

STAR CENTRAL

Continents Pageant

MEET THE CPA
PAGEANT WINNERS

2018

SOCIAL
MEDIA
TIPS
THAT'LL

Blow your socks off

MEET ASHLEY

ANNA

CARBYN

THE STUNNING
MISS MULTIVERSE
AUSTRALIA 2018



FASHION 101

THE STARCENTRAL
MAGAZINE GUIDE TO
KEEPING FAB
AND FRESH WITH
THE SEASON'S
FASHION FORECAST

GET TO KNOW

BRITTNEE

SHEATH

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Brittnee Sheath

Get to know Search for the Next International Female Model winner Brittnee Sheath



OPENING REMARKS



It has been nearly 13 years now since we released the first ever issue of StarCentral Magazine and I want to both share a couple of thoughts as well as wish you all the best for 2019. Firstly, I want to thank the great people behind StarCentral Magazine who are tirelessly working behind the scenes to ensure that our magazine and website is in tip top shape. You should all be proud of the significant contribution you make to the overall StarCentral business. Like any business, there are, of course, ways we could improve. Working together, I am confident that we can elevate StarCentral Magazine to an even higher level this year. I'm definitely looking forward to working with you all again this 2019, and for those of you who just came back from a break, I hope you enjoyed some much needed quality time with family and friends. God bless.

Mike Ilagan
Managing Director

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Erik Vent
Get to know Search for the Next International Male Model winner Erik Vent



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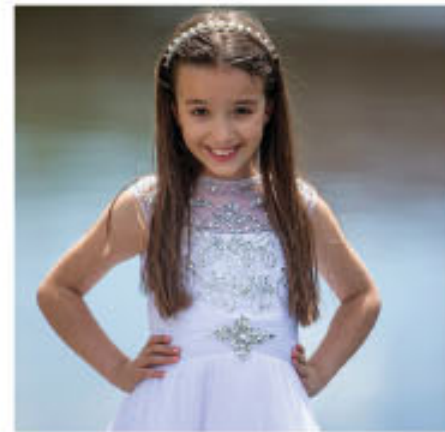
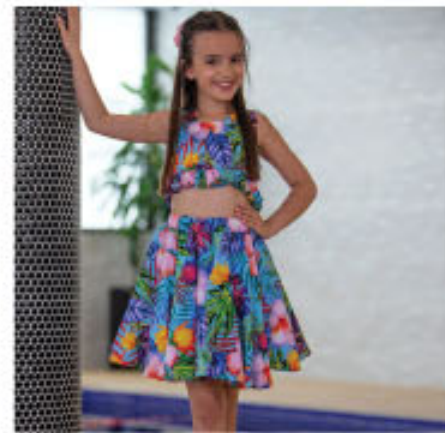
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EDITOR'S NOTES

Sometimes, success can be a double-edged sword. On the one hand, there you are fulfilling your dreams, achieving all the goals that you've set for yourself. While this is laudable and should be celebrated, one has to stop and make sure that that success isn't a selfish one. What I mean is, are you alone in that winner's circle? Or are you there being cheered on by the people that have loved you and supported you? In that race to the top, did you leave everyone behind? I think that's what makes StarCentral so special. That while the magazine has grown in leaps and bounds, the group behind it have stuck together though it all. Ours is a tie that binds and one that has proven strong over the years. Bring on all the adventures, 2019! We're ready for it!

Jenny Aluning
editor in chief

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TAYLOR KOOPMANS

JUNIOR MISS AUSTRALIA CONTINENTS 2018

Queensland native Taylor Anne Koopmans began her pageant career at the age of 9 in 2016 as an entrant in the Face of the Globe Australia pageant. In this pageant, she placed as 3rd runner up which spurred her on to enter the Future Faces Charity pageant where she won Mini Grand Supreme. From there on out, Taylor developed a passion for pageantry.

A supportive family has been the foundation of Taylor's continued pageant success. Her dad coaches her signature pageant walk style based on tutorials he finds on YouTube. While her interview responses are reviewed by her mom. Even her Aunt Heather is on board to assist with her pageant looks and last minute hair and makeup changes.

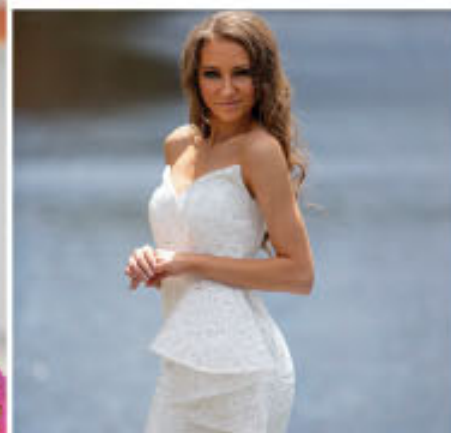
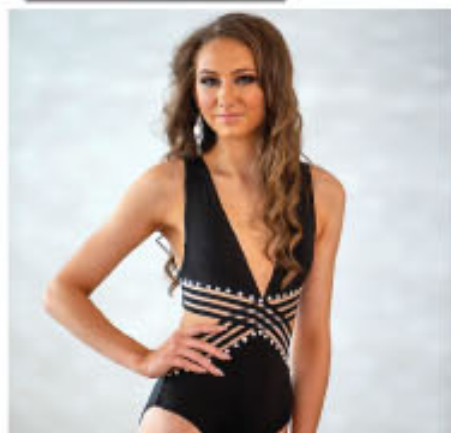
Pageantry has allowed Taylor to develop friendships and gain useful life skills that will translate as she grows older. Long days of primping and photoshoots can be difficult for someone so young to adapt to. However, the desire to become a winner has made her learn the importance of goal setting and hard work to achieve a goal. Her strong focus and dedication have allowed her to be crowned Junior Miss Australia Continents.

Competition in pageants has also introduced her to many unique people. Through the pageants, she was introduced to two of her best friends. Pageants invite guest speakers with inspiring stories to speak with the young women. In 2017 one of the guest speakers at her national pageant was Ben Felten. Ben gave a heart-warming story of his ability to overcome his disability to

achieve success in his field. At the age of 20, Ben lost his sight as a result of a degenerative eye condition. At the time he was a competitive motorbike rider. Rather than let his disability cut his career short, he chose to not only continue competitive riding but break a speed record as well. After hearing his inspirational story, Taylor decided to come back in 2018 to compete for her title.

