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**HOW
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IF YOU HAVE
A FULLER FIGURE

+
**FROM
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SIX FLEXIBLE
ACCESSORIES
THAT CAN
**INSTANTLY
TRANSFORM
YOUR
LOOK**

MAKE WAY FOR

**Kelly
Maguire**

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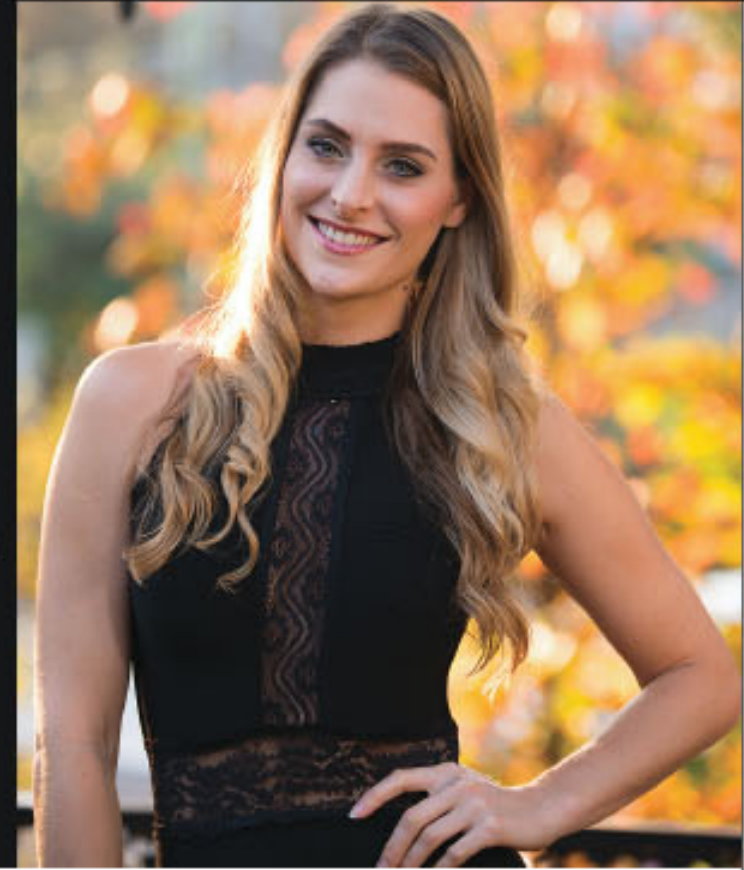
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Kelly Maguire

Find out more about the national director of Miss Earth Australia



OPENING REMARKS



August marks the ten-year anniversary of StarCentral magazine and we've certainly come a long way since 2006. Throughout the years we've met and spoken to so many up and coming and fascinating individuals, we've explored various mediums of expression and we've covered hundreds of amazing events thanks to our amazing contributors, supporters and team. As we put this issue to bed, I would like to thank God for giving us the strength and guidance throughout the years and I would also like to thank you all for your continued support, enthusiasm, dedication and passion towards our publication. Our business is only as good as the people who make it happen for our readers every day, and I know we have a tremendous team who gives me every confidence that we'll be able to maintain a strong performance throughout 2016 and beyond. God bless.

Mike Ilagan
Managing Director

20 Miss Earth Australia winners
Get to know the Miss Earth Australia 2015 winners



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editor's notes

I had a strange start to my 2016. Several things happened in quick succession that had me just scratching my head but at the same time, it filled with the conviction that it meant something. So call me nuts, crazy or just plain idiotic, but I'm going with my gut and I've vowed that my 2016 will be unlike any year I've had so far. Have you felt that way too? Have you been in that moment where logic is screaming at you: "NO!" but intuition, in a persistent whisper, is telling you: "Go for it!" I believe we all have. But it's our reaction to it that sets apart the DOERS from the DREAMERS. So, maybe following your gut might not work out, but at least you'll KNOW. There is no worse torture than regret, than asking "What If?" over and over again. So, I'll leave you with one of my favourite quotes, written by a young writer named Erin Hanson - "What if I fall? Oh my darling, what if you fly?"

Jenny Aluning
editor in chief

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SIX FLEXIBLE ACCESSORIES THAT CAN INSTANTLY TRANSFORM YOUR LOOK
from drab to fab

Does your closet seem like it could use a little fashion overhaul? Are you bored with your current wardrobe selection? Do you feel like you need a makeover?

If your answer is yes to all these three questions then I might just have the solution that you are searching for.

There is actually no need to empty your cabinets or even give away your old pair of jeans. You can even hold on to your favourite polka-dotted skirt and the scarf your mom made you for Christmas. In fact, you don't need to possess the latest from Dior's or Versace's collection. All you need is a few flexible accessories and a touch of creativity to transform your look from drab to fab.

Here are five accessories you can easily use to transform your look:

Sunglasses
Yes, this seemingly unnecessary piece of eyewear is exactly what you need to complete your white tee and tattered jeans ensemble. Notice how celebrities can still pull off being modish even with just a shirt and a pair jeans with their sunglasses on. Your eyes are not only protected from the hazardous rays of the sun, you also get to walk like a celebrity.

