

A publication dedicated to promoting beauty queens all over the world

\$4.95

GLOBE ELITE QUEENS

FEB 2021

HOW TO PICK THE
PERFECT PAGEANT
FOR YOU

MAKE WAY FOR
JOJO SEBASTIAN



QUINTIN JAMES
Interview with a well-known and
respected confidence coach



MS ENTREPRENEUR

BE YOUR OWN KIND OF POWERFUL

COMING SOON



MS ENTREPRENEUR



GLOBAL ELITE QUEENS

CONTENTS

- 6 Feature story: Introducing the stunning Katie Postl
- 10 Spotlight: Meet the beautiful Sasha Sander
- 12 Statement Maker: Find out more about Lydia Bielen
- 14 Industry Tips: Four surefire ways to look and feel pageant ready
- 16 In Pictures: By Royal Appointment
- 24 Cover Story: Get to know Quintin James and Jojo Sebastian
- 36 Industry Tips: How to pick the perfect pageant for you

EDITORIAL

Managing Directors
Sue Turner & Mike Ilagan

Editor-in-Chief
Jenny A

Managing Editor
Ronnie Bishop

Photographers
James Chao/Dave Choo

Hair and Makeup
Anjelica Smith

Chief Marketing Officers
Alex & Gary

Senior Contributors
Jessica J
Leila Perez
Jenny B
Jade Bass

Jenny Aluning
Alex Lafrentz
Alicia Hurlington
Jude Norwest

Want to share your thoughts about Global Elite Queens Magazine or Advertise with us? Email: krissy@starcentralmag.com

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 GEQ holds no responsibility. The opinion of contributors are not necessarily those of GEQ staff. GEQ disclaims liability for those impressions.

GLOBAL ELITE QUEENS



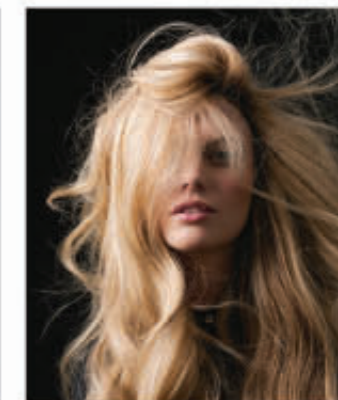
EDITOR'S NOTES

We are so pleased and excited to bring you the very first issue of (GEQ) Global Elite Queens Magazine for 2021. We are all about promoting pageant personalities and beauty queens and kings from all over the world. In the broader picture, GEQ is for anyone who is passionate about the pageant industry and would like to be kept informed about those issues that are most pertinent to continued success.

Here at GEQ we like to have fun for sure. But, there's a consciousness and an ethical slant that drives the stories we wish to present. In this edition, you will find a splash of fashion and lifestyle editorial amongst our profile pieces. There are also some great advice pages and career tips. It's a must-read for anyone passionate about the pageant industry.

So, if you like your style with substance you will love GEQ Magazine.

Sue Turner
CEO



EQUAL IMAGE SALON

Equal Image Salon Balmain is a welcoming salon located in the heart of Balmain. We are a small Boutique Salon that's able to offer the ultimate one on one experience. Equal Image Salon specialises in the latest trends from colouring, precision cutting, and various balayage techniques.

Customer satisfaction is our priority. When you visit Equal Image Salon Balmain, your visit will be greeted with a smile and with a consultation in which we'll discuss the condition of your hair, scalp, preference style, and colour.

Products we carry: La Biosthetique ♦ Olaplex

Services Offered : Cut ♦ Ladies Cut ♦ Wash ♦ Blowdry ♦ Men's Cut ♦ Wash ♦ Blowdry ♦ Kids Cut ♦ Blow Dry ♦ Colour ♦ Regrowth ♦ Foil / Highlights ♦ Balayage / Ombre ♦ Keratine ♦ Permanent Straightening ♦ Treatment and many more!

EQUAL IMAGE SALON

SPECIAL OFFER: 20% OFF ANY COLOUR SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE WHEN YOU MENTION "STARCENTRAL MAGAZINE"

EQUAL IMAGE SALON BALMAIN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS OUR PRIORITY

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.

GEQ 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!