Many are introduced to the pageant world through programs such as "Toddler's and Tiara's", but this depiction is sensationalized and far from reality. There are more to pageants than flashy gowns, spunky performances and winning crowns. Each competition has opportunities for young ladies to become more involved in their communities through fundraising and other charity events. Community involvement allows the girls as well as the public to see that pageants are about more than just good looks.

Reflective of the mentality competition has developed with her, Taylor has lofty future goals for her career. She is currently starting a YouTube channel wherein she will offer industry tips. She would like to use her experience to guide other young women attempting to enter into the pageant world. She has had so many positive experiences through joining competitions. As a titleholder, Taylor would like to alter the public perception of pageants. Rather than emphasizing on the crowns and prizes, she would like her community to see the impact of fundraising in her area as she continues to work with the Luke Priddis Foundation.



ALICIA TAVANI

MISS TEEN CONTINENTS AUSTRALIA 2018

Alicia Tavani was first entered into the pageant world by her mother. When she was just 13 years old, her mom entered her into a pageant via the website StarNow - her family has been supportive of her pageant journey since day one. They never miss an opportunity to drive her to appearances, help find the perfect stage outfit or simply just sit in support as pageants take her across the globe on various flights. After being in the industry for 4 years, her hard work and dedication have finally led her to win a crown.

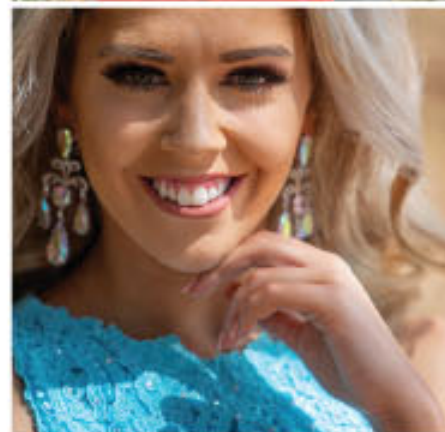
Although she's a beauty queen, everything for Alicia is not all glitz and glamour. She expresses the frustration and sadness that she faces whenever it comes to dealing with the typical teen girl bullies. The stigma of pageant winners being crowned as titleholders based solely on beauty may be the predominant perception - but this view fails to acknowledge the impact community service holds in the pageant world. She is truly more than just a pretty face.

Alicia uses her platform as a titleholder to champion anti-bullying projects, visits with patients at local children's hospitals and find ways to better the lives of others. As a titleholder, she feels she must use her position to better the lives of those in her community. Competitions have helped shape her into the young adult she is today. She puts her whole being into giving the best pageant performance but has learned to accept that not every performance will be a winner. This maturity has allowed her to honestly reflect on the feelings of her

experience rather than focus only on the results. Rather than becoming discouraged on poor results, she remembers that she is worthy and is always good enough. That is the mark of a true Queen.

Competing in pageants has allowed Alicia to have many memorable experiences and meet inspiring people. At one pageant she was able to meet Dana Vulin. Dana is a survivor of a brutal home invasion that occurred while she was sleeping. Her attacker attempted to burn her alive, but she survived. She shared her story of hardship and recovery with the contestants. Her take away from the horrible experience was that no matter how difficult the situation is, you do not give up. Dana's inspirational account encouraged Alicia to attempt to find goodness in every situation and soldier through the hard times. This is a sentiment that influences her anti-bullying campaign.

In a world of beauty, glam, and glitz it can be easy to develop a big ego. Alicia's struggles have allowed her to remain grounded. Despite being a queen, she never views herself as superior to others. Through meditation, she connects with her inner voice and reflects that she is just as important as the next person. This humble view is reflected in her future plans. In the future, her service heart makes Alicia wish to pursue a career in nursing. She has already completed 2 years of study and has 18 months remaining. Her other dream career is not far from the pageant world as she would love to model for famous brands such as Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana, Versace and Victoria Secret.



MADDY JONES

MISS AUSTRALIA CONTINENTS 2018

College is a busy time. Studying, classes and late nights often leave little time for other activities. Somehow 22-year-old Madelaine Jones is able to juggle the stringent practice hours of pageantry with her college life. Currently, she is working on obtaining her Bachelor of Education degree with the intent to become a primary school teacher. In addition to her schooling, Madelaine is also a dancer and cheerleader for the NRL Sharks. She is also the 2019 Miss Australia Continents.

Madelaine is not the only person in her family with pageant experience. Her older sister was also involved during her teen years when she competed in the Miss Earth pageant. The desire to help her mother who was diagnosed with cancer 3 years ago, prompted her to enter pageants. She hopes that not only will she be able to raise prize money to pay for medical expenses, but also use her platform to grow awareness. Mom and sister have been her biggest cheerleaders through her experience thus far supporting her through all her ups and downs, chauffeuring her around and helping with all her needs.

As a contestant, Madelaine believes most of her experiences have overall been positive. She sees that the biggest pitfall to beauty competitions is the negative perception of the public. Peers have a certain stigma that they associate with the industry. Lack of awareness leads them to see contestants being judged solely on outer beauty. She would like to expose the importance of community involvement. Contestants spend hours

serving their communities and charities through fundraising. Over the 3 years, she has been involved in the industry, Madelaine has raised over \$28,000 for charity as well as spearheaded her own nonprofit organization- The Hearts of Hope Project. As a queen, she has been able to not only help others but meet other inspirational figures. She has worked with local hospitals and the Ronald McDonald house. The adversity the sick children and their families go through reflect determination, strength, and survival.

Pageants have allowed Madelaine to develop and grow as a woman. Prior to competing she was a shy introverted young woman. Training has broken her out of her shell and allowed her to transform into a self-confident and self-aware young woman. No longer does she compare herself to others. She has been able to realize her own value. This growth is what she attributes

While she is still working on her degree in education, Madelaine is also a student learning support officer for special needs children. She intends to use her industry skills and influence to mentor children. Through her experiences, she believes she can set as a positive example of the importance of education. Following her graduation, she will continue working in the special needs school as a support officer. She also intends to continue The Hearts of Hope Project. Through her nonprofit, she intends to continue to support the less fortunate of her community.



CLAIRE JURD

MS. AUSTRALIA CONTINENTS 2018

With degrees in acrobatic fitness and hairdressing, twenty-six-year-old Claire Anne Kelly may have a resume more suited for a contestant's stylist. Instead, she is a new face in the pageant world. She entered her first competition in 2018, Future Faces of Sydney. Prior to 2018, Claire was a photographer for contestants. In 2017 while working Modelling Shootout she was introduced to Jasmine Farlow who would become a mentor to her. Through hard work, coaching and many hours of practice she earned her first title, Grans Supreme, in the Future Faces Pageant.