The Bag
Bags are an essential accessory to every outfit. Whether it's a clutch, a satchel, sling bag, or a tote, a bag can draw the line between what's hot and what's not. Buying the right bag may involve a number of considerations aside from the

clothes that you normally wear. You might want to think about where you need to go, and how much stuff you are going to bring with you. Also, you might want to check the material if it is durable enough to hold your things in order to avoid any malfunctions when you least expect it.

A Scarf
One of the most flexible embellishments is the scarf. You can wear it in so many ways, and a good scarf can easily create a number of different appearances. Work with neutral colours which goes well with any style because you want it to highlight what you wearing - not overpower it.

The Belt
Whether it is an empire-cut dress, or a jumpsuit, wearing a belt can give your body a beautiful definition. Belts come in different colours so you have a variety of designs to choose from. You can easily sass up plain clothes with a trendy shiny belt or wear it over your dress and cardigan.

A Cardigan
You can create a whole new look by just adding a cardigan on your usual outfits. Pick out a piece that goes well with your unique sense of style, and something that you can wear with any piece of clothing you have in your closet.

Being fabulous means being brave and confident enough to follow your own distinct way of dressing up. Fashionistas did not become fashion-savvy because they followed the fad, but rather because they created their own. I'm not saying it is not okay to be inspired by others convention of looking amazing but it is better to add a bit of yourself.

grace on lepou

FASHION SHOW

Failepou Peni's innovative new label Grace on Lepou is a unique and forward-thinking clothing range tailor-made with the curvy woman in mind.

By: Jill Antonio

Last month's Grace on Lepou fashion show was the first of its kind.

Set in the grand ballroom of event partner Novotel Norwest, Sydney-based designer Failepou Peni showcased her innovative new label Grace on Lepou – a unique and forward-thinking clothing range tailor-made with the curvy woman in mind.

Amongst flashing lights, media coverage and music - over 20 voluptuous models with dress sizes ranging from 12 to 28 rocked the runway in an array of avant-garde garments by any standard.

While runways aren't conventionally known to feature fuller-figure bodies, Fai states her belief that fashion should afford bigger girls as many clothing options as the more slender.

Failepou, affectionately known as Fai, named the label Grace on Lepou (pronounced Leh-paw), as an extension of her Christian name, and in honour of her faith in God - the inspiration and motivation behind all of her work. The evening started with a prayer, and ended with a party.

Fai's been in the fashion design industry for over two decades and states she never before intended to create a plus-sized range. Being herself a bigger woman, with two similarly curvaceous beautiful daughters, she simply recognised the gap in the market for it and set out to fill that need.

Before allowing some 150 guests into the ballroom, models and designers alike bustled backstage in nervous excitement.

What followed was an extended showcasing of designs by 5 other supporting labels: Island-TKM, ACW (Anton Conway Wye), Jo'Li

(Danitta Frelton), MKG (Martin Gray), and JMP (Mystic). Most were inspired by elements of their respective heritage, beautiful colours, shapes, and patterns of the Pacific Islands. Fai's Grace on Lepou was the last to be seen.

Ranging from resort-wear to modern casual-wear, and evening, the models (who were sought out by Maisyann & Judy May Peni and supplied by Ethnic Model Management) looked to be enjoying themselves and were glowing with both inner and outward beauty. Similarly, the audience was vibrant and receptive to the sporadic song and dance entertainment also featured on the night.

The brand itself endeavors to embody humility, strength, and understated confidence. Fai's garments are made for women who know who they are, and who don't need to fit in to society's (increasingly tiny) mould.

Fai lovingly recounts that she developed her passion and talent for the industry from her mother, Ane Fasavalu Saipaia who was a skilled seamstress and a sewing teacher in New Zealand, Samoa and Australia. Fai also studied at Australia's Whitehouse Institute of Design simply to gain the accreditation - although when speaking with her, it's obvious it's her passion and talent that has propelled her the furthest.

When asked of one word to describe her newest label, Fai replies without hesitation: "Grace" she says. And it's everything she exudes.

While taking her final bow to conclude the evening, it was apparent many guests attended in simple support of her, and her phenomenal vision for bigger women. Something tells me she will continue doing what she does best - to stay ahead of the curve.

May 28th's Grace on Lepou event precedes a larger scale fashion show to be held in October 2016. It will support and showcase a greater number of up and coming fashion designers.





LEPOU's debut launch of "GRACE on LEPOU" Fashion Show was held at the Novotel Sydney Norwest on Saturday, May 28 2016.



FIVE SMART YET SIMPLE TIPS ON HOW TO START A business in 2016

Let's face it; people these days are constantly trying to find ways to take themselves out from the rat race of employment. More and more people now are seriously considering opening a business rather than staying employed all their lives - and I bet you are one of them.

Here's the thing though, wanting to start a business is completely different from actually starting one. So to help you get started in your journey to entrepreneurship, here are five simple yet clever tips to help you thrive in your own business:

Know your prospective customers' needs

In identifying which business to put up, you have to ask the question "what do they need that I can offer?" By asking this, you automatically know if you have possible clients who will take advantage of your products or services. Let your hobby make money. Do you have an exceptional knack for crocheting? Do you bake the best cookies in the neighbourhood? Are you remarkably skilled in Taekwondo and can teach children? If it's a yes, then you might have just found the perfect business venture for you.

