

STAR CENTRAL

MEET
KATIE POSTL
THE
MODEL
TO WATCH OUT
FOR IN
2020

ALBERTO
ZENI
ONE ON ONE
INTERVIEW WITH
THE NARCOS:
MEXICO STAR

INTRODUCING
MICHAEL S.
CEO OF MDS MEDIA INC.

MEET THE FOUNDER OF NEON CAKE

FASHION

PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE FIN PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

- FASHION AND PORTRAITS
- WEDDINGS AND EVENTS
- TRAVEL AND LANDSCAPES

15% OFF
ALL WEDDING
PHOTOGRAPHY

INCLUDES ALL WEDDING PACKAGES.

40% OFF
PORTFOLIO
SHOOTS

Our passion for creative photography is what drives us to give you our very best service each and every time and because we love what we do, it will always be our pleasure!

So give us a call or drop us an email on info@finphotography.com.au and we hope to talk to you soon.

FIN PHOTOGRAPHY
GROUP

www.finphotography.com.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 12 **Industry Tips:** 5 essential ways to kickstart your career in the entertainment industry
- 18 **Industry Tips:** 5 best websites to promote yourself
- 20 **Industry Tips:** 3 ways to ensure your job isn't the boss of you
- 22 **Industry Tips:** 5 do's and don'ts for achieving true success
- 24 **Feature:** Katie Postl
- 28 **Feature:** Alberto Zeni
- 30 **Fashion:** 3 fashion styles that are classic and enduring
- 32 **Industry Tips:** Is it worth to make an indie film or not
- 34 **Industry Tips:** How to get an artist visa to the USA

14

Cover

Michael Smith

Find out more about the CEO of MDS Media Inc.



OPENING REMARKS



March marks the fourteen-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 2020 and beyond. God bless.

Mike Ilagan
Managing Director

6

Chandler Kinney

One on one interview with the beautiful Lethal Weapon star.





EDITORIAL

Editor-in-chief
Jennifer Aluning

Managing Director
Mike Ilagan

Photographic & Art

Kevin Gomez, FIN Photography, Ash Narayan, James Mao, Brooke B, Raymond Bartholomeusz, Gary Abella, Dave Choo, George Azmy, Eric Fonacier, Raf Flores, Thang

Marketing

Alex Abella, Krissy Anderson, Eileen Maynigo, Barnes Luz, Jason Harris, Lovely Washington, Charles Chan, Albie Pri, Jenny Hu, Annabel Garcia, John Esquerra, Michelle Palmer, Cameron Wright, Angelica Whitelaw, Joanne Azzi, Tricia Richardson, Zenaida Patterson, Gerry Samaniego

Writers & Contributors

Anjelica Whitelaw, Shiwani Gulpah, Renae Smith, Holly Phillips, Jenny Hu, Charles Chan, Jill Antonio, Scott Murray, Vanessa Jensen, Leanne Harrison, Patricia Higgins, Judy Flynn, Angie, Katrina R, Joerisa, Rommel P, Christian Q, Christine Claire dela Pena, Dasein Catedrilla

While every effort is made to ensure the information in this magazine is correct, changes may occur that affect the accuracy of the copy, for which StarCentral holds no responsibility. The opinion of contributors are not necessarily those of StarCentral staff. StarCentral disclaims liability for those impressions.

EDITOR'S NOTES

I had a strange start to my 2020. 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 2020 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

All rights reserved. No articles or images may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission from the publisher.



Minimalist, ethical, organic.
For the intelligent, elegant
+ health conscious woman.



@kateheussler



kateheussler.com



Born in Sacramento, CA, Chandler discovered a passion for the entertainment industry early on. As an avid dancer since the age of three, it became clear that Chandler was a destined performer, and her family relocated to Los Angeles so that she could pursue her dreams of performing. Chandler joined the Debbie Allen Dance Company and Los Angeles Ballet Academy, practicing forms in ballet, jazz, contemporary, pointe and hip-hop.

She fell in love with acting when she was cast in Debbie Allen's stage musical "Twist," starring in over 60 shows in Atlanta over the course of 3 months. While continuing to perfect her craft in acting classes, Chandler quickly landed her first national commercial for GAP's "Talk to the Moose" campaign. She has also made other commercial appearances including Jif Peanut Butter, KFC & State Farm Insurance alongside NBA star Chris Paul. Chandler went on to numerous guest starring roles on popular television shows including FX's "American Horror Story- Asylum," Nickelodeon's "Haunted Hathaways" Disney's "Girl Meets World" and The CW's "90210." Chandler is also best known for her breakout role as 'Catherine Dillman' on Amazon Prime Family's "Gortimer Gibbons Life on Normal Street."

ONE ON ONE WITH LETHAL WEAPON STAR

CHANDLER KINNEY





Chandler Kinney is currently one of the stars on FOX's People's Choice-nominated hit series "Lethal Weapon." She plays 'Riana Murtaugh' - the daughter of LAPD detective 'Roger Murtaugh,' portrayed by Damon Wayans. This action-packed drama series is based on the hit movie franchise of the same name and is set to return for season two in Australia.