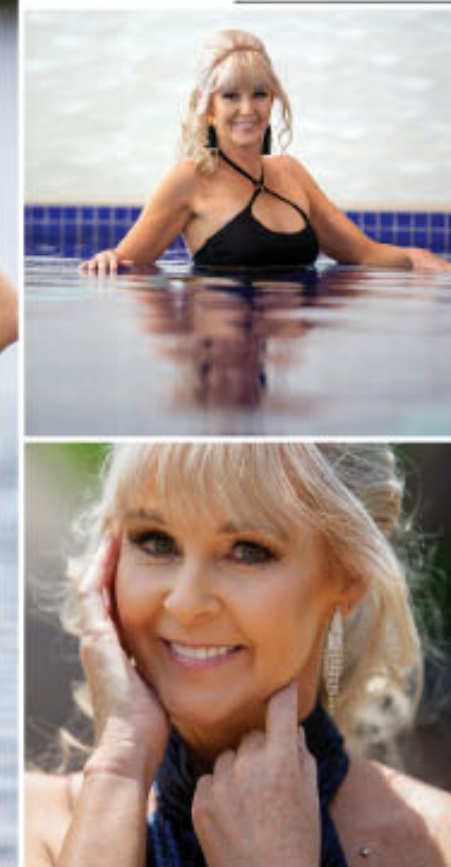
Claire is supported by her brother and daughter. A quote her brother once gave her, "just because something hasn't been done before, it doesn't mean it's not possible," has served as a mantra for her current career. The pageant life can be grueling with hours of practice and constant travel. Despite the toll this takes on her, she remembers her brother's words and is encouraged to push through. Claire appreciates that she can bring her young daughter, Indi, along to competitions. She recalls the shock and joy she experienced the first time Indi came to a Future Faces Pageant. As Claire performed on stage, her daughter stood in the crowd proudly following along count per count. This sentimental moment showed how much her daughter supported and admired her. Even though her daughter is only 5 years old, she gives her mother a purpose. It is the desire to show her how hard work and kind heart can greatly advance one's life that drives her to give her all to competitions.

Through Claire's pageant career, she has been able to

meet many influential persons. Future Faces director, Kim Chancellor has become somewhat of a superwoman for Claire. Her aura and support have provided the environment for the pageant she directs. Her mentor Jasmine Farlow continues to be support and inspiration as she continues to grow in the pageant world. Ava Da Silva is sunshine personified and gives her energy each time their paths cross.

Competitive life has taught Claire many lessons. Prior to her entry into pageants, Ms. Kelly felt as though she was not able to be her true self. Her authentic voice was released as she came across strong women such as Jasmine Farlow. There was no need to be afraid of losing people by being her true self. She learned to accept and love the person she is today.

In her free time, she continues to pursue her love of acrobatics. She also enjoys cooking, dancing, reading, and meditation. Pageantry has allowed her to impact her community through charity work. This allows her to remain grounded and expose the public to the more attractive aspects of pageantry. She acknowledges that a stigma exists that pageants are solely based on outward beauty standards. In her future career, Claire would like to use her position to recruit more country and regional contestants into the industry. She would like her platform to enable these girls to be elevated to positions of success as well teach them through her experiences. Ultimately, Claire would like to create a book that chronicles all her pageant travels and experiences



LISA CIAPPARA

MRS AUSTRALIA CONTINENTS 2018

By: Jenny Humphrey

Lisa Ciappara's is no stranger to competition.

The 45-year-old outdoorswoman, wife, and mother, has had a successful career as a competitive Dressage Rider. Her desire for self-improvement led her to the pageant industry. Her 17-year-old daughter Sarah had been involved with several pageants as well. As her mother, she was able to observe how competing caused Sarah's self-confidence to mature.

After some introspection, Lisa decided that she could use pageants to overcome her fear of public speaking. Through her journey, her whole family has been extremely supportive, but the experience has been especially meaningful for her and Sarah. Pageants are a way for the mother and daughter to strengthen their bond.

In her journey for self-improvement, she has gained Queen status. She is the current Mrs. Australia Continents and will represent Australia as the Break Out Star of the Year.

The pageant world has allowed Lisa to meet many dynamic figures. One of her mentors is Robbie Canner. At 60 years young, Robbie became Ms. World. She serves as inspiration that there is no age limit on wearing a crown. Another inspirational figure she has met is Sue

Turner who was Mrs. Global International Classic World 2018. Through her reign, she has been known to support many charities. Throughout Lisa's pageant career, both Sue and Robbie have shown her support and served as guides to be a charitable crown holder.

Pageants are typically believed to only focus on the outward beauty of contestants. However, to Lisa, the most important aspect of being a beauty queen is giving back. Community involvement is the tenant she focuses on the most. As a queen, she is able to use her platform to influence her community through charitable works.

Deciding to compete in a pageant as a wife and mother of 40 shows Lisa's bravery. She allows other women to see that age should not hold them back from trying new things.

Despite the season of life, one is in any goal is attainable with hard work and dedication. During her reign as Mrs. Continents 2018, Lisa would also like to work with various local charities. Being a mother, it is not surprising that one of her key charities is the Cancer Center for Children.

With Lisa's strong and determined focus and her heart of gold, we won't be surprised if she takes home the crown at the international stage.

ARIA AWARDS 2018



By Jenny Hu

Despite the relentless rain that plagued the ARIAS 2018 on the 28th November, the show still went on. A plethora of homegrown artists from all walks of genres arrived on the red carpet to celebrate the crème de la crème of musical excellence. Much of the crème came to the Star, adorned in their fashionable gowns and unorthodox outfits. Nominated for an ARIA last year was Amy Shark, 5 Seconds of Summer, Vance Joy, Kasey Chambers, Dean Clarke, Hilltop Hoods, and Odette. Special international guests, Rita Ora, Troye Sivan, George Ezra, Nicole Kidman, and Keith Urban, also sent everyone into a star-struck frenzy.

Meanwhile, in the media trenches, the StarCentral team was on standby, reporting for duty, despite how chaotic and claustrophobic it was. With a spotlight list of celebrities on the one hand and two bubbly and ecstatic MC's namely fashion designer, Lakshmi Gowda and upcoming actress, Vanessa Madrid on the grind and prepping to ask the hard-hitting questions, as it is their first time at the ARIAS themselves. With Ali Liu behind the scenes as technical support, we were visibly positioned near the artists so that we could interview them.