Finding the right business for you is crucial to its success

Just like choosing the best prom dress, a business investment must be a perfect fit. You will need to have the skills, knowledge and the motivation to grow and develop it. When you do something that personally involves you, you will give it your best, and almost always, the result will be positive. Examine yourself and assess what talents and skills you have which will aid you in choosing the business of your dreams.

Start small

Most people engage in business in order to improve their way of life, and maybe keep a million dollars in their savings account. And though the idea of making a lot of money maybe tempting, zeroing your certificate of deposit to fund your wonderfully crafted idea of a business may not be the best move. Like anything else in life, business is still a gamble. There are a lot of factors at play, and making huge investments in something you are not 200% sure off is not the way to go. So, start small. If you are planning to set up a boutique, it might be better to set up an online shop first (which is really a trend right now). You can cut some of the cost from starting an actual store and also build a line of loyal customers.

Do your research

What is the age bracket of your target customers? Are there a lot of them in the area where you plan to set up your small company? How many competitors will you have in your chosen location? How accessible is your business site?

These are just a few of the things that you will need to look into so you can project how well your prospect business will fare. Distinguishing these things will help you devise ways to sell your products and services. It will also help you decide if your business is worth investing in or not.

Draft a business plan

With so many things to consider, putting up a business can be confusing and nerve-wracking. That is why it is critical to draft a business plan so you can clearly see where you are going in your investment.

Think of your business goals as a treasure, and the business plan is the map to help you get to it. You will have a better picture of the things that you need to do to get to where you want your business to be.

SIX INCREDIBLE WAYS TO LOOK CURVACEOUSLY CHIC

The fashion world has definitely come a long way when it comes to dressing women. It is no longer limited to women with smaller sizes; in fact, it has opened catwalks to women with fuller and more curvy figures.

Gone are those days when your size confines you to wear sweatpants and tees. Hence, throw away those unflattering tops and outdated dress in your closet, and make room for a little change. You can be as stylish as Heidi Klum in just a jiffy with these six ways to look curvaceously chic.

Flaunt that booty

No, it's not too big. Wear as much jeans as you want and let it show off your voluptuous behind. You can never go wrong with the right pair of jeans. Make sure it's just your size though, not too tight or too loose. Whether it's tattered, bleached, or skinny, you can pair it with almost anything in your closet.

Belt it up

So how can you look stunning on your new fitted dress which your friends had peer pressured you into buying? Wear it with a belt. Fitted outfits could sometimes highlight some parts of our body we'd rather not want to be highlighted, but a bulging tummy may not be as bad as you think it is. The belt can create a balance between the upper and lower part of your body.

Black is the new hot

Yes, you read that right, if Adelle is rocking it then why shouldn't you do the same? Start with a little black

dress, and who knows, you might just own the catwalk one of these days. Not only is the colour flattering, it also exudes confidence and a whole lot of elegance.

Don't over accessorize

When you feel like you're already wearing too much, then you should trust your instincts. Looking stylish doesn't mean donning your collection of bling, or even putting on a cardigan when you can actually just get away with a little skin here and there.

The tailor is your best friend

We're not always fortunate to have the clothes that we like in the perfect size and length that we want it. However, it is not yet time to raise the white flag and give up because your neighbourhood tailor may just be the hero you need to save the day. A shorter hemline, or maybe an adjustment might just make all the difference.

And lastly, be proud and about

Nothing spells sexier than a woman who feels good about herself. And, when you feel great about what you're wearing you will feel even better about who you are. Diss your shapewear and embrace your curves. Your body is perfect the way it is.

Being stylish and gorgeous isn't only about how you look, it's also about how you feel on that specific look. Don't base your whole view of how you should be from what you see in the mirror. You need to wear your clothes like you are the most beautiful woman in the world because you deserve it.

5 CRUCIAL TIPS FOR LOOKING BETTER IN PHOTOS

Here are some handy pointers that will help to ensure that you are looking your best and that everything runs as smoothly as possible on your first shoot.

By: Patricia Higgins

Do you want to become a model or are you an aspiring actor/entertainer? Perhaps you have been thinking about this for some time and have joined an agency. Or, maybe you believe that you possess enough raw potential and wish to 'dip your toe' in the industry. In any case, as an aspiring model or actor it's likely that you need to obtain some images (model portfolio or headshots).

Maybe you have found a photographer and booked your first shoot? However, if you are an unseasoned initiate you may be unversed in preparing for your day in front of the camera. Here are some handy pointers that will help to ensure that you are looking your best and that everything runs as smoothly as possible.

So first thing first - make sure you have enough energy to keep you going during the day and under the photographic lights. That means bring some food. Some healthy snacks like nuts and fruits will have you covered if your sugar levels take a dip or if your photography session isn't catered. Hydration is absolutely essential - always bring a water bottle.