We recently caught up with Chandler Kinney courtesy of The Anderson Group and here's what went down:

How were you actually 'discovered'? A chance encounter on the street? Audition?

I was "discovered" when the clothing company GAP was looking for dancers to take part in a commercial for their holiday campaign and they gave me my first big break. My dance studio sent me to the audition I was cast. To this day, it is the biggest commercial I have ever done. Through that experience, I signed with a commercial agent. I started taking acting classes around that time and immediately fell in love with it. My acting coach sent me to audition for a theatrical agent, and they agreed to work with me. Afterward, I just started auditioning and working my way up to bigger projects with each job I booked. It truly has been a slow and gradual process.

What do you like most about acting?

I believe my passion for acting stems from my love for learning and human interaction. I'm a people person, so I'm always curious about how/why people think and behave the way they do. Forgetting about yourself and becoming a whole new person is such an interesting experience. I

honestly don't think I could ever become tired of it. It's a field in which you are constantly forced to listen, change perspective, and live in the moment. Acting is therapeutic in a lot of ways.

What's it like being a cast member in Lethal Weapon?

Working on Lethal Weapon has been the most fun I've had working on any project. On our set, it is apparent that every person there not only has a profound understanding of what they're doing but also a passion for it. Behind the scenes of what you see on screen, there is a group of people that come together every day to do their best work. I'm so honored to be a part of a family in which there is so much love and creative energy. It's a fantastic learning environment.

What do you like most about working in the Lethal Weapon set?

I love the people I work with the most! I get to work with some of the brightest, funniest, and smartest people in the business. I could not be more grateful for an incredible cast. I also can't even begin to explain just how hard our cast and crew work. Everyone is quite lovely. I especially love getting to work with my Murtaugh family - I've learned so much from my TV parents Damon and Keesha. They're brilliant at what they do, and I have a deep respect and admiration for them both.

The downside to being an actor?

I'd say the downside to being an actor is the number of sacrifices that are made. I've chosen to give up a normal





childhood for my job. I've decided to continue to move forward into the entertainment industry with the understanding that it can be a very isolating business. My family has made many sacrifices as well. My mom drives me everywhere I need to go and is a part of everything I do. My brothers have given up a lot of their time with my mom for me to pursue my dreams. It's a challenging journey, and you have to let go of many things to achieve your goals.

What has been the most memorable experience of your career so far?

I've had a lot of memorable moments this past year, from being nominated alongside the cast for a People's Choice Award and a Teen Choice Award, to having the opportunity to meet and talk with influential stars within the industry that I greatly admire, to filming and releasing our second season. This has been the best year of my career, and I am incredibly excited to see what 2018 holds.

Who have been the most interesting people you've met so far?

Edward James Olmos is a very wise, acclaimed actor, and I had an interesting conversation with him at a dinner. Kelly Ripa is a strong, intelligent woman whom I had the opportunity to speak with. I'm also a big fan of Terry Crews who is one of the kindest, most genuine people I've met. Every time I see him, I love getting to chat with him!

I'm guessing you've been in the entertainment industry for a few years now, what has been the most valuable lesson you've learned. This can be about the industry or yourself. Or both!

I have gained a tremendous amount of information from

my experience within the entertainment industry, and I've grown so much. In fact, I'm a very different person now than I was two years ago. I think one of the biggest lessons I've learned is that you don't fail until you give up. This not only applies to my job but also outside of my work. A few other valuable lessons I have learned is persistence really does pay off. It's possible you may not make it even if you try your best, but you'll never make it if you stop trying altogether.

Working in an industry whose only emphasis is on the outside characteristics of a person, how have you stayed grounded?

It can certainly be hard when there is an emphasis placed on your physical characteristics rather than your abilities and skill. However, it's something you learn to deal with. Operating in this business is the matter of learning to not take things personally in a very personal environment. I think with time it simply becomes accepted as part of the job because it definitely is.

Is your family supportive of your career?

My family is extremely supportive of my career. They have all sacrificed so much for me to achieve my dreams and I'm forever grateful for their love. My mom is my biggest supporter, she has been, and will continue to be right by my side every step of the way.

What are your plans? Inside your career or out of it.

I plan to continue to pursue my career in acting, taking on more challenging characters and continue to tell more complex stories. As well, I plan on to attend a college that will work in conjunction with the show. I want to study psychology and drama.

FIVE ESSENTIAL WAYS TO KICK-START YOUR ENTERTAINMENT CAREER

"Don't be taken for a ride, make sure you are prepared for the industry before you sign on with anyone."

By Patricia Higgins

Are you wondering what essential steps to take to gain success in the acting/modeling or the entertainment industry? Well, here are some top FAQs answered:

1. Do I need an agent?

Getting signed with an agency is an essential step for most accomplished models and entertainers; however, freelancing can be a better option if you don't already have a large body of work behind you. If you didn't obliterate your peers at drama school and/or you aren't 5'9 or taller, 18 - 21 years of age and don't necessarily have that fickle "look de jour" then you will probably have to put some legwork to achieve success in the entertainment industry. This may mean sourcing your own work until you have enough material behind you to approach a reputable agency.