After numerous attempts on trying to catch the celebrities for an interview, we eventually managed to interview a number of talented artists such as PNAU, Timomatic, Mirrah Reflects, Odette, Camouflage Rose, Cyrus and many others who were kind enough to talk to StarCentral Magazine.

Some of the highlights of the 2018 ARIA's were that Lakshmi was able to interview Tim-o-matic regarding his hiatus. He revealed his struggles in 2016 and how he overcame them through his music. Lakshmi also interviewed Camouflage Rose who worked in hospitality a year ago and is now living his dream as an artist walking down the red carpet.

As for the winners of the ARIA's, Amy Shark had a relentless reign over most of the nominated categories as she took home "Album of the Year," "Best Female Artist," and "Best Pop Release" for her debut album, "Love Monster."

A year earlier at the ARIA's, she was talking about the obstacles and rejections that she faced as a struggling artist. Her perseverance paid off this year and earned her the status of Queen of Pop.

"I really, really wanted this," Shark teared up at the podium with her award, she also dedicated the award to her partner of 11 years, Shane Billings, "I will cherish this forever."

The single, "I said Hi" by Amy Shark, which earned her the Best Pop Release award was an ode to the many music executives who ignored attempts of being signed her before the viral hit, Adore. It was a triumphant moment for Shark who proved to the same executives that her talent should never have been underestimated.

"I started so long ago trying to do this, so when you put a whole body of work out, and people like it enough to nominate you, and then you win it, it's so far off what I thought I could ever achieve," she recounted her difficult journey to the press room. I'd given that sort of dream away long ago. So I'm sort of waiting for someone just to wake me up."

Other notable gongs went to 5 Seconds of Summer, the Australian equivalent to One Direction who swept up three awards for Best Group, Best Australian Live Act and Apple Music Single of the Year for "Youngblood."

An endearing moment lingered when the category for "Best Male Artist" was called out and it was awarded to the critically acclaimed indigenous artist, Gurrumul who passed away in July last year. His album *Dajarimiri* (Child of the Rainbow), which was released in April and shot up the charts ever since his passing. On behalf of accepting his award was his daughter, Jasmine Yunupingu and his friend and collaborator, Micheal Hohnen.

"He was a special person to everyone he met, and he wanted was for people to love his music and our stories," Jasmine told the audience fondly, commemorating her father's legacy.

In honour of his legacy, Jasmine, Jessica Mauboy along with Briggs from A.B Original performed his track, *Wulminda*.

As for Casey Chambers, the Australian country legend was inducted into the ARIA's Hall of Fame, as well as getting an ARIA for Best Country Album for *Campfire*. She also holds the record for being the youngest female artist ever to enter the Hall of Fame.

As everything wrapped up, we asked one of our hosts, Lakshmi about her surreal experience at the ARIA's and how she got to witness an event in person after many years of watching on television.

"Music has inspired my fashion as well, so it was awesome and an incredible opportunity to be there and get to interview these people. People who music has been listening to for so many years and helped through some tough times and all of a sudden I meet them in person."

When recalling of the highlights of the ARIA's is that she was so blessed interviewing the artists who came so far in a career that they love;

"One highlight was hearing the journeys of the people that I got to interview. I was blessed to meet these like-minded people, just to see how much they've come to their career and their lives and just making their goals and dreams a reality and overcoming hardships and just being successful in what their love, which was very inspiring for me to in that moment and in that energy."

AACTA AWARDS



By: Jenny Hu

Throughout years, the AACTA's has matured into an institution where diversity thrives as it welcomes the neighbouring Asian filmmakers by implementing the inaugural Asian Awards as well as honours more indigenous filmmakers and the rich storytelling that comes with it. In the midst of the glitz and glamour, it is important to note that Australian screen industry is craving for more unique and diverse storytelling as the likes of Hollywood blockbusters such as *Crazy Rich Asians* and *Black Panther*, reached to unprecedented heights at the box office.

This year at the AACTA's, it certainly delivered this demand for multicultural, diverse storytelling as the institution celebrated its 60 years. It is a significant year that shows for the arts and "At last justice is served" as Steve Curry puts it.

The categories of the nominees were of high caliber in film category; *Sweet Country*, *Breathe*, *Boy Erased*, *Cargo* and *Ladies in Black* — which possessed the nuanced storytelling ranging from indigenous storytelling to a heart-wrenching story about conversion therapy in Australia.

On December 5th 2018, the red carpet was swarming with star-studded and multi-talented guests were sporting a navy-blue ribbon, which stands against the detainment of children and women of the off-shore detention centre in Nauru. It included the likes of Nicole Kidman, Simon Baker, Warwick Thornton, Vince Colosimo, Simone Kessler, Daniel Monks, Deborah Mailman, Don Harry, Isabelle Lucas and Melina Vidler etc.

The StarCentral team with Lakshmi Gowda and Vanessa Madrid were on the forefront of the media trenches, again and their first time at the awards too! We interviewed a plethora of talented actresses and actors whom were all nice enough to talk to us. Vanessa, being the up and coming actress and film connoisseur - she was StarCentral's secret weapon when it came to meaningful questions about acting. Lakshmi on the other hand, dressed in her hand-made liquid silver and meticulously sequined gown, made her seem like she belonged at the red carpet. It did wonders on the celebrities, and they were even complimenting our hosts!

As the red carpet seemingly came to an end, the award ceremony commenced, and the media migrated into the media room to see where the action is happening.

The winners for this year's AACTA awards, *Sweet Country* was reigning in all categories and won a total of six awards, including the prestigious, "Best Film," "Best Cinematography," and "Best Direction."

Sweet Country is a compelling story of Sam, an indigenous stockman who out of self-defence killed



a white stockman owner. It spawned a story about racial prejudices and is based on a true story on the screenwriter, David Tranter's great-great-grandfather.

Speaking of diverse story-telling, the film, *Boy Erased* was based on a true story of Garrard Conely's 2016 memoir that details his personal experience with gay conversion therapy.

Nicole Kidman took the gong for "Best Supporting Actress," for *Boy Erased*, as well as Joel Edgerton, who unfortunately was not present during the ceremony - he won "Best Adapted Screenplay."

"I want to thank my amazing actors and Garrard Conely and one of the big things we hope to do is end conversion therapy, and I didn't wish to exist, but it does," Joel remarked as he said in his acceptance video.

Along the same note, the miniseries *Riot* which documented the events leading up to the marriage equality vote has won two gongs for "Best Lead Actress in Television" and "Best Television Show."