Many people might assume modelling or posing in general is easy and laid-back. This is not exactly the case. You need to be prepared to hold a pose (to be willing to learn how to position your body and to assume an expression) to create the perfect shot. Getting enough sleep leading up to a shoot and being as relaxed as possible will greatly assist in creating images that display your unique attributes and your requisite skills to their best advantage.

Even if wardrobe and makeup is provided it is wise to bring some essential items along to your shoot (particularly if you are a female). Invest in some nipple covers and some nude underwear. A g-string is always a good idea to maintain modesty whilst avoiding visible panty line. Make sure you bring deodorant. Other items to consider are some make-up of your own for touch-ups, lip gloss/balm, a small mirror, makeup remover and cotton tips. Also, consider what footwear is applicable.

It is vital to consider the location of your shoot when preparing and packing for the day. If you are shooting outdoors or on the beach then sunscreen is a no-brainer. Also, bring sunnies to protect your eyes and perhaps an umbrella and hat for sun protection between shots or outfit changes. Bring footwear like thongs or sandals so that you can walk on sand or traverse hot pavements - these things can get remarkably hot and you want to be as comfortable as possible. Of course, bringing a towel and a robe can be a great idea for when your shoot wraps.

In terms of grooming do try to avoid overwhelming regrowth and shabby brows. If you are in a bikini then undertake waxing etc. a few days previously to avoid rashes and bumps. Also, if you wish to get a spray tan make sure it is fresh and not patchy. Moisturise and eat clean to keep your skin looking its best. These things almost go without saying, however, sometimes if you are short on time they can fall by the wayside. So, make sure you begin your preparation a few days in advance. After that all that is left to do is smile, let your personality shine through and enjoy your shoot!



ek en ya

By: Jenny Aluning

Little did Kelly Maguire know that within a time span of just short of a decade, she would go from a rookie beauty pageant contestant to being the director of one herself! Kelly's involvement with beauty pageants began when she "was walking along Pitt Street Mall - way back in 2007." She was approached by the (then) director of Miss Earth Australia. Going on a leap of faith, she entered the pageant and "managed to place second runner up at the national final, and...won the title of Miss Intercontinental Australia. I then went on to represent Australia in the Seychelles at that international final, and that was such an incredible and life-changing experience... needless to say, I was hooked."





sectors such as Greenpeace and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Kelly's introduction to environmental issues is via her father "who is extremely knowledgeable and outspoken when it comes to environmental issues...my knowledge and passion for all matters 'eco' comes from the influence my father has had, and those values and life lessons he has been able to instill in me through the way he lives and campaigns for a better world for us all." Being part of the Miss Earth organization has given her the chance to share that love and passion with "hundreds of girls" across the world and has given her experiences she would not otherwise have had - "I've shaken hands with Peter Garrett (when he was Minister for the Environment), had dinner and drinks with Ronan Keating, gotten a hug from Pharrell Williams." In March this year, Kelly travelled to the Philippines with Miss Earth Australia 2015, Dayanna Grageda to participate in the Climate Reality Leadership Corps 3-day training conference run by ex-US Vice President, Al Gore - "there we met hundreds of passionate people making a massive difference in their communities at a grass-roots level. These people organise rallies, advocate for renewable energy over coal and other fossil fuels, clean up waterways and estuaries, and genuinely care for their world - and this is in third-world and developing countries."

While campaigning for environmental issues and being with beauty pageant contestants came easily to Kelly in her first year as Director, the more logistical side of the competition was something more of a challenge - "I never thought of myself as an entrepreneur! I actually have an academic background and only fairly recently graduated from my Master's degree." Her biggest lesson has been one of delegation. Having organized her first national Miss Earth Australia final mostly on her own, "it worked to a point, but never in my life have I been more stressed!" She realised that by sharing the load, she's more able to concentrate on other important matters such as "dealing with the contestants, the schedule, the causes we represent." Her partner, Paul has also been invaluable as she traverses this huge learning curve - "As an entrepreneur himself, I have learned the value of self-motivation and the skill of firing on all cylinders! He is constantly on the go and inspires me during times I face difficulty or am unsure of how to deal with people."

Her first year as Director would undoubtedly please Miss Earth's international organisers. Not only has Kelly increased the pageant's profile in the media, her first winner, Dayanna Grageda came second in the international final! "Coming first runner up at international level is such a feat...I don't think I can praise her enough...surpassing every single expectation I dared to have held. She's gone on to spearhead a number of campaigns locally in Australia, and her reign has - by far - been the most successful and exciting of anyone who has ever held the Miss Earth Australia title...mine included!"

Needless to say that Kelly is just getting started. She is working hard for the pageant "finding long-term sponsorship partners, getting a foothold in terms of credibility, building on our campaigns and projects." But on the more personal side, she looks forward to "eventually settling down, and rescuing a dog (to keep my rescue cat company!)" and finding more opportunities to go skiing - "I learned to ski from the moment I could walk, and I travel once (or twice or more!) a year to seek out the snow in various places around the world. Another reason we need to act on climate change!"

