal world I want to be working in musical theatre, I want to do eight shows a week on stage doing what I love. In the short term I would love to find more paid performance work, too many people in this industry expect you to work for free. I work six jobs to sustain my rent, food, travel, dance classes, singing lessons, unpaid casting. It all adds up, so having more paid work in my field would mean I could stop doing jobs that have no connection to my career.

**Is there any advice you would give others who are starting out in acting or modelling?**

Networking is essential, it's horrible and nobody really likes to do it but you really have to put yourself out there and try and make connections because it really is "who you know". Don't do your job for other people, I heard a fantastic quote on a documentary on "A Chorus Line" and I started to live by it: "When I'm in an audition, I'm not performing for a panel of judges, I am dancing my own private party and the panel are invited."

With a level of enthusiasm and professionalism that is rarely seen in this world, Vix has all the characteristics and traits of someone who is destined for success. She realizes that hard work has to be put in and accepts working for free and self doubt as obstacles that have to be overcome but her passion is incredibly evident and moving.

"Some people you choose a job. For others it's like the job chooses you."



At the age of 12, Amy was instantly mesmerised by the television show *Search for a Supermodel* – It was then that StarCentral's female model for the month for September 2013, Amy Rita, immediately knew she wanted a career in modelling. Slowly building up her portfolio, she began applying for promotional model work as well as photo shoots and catwalk events.

"It was all very exciting in the beginning."

The 24-year-old Melbournian hails from an Irish and Indian background and has dreams of becoming an internationally published model. With plans to travel to Los Angeles and New York, she is trying to garner as much field experience as she can in the glamour and promotional industry. She is aiming high because she wants to take her career to the next level.

Amy said she thought that the modelling industry would be different to what she first experienced. She initially just wanted to be a catwalk model and she actually believed that she would always just be held up in hair and makeup for four hours prepping for a fashion show; however, she was slightly surprised when she found out that this was not the case.

"After attending my first few promotional modelling events, I loved it! Promotional modelling lead me down another path which included: amazing events, meeting celebrities, networking with others within the industry, making lifelong friends and of course, having A LOT of fun on the job."

But Amy doesn't deny the challenges modelling holds and acknowledges the importance of staying strong when times gets tough.

"There are thousands of women across Australia who are in the same shoes as you, sometimes you get picked for roles and sometimes you don't. It is important to set yourself new goals and stay determined."

While, like any job, there can be lows, there are also great highs.

"The best thing about promotional modelling is meeting new friends, being able to do a job that you absolutely love and experience events which you would not normally attend."

She also admits that, at times, it can be painful.

"The downside is you can't always last eight hours in high heels!"

Through a balanced diet, going to the gym and walking her dogs, the leggy brunette is able to maintain a slim and fit physique. And when she isn't working out or posing for the camera, Amy can be found hidden away, studying to complete her Diploma in Nursing, or out and about catching up with girlfriends over cocktails, dining out with her boyfriend or spending quality time with her much loved family.

*Amy Rita*





# Maria TRUONG

Starting her career as a makeup artist, Maria Truong a.k.a. Mia, one of the sexiest women of the month for September 2013, was surprised when a photographer approached her to model. While she says it was a nerve-racking experience, once things got started, she threw herself in and enjoyed every bit.

"It was nerve racking at the start but once I got into it, I had so much fun! Following that shoot I started a portfolio on Model Mayhem and have since been fortunate enough to work with so many amazing people," Maria said.

Modelling has given this self-confessed sweets addict an outlet to express herself and conquer her fears of self-doubt.

"Modelling has developed me as a person as it has given me a creative and fun way to express myself."

Seeing her first shoot Maria was pleasantly surprised at the results.

"I had to convince myself that I could pull off something so wonderful. To this day, some of the works still catch me by surprise!"

Maria says it's the opportunity to collaborate with creative, like-minded people to capture artistically beautiful images that keeps her in the business. While it might not always be glamorous all the time, Maria knows how to keep it fun.

"When you work with me, it is full of laughter! I don't usually like being the centre of attention but when I'm in front of a camera, it feels natural."

With a strong sense of self-belief and faith within, Maria is able to stay on track and keep motivated to pursue her goals, posing the question, "If you aren't convinced that you can do whatever you put your mind to, how are you going to accomplish any of the challenges you set yourself, right?"

Maria has learnt not to compare herself to others but to the person she once was, whether that be a year, month or week ago, constantly striving to be better. She holds her values close to her heart, ensuring she doesn't get lost in, what can be, a superficial industry.

"If you bring yourself back to those values, you will always stay grounded – no matter what the situation is."





# georgia

## GRAHAM

At the right place at the right time, Georgia Graham a.k.a. Little Georgia G, one of the sexiest women for September 2013, was discovered while working for No Fear at the Urban Music Awards in London and the British Association of Mixed Martial Arts (BAMMA).

A petite, cheeky, tattooed Geordie girl who loves a laugh and lives life to the fullest, Georgia is the official ring girl for BAMMA, the largest MMA promotion in Europe. As well as promoting mixed martial arts, this qualified fitness instructor trains in kickboxing and has recently obtained her green belt. Previously working as a grid girl for the British Touring Car Championship, Georgia now presents for Atom Cup Racing.

Doing a lot of work presenting and being a brand ambassador, Georgia says she loves working with great people and getting the best from a photo shoot. However, like any job, there are a few downsides. Georgia says she hates doing anything in the freezing cold and it can be tough being judged by your looks.

"I don't totter about in heels all day or worry if I break a nail – I'm usually in leggings, t-shirts, with a ponytail, no make-up and if I'm working for my dad...up to the eyes in mud!"

Working in the modeling industry, she has learnt not to take everything at face value or believe everything she hears. And mostly importantly, she says it certainly isn't an easy way to make a living.

"It's not all glitz and glamour..."

Finding it slightly surreal seeing herself on TV or having people recognise her, Georgia gives thanks to her family and fans for their constant support.

"Without the support of people such as those who took their time to vote for me on the StarCentral website, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Georgia hopes to continue pursuing a career path in presenting and film work and would ultimately like to be well known for presenting sport, especially motor racing or mixed martial arts.

Outside of her career Georgia is an avid supporter of the Ian Somerhalder Foundation, recently applying to be a volunteer, and has also planned for some time out away.

"This year I'm also travelling to California in November for a month, a spontaneous trip alone! I hope to see old friends, make new friends, explore the area and network!"





# ALEK MURRO

Hailing from an Italian bloodline, StarCentral Magazine's sexiest man of the month for July 2013 Alek Murro is no newbie when it comes to the fashion world. Growing up in Italy, one of the fashion capitals of the world, Alek was constantly surrounded by fashion and style and kept a close eye on the major runways. Now, the 24-year-old stud is following his dreams of being a model with CSA Models in Perth, Australia.

However, things are not always as they appear, especially in the world of modelling.