"It keeps the film in the conversation and it such an important story. It needs to be seen - this film is not going to destroy you but provoke you," Box said at the press room.

"This wonderful journey with all the cast and crew. The timing of the conversation was perfect. It was a wonderful outcome for the LGBT community."

As for the Best Asian Film, *Die and Survive* - it was directed by Justin Wen who expressed his excitement for being acknowledged by his Australian screen peers:

"It's very humbling to be receiving the award from the Southern Hemisphere. It's a serious story. What we did was make it light-hearted, but we had serious and intrigued the audience with a universal dilemma you have to choose to be moral and making a profit."

The Longford Lyell award is the highest honour that any actor can achieve as it commemorates the prolific-ness and the longevity of an actor's career. This year it belonged Bryan Brown who boasts over 80 films, both in Australia and America. Notable films that he starred in were *Breaker Morant* and *Give My Regards to Broad*



Street, F/X, Cocktail and now, and *Sweet Country*.

He was nominated for a Golden Globe and an Emmy for his performance in the miniseries, *Thornbirds*.

"It's an honour—thank you the Academy. I am Australian telling Australian stories, and I love it." He also dedicated his award to his lovely wife, Rachel Ward, who has been with him through the ups and downs.

In other notable gongs that were awarded, Simon Baker won the Best Supporting Actor for his directorial debut for *Breathe*, *Mystery Road* for the best drama Series, Wayne Blair and Best Documentary went to *Gumurul*, which has the same producers as *Sweet Country*, and *Ladies in Black* took home three gongs, "Best Lead Actress," "Best Original Score," and "Best Costume."

Moreover, with all gongs awarded to all their respected and well-deserved films that ignite conversations of ongoing yet relevant issues within multicultural Australia. Although this is only the beginning, we're at least one step closer to justice being served.

PACIFIC BUSINESS NETWORK

An evening for all our Aspiring Pacific Entrepreneurs, Business Owners & Community. Special Guest Speakers from USA, NZ, Cook Isl, Sydney & Melbourne.



GUEST SPEAKERS



Virginia Toalepai
Worldwide Safety
USA



Dr Marcus Powe
Wade Institute
Melb



Koni Rairoa
Konimaq
Cook Islands/NZ



Fou & Katerina Fale
D'Vine Banquets
Melb



**Venna Tohilima
and Ama Hemana**
Lashfix Beauty
Melb



Fai Lepou-Peni
Pacific International Runway
Sydney



Leata Roberts
Pacific Trade Invest
Sydney



Fipe Preuss
Living Koko
Melb



Tina Waru
Global Indigenous Management
Melb

VENUE

| DATE | TIME

The Melbourne Pavillion

ie: 135-157 Racecourse Rd,
Kensington Vic 3031 (cnr Stubbs Rd)
Thursday 25 May 2019 | 5.30pm

DRESS

ISLAND OF ORIGIN OR BUSINESS

****STRICTLY NO DOOR SALES****

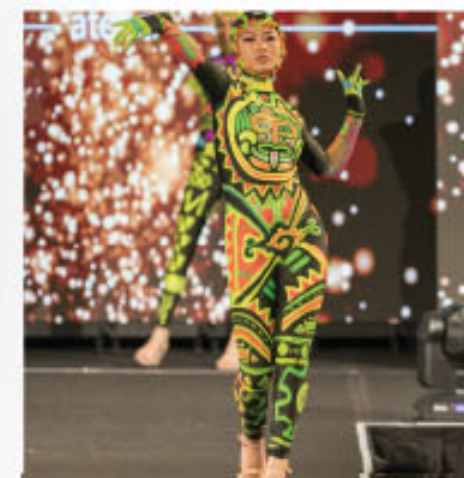
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\$85 pp – LIMITED TICKETS
Includes Buffet Dinner
Drinks available for purchase

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The outstanding management behind Rock the Runway Australia by Rocky Gathercole recently hosted a glamorous Fashion Spectacular at the stunning Grand Ballroom in Hilton Hotel on December 1 2018. Marites Novis of MFN Productions was the executive producer behind the show and she was supported by her business partner Leo Bello.

Lights dimmed, and the fancy affair kicked off with a tantalizing song performance by none other than Ballina Gee aka "The Pacific Diva."

Pews of well-dressed guests assembled excitedly on either side of the elevated platform, ready for the fashion showcase to come.

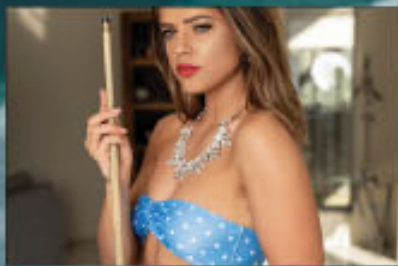
Rocky Gathercole is a Filipino self-made celebrity designer whose name in the world of runway continues to shine. It all started with threads and strings and a driven mind to create a collection of couture that wears his story wherever he goes. Eventually, his dreams became dresses and his sketches became superb avant-garde pieces. As his creations continued to make an impression in the Fashion world, Hollywood celebrities and pop stars started knocking on his door and coming after his sun-stunner creations. A-plus celebrities such as JLo, Nicki Minaj, Sia and Katy Perry eventually became some of the bearers of his incredible pieces.

But before all the glitz and glamour brought to life by his creations, Rocky actually had a rough start in life. Rocky Gathercole recalls how he struggled to live a life sheltering from the coldness of the street, sleeping under a bridge, and making little income from helping a pushcart vendor. Although he did not finish high school, he had set forth to Saudi Arabia where he met his employer, who would later help him in fulfilling his dream as an avant-garde designer. Everything escalated from that moment. Now, parading before the world's eyes during fashion weeks and beauty pageants, this golden designer doesn't only excel in the runway, for he also has a golden heart for the world, particularly to the less fortunate ones.

The atmosphere in The Hilton for the Fashion Spectacular was electric. Models bustled backstage with nervous excitement before awaiting their name called and strutting down the runway to the latest in music. With more than 30 models walking the makeshift runway, the evening was an ongoing display of stunning fashion and style.

The fantastic Fashion Spectacular event also supported Destiny Rescue which is an internationally-recognized Christian non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing children trapped in the sex trade.

All in all, it was definitely a night to remember - all hail Rocky Gathercole - fashion designer extraordinaire!



Although for many beauty queens it is a matter of them suddenly being 'discovered' by some promoter or other, in the case of Ashley Anna Carbyn, her discovery was of her own making by applying for many different modeling opportunities and working hard to obtain them.

