

A publication with a special focus on the film industry and upcoming stars from all over the world | \$2.95

# FILM CENTRAL

MARCH 2021

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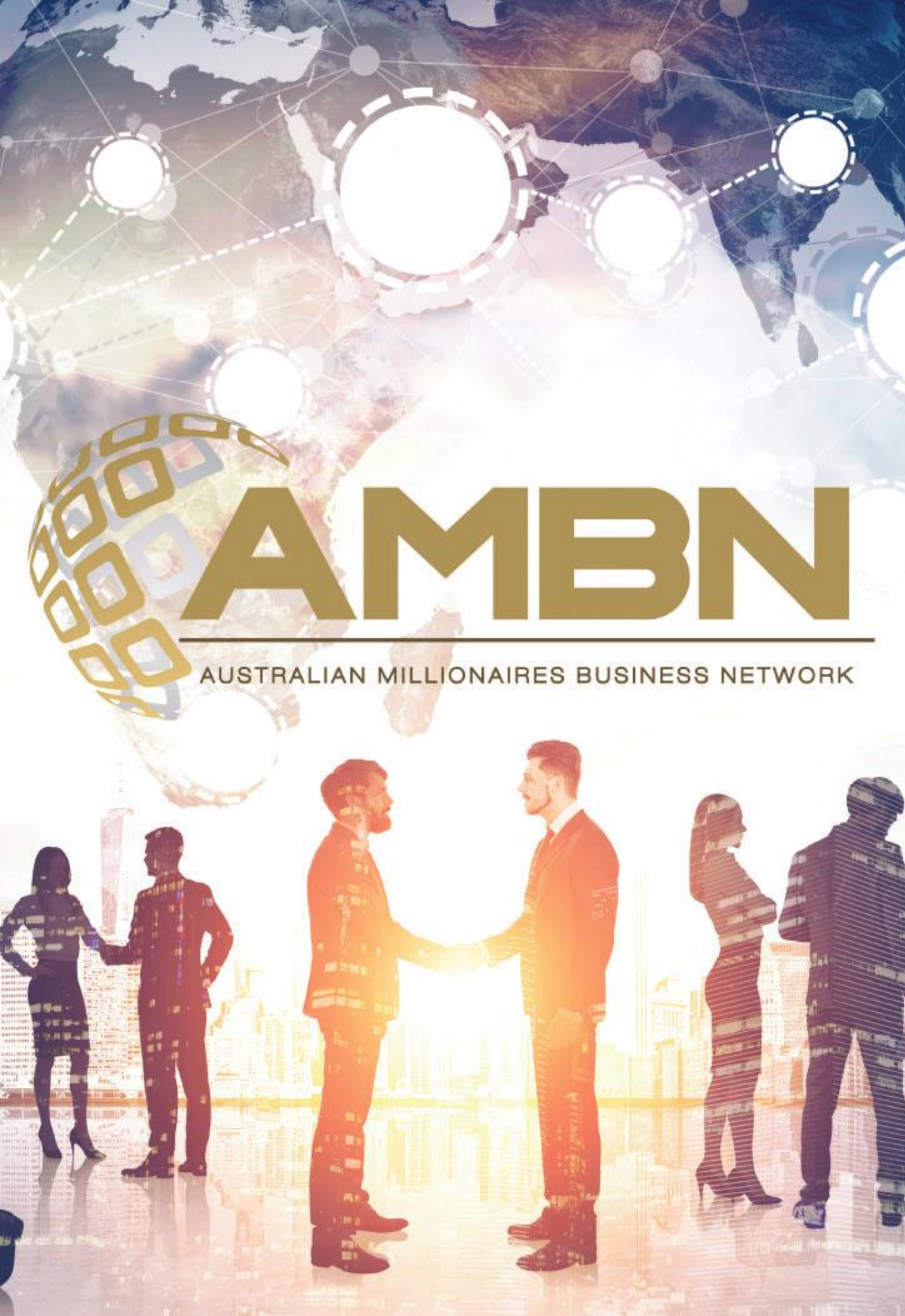
ANTHEA MURFET  
Find out more about one of the  
actresses to watch out for in 2021

INTRODUCING  
*Winston + Sitara*  
VENGAPALLY

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH WINSTON AND SITARA'S  
MOTHER AND "MOMAGER," MEETA VENGAPALLY

EMERGING ACTORS TO WATCH OUT FOR IN 2021





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# FILM CENTRAL

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# FILM CENTRAL



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COMING SOON

# SYDNEY MULTICULTURAL FILM AWARDS



## INTRODUCING ANTHEA

## Murfet

Anthea Murfet is a known personality in the Philippines. She represented the Philippines along with two other beauties for Asia's Super Model Competition in 2009 and she has made several guest appearances in various local TV shows in the Philippines. Together with the other 4 co-hosts, she hosted a TV show in the Philippines which was shown on the TFC channel. In her first feature film, *Chasing Fire*, she played the lead role of "Kristine" – this indie film went on to win an award during the Barcelona, Spain Film Festival. She also played another lead role in "So Much Pain" and "So In Love." Furthermore, she co-produced *Trafficked* and worked behind the scenes in building the character of various artists during 2013.