"Now that I am part of the scene, I have noticed that it is different in many ways. For example, in Europe, the models are more about the face and having that tall, thin look, whereas here in Perth, it's more about body, fitness and a complete look. It can be hard at times but it's also easy and fun to be a part of runways, photography, magazines, castings etc," Alek says.

The ultimate dream for this Italian stallion? To be a part of the big labels like Armani and the runway shows in Milan, Paris and London, and cause a ruckus in the USA.

With chiseled abs and largely defined muscles, Alek is strict on himself when it comes to dieting and exercise.

"I work out regularly, I follow a diet of low carbs and high protein during my definition cycle, not forgetting to eat healthy foods, sleep well, focus on my workout time and lead an active and positive life."

Alek's mantra in keeping motivated and making prog-

ress within the modelling world is "sacrifice, motivation, control, belief and dedication." With his driving force and tenacious abilities, we're sure he will excel in achieving his goals and dreams.

When asked about the highs of being a model, Alek says they are in the opportunities of travelling and working with major labels. However, it isn't all glitz and glam, as he confirms a model's career never lasts a lifetime.

"Once you reach that certain crossroad, your career slows down. There is always someone younger, better and hungry to take your place!"

When it comes to relationships, Alek isn't fazed whether he ends up dating a model or...a non-model.

"It does not matter if they are from the same industry or not. If you have the right connection, then just enjoy the life together."

A man of many talents, he might be known as a model but he is also a professional chef, fitness trainer, motorbike rider and claims he is a good housekeeper – quite the catch!

"I enjoy life, I experience things, I constantly try to improve myself and my career. I keep a strong bond with my family and friends in Italy and at CSA and above all, I am an easy, friendly kinda guy." So, you can see why he's StarCentral Magazine's sexiest man of the month for July 2013!



# Miguel

## LA CRUZ

There is absolutely no doubt that Miguel La Cruz deserves being named StarCentral Magazine's male model of the month for July 2013! Miguel's chiseled physique, piercing gaze and powerful presence all combined to garner him the attention of renowned fitness and fashion photographer, Simon Le, "who was casting for a men's underwear brand." Even though he was new to the industry at the time he said that "I was lucky enough to be picked for their campaign."

Being on his own since he was 15, Miguel is no stranger to hard work and to perseverance. That discipline has resulted not only in his amazing form and drive, but also to his ability to stay motivated, "to keep trying harder, and never give up" despite the up and downs of his chosen career. His time in the modeling industry has "given me the opportunity to meet great people from all different backgrounds and industries... I like working with professional and creative people who have a real passion for what they do." One individual who stands out for him is a photographer he has worked with at NIK Studio – "he has a creativity that is very unique, and a personality to match, he is very confident without being arrogant."

A relative newcomer to the modeling world, the 27-year old of Angolan/Irish descent has scored some major notches on his portfolio which includes a campaign for high-end label, 'G-Star Raw.' He is also one of the faces for '4Skins Underwear' and recently, he sizzled on the catwalk as one of the models for underwear label, 'Davenport' during Sydney Fashion Week – "there was an awesome vibe, a lot of my friends were in the crowd...it was great to have their support." Also in June of this year, Miguel became part of the Angolan Fashion Week. "I was there for the Angolan boxing team, and was asked to participate in some shows, there are many talented models in Angola and all throughout Africa."

It's obvious that Miguel is a definite talent in the modeling industry. But the talents of this Sydney-based young man extend way beyond the catwalk and the lens. Not only is he a dancer and can balance a coffee table on his chin(!), Miguel is also an amateur boxer (his boxing trainer, Antonio is an inspiration to him) and he is eager to see "where that path takes me." He also has plans to open "my own fitness studio in Sydney, I enjoy keeping fit, many people I meet want to get fit and stay in shape, I want to be able to encourage and help people achieve their goals." With his presence, looks and ambition behind him, there is no limit to where Miguel La Cruz can go!





# sameer VASHISHAT

With his cocoa skin and piercingly seductive stare, it is no doubt that Sameer Vashishat is deserving of the title: StarCentral's Male Model of the Month for August 2013. Growing up in Punjab, India the 23-year-old now lives in Melbourne and he mentioned that he has always wanted to be a model.

"I saw the images of models in magazines and billboards...or in shopping malls and they looked amazing. I realised I wanted to become a great model like them for big brands."

With drive and inspiration behind him, Sameer decided to pursue his dream and join the modeling industry. Unsure of what to expect, he knew he had to give his all and try his hardest. Starting his career as a fitness model, he gained a position within the top five for the Australian Natural Bodybuilding Championships. He also made it to the finals at the Blush Hot Hunk 2013 competition and he was even offered a place in the L'Oreal Asia Pacific Runway show.

"After jumping into the modeling industry, I received so many opportunities."

In five years time, Sameer hopes to dominate the Australian modeling industry; he wants to be a model for elite fashion labels on the Internet, television and across highway billboards.

Working out five to six days a week, as well as hitting the pool twice a week, he said that the hard work is worth it whenever he receives such positive feedback.

"I see the results it produces when people look at my body and say, wow!"

Sameer is also vegetarian, the buff model said he eats five to seven small meals a day and always hydrates with plenty of water, keeping his complexion clean and healthy. While he is now able to maintain a strong and muscular physique, this was not always the case. In the beginning he struggled to gain muscle while following a vegetarian diet. However, he did not let this stand in his way and took to the books to learn how to build up his body by eating vegetables and following a specific workout regime.

"I did not care if I failed, I did not listen to people who said it could not be done... I believed in myself and listened to my soul. I pushed hard and trained hard to be one of the fittest models in Australia."

While it might be hard work following a strict diet and slaving away at the gym, he said that the best part about the job is meeting new people and expanding his social network.

"The best thing about modeling is I have made so many friends, met so many people and have developed a good social network."

This gorgeous hunk doesn't just model though; he also studies, personal trains and has recently taken up acting.

"I started acting this year and have been in two short movies so far."

On his downtime, which he rarely gets, he loves to play volleyball and meditate – a good way to keep himself grounded within the world of modeling!



# SHAWN

## HOKKE

Shawn Hoke, last month's sexiest man of the month for September 2013, is of Irish-Scottish decent and was born and raised in Kentucky. Coming from a loving and supportive family, this handsome male is currently studying Occupational Science and hopes to one day be an occupational therapist, as well as conquer the modeling world of course.

Growing up in Kentucky, Shawn says he loves playing sports and being outdoors.

"Kentucky has some beautiful scenery. I love being able to go rock climbing at the Red River Gorge, Kayaking at Elkhorn creek, and hiking. It's a great place to go outside and enjoy nature."

A sports fanatic, his athletic experience includes Soccer, Football, MMA and Mat Wrestling. But the 21-year-old also loves playing the drums, piano and singing. With a passion for performing, Shawn not only wants to be a model, but also hopes to pursue a career in acting. While he has little experience in this field, Shawn has been told by many that he has the face, voice and emotion to be an actor.