Ashley started modeling when she was still at school aged 15 when she would model swimwear. These were just minor modeling assignments for various swimwear brands but she endured and finally, at the age of 21 she got her first significant break when she appeared on the cover of the Fernwood fitness magazine. Always interested in fitness, Ashley concentrated on modeling for fitness related shoots but as time moved on she found an interest in fashion modeling and was able to move her modeling focus more towards that.

Before entering for the Miss Multiverse Competition, Ashley had relentlessly applied for numerous modeling opportunities with limited success mainly with local fashion designers, partaking in shoots for their websites. Being convinced that winning a competition could change her life for the better, Ashley trained hard for it. She would practice in front of a camera all the time and her full-time profession of being a personal trainer and health coach helped her in her quest.

Even with her fitness background as a personal trainer, Ashley still found that the physical aspects of the competition challenging especially when competitors were faced with a boot camp segment which was

specifically designed to take each competitor to their limit. Despite suffering from a chest infection Ashley persevered and her self-motivation was able to see her complete this and all the other aspects but today she acknowledges the process was not easy.

Despite the challenges, she faced during the competition Ashley was able to remain focused and appreciate other contestants for their own qualities. It was this revelation which taught Ashley that she could not hope to anticipate the judges decisions as clearly each contestant possessed their own beauty in their own ways and as is often said, 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder', she realized that the judges would have their own individual views on what they considered beauty.

Born in Canada but now residing in Australia, as Miss Multiverse 2018, Ashley has become a role model for many young women and whilst some may consider beauty competitions as perhaps inappropriate as they focus on the outer beauty of women and not their inner beauty, Ashley says that although many girls may have problems with their moral values and entering a competition like Miss Multiverse, they can remain true to themselves and voice any concerns they may have, she herself often had to look inwards but had the self-fortitude to continue on to success.

Ashley's success has not changed her life too much yet as she continues working with her personal trainer and health coach business but she is hoping that she may yet be 'discovered' and be able to pursue her desire to become an actress.

ASHLEY

ANNA CARBYN



BRITTNEE

SHEATH

Brittnee Sheath is well on her way to making a dream she has had since she was 5 years old come true - her dream was to one day compete in the Miss Universe Competition and walk the runway of Victoria's Secret. When she was just 5 years old, Brittnee started modeling for commercials and lifestyle shoots and from that time hoped to become a full-time model.

Prior to winning the Search for the "Next International Model" competition last year, Brittnee had already become a successful model with modeling assignments taking her all around the world but it was winning this prestigious event that Brittnee hopes will lead her to fulfill her dreams of entering the largest and most prestigious beauty pageant in the world, The Miss Universe Competition leading to her ultimate dream of being a Victoria's Secret model.

Although her career is one which can sometimes be busy involving her flying all over the world for differing assignments, it also sees her spending a lot of time without assignments and during those times she says she has to try and keep focused in order to not falter in pursuing her dream. She now hopes that winning this competition will bring her more fame within the highly competitive modeling industry, hopefully leading to her ultimate discovery by those who could fulfill her dream.

Although many people at the age of 5 have many dreams of what they may aspire to, most will either

they had hoped but for Brittnee, her dreams have remained the same and have been justified by the lifestyle it provides. What Brittnee sees as one of modeling's greatest benefits is that you get to travel the world and meet all sorts of different people from all walks of life and widely diverse cultures, she enjoys making new friends and keeping in touch with them where ever they may be in the world.

Brittnee, whose success so far she attributes in part to the full support of her family, is rapidly becoming a role model for young girls who would like to also aspire to their dreams and she advises them that they too can be successful if they believe in themselves and never lose sight of what they dream to achieve.

Knowing that modeling is not always a lifetime career, Brittnee also has her sights set on a second successful career after she stops modeling or perhaps starting it whilst still modeling and that is to be a Correctional Officer. Although this may seem a far cry from modeling, if Brittnee pursues that career with the same intensity and self-determination she showed to becoming a successful model, few could doubt her ability to also see the fulfillment of that dream also.

We all have dreams but far too few of us fulfill them but Brittnee displays that once you are determined enough and have self-motivation, those dreams can come true.



ERIK VENT

SNIM 2018 WINNER

Search For the Next International Model 2018 concluded with 26-year-old Erik Vent snatching one of the top prizes.

Having received his bachelor's degree in Arts in Sports, his journey as a model started 10 years ago as a side gig and desire to get some good photos for his portfolio. However, it only took a couple of years for him to transform into a fully-fledged model and winner of SNIM 2018. Originally from Estonia, Erik is proud to call Sydney his new home and is happy with his recent success.

The modeling business seems to fit Erik's energetic personality well. While he is not fond of waiting behind the curtains for his moment (and let's be honest who is?), the episodic nature of his work suits him well. Every new gig is an opportunity for him to transform his character and exercise his acting chops. There is no daily routine to speak of, but there are enough work and diversity to put food on his table and avoid the stagnation.

Being a model and an actor bring many opportunities for showcasing your skills on different gigs. There are projects that require assuming a specific character. These opportunities Erik treasures, as he can bring his acting persona to the work. Because of his professional attitude and avoidance of backstage drama, there is no lack of offers he gets. One

of his most favorite experiences has been landing a role in Dean Lewis' music video "chemicals". And opportunity which many of his colleagues would have given an arm and leg for.

Despite the glamorous life, Erik remains grounded and does not let success jeopardize his personal life and relationships. His family has been supportive of his journey from the start and he cherishes his girlfriend, described her as the most interesting person he has ever met. It is clear that their loving relationship made him grow as a person. As he says: "My girlfriend has given me more than anybody else". Staying grounded is an important quality in business that puts beauty above everything else, but Erik understands the fleeting and subjective nature of it all. This is why he works hard and strives to provide much more than just a beautiful face.

Modeling and acting is a tough career. Erik is not only aware of this but constantly thrives to improve and develop his skills to avoid many pitfalls associated with this line of work. He does not believe in inherent talent. Everything he achieved is due to hard work, this is his life motto. Good work ethic and dedication are what he bets on to achieve recognition and success in the industry. Through all the hardships he had to face and will face in the future, his goal is to never make them limit himself and always strive for the best.





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TABASOM ASADI

For as long as Tabasom Asadi can remember she's always had a passion for beauty and modeling. Tabasom is a single mother who works in the beauty industry as a hairdresser and a makeup artist - she has been modeling for the past couple of years. She recently became a runner up at the 2018 Miss Russia & Miss National Australia pageant and she believes a beauty queen is a person who has confidence in themselves both physically and mentally. She also believes that they should be inspiring to others when it comes to reaching their goals and dreams, and they take pride in their appearance. She's hoping to one day be a role model for young adults.