2. What does representation entail?

If you are aspiring to become involved in the entertainment industry, you will likely consider approaching the agencies that advertise in the usual job seeker websites. Representation will always come with strings attached. All agencies will take a percentage of your future earnings, whether this is 10, 15 or 20 percent. Some will charge fees to join. Others will encourage training courses with associated costs. With some agencies, you will be required to sign a contract with exclusivity (you will need to permission to do outside projects and competitions, even if unpaid) while some agencies can be less stringent.

3. How can I make sure I get more experience/find work?

It's not to say that there is anything wrong with the conditions an agent puts in place. They can help create a stable reputation provided your agent actually finds work for you. If you have minimal experience in the industry, it can be hard to be selected by casting directors. Since agents are intermediaries, sometimes it may feel like you are just another number on a long list.

Agencies can never guarantee you work – if you are completely inexperienced in the field, then it becomes near impossible. Don't be taken for a ride, make sure you are prepared for the industry before you sign on with anyone.

4. How can I build a portfolio?

At the very least, you will need some footage (a "show-reel" of your work as an actor) or a series of quality photographs (a "portfolio" to send to a casting agent or open casting) to have a chance to audition or attend model castings. You will need a "headshot" to begin. Acquiring a clear, high-resolution photo of your face is the first step in setting yourself up as a marketable professional. My advice is to find a reputable photographer who specializes in the field you wish to work in as the style of photography will differ slightly according to the genre. Make sure the photographer is reputable by checking websites and feedback – do your research and Google as much as possible, especially on forums and industry-specific sites.

Armed with a headshot, you will now have a point of reference to build a portfolio. Time for Print (TFP) shoots is a good place to build a portfolio. TFP means that you model for a photographer/brand/team and exchange experience on an unpaid basis to produce material for mutual benefit. Student films are an excellent means to acquire valid acting skills and showreels.

5. How can I stay safe and reputable in the field?

It is essential to be careful when attending shoots/casting and projects. Always take a chaperone with you when you first meet with a photographer or other individual. Always make sure somebody knows where you are and what you are doing at all times. Be clear about your policy on nudity, even if you are okay with it still be clear on the particular kind of nudity.

Being reliable and professional is the most crucial element for success in the industry. Make sure you can deliver on commitments. Read briefs and follow directions – plan auditions and castings with plenty of spare travel time. Always be courteous to make up artists and stylists, it goes a long way, and they deserve respect, of course. Make sure you can take direction and a lot of criticism and be willing to work hard. Most important of all – keep smiling!

MAKE WAY FOR MICHAEL SMITH

Michael D. Smith is the founder and CEO of MDS Media Inc. - an award-winning media that is recognized world-wide and continues to push the limits of digital media, and disruptive strategy.

With over 20 years of experience as a creative, Michael is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of MDS Media Inc. An internationally awarded creative media that has been recognised worldwide and continues to grow as MDS Media pushes the boundaries on disruptive strategy and content production.

Michael's accolades in media have been awarded alongside brands and agencies such as Apple, Netflix, Disney, Google, Warner Brothers, FOX, Audi, Ford, Dell, Toyota, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Jaguar, Bank of America, Deloitte, and many others.

As a Forbes published contributor and Agency Council Member, Michael leverages his experience and expertise on a wide range of topics for the Forbes platform. Additionally, he is continually featured on numerous expert panel discussions where he shares his expertise and insights on disruptive strategy, marketing, media, and agency-specific issues. StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Michael to talk about his entrepreneurial journey and his new venture (Neon Cake) here's what went down:

Tell us your full name and something about yourself.

My name is Michael D. Smith, CEO and founder of MDS Media, and founder of Neon Cake. I have been a creative practically my entire life. In one way or another, I was always drawn to creating something of my own. Always asking myself "Why isn't someone doing THIS or THAT." Eventually, you get to the point where you just end up doing it yourself. Sometimes you end up failing miserably on your face in a very ugly way; sometimes not. Either way, you learn and you push forward.

My creative drive took me in a lot of different directions over the years. Looking back, the one thing that was common amongst all of them was the pursuit of expressive storytelling. I was later able to translate that skill set into brand development and MDS Media was born.

How did you get into the fashion business?

It has always been a passion of mine and a key part of your own personal story. There is no better feeling than putting on clothes that you feel are made for you. When I realized that, I decided I couldn't simply sit on the consumer side of fashion. I had to make it a part of my story and I had to be the one to tell it.

What do you like most about being a fashion designer?

There is something about seeing someone's reaction when they put on your line - it's an amazing feeling. If you haven't put together a line before I will be the first to tell you that it is not easy by any means. So many things can go wrong - and they all seem to at times.

At that moment where it all comes together - that moment makes it all worthwhile.

The downside to being a fashion designer?

Closet space - definitely an issue. Sometimes I have to stop myself from creating new lines and pieces - I put them in the 'bank' as they say.





Can you tell us more about your EDM inspired streetwear brand Neon Cake?

I have always been inspired by the Cyberpunk genre and the unique futuristic, neon pallet. It shares a lot of aesthetic with the EDM scene which I was also heavily drawn to. I wanted to take those two cultures and combine them into something unique that focused on pattern, print, comfort, and pallet.