Shawn first got into the modeling world when a friend invited him to try out for a fashion show. As soon as he arrived at the event

he was asked to take off his shirt and then he had the job!

Working out two times a day, except Sundays, Shawn takes his fitness very seriously.

"My workouts consist of running, cross fit and a row machine. I throw ab workouts in at the end of both until I can't do anymore reps. I also maintain a very specific diet that I rarely go off."

While Shawn says he has made a lot of good friends and met some great photographers being a model, he says he has also learnt to be very careful about the jobs he takes.

"There have been some really awesome jobs and others have been very annoying."

While he has a busy schedule with modelling and college classes, Shawn still manages to dedicate some of his time towards volunteering with autistic children, watching them at a gymnastics gym and helping them to play and relate to people.

And if ever his modeling ego gets too big, Shawn says his close family of five never hesitate to keep him in line when he gets off track.



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# Dana MUSIL

There are some who are blessed with natural talent and that is exactly the case with Dana Musil, StarCentral Magazine's unsigned female artist of the month for July 2013. She may only be 19 with just a few short years' experience in the spotlight of the theatrical stage, but she has already garnered the attention and acclaim of critics as well as her peers.

Dana's first foray onto the stage was way back in kindergarten where "I played Mother Duck in the Five Little Ducks Nursery Rhyme at the end of year show. I still have a video of that performance and I can't help myself from laughing every time I see it." Few would have thought that those humble beginnings would launch a career. This multi-talented young woman, described as a 'Triple Threat' ("I love to sing, act and dance! So musical theatre is a wonderful place for me to be..."), recently finished an internship with the Harvest Rain Theatre Company. Her time there has cemented her passion for the art form and her talent was immediately recognized. She was cast in numerous of the company's productions including 'Grease', 'Sweet Charity', 'The Never-ending Story', 'Hairspray' and 'Bye Bye Birdie'. Most notably, she won the lead role of Dorothy Gale in the 'Wizard of Oz' which was performed at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre – "...It was such a dream and I am so grateful for the experience. I never would have thought one year out of high school I would play such an iconic role in such a large scale production..." Dana was a hit and the show itself enjoyed a successful run.

To this young woman, the thrill of her chosen profession goes beyond the opportunity to don a character and work with a talented cast and crew, the chance to reach an audience also fuels her ambition. "I find it so special that in performing you create and give a unique experience for each and every person in the audience. That inspires me to keep doing what I do and I couldn't imagine it any other way..."

Poised on the edge of further success – "my friend and I have written a Cabaret together, and I am super excited that it will be playing later this year in Brisbane...", as well as a turn in 'The Boy From Oz' – she knows that she wouldn't have reached this point without the support and inspiration of her singing teacher, Susanna O'Leary ("she is a friend, a mentor and has given me the courage to keep going even when it feels too tough"), and that of her family, "especially my mum! She is always the one I go to for advice and always knows what to say...I love her and all my family and know that they will support me in my career because it's what I love to do."

With her amazing talent and drive, Australian musical theatre certainly has a new star to watch for in Dana Musil.



# ISAAC KERSHAW

The world may have to wait just a little longer to be captivated by the soulful, powerful voice of Isaac Kershaw (StarCentral Magazine's unsigned male artist of the month for July 2013) but it truly will be worth the wait. Isaac's covers on YouTube that range from Rihanna to Ed Sheeran highlight this 23-year old mesmerising sound. But for now, it is academia that has his attention. Currently immersed in completing his PhD in Music Psychology Within Film, Isaac plans to combine his studies with his absolute passion for performance. Music "has always been very much a holistic mechanism that I have embraced since my early years. This is because I most enjoy the performance's alleviating ability to assuage any stress and/or emotions that need to be expressed; it is an amazing (and cheap) therapy... it's one of the mechanisms that keep me sane!"

The Liverpool, UK-based singer was 12 years old when he realized that music was going to be his life. He was performing at the time at a formal evening at his senior high school (Wallasey School). "I was a little nervous but very excited nonetheless. It was from that moment that I knew music was what I wanted to pursue." One of his most memorable moments in front of the microphone was during a rendition of 'You Raise Me Up' at Preston North End Stadium. Despite freezing temperatures and technical difficulties, "...he absolutely loved it! I would much rather sing in the middle of a stadium than a small and intimate room!"

Isaac's determination to succeed in the music industry stems not only from his love for the craft but also his desire to "make my family proud, especially my mum and dad. My parents have been a continual bedrock of unconditional love and support and their hardworking nature always inspires me to pursue my career and hobbies to my full potential..." His parents and his 3 siblings are only the tip of the iceberg of the fans that Isaac has already garnered with his StarCentral win. Undoubtedly, they will be many, many more once this multi-talented musical gem finally gets his time serenading the rest of the music industry!







# Kasha

Kasha is the female artist for September 2013 and she told us that she was definitely born to perform. Growing up in Brooklyn, New York she began singing at the tender age of five when she joined the choir at St. Luke's Church. At fifteen, she took things into her own hands and began educating herself about the music industry and now she owns a publishing company which has been established at the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Kasha's first single "Leaving You" was released in 2004, and it received radio airplay on New York's KISS-FM, her new single "I Want You" is now also available to be downloaded on iTunes. We had the pleasure of interviewing our unsigned female artist of the month and here's what went down:

**Did you grow up in New York? What was that like?**

Yes, I grew up in NYC. New York is a wonderful place to live and to visit.

**I believe you were part of a glee club at school, what was that like?**

I was the lead singer of the glee club in school. This was the platform that made me want to pursue a career in the music industry.

**Your sound is of a R&B/pop genre, what sets you apart from other artists in this genre?**

I strive for perfection in bringing a unique style and sound that I own. The phrase "She owned it", that's me! My sound and style only belongs to me- KASHA.

**Where do you want your music career to be in five years?**

My career has been really taking off. Five years should

be more than enough time to reach that megastar level. I will continue to put out great music.

**If you could do a duet with anyone, who would it be and why?**

I always wanted to do a duet with Pitbull. I feel that the chemistry will speak for itself.

**Where is your favourite place to perform?**

Madison Square Garden

**What keeps you motivated to keep singing and chase your dream?**

I'm so motivated by my fans. I also have a team of online PR's from Girlpublicrelations and they really believe in me. They work so hard to keep my name and face in the media. This is a dream come true! Thanks Tina Gee!

**Who would you love to meet in the music industry?**

I would love to meet Oprah, Clive Davis, and Steve Harvey.

**What has been your craziest 'pinch me' moment so far?**

When I was interviewed on WBLS FM radio station here in NY, I sat in the same chair that Steve Harvey sits in for his morning show. I didn't want to get up out of his seat, without making a wish. That wish was to be interviewed by him, whether it's on his radio or TV show.

**What are you currently working on?**

I'm currently recording two new videos for my new singles. You can also pick up my single on iTunes, Kasha "I Want You".