- ✓ Home Loan
- ✓ Investment Loan
- ✓ SMSF Loan
- ✓ First Home Buyer
- ✓ Foreign Buyer
- ✓ Debt Consolidation
- ✓ Lifestyle
- ✓ Retirement
- ✓ Wealth Creation

Winners in Property Investment are People with Vision.



VICKY CHEW
0449 551 236



ALBIE PRIAS
0402 533 587



PENNY PERFECTO
0419 471 655



DORIS PONFERRADA
0449 551 236



JOSIE MUSA
0404 631 438
AND
GERRY MUSA JR
0450 002 395



ADELE KELLY
0433 946 049



EDNA WACHER
0410 128 127



LOURDES CATAP
0410 432 178



JANE RAMPISELA
0424 120 005

**We help create the vision for you
to make your dreams come true!**

We Build Wealth through Property Investment
Join the Millionaires Alliance Club and learn Winning Strategies!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT

SASHA SANDER

"I would advise models who want to grow their social media accounts to create their own luck. Don't expect opportunities to fall into your lap. You need to email, message and ask different brands/photographers/organisations to work with you."

Sasha Sander is a stunning Instagram model and a news producer for a station in St. Louis, Missouri. She started her Instagram account (@sasha_emiri) two years ago and now she has over 85,000 followers. Her personal mission in life is to live it to the fullest and help people along the way. GEQ Magazine recently caught up with Sasha to talk about her journey in the modeling and TV industry and here's what went down:

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

My name is Sasha Sander and I am a news producer for a station in St. Louis, Missouri. My Instagram account is sasha_emiri and I started it two years ago. It gained popularity through the use of hashtags and collaborating with different creative photographers.

What does it mean to you to be a model?

Being a model means having the ability to showcase your creativity by using your body as a canvas.

What's the biggest challenge to modeling?

The biggest challenge for me when it comes to modeling is being able to be creative while also holding a job as a public news figure. There is a fine line between art and being too suggestive in images. I want to keep things classy while also being able to express different art forms through modeling.

Have you always wanted to be in the modeling industry?

I never thought I could be in the modeling industry because of my height. I'm 5'2 and a half, I am also curvy. I didn't ever imagine having a modeling career because of those things. But it just kind of fell into my lap due to my quick growth on Instagram and I am so so thankful. I really do love it.

What's your personal mission in life?

My mission in life is to live it to the fullest and help people along the way. Life is short, so you need to do what you want while you're still alive.

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

I can't think of just one specific experience but what I have loved the most about modeling and growing popularity on Instagram is being able to meet so many talented and great individuals. Everyone is so kind and has so much to bring to the table.

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

I really can't pick one person over another. But the most famous person I have met out of my modeling journey was the founder of NARS cosmetics / the creator of Victoria's Secret angels.

How active are you on social media?

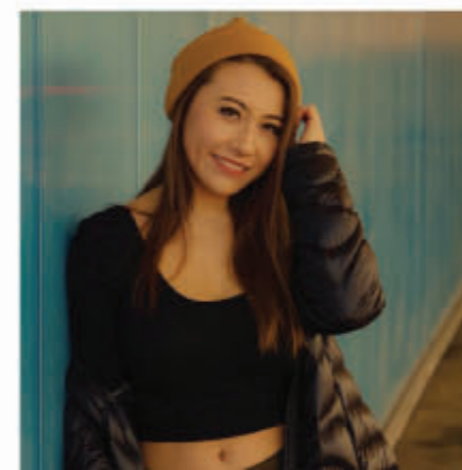
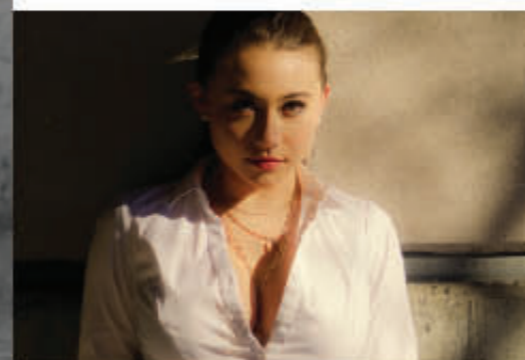
I am very active on social media. I post every other day on Instagram. I also do a lot of social media work for my news station.

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

I would advise models who want to grow their social media accounts to create their own luck. Don't expect opportunities to fall into your lap. You need to email, message and ask different brands/photographers/organisations to work with you. The more you put yourself out there, the better. Hard work always pays off.