By Jenny Hu

The Australian Indian Wedding Expo is a one-stop shop for all things Indian weddings, it was held at the Hyatt Regency on the 7th October 2018.

When you first enter the venue, it was something very reminiscent of a multicultural wedding. Immaculate chandeliers hung from the high ceilings, and food vendors, as well as other decorative stalls, were scattered all around. You feel like you are in the mecca of cultural extravaganza and the aromatic scent of curry puffs and mithai filled the whole pavilion.

The mastermind behind the event is Anju Goyal, who is also the CEO of the Indian fashion brand, Silk and Sparkle, which specializes in customized Saris (traditional Indian dress) and Jodhpuri/ tuxedos. Anju noticed there was a gap in the wedding market for multicultural weddings so she decided to fill it with vendors that can do so.

"It's about the multicultural weddings which are happening nowadays and we wanted to create a platform, so people don't have to run after different vendors. The vendors that we brought on board can handle multicultural weddings, so it saves much money. They are all very reliable so once you book them you don't have to run after them."

Some vendors that featured at the event were Pure Desi, Delhi O Delhi, Pure Soul, Colour Drama Cakes, Anam Jewels, Perfect Media and TrendzbySangz by Sangeeta Swadia. These are all high-quality vendors that supplies the Indian wedding essential such as catering, decorations, henna, jewelry, accessories, and videography.

An extravagant trade show like the Australian Indian Wedding Expo isn't complete without a fashion show and Anju

Goyal's brand Silk and Sparkle lead the way. Special guest, Lisa Varma who was a former Mrs. India, actress and model coach, was the director of the prestigious fashion show.

Nupur Dance Group opened up the 12pm fashion show with an amazing performance. The group was founded by Manjusha De who wanted to promote the traditional Indian dance styles within Australia. The dancers gave a mesmerizing performance to an enchanting Bollywood-esque music - it was filled with grace and poise.

Throughout the fashion show, an influx of beautiful models both female and male strutted very gracefully in intricately beaded saris and tailored suits. The colourful attires flounced flawlessly, and the iridescent sequins sparkled and wowed the audience.

When the AIWE CEO Anju was asked about her brand and how she started in the fashion industry, she said that it was her dream to tailor and make beautiful saris in Australia. "I always wanted to be in the fashion industry, and it was my dream to create a platform where everybody can come, we even created a Wedding Diary to go along with the event. It was a lot of work, but everything eventually came through."

In the same day, Anju and Lisa launched the Wedding Diary, a magazine that features the latest Indian Wedding trends and essentials for the bride and groom. It is a terrific guide that promotes the vendors and their specialized services for multicultural weddings.

By the end of the day, everyone was rejoicing and dancing joyously on stage and embracing the Indian festivities, in the light of Diwali. StarCentral Magazine would like to congratulate Anju for this fantastic event and we're certain, that this year would be a bigger and better event.



"A unique platform for individuals and businesses, related to products and services associated with Indian weddings in Australia."



SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS

By Patricia Higgins

Life as an Influencer is becoming an increasingly stacked game. In a world of paid likes/followers, fickle algorithms and those 'lurky bots', it's become even harder to market yourself in 2019. With more Instagram Models on the scene than ever before, this creates a higher level of competition overall.

Gaining traction on social media often means hitting that elusive fan quota. However, it's often a vague figure that allows you to qualify. This begs the question: how many people have to follow you or like your page in order to make you a legitimate Influencer? What will warrant enough credibility amidst a miasma of hashtagging and 24/7 responsiveness? You should start with applying a thick-skinned approach to negative comments (ironically, with much skin on show) and all 'round people pleasing.

Let's get the elephant in the room out of the way. What does an Influence Marketer and/or Instagram Model actually do? Well, they create 'sponsored content'. That means someone sends them something and they promote it to their audience, eg. "OMG this skin cream is the bomb, I now have no pimples", or "this teeth whitening product is so great I can now allow myself to smile" - all the whilst being paid to give, let's face it, an entirely biased review.

Influence Marketing is most usually carried out on the platform of choice: Instagram. According to Forbes Magazine, an Insta account with over one million followers can attract upwards of \$50k for a single sponsored post; that's certainly big bickies! What you may not know is that the social media landscape is continuing to change, and it's not always in the interest of an Influence Marketer.

For example, have you heard of the term 'Micro Influencer'? These are commonly described as 'ordinary people' (whatever that means) with a decent following of around 3000 followers. Usually, they aren't 'big-fish' enough to score entirely free products, and they don't always garner a genuine 'hard-dried-ink' modeling contract with, you know, an actual brand.

While the demand for Micro Influencers grows (and will continue to do so during 2019); so does earning potential decline. This demographic is more often than not, underpriced. With so many people putting their hands up to assist e-commerce operators, for example, accepting the offer to post about a beach towel whilst wearing a bikini, this means that the value of a Micro Influencers' engagement is vastly cheapened. It's just supply and demand - economics 101.

The fact is, being a Micro Influencer is generally not something to be taken too seriously. That's because you can only ever earn a mere fraction of what your more socially mobile counterparts (you know those Insta peeps with the covetable green badge) can attract per post. What does this 'Verified Badge' on Instagram actually mean? Well, according to the platform itself, "a verified badge is a check that appears next to an Instagram account's name in search and on the profile. It means Instagram has confirmed that an account is the authentic presence of the public figure, celebrity or global brand it represents."

How do you get your very own Insta Badge? You can apply to get one by going into your platform's settings tab, providing your ID and waiting for that all-important response. However, there are no guarantees! But, that's always the way, isn't it? After all, there are no 100 percent shatter-proof formulas for achieving success in online marketing. Keep in mind that those 'masterclasses' will surely tell you differently, though.

Being an Instagram Model and marketing yourself is but a means to an end. It is not necessarily something to hinge your 'bread-and-butter' upon. If you are reaping the rewards as an Influence Marketer than more power to you. If you are still struggling and wondering why it's not actually working for you, then remember things are never what they seem - especially when it comes to the world of social media/influencer marketing!

A NEW YEAR MEANS NEW FASHION

By: Patricia Higgins

So, we have once again turned the page on a New Year. Cue those gym memberships, detox regimes, and obligatory personal pledges and promises. If you want a 'new you' in the New Year, there's one resolution that you may actually be able to stick to. And, that's keeping fab and fresh with the season's fashion forecast!