In 2010, Kelly herself became Miss Earth Australia. Her history with the pageant has been a long one so when cracks began to show in the organisation's leadership and the reins were offered to the 29-year old, she jumped at the chance - "the licence was offered to the (then) Miss World Australia team. Taking on another top-tier competition was a bit much for them...I am extremely proud to say that Miss Earth Australia has grown in leaps and bounds...we run an ethical, campaign-driven competition that genuinely offers opportunities for the contestants to contribute to the world they live in, in line with the Miss Earth ethos."

The Miss Earth beauty pageant is an international one, and is one of the three largest beauty pageants in the world, rivaling Miss Universe and Miss World. The pageant is all about promoting environmental awareness and its winner becomes the spokesperson for the Miss Earth Foundation and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Foundation works with environmental departments and ministries of participating countries as well as various private



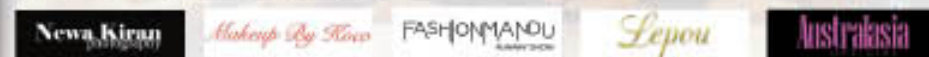
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MISS EARTH AUSTRALIA



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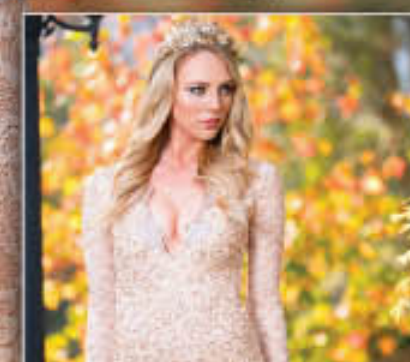
Dayanna

MISS EARTH AUSTRALIA

Dayanna Grageda, Miss Earth Australia for 2015, truly embodies her title. "I love to be outdoors amongst nature; I regularly go to parks, beaches and other natural areas to just reconnect with nature," she says. That love exudes from the Bolivian-born beauty, and she was chosen among other contestants from all over the world at the Miss Earth international beauty pageant (held in Austria last December) as 1st runner up - 2015's Miss Earth Air! "It was something that I worked really hard for and had to overcome many hardships and build personal strengths to achieve," she admits.

It definitely was not an easy journey for Dayanna; in 2014 she also won the Miss Earth Australia title, but was later stripped of the crown amid confusion and controversy. But it was clear that it was in Dayanna's destiny to be Miss Earth Australia when she reclaimed her crown one year later. She has been tirelessly devoting her time to various environmental causes, such as Take 3 for the Sea, an organisation that helps promote reducing pollution in and around waterways - for which she is an ambassador. During her reign as Miss Earth Air she also had the opportunity to speak at the UN headquarters in Austria, and work with WWF in Philippines and Australia. In March this year, she joined Miss Earth Australia's national director, Kelly Louise Maguire, in the Philippines to participate in the Climate Reality Leadership Corps; a three-day training conference run by ex-US Vice President Al Gore. Pageantry has certainly helped Dayanna develop more confidence in herself, and build her skills in public speaking. Both traits are important for her plans for the future beyond her reign; as an animal scientist she aims to continue her work with wildlife rescue and the community.

"I will continue my environmental work in schools, Take 3 for the Sea, community bush care, and other charities, as well as finish my degree in psychology. I'll also build upon some great projects I've been planning for some time. I'm really excited; stay tuned!"



Lyndl

MISS EARTH AUSTRALIA AIR

Finding one's purpose and passion in life is in no doubt, invaluable. For Lyndl Kean, Miss Earth Australia Air for 2015, this has been the most valuable lesson since she joined the Miss Earth Australia beauty pageant - "The most valuable thing during my pageant career has been the self-development. I've come so far as a person and wouldn't be the person I am today without the pageant industry. I would recommend doing this to anyone who may be lacking motivation or feeling a little lost."

Describing herself as "very down-to-earth, caring with a good sense of humour", Lyndl first became involved with beauty pageants when a few girls she knew started to compete. She then began to see "it as a way to set a new and exciting challenge for myself."

Being part of the Miss Earth Australia beauty pageant was quite a memorable experience for the Aussie beauty. She especially loved "the bond formed with my fellow winners and seeing what we can achieve as a team has really made me proud and left me inspired me to do more." That awakened passion for environmental advocacy received resounding validation when she entered the Miss World Australia beauty pageant last year. Stunning redhead Tess Alexander ultimately won the crown, but Lyndl was awarded the title: 'Beauty With A Purpose.' High praise indeed!

Outside her life as a beauty queen, Lyndl is a very busy international model having just returned from a photoshoot in sunny Miami, Florida. She has graced catwalks at Mercedes Benz Fashion Week, modeled for big brands such as MAC Makeup and ALDO shoes, and has been featured on print ads and commercials for athletic wear and swimwear. She's also dipped her toe into the acting industry having been an extra on the long-running, Australian TV soap, 'Home and Away.' A self-proclaimed "big traveler" and budding life coach ("I love to motivate and inspire others to believe in themselves and chase their dreams no matter how wild they are!"), Lyndl has nothing holding her back from all she wants to achieve.