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

My future plan is to take what I've learned from my own Instagram growth and put that knowledge towards starting a social media campaign for the company I'm working for. My goal is to get the campaign to go viral and help all the communities in and around St. Louis. I would also love to win an Emmy for the projects I've worked on and move towards a career in modeling full-time.





Lydia Bielen is a stunning model who hails from Georgia, USA. She grew up in a small town with her mother, her 2 sisters, and her grandparents. She was waitressing at a restaurant in her home town when she was first discovered. An agent came in to eat, saw her, gave her a business card, and told her to call him and she was assured that she would never work in a restaurant again – the rest you can say, is history. GEQ Magazine recently caught up with Lydia 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'?

My name is Lydia Bielen and I'm from Georgia, USA. I grew up in a small town with my mom, my 2 sisters, and my grandparents. I am very close with my family. Growing up, I loved horseback riding, art, reading and writing poetry. I was a teenager waitressing at a restaurant in my home town when I was first discovered as a model. An agent came in to eat, gave me their business card, and said to call them and that I would never work in a restaurant again. To this day, he was right.

What does it mean to you to be a model?

To me, being a model is an outlet of self-expression. You can become so many different versions of yourself in front of the camera.

What's the biggest challenge to modeling?

There are a lot of challenges models face. Learning to deal with rejection, self-worth and maintaining sometimes unrealistic physical standards are the more obvious challenges. It's hard to balance the rest of your life with modeling sometimes if you are constantly traveling, going to castings, and waiting to hear back from people. It takes up a lot of your time.

Have you always wanted to be in the modeling industry?

Before I was discovered I had never really considered becoming a model.

What's your personal mission in life?

My personal mission in life is to help others in need and to help conserve the environment.

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

Shooting for a magazine in the streets of Tokyo at night, it was freezing cold and people on set would run over to me with blankets between looks. But that city sparkles in a different way. It felt like I was in some kind of kawaii video game, I loved the fashion, the people were extremely kind, the whole experience was special.

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

I've met some really interesting people on some of my travels. I've been to 30 countries now and met people from all over the world.

How active are you on social media?

I try to post at least 3-4 times a week on Instagram. Although, sometimes I take breaks from social media and don't post at all for a couple of weeks.

What is your favourite social media platform? Instagram.

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

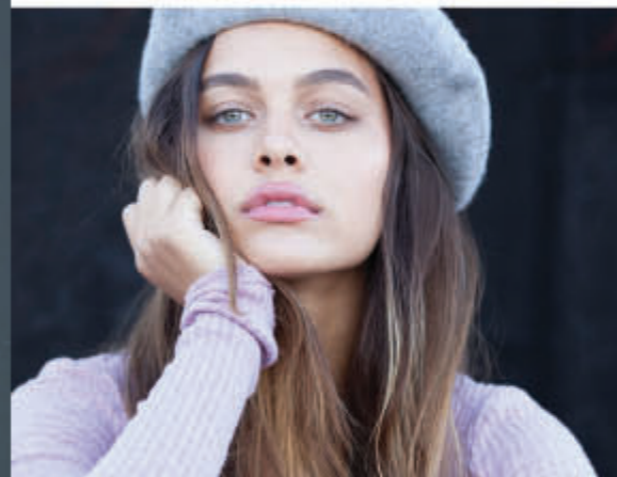
Never stop believing in yourself. Don't limit yourself based on other people's opinions. When you believe in yourself, you'll be amazed at what you can achieve. If you can dream it, you can do it!

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

I want to continue to travel to more places. I would love to do a season in Paris. And outside of modeling, I am writing a novel that I hope to finish and publish in the near future.



"To me, being a model is an outlet of self-expression. You can become so many different versions of yourself in front of the camera."





4 WAYS TO LOOK AND FEEL PAGEANT READY

“To become perfectly pageant ready, you need to embrace the positive aspects of yourself and your life. Try to find a small good deed to do every day and enjoy the karmic rewards.”

So you're gearing up to compete in a pageant and looking your best is at the forefront of your mind. It can be a little stressful, there's a lot to consider – the tan, the makeup, the dress, the hair (and the list goes on). But, have you stopped to consider your wellbeing? Working on yourself from the inside out can reveal the most radiant and vibrant you. How well you feel translates into how good you look and a healthy body and spirit will have you shining on stage as the best version of yourself.