# SEBASTIAN

## S O U L

Beginning his music career at just 7 years old, Sebastian Soul will be one to watch out for as StarCentral Magazine's unsigned male artist of the Month for September 2013. When he competed at the "Latin American Idol" in Colombia back in 2005, he ranked amongst the best 25 contestants out of the whopping 6,000 who auditioned! Although he didn't win, he still became a solo artist after his Latin American Idol experience; he writes his own songs in English and his new album "Now or Never" is out now. We had the pleasure of interviewing our unsigned male artist of the month just recently and here's what went down:

### How did you discover music?

I guess you can say it is in my blood. In Ecuador, my family is very musical. So, I grew up playing instruments and singing.

### How does it make you feel performing in front of a live audience? Excited? Nervous?

Performing live is the best feeling ever! It is hard to describe but I feel very emotional because I really feel a strong connection with the audience.

### What do you like to write about in the songs that you sing?

I like to write about what's going on in my life at the time, everything, love, etc...whatever inspires me.

### Do you play any instruments as well as sing?

I do play instruments as well as sing. I play the guitar, bass, piano, drums, saxophone and violin.

### How would you describe your music style and sound?

I would describe the style and sound of my music as R&B/pop.

### Where do you want your music career to be in five years time?

I want to be at the top! My goal is to be signed to a record label and be able to tour around the world to see fans who know my songs.

### What keeps you motivated to keep singing and to keep chasing your dream?

My motivation is my love for music. It is my dream and I will never give up on it.

### Who would you love to meet in the music industry?

Right now I am really into Ed Sheeran, The Script and John Mayer. I would love to meet those guys and work together.

### What has been your craziest 'pinch me' moment so far?

My craziest pinch me moment so far would probably be singing in front of the judges for Latin American Idol in Bogota, Colombia.

### What are you currently working on?

I am working on some new projects that should be out before the end of the year.

### How do you like to spend your down time, when you're not singing and rehearsing?

Sports...I love to play soccer and watch sports every day.



# William GITTENS

After injuring himself playing football in high school, William Gittens, StarCentral Magazine's Male YouTube Artist of the Month for July 2013, was forced to re-think his career options.

"I used to be a serious athlete and I thought that would be my career," Gittens says. However, after joining the high school choir, the 'Ensworth Singers', the artist later auditioned and was accepted into the Berklee College of Music during his senior year. Flourishing in college, the RnB/rock/contemporary singer now performs covers by Pharrell Williams, Rihanna, Jay-Z and Justin Timberlake on his YouTube channel and does a few gigs around Boston and Nashville.

"Performing live is where I find my greatest 'high' it's the only thing that can cause me to have out of body experiences. When I'm on stage singing and playing guitar, I don't know, it's just the best feeling in the world, the feeling is unexplainable."

The artist's most crazy moment so far has been performing in the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville shadowing the Grammy Award-winning artist Vince Gill. Gittens was taken by surprise when he was asked to play a song for the sell-out crowd.

"I was pretty nervous! But after I finished that sealed the deal for me wanting to become a performer."

Growing up on music, Gittens' inspiration comes from artists like John Legend, Michael Jackson, Usher and David Ryan Harris. He says it's his family and the thought of becoming a well-known and respected artist that keeps him motivated and determined to pursue his dream.

"My family has struggled financially so the thought of me being able to change that circumstance drives me every day. Just the thought of that makes me want to do my best and put my all into my music." Gittens knows what he wants. He is currently in the process of completing an EP and is planning to release two singles within the next couple of months. With one year left of college you can be sure this soul singer will burst onto the scene for total world domination.

"I want to be on tour performing my music, writing songs for other artists and producing small projects and tracks for artists. I want to win a Grammy, that is something I want to win. I want my songs in movies and to be played worldwide."

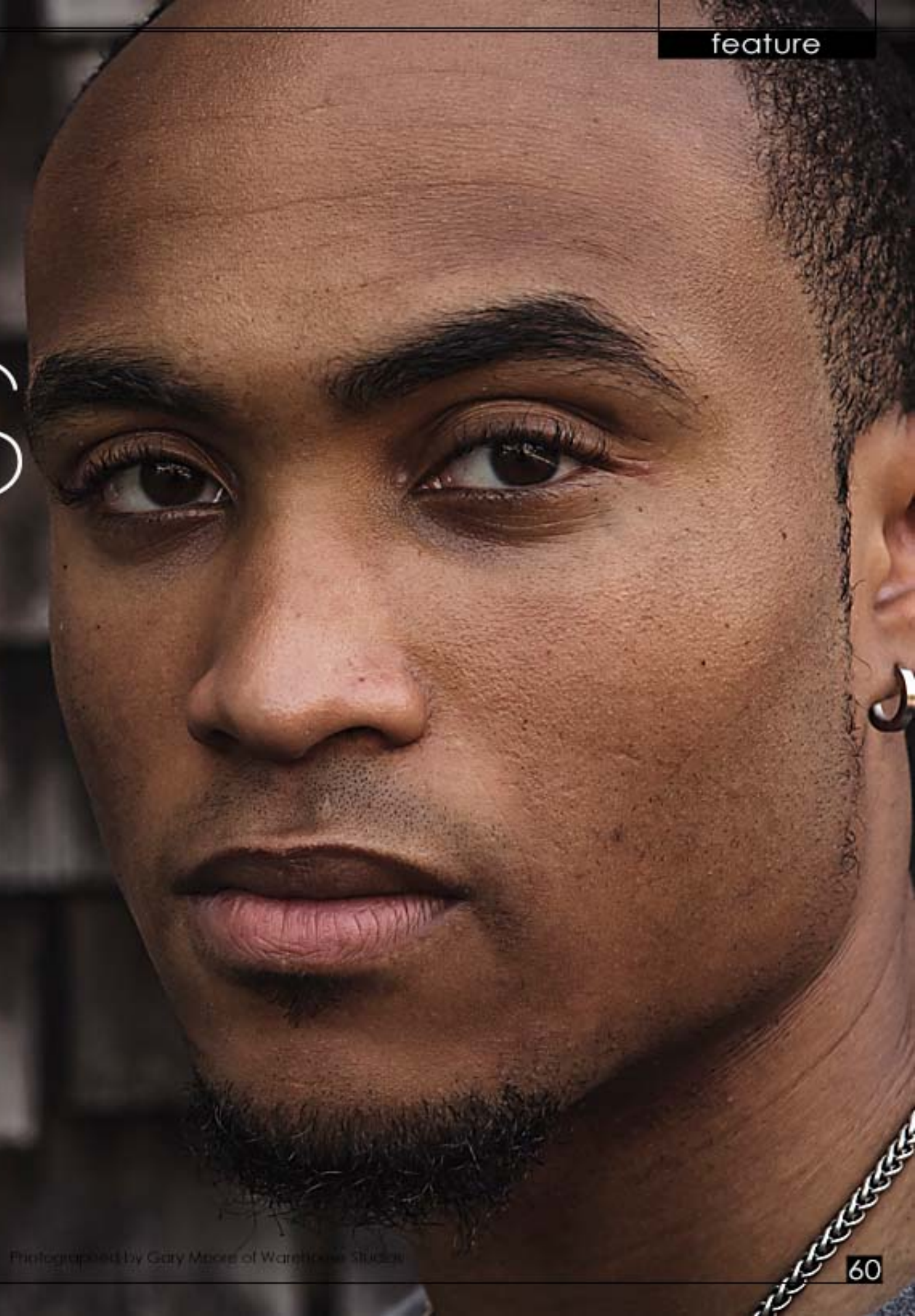
During his down time, the Boston-based singer and performer finds solace in watching movies and taking a stroll down the street.