She has modelled for several high-profile brands such as Bench, Guess, and Kasheica. She has also appeared in various TV commercials such as Royal Thai Airways, Splenda Sweetener, NIVEA cream, Fit & Right Delmonte, Nestle Products, HSBC bank, BDO bank, Lucky Me pancit canton, Coffee Mate, Skechers Shape-Ups, Hush Puppies, Coca Cola, Marlboro, and several others. She's also the image model for Dr. Jart's BB Cream campaign.

She has appeared in catalogs for Sundance, Tupperware, Natasha, Boardwalk, Orotan, SM Catalogue, and Zalora and during the year 2018 to 2020, she became the brand ambassador of Shangri La Hotel, Anchorland, and Okada Casino and Resorts. FilmCentral Magazine recently caught up with Anthea and here's what went down:

**Can you tell us more about yourself? How did you get started in the entertainment industry?**

Believe it or not, I actually started out wanting to be a tennis player! On my fifteenth birthday, my father passed away on the tennis court, and after that, I decided to switch careers, in part because competitive tennis just costs so much. It's the second-most expensive sport, after golf. So, I dropped the tennis racket and told my mum that I wanted to be an actress. Of course, she had painfully high standards and didn't want me to do showbiz in the Philippines because she wanted me to aim higher and enter Hollywood.

Even before I had quit tennis, I was already making inroads into modelling and acting. When I was 12, I was the youngest model in a workshop called Enigma, hosted by Levenson Rodriguez. It was similar to the personality development workshops June Delly Watkins does here in Australia. Since my mom was with me, she helped me to do my outfits, and I remember one time one of the models asking, "Where did you get your stilettos? They're wicked!" Little did she know that me and mum had purchased them from a pole dancer's boutique store. (chuckles)

**What do you like most about acting?**

Having no limitations to become whoever I want to be.

**How different is it to act in a movie and to act in a TV series? And which one do you prefer?**

I love both! It's so rewarding being able to enter another world and hold onto a character for a certain amount of time – whether that's the length of a film shoot, or across many episodes of a TV series. At the end of the day, there's no difference when it comes to technique. Every actor is the slave of their character, whether they're on the big or small screen. You just have to react to what the director wants from you and adapt to the country you're in while targeting a global appeal that everyone can relate to.





Working on TV was a good learning experience because we frequently had different directors for each episode, and the producers and writers were often on set, too. I loved "interviewing" the writer during breaks so that I could really delve into my character and unearth the hidden gems that helped bring my characters to life.

It was a lot of work, too. Like on "Garlic," a TV series that aired on the Signal channel. I was a lead villain during the day and a serial killer with superpowers during the night. I'd be in a green room doing CGI effects with one cameraman for six hours straight, and that was after the daytime scenes were done. Sometimes, I'd reach almost three days with no sleep, but I always tried to give it my all, even when the camera was focused on my co-actors. So, even when my energy levels were at their lowest, I always tried to give, like, a really scary face in the dark, so that the scene would be as good as it could possibly be.

I spent a lot of time working on commercials for both TV and the web, early on. That gave me less time I had to be on set, which was just what I needed as a newly single mum of two. The key to shooting commercials was, "Be happy, familiarize yourself with the storyboard, and always remember your lines." That helps save production costs, and they will love you for it. Doing commercials helped me to become a chameleon because I always hoped that clients or brands wouldn't realize it was me again and would have me back for a different part.

Film has also been a big part of my growth as an actor. I've never done a supporting role. In all three of my films, I've been a lead. Chasing Fire won an award at the Barcelona Film Festival. We shot it for a year and a half, and I basically grew with the crew. By the end, they felt like my family and when the shoot was over, it just broke my heart.