Get plenty of sleep

There is only so much that concealer can achieve – they don't call it beauty sleep for no reason! Trying to get enough sleep can be difficult. Do set aside enough time to allow yourself to unwind. Avoid caffeine as much as you can (certainly in the later hours of the day). Indulge with an enriching and soothing night cream or facial mask. A few drops of lavender on your pillow, a warm bath, and some relaxing tunes can set the scene to make slumber come a little easier. Try to get into as much of a pattern as possible and avoid too much stimulus (TV, Facebook) before bedtime. Reading, however, can have you nodding off in no time at all.

Eat clean

We've all heard it said many a time – you are what you eat. Eating clean is about eating as close to nature as possible as to reap as much nutrition as you can. It's about avoiding processed foods, refined sugars, saturated fats, and alcohol. Grains like quinoa, superfoods like kale and acai and healthy fats like avocado can reignite your energy levels and have your hair and skin glowing. Eating as much and as varied fruit and vegetables and a hearty breakfast daily will have your metabolism working at its best.

Exercise moderately

Lately, it's all about “fitspo” but you needn't go crazy at the gym to achieve a beautiful shape. Low-intensity techniques like Pilates and Yoga can tone and lengthen your muscles for a leaner look and help you to relax all at the same time. Some light cardio three times a week is a reasonable standard to work towards. Do something you enjoy (surf, go hiking, swim) and you can hardly call it exercise at all. But, you'll enjoy all the benefits of being active nonetheless.

Find reasons to smile, laugh and be positive

To become perfectly pageant ready you need to embrace the positive aspects of yourself and your life. Try to find a small good deed to do every day and enjoy the karmic rewards. Take time to smell the roses and do the things you enjoy. Don't sweat the small stuff and find time for friends and family. A smile can be better than any cosmetic. True radiance can never be faked. Become the happiest person you can be and you'll be a winner no matter the outcome of your pageant competition.



BY ROYALLE

APPOINTMENT

Two new Royale Models: Hana and Heather out on location with Studio 49
Photographed by TONY PALLISER Model HANA and HEATHER
Styled by CHARLOTTE YOUNG and BOWERBIRD VINTAGE
Hair by GENEVIEVE BABA Makeup by ROGUE MAKEUP







A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white wide-brimmed hat, a white short-sleeved dress with a ruffled waist, and brown leather boots, is sitting on a sand dune. She is holding a brown leather crossbody bag and sunglasses. The background shows a beach with waves and a blue sky with clouds.

studio49

photography

49 Johnston St, Annandale NSW 2038
Phone: 0416 095 875

GET TO KNOW Quintin JAMES

Quintin began his career at the age of 15 dancing in a charity performance for The Cancer Council and hasn't looked back since then. Working in theme parks, cruise ships, musical theatre (A Chorus Line, West Side Story), tours (Kylie Minogue, Human Nature, Bardot, Scandalous), TV, and fashion he has cemented his place in both the creative arts as a performer, choreographer, and director as well as being involved in the production of creative works and fashion shows both nationally and internationally.

Working closely with modelling agencies, fashion houses, and models for more than 20 years has given Quintin an insight into not only understanding the inner workings of the industry but also what it takes to make it in an ever-growing and competitive market. Whether it be choreographing a fashion parade, directing models, pageant contestants, or working as a runway model coach, Quintin's creative and unique perspective is what has made him a sought-after professional in high demand.

As a well-known and respected Confidence Coach, Quintin works on building a greater sense of natural confidence with his clients, no matter where they are in their confidence journey. GEQ magazine recently sat down with Quintin and here's what went down:

1. How did you get into the pageant industry?

I got into the pageantry industry by being asked to judge then asked to run workshops for the contestants on walking, posing, and poise as well as overall performance coaching.

2. What do you like most about being a pageant coach?

What I like most about being a pageant coach is that I get to contribute to the overall success of the person not just in the pageant system but in life as they take the skills I teach into everything that they do.

3. Downside to being a pageant coach?

I personally don't think there is a downside to being a pageant coach. My goal is to focus on the person I am working with and what their individual goal is. I don't worry about anything else except improving my client.