Tahnee

MISS EARTH AUSTRALIA FIRE

Watching the Miss Universe pageant as a young girl certainly left an impression on Tahnee McGann – “it always looked like such fun...” Little did she know that one day, she would herself take to the stage and win a title of her own – Miss Earth Australia Fire 2015! While that first impression centred more on the glitz and pomp, it wasn’t until Tahnee won a place in her own pageant that she “discovered they offer you far more opportunities than just the on-stage glamour you see on TV.”

Growing up on the New South Wales Central Coast, the outdoors was always a part of Tahnee’s life – “nature has always been my playground.” She’s not one for staying idle – “I love being active, even my down time activities always involve some degree of adventure. I enjoy discovering new bush trails... embracing my competitive nature in a friendly game of netball.”

A proud vegan, Tahnee has wholeheartedly fallen in love with pageantry. She loves “The amazing opportunities they give to voice your opinion and passion while meeting and working with such inspiring and confident women...we have had so many hilarious moments, life (and environment) changing opportunities, and have bonded as life-long friends.” She also loved “getting glammed up in evening gowns” and the advice of fellow beauty queen and current Miss Earth Australia, Dayanna Grageda, frequently rings in her head – “always bring your entire makeup and hair kit at all times!” Her time as a beauty queen has seen her fundraise for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, campaign against the Ivory trade and help feed Sydney’s homeless.

Tahnee is definitely than just a pretty face. She already possess a business degree and is currently studying for a Bachelor’s Degree in Health Science. So, her formula of beauty plus brains plus passion will definitely equal to a shining future.



Genie

MISS EARTH AUSTRALIA WATER

If one needs any more proof that beauty pageant contestants are more than just a pretty face, one needs to look no further than Genie Koulaeva – Miss Earth Australia Water for 2015. Not only is she an international ballroom dancing competitor who has represented Australia in the past and a theatre actor who has studied at NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Art), one of Australia’s most prestigious acting schools; she speaks French and Russian fluently and she is “also a doctor, interested in critical care and trauma surgery.”

Already used to being in the spotlight, Genie felt herself drawn to the opportunity beauty pageants provided to “have your voice heard.” Her reign as Miss Earth Australia Water has afforded her the chance “to talk about the things that really strike a chord with me, such as sustainable living and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.” She has also “been working on a project to build an Eco-friendly and highly sustainable home.” While “the early starts and the preparation isn’t easy,” Genie (who has also been a state finalist for Miss Universe Australia in both 2015 and 2016) feels “it’s definitely worth it.” because of the people she has been able to meet as a beauty queen – “It really is pretty incredible, and fascinating... the girls do come from all different walks of life with very different experiences. It makes for a very rich tapestry!” She’s also had some amazing experiences which included taking part in the Sydney Mardi Gras parade last year. She felt honoured to “support a community that has had such a troubled history in society. It was truly amazing to see so many people also supporting the LGBT community as well on the night. A truly unforgettable experience!”

A true lover of the great outdoors, Genie Koulaeva’s title could not suit her more perfectly. She plans to continue with her work as an advocate for the environment and also stay part of “the pageant community, as a competitor, supporter and mentor.” Her plans go beyond Miss Earth as later this year she will be traveling to the South Pacific as a volunteer, “using my knowledge and expertise as a doctor.” Suffice to say, Genie has been thoroughly enjoying her journey so far!



“Splendour: Superhero Mayhem is a uniquely progressive display of song, dance, and drama.”

SPLENDOUR: SUPERHERO mayhem

By: Jill Antonio

The splendour of any show is in its details. It's in the technical-loured flashing lights, the climactic music, the stage space, elaborate costumes, make up, and the combination of all of these things. Its splendour is in the performers, who are themselves the art.

Written and directed by the talented Michael "Mr Sinister" Acland and brought to you by 25thShot, Splendour: Superhero Mayhem is a uniquely progressive display of song, dance, and drama.

Featuring theatrical body-arted pole dancers, contemporary, ballet and burlesque dancers, and parkour (a movement philosophy with military origins), the show is unlike anything of this world.

Splendour's superhero/supervillain theme transports the audience to a place of fantasy, a magical realm that suspends disbelief with the added dimension of watching the show unfold before your eyes.

With twists, flips, spins and kicks, Splendour's show features astounding acrobatics, a collaborative array of styles and 18 performers with different artistic backgrounds and super-human control of their bodies.

We all have a bit of superhero in us, and similarly a touch of good and a bit of bad. The story itself emphasises our carnal



The show is marvellous and spell-binding...



human nature, body, and form – while cleverly playing on our occasional desire to escape it.

Many performers were laden in body art, some with their entire top halves painted on as costumes. More than simply a show, Splendour seems also to be a tasteful display of bodyart.

Having been on and off in the creative industry over 35 years, Michael Acland's passion is in screenplay writing and directing (Producer of Bondi Chronicles). In a pre-show interview before the mayhem began, he says, "no two shows are the same".

The Splendour: Superhero Mayhem production is shown every couple of months, with the June 5th event being the 17th of its kind. Working together with genius choreographer Franck Bortnik and show creator and producer Anastasia Shrits – what they've achieved is a classy masterpiece showcasing local talent, emotion, passion and positive energy.