"I love watching movies, it allows my mind to rest from my music. I also just go for a walk...whether day or night, when I feel stressed, it's usually a result of me needing to breathe some fresh, outside air."

An athlete at heart with a love for basketball and high jump, Gittens still holds the record at his high school in high jump, jumping a height of 6'6."

"I'm pretty athletic, that's my secret talent."

With his mesmerizing vocals and unabashed good looks, Gittens is on a fast track to stardom. Injecting each cover song with feeling and emotion, we can't wait to hear the artist's soon-to-be-released singles '1000 miles away' and 'Questions.' Watch out Frank Ocean!



Photographed by Gary Moore of Warehouse Studios





# HAYLEY RICHMAN

With her sweet, sultry voice, StarCentral Magazine's female YouTube artist of the month for July 2013 is Hayley Richman, who is at the tender age of 14. Bringing a confident innocence to each song, Richman has been compared to the late 90's sensation Fiona Apple. Like Apple, Richman refuses to put a label on her music style, preferring to sing a variety of genres and not restrict herself to a single sound.

Singing casually since she was very young, Richman has gained momentum in the last year producing numerous YouTube videos with her father for the world to see. Practicing her craft through cover songs, the young singer has always idolised other musicians. Carefully watching and listening to her idols, Richman realised she wanted to follow in their footsteps, as well as her father's, who is also a musician and her mentor.

"My father is my biggest motivation musically. In spite of the fact that he's been a professional musician and knows the most about music than anybody I'll ever know, he has encouraged and guided me throughout this whole learning process. Without him to help nourish what I love to do, I would never have even started making videos in the first place," Richman says.

Dealing with the ups and downs of high school is hard enough, yet Richman is passionate about performing and singing, directing her focus towards producing an original body of work by the time school is out. For the road ahead, Richman hopes she will meet people who share a similar passion. The singer is keen to work with others in the future and wants to extend her platform and grow as an artist.

Richman covers a selection of Radiohead singles within her YouTube channel and says they are her favourite band who she, one day, would love to meet.

"They're a great inspiration to me in every way, so obviously meeting one of the genius creators of their music would be fantastic."

Richman is also a big fan of David Bowie, admiring his iconic music and performance style, and has a high regard for his talent in creating numerous personas through his music.

Her most successful cover to date has been that of Lana Del Rey's 'Young and Beautiful'. Gaining a lot of interest from it's association with the movie 'The Great Gatsby', Richman was shocked to see a build up of hits everyday for her YouTube cover of the beautiful song.

"Now there are nearly 60,000 views, and although this isn't much compared to other musicians on YouTube, it humbles and flatters me to know this many people have seen me broadcast what I love to do," Richman says.

Extremely grateful to her YouTube followers and their support, Richman says she is always pleasantly surprised when each new track is received well. Most recently Richman has released three original songs that can be found on BandCamp and ReverbNation. Richman says she will continue to post more of her own work and hopes that her original songs will be available on iTunes soon.



# Felander

Growing up in Montgomery, Alabama, beginning his musical career at church, Felander is this month's Male YouTube artist of the month for September 2013. With his mother as choir director at a childhood church, he recalls one day, at the age of three, asking her how to sing.

"She replied, 'it's just like talking but holding the words out a little longer.' I took that advice and ran with it," he said.

At 14-years-old Felander found himself balancing a musical career, writing and producing music, as well as being a teenager; however, he never thought of this as being difficult.

"I never considered it as a job at the time, although I was constantly doing things all the time."

Singing for the Minor League Baseball team, Montgomery Biscuits, was one career highlight Felander says was a great experience and one he will never forget.

"I was known as the 'Serenading Biscuit' and NO, I was not dressed up as a biscuit!"

Felander has already sung for the Governor and other high profile names within the town. Yet, to this day, the soul and R&B artist says his craziest moment was performing his first solo in the fifth grade, singing 'Stand by Me' by Ben E. King.

"It felt so exhilarating and I received a standing ovation

afterwards. The crazy thing is that that was the moment I knew I wanted to be a singer."

In five years time he dreams of being a part of every major award show, "singing my face off and winning awards" and he's also planning on touring the world with his music. He said that he wants to be recognised as a household name because of his talent and brand one day.

"Nothing is too small."

If given the opportunity, he would love to record a duet with Missy Elliott.

"I think she is such an amazing entertainer, producer, singer, rapper and musician who has worked with the best of the best."

And when it comes to meeting an idol in the music industry, he is waiting for the day when he will be introduced to the legendary Quincy Jones.

"He is a true icon and has always been a force for so many decades. Not to mention, he has won 27 Grammys alone."

Currently working on new music and videos, there are plans to release a mix-tape by Spring 2014. However, the singer has a few other tricks up his sleeve, also participating in a range of theatre shows and auditioning for various TV roles. In terms of motivation and finding the inspiration to chase his dream, Felander says his family, friends and fans are all the support he needs.







# stasia

## DANIELS

StarCentral Magazine's Female YouTube artist of the month for September 2013 is Stasia Daniels – she is based in Toronto, Canada, or what she likes to call, "the T dot O".

Stasia's passion for singing and performing started when she was just a little girl. Having a mother that sang opera and an older sister also passionate about music fuelled her interest in the craft. She also says that there was something about the way music made her feel, beyond the movement of her body to the beat.

"It did something internally and singing Whitney Houston, Faith Hill, Donna Summer as a young girl to my parents, my Barbies, and even my sisters... it was just natural."

Stasia describes her music style as, "old school meets today's R&B again" but says she can do many different things with her voice and eventually wants to dabble in Disney sounds.

She has big plans for her future and hopes to dominate worldwide in the music industry.

"In 5 years, I want to see my career across the globe, far and wide, young and old, and last! Music is a universal language, so I'd really hope that I reach and captivate as many people with my work around the world."

Describing herself as, "a turtle on skates" Stasia says she is yet to discover her favourite place to perform but most likely it would be similar to what Drake is currently doing in his city.

"My city with the best artists in Urban music today."

However, she says her most crazy moment so far has been performing in Detroit where the crowd was bopping with her, reciting her lyrics and singing along.

"I was like hold on, this really does happen?!"

Finding motivation from music itself, she says she loves how it speaks to her.

"The many different creations you can make from emotions or what you see looking at something. Motivation is anything you want it to be, I get motivated seeing a plastic bag blowing in the wind; you find a story in the most unlikely form."