4. What has been the most memorable experience of being in the pageant industry so far?

I like all areas of the pageant industry, whether I am judging or coaching it is great to mentor and be an educator for those wanting to get ahead in their chosen field both on and off the catwalk. Memorable moments for me are all the time because I consistently see change and development and to me that's great.

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

Overall working with Kylie Minogue and Baz Luhrmann would have to be the most interesting people I have met in a work environment. In saying that I have worked with many talented famous and not-so-famous people that impress and interest me.





6. What has been the most valuable lesson you've learned while in the pageant industry. This can be about the industry or about yourself.

My most valuable lesson I have learnt in the pageantry industry is to be honest and true. Be memorable and be kind.

7. What is the best advice you have ever been given?

My most valuable lesson is to always be true to yourself and embrace yourself as uniqueness is the best quality. Also to listen and absorb what people are teaching you.

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

My future plans are working as a Confidence and Performance Coach as well as to continue my work as a Runway model coach and Fashion Choreographer. I am currently writing a book and look forward to the opportunity to help many people around the world.

The 'LIGHTNING FAST' Round:

1. Last good movie I've seen: Sicario



2. What do you consider beautiful and why? Beauty is embarrassing yourself and being kind to others.

3. What haven't you done yet that you wish you could? I want to appear on Ellen.

4. Complete this sentence: "If I had no fear, I'd..." swim with sharks.

5. What is the one "flaw" you wouldn't change about yourself? I am a perfectionist, even though I know perfection doesn't exist I put high expectations on myself and always strive for perfection. That can create extra stress on me.





JOJO

SEBASTIAN

Jojo Almazora Sebastian is a devoted and compassionate nurse in the Operating Theatre at a busy Metropolitan Hospital in Sydney. However, on weekends, this orthopaedic nurse transforms into a charming and dashing tuxedo attired singer-entertainer and master of ceremony. A veteran of the United States Military Forces, he could be seen regularly in concerts where he performs as a front act for artists both locally and internationally. He is the main staple in the Local and International Pageant in the last 17 years.

Jojo was named the Australian Best Pageant Host in the Australian Golden Sash Awards for both 2019 and 2020. At the beginning of 2020, he was named as the Most Influential Person of the Year and Musician of the Year in Ava's World Magazine Awards. In the same year, this former University Professor participated in Sydney Sings for Hope Concert for the benefit of the front liners for the Bush Fire that happened in NSW. He also lent his voice in the Heroes of the World Album recording the song "Walang Mahirap sa Buhay" written and arranged by Oliver Gadista.

In July 2020, this former disc jockey of Brother Joe and Pinoy Love Crew represented Australia in the First Virtual Edition of the World Championship of Performing Arts (WCOPA 2020). Furthermore, he will be representing Australia once again in the 25th Year of the World Championship of Performing Arts to be held in California USA in July 2021.

Recently, Jojo was nominated and awarded in the Inaugural Sydney's Best Dressed due to his good dressing sense and confident personality. Moreover, he released his debut Christmas Album entitled: "Christmas Ain't Christmas Without You" released 30th October 2020. Furthermore, he has received a nomination for the Manila's Best Dressed for 2020-2021 to represent Australia in the prestigious Annual Event.

In 2021, Jojo aspires to broaden his horizon as an individual and concentrate on his advocacies he has been helping in the past 10 years. His advocacies include the following: (1) children and (2) Volunteerism. For the Children, he continues to support the various charitable institution and fundraised for Sydney Children's Hospital and Cerebral Palsy Foundation. He also provides scholarships for the less fortunate in the Philippines to continue a college education.

One of the projects he really wanted to concentrate on in 2021 is Community Service by Volunteerism. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity where an individual or group provides services for no financial gain. Volunteering is often intended to promote goodness or to improve human quality of life. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served. Jojo highly believes that if our community comes together and volunteer even for just a couple of hours a month under any charitable institution and non-profit organisation – it will make a positive difference in the personal and professional aspects of all individuals involved, especially oneself. He further states that he would like for the community to realise to volunteer is a social responsibility of all its member especially to the marginalised and disadvantaged.