**What are your weak points when it comes to acting? How do you try to improve them?**

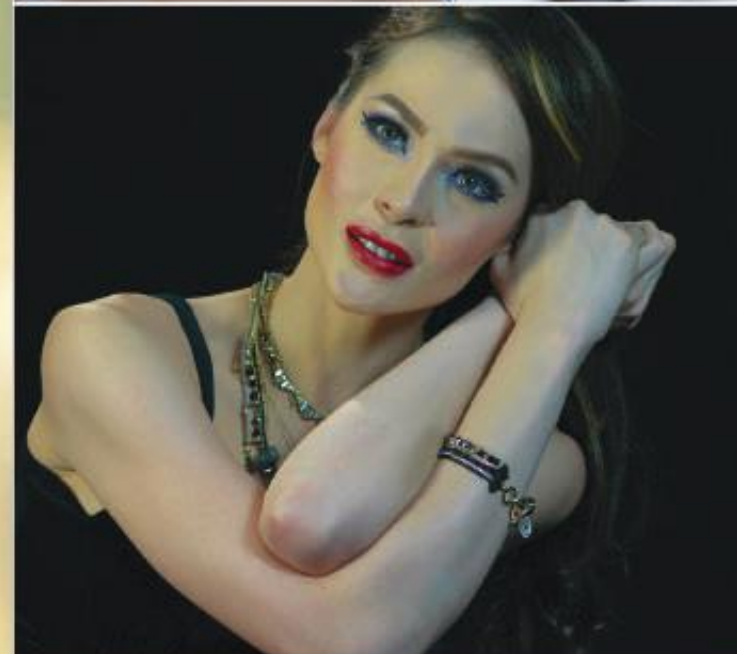
When a character reminds me of some of the hardest or most troublesome moments of my past, it's like a knife that cuts through my soul. It can be incredibly painful and difficult to work through. Sometimes, though, I'm grateful for it, because it helps to build and enrich the character. The challenge is how to then snap out of it!

**What are your strong points as an actor?**

It might not sound like a big brag, but I've worked hard to be able to memorize long lines because I want to be sure that I can deliver them accurately, regardless of the intensity of my emotions. I rehearse my lines thousands of times to embody them so that even when my emotions flow, the words come out naturally. I think of the lines as like a boat, and my emotions are the river that the boat floats upon.







One of my favourite books is *On Acting*, by Sanford Meisner. He used to tell his class that a performer has two barrels. The first barrel contains acting, talent, musical ability, and so on. The second barrel has troubles. Then he'd ask, "Which barrel has more juice?" The answer was, "Troubles." I was stunned and grateful that I kept my sanity despite all the troubles in my past, and I think my children helped to play a big role in keeping me sane and helping me convert all that angst to productivity. I'd like to thank them and my mother for all they've done to help me succeed in this business.

I'm also very observant of the people I've worked with on various productions, and mindful of our chemistry both on and off the set, though sometimes I end up with this sort of shell around me that makes me seem like an introvert. Really, though, it's just because I'm carrying my character with me everywhere I go ... not that everyone around me knows that. (chuckles)

Sometimes, that shell is necessary for self-preservation, too. As an actor, you need to be able to access your emotions for a scene, but you also need to be able to keep yourself together. That's why at times you'll find me off in a corner, totally in my own world, just trying to feed my imagination and keep my energy up.

**What have you learned from the directors that you have worked with throughout your career?**

I've been lucky to work with some very talented directors who took the extra time to do workshops and rehearsals outside the set, especially when they knew that a scene would be heavy. Even when we were working within a limited time frame, they knew how to use methods that would help to make an impact on the actor's performance, even in that short window of time.

**What are some of the difficulties of the acting business?**

Everyone has their own agenda. You have to carry yourself well and make careful decisions if you want to earn respect – and keep it.

**What's challenging about bringing a script to life?**

Mastery. It's never enough!

**What do you do when you're not filming?**

Well, before COVID I used to travel a lot, but I haven't gotten to do that as much these days, obviously. I spend a lot of time practicing my British and Russian accents, daydreaming, mixing and matching clothes, sketching, creating set designs for my health and workout vlogs, reading plenty of books, and I enjoy creating portraits for people in high society. I did a portrait of Josh Calata, who was the former youngest billionaire in the Philippines, who has been a real inspiration and mentor to me, as well as "His Majesty of Johor Bahru" Sultan Ismail Ibrahim. The Sultan placed the portrait as a wall sculpture in his private entertainment space. His expression in that portrait was the happiest I've ever seen him, and I really enjoyed creating it because of his great sense of humour.

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

Well, first off I still want to make it to Hollywood. I know that's going to take a lot of hard work, but I'm willing to do everything I can to get there. But I think every actor needs to have a backup plan, too. Mine is to own a design firm (I'm currently designing T-shirts during my free time) and maybe do some real estate on the side. Whatever it takes to keep living and traveling the world with my family.



# PARIS RAINIE



Paris is a confident, committed individual with a go-getter attitude. Her work ethic is second to none and is known for going above and beyond in everything she does.

Paris is a confident, committed individual with a go-getter attitude. Her work ethic is second to none and is known for going above and beyond in everything she does. She has a burning desire to have a career in the Modelling, Film, and Television industry. She is dedicated with a willingness to learn and grow.

Paris enjoys public speaking and is passionate about assisting in the conscious shift around the world, ultimately uplifting all those whom her presence reaches, leaving them with the impression of increase. She is dedicated to learning about human potential, how the mind works, and endeavours to inspire and teach others how they too can be a deliberate creator of their life.