Splendour now has a constant following of splendid fans that attend every event. Last Sunday's show saw no exception, despite the Sydney thunderstorm. In fact, the rain added dramatic effect to the overall vibe of the evening.

Seeing Splendour: Superhero Mayhem is a bit like watching a quirky comic book with a twist of burlesque come to life.

With a cast that includes the likes of Batman, Poison Ivy, Mystique, Wonder Woman and many more, lead singer Lola Major as "Fish Moonie" is a stand out. The soundtrack of the show includes just the right amount of contemporary, and is always scene-appropriate.

What you'll find in Splendour is a soulful blend of body art and performance art, bringing meaning to the quote by American author Byrant H. McGill: "You are the artist and the art".

Splendour manages to be sensual and dark, while also highly entertaining. With three 25-minute segments, ending in a climactic crescendo, with increasing intensity as the show progresses – the result is pure and beautiful mayhem.

See the next Splendour: Superhero Mayhem if you want to witness the extraordinary and erotic interplay between super and mortal.

Crew: Anastasia Shrits, Michael Acland, Franck Bortnik, Ian Hunter, Jared Rogers "Rogers&Co", Gian Ferrari/DJ Chango; HMUA & body-art: Basil Steane/head body-artist, Charlotte Ravet/senior makeup & body-artist, Kaneez Haseena, Kate Tokano, Becky Social, Veronica Thin and Anna-Lisa Shakry

Cast: Franck Bortnik, Michael Acland, Lola Major, Sam Green, Viviana Toro, Helena Marina Brunhoj, Matilda Murphy, Lera Sizova, Bonnie Heather, Maryna Filonova, Melissa Sylvia Junck, Maxime Simon, Damien Tanura, Cyrille Badaire, Chris Talbot "Blue Phoenix Pole & Fitness", Hayley Morris "Pole Ex Studio"

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are you a pageant fan or just an online troll?

By: Peter Sereno

I admire loyalty and patriotism. But sometimes, blind nationalism can work against you. So yes, Die hard fans will no doubt start firing off and my inbox will once again be full of the usual hate mail and death threats.

'Tis the season indeed.

With the recent fiasco during the Miss Universe competition in which the host Steve Harvey mistakenly called forth the wrong winner, it had firmly established the divide and rivalry between its two key markets: Latin America and Asia.

As the pageant heated up so did the trolls and keyboard warriors and sadly, us Filipinos are the biggest culprits.

I myself am a member of various pageant forums online and have witnessed this phenomena grow, shocked with the fact that my own countrymen are guilty of perpetrating, or rather, instigating this. If you are one and are reading this article, I beseech you to please read on and consider, and maybe...just maybe, you'll be doing your country and your delegate a favor and not a disservice. That is, of course, you're open minded enough to read through and recognize any troll like qualities you may be displaying.

The beauty of the Internet is that we are now much more

accessible with a huge reach. We are interacting with people and communities we formerly had no access to and everything is now in real time. It has made the world a smaller place. The problem with the Internet, is that the village idiot has now been given a global platform.

I myself have been guilty of the occasional trolling. Not even royalty is perfect after all. But one must recognize that one is a work in progress. As long as you are indeed progressing. Thankfully I have very close friends who pull me up on any missteps I make – the same beauty queens who themselves have been subjected to online bullying and trolls.

So as a new pageant season begins, how does one become an ideal pageant fan and not a rabid idiot from the global village?

- Keep it positive. You gain nothing by praising your girl and running the competition down. Be a good sport. I love how we Filipinos band together and support each other. But just because one person is being an idiot doesn't mean you have to be one yourself.

- When online, keep all communications universal and in English. If you're going to engage yourself in an online debate, fight fair and with facts. And a debate usually means allowing your opponent the right for rebuttal.

- No one likes a fake profile. Many find it easy to criticize

and bully behind a fake alias. Of course it's easy. That's why cowards do it. If you're going to say or do something, stand by it and put your name behind it.

- When attending a pageant, be understanding and respect authority, security and organisers. The girls are on a strict schedule and are not always available for autographs and interviews. If they are in a rush, do not get in the way. Remember that insiders are always watching and causing them to be late to an event can affect their chances. If a contestant can't give you a moment for a selfie or a chat, it doesn't necessarily make them a bitch.

- There is nothing more irritating than living in a fish bowl. Sometimes the public can access the girls during breakfast, especially if they are staying in the same hotel. If you are one of these people, respect the fact that your girl has to eat. Refrain from taking photographs of the ladies while they are eating. You'll find that many will be gracious enough to allow time for photos. Don't be greedy.

- Avoid speaking to the ladies about online reviews. The last thing these ladies need is distraction, positive or negative. Trust me, they do their own investigations and they speak amongst themselves. Stick to messages of support. Leave advice giving to their handlers and directors.

- Get to know the directors. If anyone wants to know how their girl is going or if you want to know insider goss, be

friendly with the directors and handlers. But keep information confidential. Respect what you are given and never abuse it.

- Remember that beauty comes in all forms and the judges have the final say. No one likes a bad sport. Celebrate all victories even if it does not go your way. Remember that all other contestants have worked as hard, sometimes harder than your own candidate. Praise in public, and if you must criticize, do it in private.