Consequently, Jojo was just also declared a finalist in the Mister Diamond International Australia 2021 which will be held in April 2021. GEQ magazine recently caught up with Jojo and here's what went down:

1. How did you get into the pageant industry? How were you actually 'discovered'?

Pageantry is something innate in my family. I have numerous aunts, as well as both male and female cousins who are very active in pageantry back in the Philippines and Hawaii. I found myself interlaced with pageantry at the very young age of 7. Where I represented the country - USA in the Mr and Miss United Nations held at my primary school – South City Homes Academy, Binan, Laguna Philippines. I remember being crowned Mr. United Nations. That paved the way for me to be interested in pageantry. However, I actually just realised what impact pageantry had on me, in high school. Most of my classmates who joined pageantry approaches me and asks me to help them out with their talent. Normally it would be an interpretative dance or a national ethnic dance. An experience I can never forget was when a Filipino-Indian classmate approached me to teach her a Bollywood Dance. This was in 1994. I took the challenge and we won best in talent! That is how I got into pageantry.



In regards to discovery, I was discovered in male pageantry in college. When I joined Mr. Engineering 1996 at the University of Perpetual Help in Laguna, I represented the sophomore year. It was a very unforgettable experience because not only did I win 4 minor awards, I also placed 1st Runner Up at the coronation night. That experience got me started in pageants. And 20 years later, I am once again throwing my hat in pageantry – when I represent NSW and Australia in the Mr. Diamond International 2021 to be held in Brisbane this coming April 2021.

2. What do you like most about being a King/Finalist?

Besides the experience and the comradery, what I like the most whilst joining pageants are conceptualizing projects and undertakings that assist charitable institutions that I personally handpicked to support, fundraise, and contribute to during the pageant. The reason I like this the most is that I am able to use the platform that the pageant provides me to make a difference. The difference made is the most important thing to me because it could promote and assist change that I would like to see in the community.

3. Downside to being a King/Finalist?

For me, there are more advantages in participating in Pageantry than disadvantages.

One of the disadvantages is that pageants could be very expensive. However, one must be smart about this. I normally tend to go back to belongings. For example, Clothes to wear during any segment of the competition, I tend to get excited to be creative, imaginative, and resourceful with what I use which mainly comes from what I owned.

Another downside of being the Finalist in a pageant is the stigma of being self-absorbed and self-privileged. From my experience, this is normally the opposite. People in pageantry are very humble, charitable, and social.

4. What has been the most memorable experience of being in the pageant industry so far?

Honestly, the most memorable experience for me in pageantry is the friendship I have made so far. I have met the most incredible and empowering individuals in Australian Pageantry. This has motivated and inspired me to be a better person not just for myself but mostly for my community. Another memorable experience for me is, winning the Australian Golden Sash Awards – Best Pageant Host in 2019 and 2020 and the Most Promising Pageant King of 2020. These awards encouraged and stimulated me to be better.

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

There are so many interesting and noteworthy individuals I have met in Pageantry in general. However, three of the individuals who had made a great impression on me are (1) Mary Rose Salubre – CEO of Australasia Official – empowerment and generosity, (2) Mark Baylon – Managing Director of Miss Earth Australia – compassion, never-say-die attitude, and creativity; and (3) Sue Turner of GEQ Magazine – Kindness and Love of Others. Amongst the so many individuals who shine

luminously and dazzlingly in Australian Pageantry, these three individuals made a huge impact with me. I believe set the golden standard of empowering the various individual in the community in their very own beautiful way.

6. What has been the most valuable lesson you've learned while in the pageant industry. This can be about the industry or about yourself.

One of the most valuable lessons I have learned in pageantry is to always be helpful to one another because we aim to reach the same goal. And if we help each other it is likely that we will achieve the mission and vision we set forth.

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

I stayed grounded by reminding myself of my personal mission. However, this will not be possible without the help and support of my family – Josephine Sebastian (mom) and the whole of my family, partner, friends, and community. I dedicate and share my accomplishments with them.

8. Is your family supportive of you being in the pageant industry.

YES! They are my primary support and encouragement in all that I do. They never fail to make me feel that I have made a difference every day.

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

I would love to continue to support the charitable institutions that I have been supporting for years – Salvation Army, Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation, Cerebral Palsy Foundation, and Philippine and Australian Red Cross.

I also would like to continue to fund high school students and send them to University in the Philippines.

Finally, I would like to continue to fundraise for abused children.