But that wasn't enough. If I have learned anything from my time in developing a multitude of brands over the years, culture and community is everything. These two niches have a huge underlying culture that simply couldn't be ignored if I wanted the brand and clothing to resonate with people. The brand is defined by: Expression and Confidence through movement. Unity by Uniqueness.

I believe that the things that make us different are the things that make us the same; bringing us together by our own unique qualities and differences. We celebrate and express those differences through various types of movement - dance, fashion, art, music - amongst many others. Our strive to be creative individuals is our common ground. To support the uniqueness narrative, drive community, and give people a sense that they are truly making it their own, I created #CutYourPiece within Neon Cake.

We provide social tutorials that teach the audience how to cut and customize their clothing; "Cutting their Cake" so-to-speak. I am very interested to see what the community comes up with!

What makes it stand out from other streetwear brands?

I believe our pallet and involvement of the community will separate us from the noise in the streetwear scene. We offer a pallet and direct involvement in the community that simply hasn't been done in this way before.

I am also going to make sure that we give back - we will be aiding community creative programs with proceeds and helping creative entrepreneurs through a variety of ways. Neon Cake provides us with the ability to do that and develop a healthy community of creative entrepreneurs.

What has been the most memorable experience of your career as a designer so far?

Coming back to those moments I was speaking about earlier - my first run of Neon Cake prototypes. It was a scary moment for me; now it was real. The years I had spent going through designs, patterns, looks, textiles. I was holding an iteration of that in my hand about to shoot the initial phase on content. I will never forget that moment.

Who have been the most interesting people you've met so far?

I have been very fortunate throughout my journey as an entrepreneur. I have met numerous inspirational people that have taught me lessons I couldn't have learned elsewhere. I can honestly say that I wouldn't know where I would be in my career or in life without them.



One of the most interesting people I have had the pleasure of learning under is Clayton Christensen, the pioneer behind what we call "disruptive innovation". His perspective and lens on problem-solving has been absolutely invaluable to me as a creative and as a designer.

We're guessing you've been in the fashion industry for a few years now, what has been the most valuable lesson you've learned. This can be about the industry or about yourself.

There has to be an end to the ideation process where you simply pull the trigger on it and go. Even if you fail, you have to go. You will always have new ideas on how to make something "better". You need to stop your mind from cycling and get it in the hands of the market to decide what they will accept and what needs to be improved. If I can offer any piece of advice to anyone in any industry that is sitting on an idea, just go... make it happen and make it work.

Is your family supportive of your career?

Being an Entrepreneur at any level is challenging and stressful for a family. A lot of people think that it's only the start-up grind, consistent innovation, the exit negotiations, etc., but the fact of the matter is that it doesn't change. Part of that process requires family support that has been crucial to where I am today. They are not only supportive of the challenges I face as an Entrepreneur and Business Owner, but they've also lifted me to where I am and I couldn't have done it any other way. I am grateful to them beyond words.

What are your future plans? Inside your career or out of it.

I will be aggressively pursuing my place within the niche I feel I am carving out and continue to create brands that serve and further the creative community.

FIVE BEST WEBSITES TO PROMOTE YOURSELF

By: Patricia Higgins

Something has happened to Facebook in the last year or two... Where once it was the primary domain of pokes, games, and apps it has now become a valid tool for self-promotion and employment. A host of online networking initiatives have sprung up within the entertainment industry. Undoubtedly, the web provides an excellent platform for any artist – but the caveat is that one must be selective and savvy. Knowing where to go online is crucial, and like with any source of information on the net, "sifting" is required to separate the wheat from the chaff, the genuine from the genuinely suspect.

Think of this article as an insider's guide: here are my top five online networking ventures – debunked.

1. StarCentral Magazine

Well, you are obviously reading this so StarCentral Magazine must have piqued your interest. And for a good reason! StarCentral promotes local talents from around the world and supports artists on a grassroots level. You can access handy industry tips plus scintillating editorial – all in the one place. Visit the contact page if you are interested in being featured as an artist.

Visit: www.starcentralmagazine.com

2. Starnow/theright.fit

Are you on Star Now or The Right.fit? Chances are, you have come across these websites - pretty much anyone involved in the entertainment industry appears to be using them. Just in case you aren't familiar here are the specs - a basic profile is free, but there is a small subscription fee to use the full service of these websites. Audition and castings are updated every day.

Anyone can list an audition or job (so be mindful of amateurs), but a lot of well-known companies/ enterprises do use these websites to advertise, e.g., X Factor, Big Brother, Bras N Things, Chiko... the list goes on. You can refine your specification, become part of the talent directory, and can receive email alerts. There is also a Star Now and The Right Fit phone app.

These sites are great for finding promotional work and paid work can be found – it is just a matter of sourcing it out. Always check the website of the company advertising.

You can create a profile for yourself, and this is a handy link to flick to potential employers.

Visit: www.starnow.com.au or www.theright.fit

3. Model Mayhem

Who out there is an "MMer"? If you haven't a clue what I am talking about, then you must not have stumbled upon the self-professed "#1 portfolio website for professional models and photographers". Model Mayhem (MM) is a website that allows you to create a portfolio, search castings and participate in forums. An online community, MM has its codes of behavior so make sure you read up on these. You'll notice it's big on etiquette.