KeKe Wyatt, Kanye West and Eminem are just some of the artists on Stasia's hit list of Must Meet Artists, as well as Beyonce who she says is her idol.

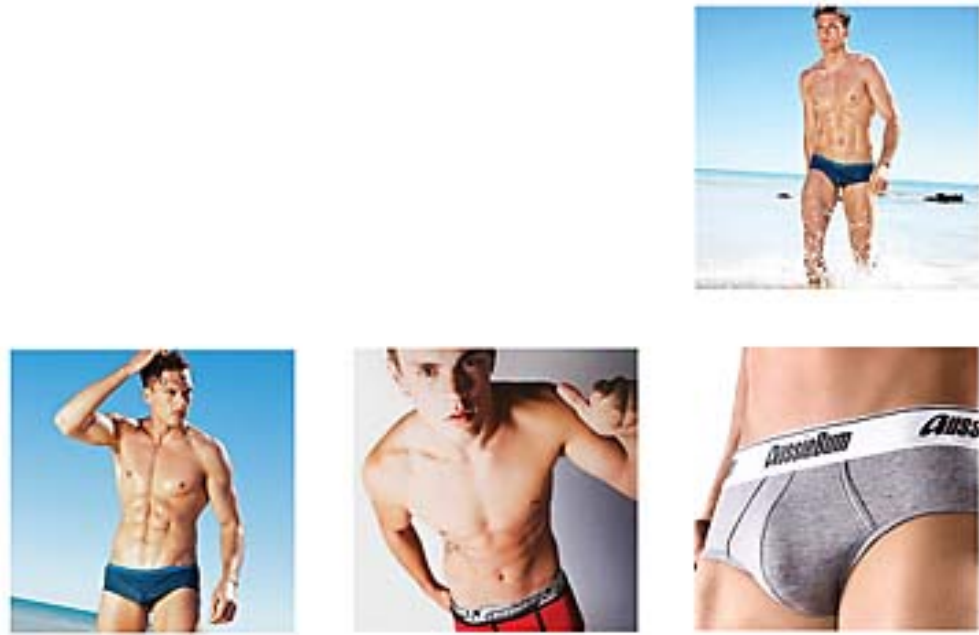
Being compared to Kelly Rowland, she says that she is honoured to be likened to such a gorgeous and beautiful singer but she honestly doesn't see the similarities.

"It's a great compliment... It's just one of those things, I don't see it though."

Currently finishing her own project titled "A Turtle On Skates", which will be a two to three part series, Stasia is also releasing her first single off the series "No Matter What" accompanied with video. And if that isn't enough, the songstress can also be found performing around Toronto and other nearby cities.

"I'm just thinking hard, and working smart to make my dream a reality. Dreaming awake."





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# CABRINI ROY

Adding flair and edge to every outfit, Cabrini Roy was StarCentral Magazine's Fashionista of the Month for July 2013. Making her own outfits for a year now, Cabrini has been tinkering with her sewing machine and completing DIY projects since she was 11 years old.

1. What is it you love most about fashion?

Fashion is the one thing in life that has no boundaries and that is why I love it. You can express your true personality and no one can tell you not to. It also makes you more confident because if you look good, you feel good. However, what I love the most about it is that I can use it to show off my creativity: from designing, making clothes, and pairing outfits together. It's like two of my favorite things combined – art and clothes.

2. How would you describe your style?

It's girly and flirtatious, and I sport mostly pastels and florals but I change things up with the occasional rocky punk adding spikes and studs, to keep things interesting.

I try to mix and match and change my style every day, so I am a big fan of trying something new. But I always try to stay original, making my own clothes helps that because I feel like I'm one-of-a-kind, as I'm the only one in the world wearing it because I created it.

4. How long have you had your blog for?

I've had my blog for about 6 months now and I've been addicted to it ever since. Being able to show people what I wear is amazing but inspiring them is even more extraordinary.

5. Describe one of your favourite pieces.

My favourite piece of clothing would probably be my DIY 3D rose skirt. This is because I love the detail in the skirt. I adore it so much that I made it in five different colours! I'm actually hoping to start selling them very soon on my online shop (which is still in progress).

6. Who is your fashion icon?

I have many fashion icons, from celebrities to my favourite instagramers and fashion bloggers. My favorite fashion bloggers are fashioncoolture, rubilove and heyitannabanana (from Instagram). But above all my fashion icon is my super fashionable mum!

7. Can you share one fashion 'Do' and one fashion 'Don't' you always follow?

I don't think there's any rules when it comes to fashion. It's about how you make it, how you style it, and how you wear it! Those are my rules!

8. What do you plan on doing when you finish your studies in fashion?

After I finish my studies in fashion (after university) I dream to start a business and open my own clothing stores. I have big goals for my future and I will do my very best to achieve them.

9. What do you do when you're not creating your own wardrobe?

I spend so long on my sewing machine that it feels like I'm permanently attached to it, however when I'm free from the needle and thread I just love laughing with my friends and family.



# Laura

Laura (StarCentral Magazine's Beauty Guru of the Month for July 2013), or as she is known to the world of YouTubers, 'mugwump05', is a video blogger who focuses mainly on the world of makeup and beauty. This means that Laura chats about anything from skincare to lipsticks and everything in between. Occasionally her viewers are treated to a little insight into her book recommendations or fashion products and this keeps the channel interesting and a little diverse.

Laura describes herself as a "normal girl with an extraordinary love of makeup". By the time she had filmed her first YouTube video she had already been watching other beauty videos for years. The thought of doing her own video was a little intimidating at first and she explains, "Uploading videos can be intimidating since there are thousands of incredible YouTubers out there, many of whom have been doing this for years and have tons of subscribers."

Overcoming her nerves, Laura decided not to compare herself to others and to embrace who she was, even if she felt she came across 'dorky and awkward' on camera. She took the plunge and began to upload her videos to YouTube.

Her bravery was rewarded and people started subscribing to her channel and interacting with her through the comments section. Laura now has almost 1,000 subscribers on her channel and what started as a hobby has now grown into a solid foundation for Laura to share her passion and creativity.

In an online world, bloggers sometimes feel unrewarded or lost behind a sea of faceless 'followers' but Laura is different. She draws happiness and pride from every person who subscribes to her channel or leaves a positive comment on a video. She explains, "There are tons of incredible channels out there, and I'm thankful every time someone selects mine out of the crowd."

"Even though I make videos by sitting down alone in front of a camera, I'm definitely not doing this on my own! Other people on YouTube continuously inspire me. Whenever I have a question (usually something technical – not my strong suit!) I can always ask a friend on YouTube for help. I also try to use feedback and constructive criticism to improve my videos."

Laura's experience has been a positive one and she encourages anyone with a YouTube channel or thinking of starting one not to hold back. "Do what you love and pursue the things that make you happy. Don't worry about comparing yourself to others; people will like your videos because they're uniquely "you."