The 'LIGHTNING FAST' Round:

1. Last good movie I've seen: FRIENDS on Netflix

2. What do you consider beautiful and why?

My mom – Josephine Sebastian. She gave me life and she is my life.

3. What haven't you done yet that you wish you could? Become a foster parent.

4. Complete this sentence: "If I had no fear, I would..."

not be able to challenge myself to do things that I would not dream of doing like pageantry...

5. What is the one "flaw" you wouldn't change about yourself?

Being a worrywart, because my partner mentioned how loving and affectionate I could be.







HOW TO PICK THE PERFECT PAGEANT FOR YOU

“Those who have followed pageants for years know that no two pageants are the same. There are similar formats but each pageant has a strict tradition (especially the older ones) that follow not only a rule, but a formula, and if you don't fit that mould now, you never will.”

We all have our reasons for joining pageants. Some do it to make friends, others to network, some to gain more confidence, and others a motivation to get fit and look the best they can possibly be. But deep inside every girl who has entertained the idea of competing lies that dream that they would one day be “the next Jennifer Hawkins.”

But the sad reality is, not every Miss University can be a Miss Universe.

As much as we have a new pageant popping up every week, promoted by every man and his dog on social media, many believe that all are carbon copies of Miss Universe and how it's run.

Nothing can be further from the truth.

Those who have followed pageants for years know that no two pageants are the same. There are similar formats but each pageant has a strict tradition (especially the older ones) that follow not only a rule, but a formula, and if you don't fit that mould now, you never will.

But just because you're not right for one particular pageant doesn't necessarily mean you're not perfect for another.

Where pageants such as Miss Universe, Miss Grand, Miss Supranational and Miss Earth are primarily aesthetic based, others like Miss Humanity and other charity run pageants are merit based in which one is selected based on how they meet the fundraising and awareness goals set by the organisers.

Others like Miss World, Miss Globe and Miss Grand toe the line, and then you have glitz pageants like Miss Galaxy where movement, choreography and styling is so precise that you are judged on the way you turn, the way you hold your head and how your feet are even placed while walking or posing. Held by many to be the purest form of pageantry, it has since developed quite a stigma thanks to the bad PR received by Toddlers and Tiaras. Glitz is all about glamour and excess.

On the other side of the spectrum are the 'natural' pageants, where contestants are encouraged to wear as little make up as possible with simplified styling for hair, while in the case of cultural pageants, it is not the outside beauty of a contestant that is judged, rather, her ability to promote her culture to an international audience.

"Just because you don't fit a certain mould doesn't mean you are not beautiful. One should never seek self validation from others. Do your research. Find a pageant that best serves your purpose and its your kind of beautiful."

Aesthetic based pageants often have unwritten and unspoken rules. While publicly we encourage diversity and inclusiveness, the reality is, if you fall short of 5'7 and don't have the body of a Victoria's Secret model, then you have just about as much chance of winning Miss Universe as I have of marrying George Clooney.

Zilch.

Sure there are the exceptions. Shorties like Olivia Culpo, Ximena Navarrete and Australia's Courtney Thorpe have won their competitions but another thing they have in common other than being short is their perfect facial beauty. You cannot take your eyes off them. Generally, what I tell young women who want to compete for Miss Universe is "if you are short, then you have to be perfect – your height already works against you, don't give them any other reason to not pick you."

You also need to know and be realistic about what you are getting yourself in to. Look at last year's winner and ask yourself "if I was competing against her, would I win?"

If your answer is no, then you're probably right.

Friends and family members who encourage young women to compete when in their hearts they know the person they are encouraging to be a contestant has zero chance in winning is doing their family member or friend a great disservice. In fact, it can even be classified as cruel. Im sure the intentions are from a good place, but as they say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

The greatest gift you can give another is the gift of reality.

The reality seems cruel, but in REAL life, not everyone can be a doctor. Not everyone can be a singer (those who have seen Idol auditions will know what I'm talking about). Not everyone can be a dancer. Not everyone can be a carpenter, or pilot or an accountant. And not everyone can be Miss Universe.

But just because you don't fit a certain mould doesn't mean you are not beautiful. One should never seek self validation from others. Do your research. Find a pageant that best serves your purpose and fits your kind of beautiful. By doing so, it makes the experience so much more memorable and positive and it could open doors that can lead you down career paths you never would have expected.





LUX

MODELLING & FASHION ACADEMY