You will also undoubtedly notice it's quite big on nudity. You can toggle this on or off for safe viewing. A fair share of scams do come through MM – there is information contained on the site that may assist you to detect and avoid these. Look for professional and quality work before agreeing to meet with any photographer and (as discussed previously) always bring a chaperone.

Visit: www.modelmayhem.com

4. Facebook groups

Facebook groups that network artists are burgeoning. There are a million and one initiatives out there, plus all the usual promotion groups for those who need votes for various competitions. I am aware of some Queensland based groups that may be of use – "SEQ Casting" and "Gold Coast and Brisbane Photographers and Models" for actors and models respectively. "Super Models Australia" and "Model Comps – Gold Coast – Brisbane" are groups that are useful for those who wish to enter competitions and pageants.

5. Artist / band / public figure Facebook page

Creating a public figure page on Facebook is an excellent way to showcase your work and provide an easily accessible portfolio. You can then direct interest to this page via a link. You can display your most significant achievements as well as smaller victories.

Remember, keeping at the forefront of your online audience's minds and keeping constantly on top of opportunities is the ticket to web success.

3 WAYS TO ENSURE YOUR JOB ISN'T THE BOSS OF YOU

After asking around at an event I was recently working on, I found a huge percentage of the staff also felt unhappy in their jobs. This discovery led to me to compile a list of three ways to ensure your job isn't the boss of you

By Holly Phillips

My mother used to sound like a broken record when I was growing up because she would always ask me when I'd done something wrong, 'who is the boss of you?' Much to my dismay, this usually blew my, 'my friends made me do it' excuse out of the water. As I grew older, I began to appreciate the true value in this statement. As a result, I often ask myself this when I'm feeling stuck in a job where the staff aren't particularly friendly or I feel as though I'm not getting treated fairly. After asking around at an event I was recently working on, I found a huge percentage of the staff also felt unhappy in their jobs. This discovery led to me to compile a list of three ways to ensure your job isn't the boss of you and if it is, then you need to consider a change, ASAP!

1. Do you dread waking up every morning?

I'm not talking about the feeling of dreading the sound of that all too familiar deafening alarm, but rather actually having pre-work anxiety. Everyone would love to have more sleep and God knows some days it takes a team of removalists to get me out of bed. There is a definite difference between having a case of Mondayitis and feeling that choking feeling in your throat when you know you have to wake up every day and go somewhere you can't stand the sight of. If this is you, you need to put more faith in yourself and know there are always other options! The choice is yours, and you never know what great opportunities lie around the corner.

2. Pep-talk Alert!

You know the feeling - coming face to face with your workplace front door, needing to take a big deep breathe and then plastering a fake smile on your face before you walk in. We've all had those days, but if you're having one of 'those days' everyday, something seriously needs to change. If you're having to psych yourself up just to get through the day then chances are you're extremely unhappy.

3. Work life balance

Perhaps the most important thing of all is securing a happy work/life balance. Unless your name is Kim Kardashian or Paris Hilton, most of us need to work hard in order to have a comfortable living environment. However, the choice is yours whether you want to be someone who lives to work or works to live. The difference is staggering. I see people who spend their whole lives consumed with work and never have a chance to really enjoy life. Don't get me wrong, I know many people love their job however, everyone needs time off for themselves and self discovery.



FIVE DO'S AND DONT'S FOR ACHIEVING true success AND STARDOM



Stardom defines a superstar's level of popularity and glamour. It can be put in the same terms as popularity, fame, spotlight, success and a lot more. Why is it that there are really some artists whose fame can be said as innate to them? Wherever they go, people know them, people follow them, people are aware of his or her style and personality. Why is that so?

Be yourself

This has always been the first rule of everything. You need to act yourself and not because of the someone else's dictates. Being yourself is also a way of 'branding' the kind of person you are. Establishing, and sticking, to your own unique personality will garner respect and admiration from those around you.

Be humble

Being humble while being on top is a character attribute that can never be taught. Humility is a trait also difficult to genuinely radiate - only an earnest heart can attain it. Although you are on top, make sure that your feet stay firmly on the ground. Never forget the people that helped you get to those lofty heights.

Have an Inspiration

Inspirations are what drive most to be a better person, to be a better artist. Inspiration need not be a person but it can also be an event that can trigger that eagerness in you to do your utmost best.

Have 'real' friends"

Hold on to genuine friendships. These are the friends who love you despite the success, the money and the fame. They are the ones who will give you the honest, and if needed, brutal opinion. Pandering is rampant in the entertainment industry so treasure those 'real' friends when you've found them.

Eat well

Most artists tend to forget to eat nutritious foods because of pressure and that workaholic attitude. Some may even develop eating disorders. Food is very important for us to function well and it is no different for artists. They need energy to perform at their best and be the best that they can. Energy foods may give you the energy to dance, to sing, to act, and to perform. Choices on food should also be considered. Although you need to eat a lot of energy-giving foods, still you have to consider not being overweight.