# Bethany

StarCentral Magazine's Beauty Guru of the month for September 2013 is Bethany, she hosts the beauty YouTube channel "GlamourWithGrace". Her channel covers makeup, nail polish, fashion and hair styles and she always injects her usual fun and creative flair with each vidcast. We had the pleasure of interviewing our Beauty Guru of the month just recently and here's what went down:

**When did you start "GlamourWithGrace" and what made you want to start a beauty channel?**

I started "GlamourWithGrace" 21 July 2012 so it has been just over a year. I have always loved makeup and everything beauty and when I found the YouTube beauty community I thought it would be a great experience and hobby to make my own channel.

**What inspired your title, "GlamourWithGrace"?**

I chose "GlamourWithGrace" because I wanted something catchy but also something that related to me. My middle name is Grace so that is how that was developed. I love the words and definitions of glamour and glamorous so I decided to put them together.

**How would you describe your personality?**

I would describe my personality as funny, spunky, unique, and a bit random. I love to laugh and just be

myself. I would consider myself to be a really outgoing and a people person.

**What are your top 5 beauty products?**

Urban Decay Vice Palette, ELF Cosmetics Waterproof Black Eyeliner Pen, all bold and Bright lipsticks such as MAC's Candy Yum Yum & Maybelline Vivids lipsticks, Covergirl & Olay Simply Ageless Concealer in Very Light, MAC Cosmetics Mineralize Skin Finish in Soft and Gentle.

**What do you enjoy most about beauty vlogging?**

All the new friends I have made from YouTube. There are so many talented and awesome people in the Beauty/Vlog community and I have had so much fun building relationships with them.

**What's your daily beauty regime?**

I wear a full face of makeup almost every day. It is my passion and I am always so excited to wake up every morning and create a new look for the day. I always wash my face in the morning and moisturizer. Next, I do a full face of makeup including primer, foundation, concealer, eye-shadow, blush, bronzer/counter, highlight, eyeliner, mascara, and finally the most exciting, the lips!

**Do you ever get nervous before doing a vidcast?**

Not anymore. I love watching my first videos from a year ago. I fumbled a lot with my words and was nervous. I feel so much more comfortable now and find it so much fun.

**Why is beauty and fashion so important to you?**

I think beauty and fashion is a wonderful way to express yourself. My makeup and fashion can show how I feel that day, the occasion, the season, the trends, or just my experimentation with my unique style.

**You're always wearing a lot of fabulous colour in your vidcasts, is it on purpose?**

Yes! It is totally on purpose. I love colour and I try and incorporate colour in all my looks. I like to wear a lot of colour in my fashion and I match that with my makeup. I try to always have either a bold lip look or eye look. Even my "natural" looks have a dramatic pop to them.

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# FOSTER BUCKMAN

Acting has long been a conduit, a medium to be able to get a message or an idea across to a wide and diverse group of people. This aspect of acting is perfect for Foster Buckman, StarCentral Magazine's Actress of the Month for July 2013. "...my passion in life is to help people, change the lives of others and I believe through acting I can help somehow!"

Being a performer has also given Foster the opportunity to step outside her comfort zone. "...I enjoy the thrill of stepping outside myself and becoming a new character, I feel free and alive! To experience new things and go through the emotions and I can do things that I wouldn't actually do in my life which I find exciting..." Things like playing a zombie ("...which was completely fun! With awesome makeup! A lot of blood and gore that's for sure...") and "...a crazy hyped-up girl from a ghetto town!"

With numerous roles in feature films, short films, web series', even in the Australian TV series, 'Secrets and Lies', Foster finds the people that she meets is the most enjoyable facet of her career, "...overall the most memorable, that can't be erased, would be all the friendships I have made, met so many amazing people who are my close friends, I appreciate this industry and the positive people in it..."

When one gets further acquainted with this talented young lady, any notion of labeling her as just another 'starlet wannabe' is definitively dismissed. At just 19 years old, Foster already has her own business "...where I get to help people with their health, finances, personal development, areas in people lives they would like to work on!" Name one young Hollywood starlet who can boast of that achievement!

But it will always be acting that stirs the ambition of this Brisbane-based, Filipino/Spanish/Australian entertainer. Skilled at the flute and a quick study at any other musical instrument, Foster (with the full support of her family, especially her mum - "...she has even slept in her car at night waiting for me to finish on set or night classes!") plans to grab every opportunity she can to further her acting career. She also dreams of traveling ("...the world is way too big to just stay in one place for the rest of your life...") and creating a documentary of "...my encounters, the people I meet, the amazing scenery and all the journeys I take..."

Her talent, combined with her drive and compassion, is surely the right mix for A-list success!







# MATT OXLEY

Matt Oxley's (StarCentral Magazine's Actor of the Month for July 2013) early acting career was peppered with moments of serendipity – the lead for his Grade 5 class music video was a no-show so Matt stepped up; a cancelled musical in high school and being cast in another play despite not being a drama student – all combined to spark a passion for performance that has continued to endure.

For Matt acting has also given him the chance to look at the world in a different light, "...to embrace the drama and conflict that this world throws at us all..." It's also "...become a way to open my eyes to people – people often overlooked or avoided in the comfortable circles we surround ourselves with. It's so easy to judge people..." This opportunity at a different perspective and the ever-evolving nature of the industry is a constant source of inspiration to the 28-year old. "Every day is something new, every character different. A new slate and a new chance to explore and create...inspiration often comes from the most unexpected places, but with a firm foundation, faith, and passionate drive, I look forward to each and every project."

"...I believe that we're all created with gifts. As a Christian I believe that I have been instilled with the desire to create, to encourage, and I'm pretty competitive too, so I'm always out there looking to better my last performance and striving to achieve greater results every time..." While Matt continually pushes himself to improve at his craft, he doesn't neglect to appreciate the people he is surrounded by at every job. "...We're all collaborators on a massive art project, be it on stage or on screen, and every person's role on that project is important..." His admiration for

his fellow artisans is further magnified "...as so many of these projects often go unnoticed or unpublished, many of them are often works of love and the people working on them volunteer their time and efforts..."

Like many of his fellow actors, Matt's career has run the gamut of highs and lows. From being humiliated on stage by another performer, to having an audience "oo'ing and ah'ing" during a romantically tender scene; from being completely immersed in a character that he doesn't completely remember what just transpired in a scene, to even making children cry! "It's a career of love, of persistence, of patience, and a hell of a lot of work... and is a gift that I'll never be capable of dropping..."

While the Sydney-based performer admits that "...acting runs through my veins...", being a husband and a father has meant that he has had to be creative with the different avenues of his career. He has built a solid reputation in the last seven years in freelance video production, "...as well as teaching acting and voice..." He is also exploring voice-over work and is even delving into modeling. But as always, it is acting that holds his heart. "...I've felt like an Olympic athlete performing in the Sydney Olympic Arena for StadeFrance's production of 'Ben Hur'; I have a scar on my ankle from been dropped on a prop table on stage (thanks Tom); I lost 10 kg from a bug I caught from the water at a theatre that I was performing at; I've had close calls with the police on indie films that didn't notify local councils, froze in the middle of winter covered in mud on a dock, been covered with blood countless times, was chased by dogs with raw chicken shoved in my shoes... I love this job..."