- Be wary of who you share information with. You don't know who that information will go to and where it will end up. Be selective on who you talk to – everyone has a smart phone and whatever information is shared can be uploaded in seconds. Even if deleted, you don't know who has taken a screen shot and run with that piece of evidence.

Generally, if you keep it classy, you'll be fine. So keep it honorable – whatever you put out, you get back. The negativity you throw out says more about you than the subject you are criticizing and remember that there is a fine line between witty and tasteless. There's merit in the saying "if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

We admire the loyalty and the passion but not at the expense of the competition. Just remember – stupid is what stupid does and as Pia Wurtzbach said during her final Q and A at the Bb Pilipinas contest, "think before you click".

PEOPLE AND **FACES**

1. Kelly Maguire and the 2015 Miss Earth Australia winners getting all wacky for the cameras

2. Model at the Grace on Lepou fashion

3. StarCentral crew with some Aussie Elite models

4. Kelly Maguire posing for StarCentral's official photographer Nelson Cortez

5. Miss Earth Australia 2015 winners wearing their adorable WWF onesies

6. Miss Teen Australasia Official Tamara Reynolds's pro StarCentral magazine

7. Model Lilee Frances at the latest Aussie Elite Modelling Network night



Miss Earth Australia winners in WWF onesies



Tamara Reynolds



Kelly Maguire

"Meet the who's who in the social scene down under"



Lilee Frances



Miss Earth Australia 2015



Grace on Lepou fashion



Aussie Elite modelling network night

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MICHAEL Kodari

Find out more about Michael Kodari, the man who stands behind Australia's wealthiest

A man walks into the room and he's nothing like I expect. Framed photographs of Michael Kodari with politicians, entertainers and Australia's powerbrokers adorn his office walls. But in none of these photos do you get a sense of the sheer intensity of his being. Kodari is neither large nor small. He is neither old nor young. Yet he owns his space like few can command. His eyes move between possessing a fierce intensity and offering a kindly indulgence.

Meet Michael Kodari. Labelled the "Golden Child of the Stock Market" and is said to possess an almost prophetic vision of Australia's best performing stocks. But don't insult his intelligence. He's no clairvoyant. It's down to hard work, an eye for detail and learning to disconnect emotion from investment decisions.

Very few investors or money managers have been able to pick stocks with such accuracy or time the market with such precision as Kodari. And he's building an empire off the back of his talent. In just a few years, Kodari's company, Kosec (Kodari Securities), has gone from start up to one of the most respected and best performing investment firms in the country.

So what's the secret? The winning formula? Kodari is a man who plays his cards close to his chest, and with good reason – what stock broker in their right mind would divulge the next big thing?

But true to Kodari's mantra of "wealth begins with better knowledge", he's happy to divulge a few pointers. "At Kosec we take a top down, active value investment approach." My mind tries to access its tenuous link to high school economic theory; and draws a blank. I'm forced to admit defeat and ask for an explanation.





Talking to some of his employees, working for Kosec is life in the fast lane, filled with long hours and enormous responsibility. But on the flipside they're pretty well looked after. They work at one of the best office locations in Sydney's CBD with views across the harbour and Woolloomooloo, have access to all-expense paid events at Sydney's hottest restaurants as well as to a mentoring program – even a player piano that can recite a classical concerto without requiring a pianist. Kodari's intuition about what people want from their employer is as astute as his investment advice.

I asked Kodari about his all-time best investment. I expect him to answer his 2016 prediction of skyrocketing TPG shares – it's been a pretty well documented boast. But his answer takes me aback. It was a mere \$20 on Dale Carnegie's interminable, 'How to win friends and influence people'. From Carnegie's book, Kodari learnt that understanding people is essential

to life – personally and in business. "The more we understand about people and their motivations, the happier and more successful we will be" Kodari cites.

And what, aside from making money, makes Michael Kodari happy? Giving it away he proclaims. An oxymoron of sorts... but to Kodari, giving back to society is as important as his custom made Italian suits. He is one of the Pratt Foundation's largest contributors and a benefactor to programs against domestic violence.

With his business acumen, savvy investment techniques and philanthropy, Michael Kodari could well be Australia's answer to Warren Buffet.

Michael Kodari is founder & CEO of Kosec (Kodari Securities). Visit www.kosec.com.au



Kodari benevolently indulges. You get the feeling that, while he may be wealthier than most people could ever dream to be, he's also a decent person.

"We look at the macroeconomic indicators – international market news, employment, GDP, business confidence, consumer confidence, how the Australian Dollar is performing against the US, etc. Then we look at what industry sectors might take advantage of a weaker Australian Dollar and what sectors might take a hit," Kodari explains how they will often

recommend a buy on solid companies whose share price has taken a slide due to external factors. "If you pick good businesses they'll always do well in the long term."

This investment strategy has seen Kosec yield very strong results in what has generally been an underperforming marketplace. It is one of the reasons why some of Australia's wealthiest individuals have moved their investment portfolios over to Kosec. But Kodari claims the other key to success is making sure his staff is happy.