Nothing in this world is permanent. Stardom truly is a fleeting situation. You may find yourself the centre of attention for a time, but it won't be long until another steals that limelight. So, enjoy that time while you can. But enjoy it in way that once that spotlight is off you, you can still look at your life with a smile.

GET TO KNOW KATIE POSTL

Katie Postl started modeling at the tender age of 7-years-old. Her mother owned a promotional modeling company and there was this one time when one of her clients needed a kid model, but since her mother never worked with kids she had a bit of a problem. Enter Katie – she stepped in and auditioned for the role and she easily landed the part. She was only about 7-years-old at the time and she already achieved her first magazine cover – which is a big milestone for any emerging model. Eventually, Katie was signed by a modeling agency and thus, her modeling career began.

StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Katie to talk about her journey in the modeling industry and here's what went down:

Could you please provide a background about yourself and how were you actually 'discovered'?

When I was younger, my mother owned her own promotional modeling company. There was this one time one of her clients needed a kid model, but she didn't work with kids. So I stepped in and auditioned and got the part! I was about 7-years-old at that time and I had my first cover of a magazine. My mom saw how much I loved being in front of the camera so I was signed by an agency and modeled professionally afterwards.

What does it mean to you to be a model?

I love being able to express myself! When I'm shooting, I feel free and happy. I've always loved modeling and grew up doing so. Modeling has been a huge confidence booster. Growing up in LA was tough at times, but as a child model, I developed a thick skin and was able to handle rejection. Now as an adult, it still teaches me lessons. I recently traveled out of the country for a gig and met so many amazing girls who will be lifelong friends.

What sort of person usually follows you? Who's your main audience?

Most of my followers are men, but I'm trying to get more women. I've been trying to incorporate more beauty and fashion into my brand. My brand is just me. It's my life. It's not just my professional modeling pictures, it's more of a day-in-the-life type.

What's the biggest challenge to modeling?

My current challenge with modeling is making it a career. I love modeling, but I currently work a full-time tech sales job. I don't have time to go on auditions all the time like I used to. It's time-consuming, and there's a lot of failure before success.

Have you always wanted to be in the modeling industry?

Yes! I'm inspired by the models, photographers, HMU artists, producers, and everyone that makes it all happen. It's a beautiful industry.

What has been the most memorable experience of your career so far?

I recently shot with MAXIM Australia. This was an unforgettable experience. The girls I shot with are now going to be my friends for life. The cast was unbelievable – they were always so professional and made me feel really comfortable.



MAXIM
AUSTRALIA

“Education is extremely important to me, so I recommend finishing school, and getting a degree. Looks are temporary, while brains are forever.”

Who have been the most interesting people you've met so far?

Meeting the producer of MAXIM Australia. Bella is one of a kind and truly cares about the models.

How active are you on social media?

I'm pretty active. I post every other day or so. I try to comment on posts often, I love seeing girls supporting other girls.

What is your favourite social media platform?

Definitely Instagram. It's the only one I use currently (@katiepostl).

What would you advise other models who may wish to follow your footsteps?

Education is extremely important to me, so I recommend finishing school, and getting a degree. Looks are temporary, while brains are forever.

What are your future plans? Inside your career or out of it.

I plan on advancing in my career in the near future and taking it to the next step. I'd love to model more and work with brands and companies I follow.

The 'LIGHTNING FAST' round (5 questions)

Last good movie I've seen:

“50 First Dates.”

What do you consider beautiful and why?

Confidence is beautiful! Expressing yourself in a confident way is beyond attractive.

What haven't you done yet that you wish you could?

I would love to shoot a movie.

Complete this sentence: “If I had no fear, I'd...”

Go on a shopping spree, and not look at my credit card bill.

What is the one “flaw” you wouldn't change about yourself?

Sometimes I'm way too sassy. But that's what makes me, me!



NOVOTEL

HOTELS & RESORTS

SYDNEY
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CONTEMPARY. VIBRANT. VERSATILE.

BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT IN ONE OF OUR 11 SPACES.
START PLANNING YOUR BEST PARTY YET.

H5603-CC4@ACCOR.COM +61 (0) 2 9518 2020
WWW.NOVOTELSYDNEYAIRPORT.COM.AU

22 LEVEY ST WOLLI CREEK

ONE ON ONE WITH THE NARCOS: MEXICO STAR

ALBERTO ZENI

Mexican-born actor Alberto Zeni has just made his way to the small screen in the second season of Netflix's crime drama "Narcos: Mexico." He's starring alongside Diego Luna (Gallardo), Scoot McNairy (the narrator) and Teresa Ruiz (Bautista).

Born in Monterrey, Mexico, Alberto first caught the acting bug when he was 14 years old while working for Parque Plaza Sesamo in his hometown of Monterrey, Mexico; a family-friendly destination with a Sesame Street theme featuring rides, games and a water park. Singing, dancing and playing characters at the park wasn't his only direction as he had goals of becoming an inventor and even received a degree in Engineering. After completing his studies, Alberto continued working in the entertainment industry starring in telenovelas such as "Hoy Soy Nadie," "Trillizas de Colores," "Bajo el Alma," "XY. La Revista" and the web series "Vidas Cruzadas" starring Kate del Castillo.