# ALEX FORRAS

Alex Forras' earliest memory of performing comes from starring in his primary school's rendition of the Disney classic Peter Pan. The StarCentral Magazine Male Actor of the Month for September says it's a vague memory but one that opened up his world to acting.

"That's where the passion started."

At 23-years-old, based between Melbourne and the Gold Coast, Alex says one of his most challenging, yet rewarding roles so far has been playing Michael Cox in the short film Black and White Lines.

"The ability to entertain an audience and have a connection with your character and the story is one of the most satisfying feelings for me as an actor."

In terms of following his dream, Alex is fortunate for the support he receives from his family and tries to watch as many films as he can, fuelling his inspiration.

"I'm a big film buff, so every year there's always a handful of great films that inspire me to keep performing."

When looking into the future Alex prefers to take it one step at a time.

"I think every actor has big dreams and goals for their future but I don't like to look too far ahead and just keep focus on what I'm doing right now."

Hoping to soon do a comedy feature film, Alex is currently working on a new project in collaboration with Darren Downs, who also created Black and White Lines. Alex says the project is a Hitchcock style thriller called Cry of the Raven.

"We're looking to gather funds for the film and hopefully start shooting later this year."

As well as acting, Alex also sings and has a handful of other skills up his sleeve. Competing in natural bodybuilding, Alex has previously won the Junior Mr. Brisbane title and placed 4th in the Asia Pacific titles. And to top it off, has been practicing Goju Kai Karate for the past five years.

Alex hopes he will have the opportunity to travel through his acting career and reminisces one family ski trip to Chamonix, France.

"Travel is the spice of life... With a backdrop like Mt Blanc, it's a sight everyone should witness."





# susan ADOR

Hailing from Sudan, Africa, but living in Brisbane, Australia for 14 years, Susan Ador is this month's Female Actress for StarCentral Magazine. At 21 years of age Ador's goal is to be the first Sudanese actress from Australia. Appearing in a number of short films including Grim Reaping, Time Traveller, Mako Mermaids the H20: Just Add Water Spin-off and Fatal Honeymoon, Ador has also made an appearance in TPT Star Entertainment's music video and played a lead role in the Ipswich Film Festival theatre play Ruined.

When it comes to projecting a character, Ador doesn't hold back. She knows how to embody a personality and she takes her craft very seriously.

"Acting is in my blood, acting is me. There is a reason it looks believable when I am in a scene, I put myself in my character's shoes and really relate to them."

Loving every part of it, Ador finds a real thrill taking on a different character.

"I love acting, it is my passion. When I'm in front of the camera or on the stage, I get this rush, this feeling that I don't get anywhere else. It says that that is where I am supposed to be."

Making her debut in 2010 in a short film in Brisbane, Ador says her most memorable performance was at the Ipswich theatre in the play Ruined.

"The character was very heartfelt and very distant from herself, so it was fun bringing her to life."

Ador plans to continue her acting career and strives to one day be a great actress who is known globally. With the support of her family Ador feels motivated and confident in achieving her goals and becoming a better actress.

When she isn't centre stage or in front of a camera, Ador loves spending time with her children and has a hidden talent for dancing.

'LIGHTNING FAST' Round:

1. Complete this sentence: "If I had no fear, I'd..."  
...do everything and anything extreme in this world.
2. What's your best comfort food at the moment?  
Red velvet cake with cream cheese
3. What music are you listening to at the moment?  
Lana Del Rey's song Young and Beautiful
4. What's a good movie that you've just seen?  
The Heat



# MUGZY

## Meet Hip-Hop's Rising Star

Like many artists before him, Hip-Hop/Rap artist, Mugzy, can attest to music's saving grace. Eminem's song, 'Purple Pills', was the catalyst for this performer to transform a troubled adolescence into one with purpose and passion. It was Hip-Hop that captured his heart and ambition. Harnessing a discovered natural talent, Mugzy began his studies in hip-hop music and culture with Eminem and eventually, other legendary artists such as 2 Pac, Biggie, 50 Cent and DMX, captured his imagination and challenged him to delve deeper into the genre.

His first step into the limelight was in 2009 at his high school's end-of-year assembly. "...I was so nervous because there were about 200/300 people in the crowd (and this was my first performance EVER)...After my set the people cheered so LOUD they kept screaming (ENCORE! ENCORE!) when I walked off-stage...I felt so good inside...I just wanted to do it all over again..." From then on, he knew his path in life was set.

But this young man didn't just rely on his innate ability. For the next 2 years, he broadened his knowledge of music by attending courses that allowed him to explore the other sides of the craft such as production and songwriting. Mugzy was never one to shy away from a challenge. He used his difficult teenage years as inspiration for his songs with the fervent hope that other young people will find their own strength in his lyrics to face, and defeat, their demons.

Finally, Mugzy's hard work paid off with the release of his first album, 'Ride or Die' which was recorded with Schollum City Records. The album garnered him enough attention to be asked for radio interviews and he has been able to meet a plethora of hip-hop/trap's who's who such as Fabolous, as well as Treach and DJ Kay Gee from Naughty by Nature. Last year, he performed at the "UrbanStar Talent Quest" in Sydney. Among the crowd was Marcus Pennell, a retired producer for the iconic hip-hop and urban music label, Def Jam. "...After the show, I got the chance to speak with him and his words to me were: "I really enjoyed your performance man, it was DOPE."...hearing those words from someone who used to work for (Def Jam), one of the biggest record labels in America is so overwhelming..." So impressed was Pennell that the two established a friendship that Mugzy hopes, one day, will result in a collaboration.

For Mugzy, the thrill and energy of performing your own material for an audience is one of the many perks of his chosen career. He enjoys meeting people and building connections to get his music heard. He accepts that he has to balance creativity with the sheer hard work of promoting his music. "...putting my name down on any gigs possible, even if it's a small pub...it's still getting your music/name heard..."

It hasn't been an easy road and Mugzy daily walks that fine line of hoping for the major success of his art to not building up those same hopes too high. Past experience has taught him harsh lessons but still, he plows on undeterred. He performed at last year's 'World Supremacy Backgrounds International Dance Championship' which is the Southern Hemisphere's largest street dance competition. He has just released his second album, 'Understand Me' (whose tracks are already playing in radio stations around the world) and is already hard at work on the third. Mugzy is also a volunteer for MMAD - 'Musicians Making A Difference' - an Australian charity dedicated to empowering disadvantaged and abused youth using music, dance and mentoring to transform their lives.

With his passion and talent, there are no limits on how far Mugzy will go with his music career. Absolutely none. Who knows? Perhaps a collaboration with the artist that started him on his journey in the first place - Eminem.