So, what are the top trends for 2019?

1. Bigger is better

If Harper's Bazaar and Lady Gaga have it right, then it's time to embrace a fuller, floatier silhouette. Think peasant-style frocks with balloon sleeves and tiered hemlines. Perfect for summer, voluminous styles are as breathable as they are fashion-forward. Casual styles can be worn at the beach, with dressier takes on this look adopted for work or even a night out.

The voluminous dress has even been pinpointed as a top trend in wedding dresses. It's all in the flounce, with a 'return to romance' touted as this season's major mood. So, feel free to indulge in the fairytale factor, but do pair a statement dress with flats and simple accessories - in order to stop yourself from wandering away completely into 'naff-land'!

2. Twist and shout

Nineties nostalgia reigns supreme. A 2109 reimagining of this psychedelic counterculture staple sees the characteristic loudness of this print dialed down a notch or two. Like you, we never thought we'd see tie-dye as high-street fashion!

But, lo-and-behold we are already starting to witness the 'tie-die titillation' - filtering down from New York Fashion week and onto the racks of some very-real retailers (the likes of Urban Outfitters and Revolve). With the print taking centre stage on blazers, tees and even tailored pants, it's a look that (whether love or loathe) you certainly won't be able to hide from!

3. Animal magnetism

Leopard and other animal prints have always maintained a simmering allure, especially in the world of accessories. This year feline and other safari motifs are set to take over, becoming slinker and all-the-more visible. Reinvisioned for the warmer months, those jungle spots and python stripes are now appearing against a backdrop of vivid brights (such as neon yellow and sky blue)!

You can't go past an animal print dress in a silky fabric for credible cool. And, you can give Meghan Markle a run for her money in some similarly styled pumps and matching handbag. If you are not a fan of too much leopard, consider a scarf or an accented pair of sunnies for just a sprinkle of what can be a very dominant look.

Whilst the strike of the clock on New Years may not have automatically generated a brand new life, the second-best thing may just be a brand-new wardrobe. You may still be working on quitting those cigarettes or becoming 'settled-down' (like your mother wants). But, regardless of the situation, you sure can do it in style with the above tips!



CRISTY THAPA

MS. AUSTRALIA UNITED NATIONS

From an early age, Cristy Thapa saw pageants as an opportunity to help those in need and give voice to people who are not often heard. Having grown in an underprivileged environment, Cristy grabbed the opportunities that was given to her and was able to become a successful person. Many years have passed since her childhood - the world has not been able to keep her down. She still has the exact same idealism that inspires her up to this very day. Pageant industry is more than just showing your beauty, it is about setting an example, and being a role model for hundreds of thousands. Possessing this positive mantra is what led her to win not just one title but two - Ms. International Beauty Ambassador 2018 and Ms. Australia United Nations 2019.

After getting involved in the pageant industry from an early age, Cristy quickly understood that not only was she able to become the voice of the underprivileged and be a role model for young girls all over the world, she was also able to make a real, practical difference in the lives of thousands. She was able to do so with charity work, which is heavily associated with the pageant industry. Becoming a beauty queen is not an achievement in itself, but a way to make your voice heard from a much higher platform, to make others heard and let the world know about many issues plaguing underprivileged people.

While there might be a lot of drama and criticisms associated with the pageant industry, Cristy does

not let this get her down. She knows that her reasons for participating in them are worthy and had a time of her life when representing Australia at Ms. International. Truly an experience of a lifetime. Her dedication and the story of her success made her confident in her abilities. "Never give up" is her motto, which she lives by every day. Truly, with such dedication, nothing is impossible for her.

In an industry associated with glamour and the bohemian lifestyle, it is easy to lose your head. But staying grounded is what Cristy excels at. She is a nurse by profession and there is nothing more humbling and eye-opening than taking care of other people. Being a nurse defines her character. She admits herself that: "To be very honest, I wouldn't be who I am now if I was not a nurse". As a nurse, Cristy was taught how to communicate with people, show empathy and be diplomatic all the time. All of these skills would make our world a much better place if practiced by more people.

At present Cristy is a registered nurse, she is also a student of fashion design and runs a blog about it as well. She has chosen to pursue all of her passions simultaneously. All of this would be a worthy endeavour for everyone. But she is not content with that. Cristy also plans to establish a charity for helping children under 15 with their battle against cancer. With so much to do and plenty of future plans, Cristy well and truly knows that nothing is impossible if you are truly dedicated to it.



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GET TO KNOW makisig morales

FEATURE



By: Jade Enriquez

'Bagani' star Makisig Morales has definitely come a long way ever since he became famous for playing Super Inggo when he was just five years old.

While many people might assume that Makisig's first television appearance was on Little Big Shots, this isn't entirely true. Makisig and his sister Mayumi made their first ever television debut on Duet Bulilit, a singing competition held during a midday variety show that aired on ABS-CBN. From there they competed on a variety of other singing competitions before ending up on Little Big Star where he eventually had his big break. In 2006 he ended up playing the lead role in the International Emmy-nominated fantaserye, Super Inggo at just 10 years old and in 2007 he became one of the co-hosts of the next series of Little Big Star together with Sarah Geronimo.

Now, however, it looks like Makisig Morales is returning back to his original roots. He has an upcoming concert and in his first ever concert in Australia, he will be collaborating with none other than Marlisa Punzalan - the winner of the sixth season of The X Factor Australia in 2014. Also, he was a guest performer in a Sydney concert by the Pinoy Dream Academy winners led by Yeng Constantino when he was 12 years old and he has also toured in USA & Canada for a series of shows but this is going to be his first ever solo concert in his

adult life so he feels that this concert will be his career highlight.

Unlike a number of young singers who have buckled under the constant pressure of the entertainment industry, Makisig has steered clear of any major trouble. This is due to his humble nature which he got from his parents who have made him everything that he is today. He also regularly prays to God, asking for guidance before doing something or meeting someone new. The music industry and show business have also imparted some wisdom onto him, teaching the values of patience and time management.

While Makisig has had a very successful career in showbiz, he still has many plans for his future. His future plans include getting a stable job and investing further. He wants to get married so he can place an even higher value on his relationships. He also wants to build or buy a house. Finally, while he has never been to Boracay, he would love to visit it at some point in the future.

If you're interested in watching Makisig Morales return back to his original roots then we are inviting you to his first ever major concert on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the Diamond Showroom in Blacktown Workers Club - there's going to be a live band playing all throughout the show so this is one amazing show you can't afford to miss!



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