It wasn't until his mid-twenties, where he decided to make a drastic change, pack up his bags and move to Los Angeles, CA to continue his acting journey. While in LA, Alberto immersed himself in the craft – training in the Meisner Technique and teaching himself English. StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Alberto courtesy of the Anderson Group to talk about his journey in the entertainment industry so far and here's what went down:

How were you actually 'discovered'?

To be honest, I don't know anyone that has been discovered, ever. It's a very romantic idea, though. For me, it's been a process of a couple of decades now of hard work, training, preparation, travel, moving, leaving people and places behind, going back to them, leaving them again and a constant belief that what I love to do will transform into something bigger and more diverse. I can say the hard work, dedication and discipline have paid off many times fold.

What do you like most about acting?

I get to have different experiences. Through the eyes of different personalities, characters and stories, I get to be a doctor one week, a policeman the next, a bounty hunter, an astronaut, the owner of a conglomerate and so many others. The possibilities are endless, and I get a taste of what existence is in a more personal way, as well as a broader, way.

Can you tell us about your role in Narcos: Mexico?

I play a former Mexican Judicial, which is like a federal agent, that gets integrated into the DEA team that infiltrates Mexico's territory to find out who killed Kiki Camarena (Michael Pena's

character) and destabilize the criminal organization involved in that. Amat Palacios, which is my name on the show, is a very cunning, very charming man who is savvy about how things run on both sides of the border and that makes him an invaluable asset to the team.

What sort of person is going to love your character?

Anybody that has a light heart and anybody who loves their family. This is a character that does things because he wants to do them and because they bring a benefit to his own. That said, he is always looking out for his team and himself.

How do you relate to your character? How are you different from Amat?

I believe every character I portray has some of my essences, to a degree. In the end, I am the one feeling what he is going through and thinking his thoughts. For Amat, the idea of being present with his team, joking around and protecting them, is where I can say we are very much alike. The part where he may look the other way or get involved in unsavory things is where we are very different. Nevertheless, it was a lot of fun playing him.

What's the biggest challenge to taking on this role?

Fortunately, Amat was not based on any historical figure so I had the freedom to create a new persona, which in itself is a challenge. I thought to myself, 'how am I going to create a man that has qualities I don't necessarily have myself.' So, I began to think of the qualities I DO have and from then on, I built upon the idea of Amat until the entire persona was created – I got to live through him. Added to that, other small traits and nuances were incorporated by reading on history from that era and watching documentaries. It was a lot of information that went into creating him. I hope you get to see a human being on screen.

What are your future plans? Within your career or aside from it.

There are many projects in motion as we speak, with both my US and Mexico agencies. We are talking to different people about different projects and soon we will have more news on the acting side of my career. I own a production company in Mexico City that offers services to international productions and we are also developing content for the international market. We are also developing a crowdfunding social media platform that will enable people to capitalize on their ideas, projects, content and funding campaigns. The name of this platform is MeThere.



FROM Trending TO TIMELESS



"While 'timeless fashion' might seem like a paradox, the term simply means that there are certain elements of style that truly stand the test of time."

By Jill Antonio

It's time to trade fickle fashion 'trends' for 'timeless' fashion. As fun as following trends can be, it's easy to lose yourself trying to keep up.

While 'timeless fashion' might seem like a paradox, the term simply means that there are certain elements of style that truly stand the test of time. For instance, it's hard to imagine a world in which well-cut jeans and a classic white tee is considered a fashion faux pas.

With that in mind, let's unfold 3 fashion styles that are lasting, classic, and enduring.



Minimalist

Ever met one of those women or men who always appear perfectly put together? I daresay that this has little to do with how much money they've spent on their outfit, or even how creative they are as a person. It's the fact that it's very difficult to miss the mark by keeping your look simple.

Renowned artist Leonardo Da Vinci said, 'simplicity is the ultimate sophistication'.

You can create a look of smart sophistication, just by owning key minimalist pieces to prepare you for any occasion. You can work trending items in to your accessories (using headwear, scarves, and belts) – but your main pieces should be strong, and preferably high-quality investments. Think monochrome colours, clean lines, and angular silhouettes.

Ladylike

Embracing the sacred feminine isn't necessarily what you think it is. You don't need to be draped head to toe in pink to dress like a lady, but by all means, wear floral prints and pastel shades. Know when to wrap yourself in lovable tones that exude warmth and sex-appeal. There is nothing like the feeling of silk or chiffon against freshly moisturised skin. A set of pearl earrings, and polished patent leather pumps will make you feel like a woman, ready to take on the world. Elegance never goes out of style.

Bohemian

You know what they say about history? It repeats itself. The boho-chic fashion style is timeless because it nods to the 70s when free spirits reigned, and virtually everything went. If you're the type that likes to express yourself in every way, don't succumb to trends. Stick to what makes you feel free, and most happy. Embrace your eccentricity, because fashion is an art, and this world is your runway.

You will learn what works for you. Don't be afraid to reject trends, and stick to a timeless style that speaks for itself.

The bottom line is, if it doesn't make you feel good, don't wear it. Allow what you wear to empower you. There is nothing sexy about discomfort, and conversely – there's nothing sexier than confidence and the right attitude to go along with that suit or dress. Find the right fit.

Some final tips:

- Always buy the best quality you can afford, when it comes to everything from lingerie to leather goods. Key items can be a little pricier, but remember that classic pieces will serve you for a very, very long time.
- Stay true to you. Never wear anything you're not comfortable in. It'll affect your confidence.
- Don't play it too safe. Timeless doesn't have to mean boring. Modernise a staple piece in a re-worked but versatile colour, like grey or navy.
- You're never fully dressed without a smile.



MAKING AN INDIE FILM: IS IT WORTH IT OR NOT?

By: Holly Phillips

Independent film has been on a steady increase in Australia since the international popularity of the likes of *Wolf Creek* (2005) and *Wish You Were Here* (2012). Filmmakers nationwide are convinced that they can make the newest, Aussie, global phenomenon!

Basically, anyone can come up with a story, but it's taking the next step that is really tough. It's writing a screenplay, auditioning actors, applying for funding, sourcing crew, location scouting, organizing rehearsal times, contracts, shoot dates and then the final post-production undertaking of editing all the pieces and trying to secure a fantastic distribution deal. If you are looking to create your own indie film, ask yourself if you're willing to give up months of your life for something that could potentially have no financial return?

As an actor myself, people think that when on-set, I have a glamorous, laid-back life of leisure where eight hour days are a thing of the past. Well, it's kind of right, there are definitely no eight hour days - more like 13-15 hours and when not on-set, it's a pretty leisurely life because generally, you have to quit your job to dedicate enough time to the project. Oh yeah, you're rarely paid for all the time you inject into the project, that's both cast and crew alike. Although that is a generalization, it's widely the gritty truth of Indie Film. So why all the blood, sweat and tears to seemingly get nothing in return? In truth, the finished product of a really good Indie Film is priceless to someone who is genuinely passionate about their craft. It's the love of core-shaking, goose-bump delivering stories that possess thousands of Australians to dedicate months of their lives to create 90-minute documentaries of a part of themselves.

Jack Webb, is an independent filmmaker from Canberra who presides over Inside Out Studios. Webb insists that "money doesn't come into the equation, I get a kick out of telling a story, taking the audience along on a journey... Sometimes you just have to be creative to get around some financial issues, but that's part of the fun."

So it leaves us with the question, Is it all worth it? I'll leave you with a final quote from Webb, "...indie films are exciting, the challenge is what's attractive, just being able to create a story from nothing in a very organic way... It feels like there aren't any rules to abide by which gives a sense of freedom. When you find unique ways to tell the story, you feel like you are pushing the art form into new areas, not just manufacturing the project."





HOW TO GET AN ARTIST VISA TO THE USA

You've made the monumental decision to follow your dreams and move to Los Angeles to become a famous actor. You've got your plane ticket, effortlessly cool luggage and all your fabulous outfits were chosen, but you have the sneaking suspicion something's missing.... And then you realize you don't have an O1 Visa! Yikes - Back to the drawing board.

If you're an actor and wanting to move to the USA for acting reasons alone, this is what you need to collate before making contact with a US Immigration Lawyer. Once you have all this, the Lawyer will then ask for a payment in the region from \$5,000-\$10,000 AUD. One of the most highly recommended lawyers is George Giosmas Lawyers, and if you go with them, it's going to cost you in the region of \$6,000 AUD.

1. The first thing you're going to need is ten (or more) reference letters from people within the entertainment industry (acting coaches, teachers, directors, colleagues, producers and so on). These need to be professionals who you have worked with and who are going to make you sound HOT, HOT, HOT!

2. Phew! After that's all done, the second thing is extremely easy! You just need to have a copy of your Passport.

3. Job offer/contract for US work in the field of acting. This can seem very daunting but trust that you have a contact who will come through for you. The contract usually comes from a friend of a friend and doesn't need to be seen through. It's more of a failsafe so that the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) can see that you are hireable.

4. Okay, this one requires work. You're going to need a proposed itinerary of events for the next three years. This is to show the USA that you're passionate about moving to their country and are willing to put the work in. Also note, the O1 Visa can be attained for a maximum of 3 years.

5. Press materials. Any articles or newspaper clippings you have been included in. They need to be paper copies, so if you only have websites then head over to www.paperworld.com.au and get ordering.

6. Another easy one, which you should already have anyway. Copies of your best Headshots, CV, and Resume.

7. Previous contracts. So, any contracts you have from the acting/ modeling work you've done in the past. You should all have copies of your contacts saved so this final step should be nice and easy.

Once your Lawyers receive all of this, they put together your personal case package. They then send a copy to the SAG to validate you and your Visa petition. SAG will then (hopefully) issue a document stating you are worthy of an O1 Visa. YAY! They will then send this entire package to Immigration to validate. The whole process can take up to three months and it's definitely something you can't rush. Now I've told you what to do; the rest is up to you. Good luck!

MAY 30 2020

bad

SYDNEY'S
BEST DRESSED
2020

IAS AUDITORIUM
126 GREVILLE ST, CHATSWOOD