Paris loves travelling the world and attends as many international business and personal development courses and conferences as she possibly can. She loves networking, learning, and connecting with like-minded individuals.

Photographed By: Pedro Virgil



Paris is also obsessed with all things fashion and intends to learn more about sustainability in the Fashion Industry and ultimately promote this to the world. She loves being involved in creative projects and campaigns and is so excited about all the opportunities life has to offer.

FilmCentral Magazine recently caught up with Paris to discuss her journey in the modelling industry and here's what went down:

#### 1. How did you get into the modelling industry?

I started modelling as a young teen, I did various photographic work and won a few pageant titles. I focused more so on business, entrepreneurship, and travelling in my later teens but the Universe was sending me way too many signs to ignore my ongoing passion and desire to have a long-lasting career in this industry! It pulled me straight back in and that's how you know you're on the right path, living your true life's purpose when everything bay really unfolds for you.

#### 2. What do you like most about being a model?

I love the freedom to explore and express myself through fashion and creative design. I love that it's always different and never the same and of course I love the beautiful people you meet along the way. Collaborating and bringing to life a mutual vision is enormously fulfilling.

#### 3. Downside to being a model?

I would say the downside within the modelling industry as a whole has been certain "restrictions" eg.. height, weight...I think it is a very outdated stereotype. If I could improve anything within the industry, it would be the abolishment of all restrictions. I think we have definitely made some progress in being more inclusive but I still feel we have a long way to go though.

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

Sometimes I can't tell the difference between what I've imagined and what's actually happened... But being in New York for fashion week was definitely a highlight. That entire week was filled with amazing experiences whether it be meeting some iconic people, to doing 4 am NYC photoshoots... I would love to relive that week. I even stumbled my way into a photographic shoot for Milan Magazine! It was all so divinely guided.

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

I am very grateful to have met a lot of interesting people that have made an impact on my life. An award-winning Hollywood producer who I am now great friends with! Bob Proctor who's one of my mentors, Rob and Gary my spiritual advisors (Soul family) Miranda Kerr which was just so incredible. Simon Pelland has changed my life in such a priceless way. I've been blessed to be in the same room as Coco Rocha, Kevin Hart, Scooter Braun, Grant Cardone, John Travolta, and lastly, I was blessed with being on set in the presence of Nicole Kidman and also within an arm's length of Brad Pitt for one of his movie premieres!

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







YOU ARE SO WORTHY. I think it's very important for us to come to the realisation that we are the source of our own happiness and to never validate our self-worth on anything outside of ourselves. 2) You are 100% responsible for your life. No matter how many times I hear those words, I seem to gain a new level of understanding of what that really means and that is quite exciting; to embody the knowing that you have full power and direction over your life is the most liberating thing. Master your inner game and you'll be unstoppable.

**7. Is your family supportive of you being a model?**

Absolutely! My mum has supported me in everything I have ever done. I am so truly grateful. Having a support team around you is vital for succeeding in anything in life. They carry you through the brief moments of hesitation or self-doubt.. it happens, it's a natural thing and so having a team of people around you who are cheering for you and your success is everything.

**8. If you could go back in a time machine to the time when you were just getting started, what would you do differently?**

I wouldn't do anything differently. I am a big believer of everything happens for a reason, the way it was supposed to, and if I was to do one thing differently then everything else might have ended up totally different. I'm very proud of myself and happy with where I am today. But I would definitely say to my younger self "Don't give up, don't stop, and don't listen to anyone who says you don't fit into a certain type or category. We were made to fit in, we were made to stand out!"

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

Who is the person you want to be 5 or even 10 years from now? Then, act and show up like her every day. You do that, and your whole world will change.

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

I have lots of plans... all of which I hold an image of in my mind. Some include more National and International modelling for leading designers. I also want to land lead roles in the film and television industry. And of course more travelling, I feel it nurtures my mind, body, and soul.

**The 'LIGHTNING FAST' Round:**

**1. Last good movie I've seen:** Peppermint.

**2. What do you consider beautiful and why?** BEING YOUR GENUINE AUTHENTIC SELF. That's is the most beautiful thing you can ever be.

**3. What haven't you done yet that you wish you could?** Travel Europe. And also spend a month on an island by myself reading books.

**4. Complete this sentence: "If I had no fear, I'd "** This is a difficult one... I feel I am quite fearless.. or more so, I feel the fear and do it anyway. Everything you want is on the other side of fear. And I have no problems going after what I want.

**5. What is the one "flaw" you wouldn't change about yourself?** My non-desire to prepare or cook food... because it means I get to eat Lisa's (my mum's) incredible food. She's the best cook in the world.

Photographed by: Pedro Virgil



# INTRODUCING Stephen MANAS

Bilingual French-born actor and music composer Stephen Manas is set to make his US television debut co-starring opposite Jason Sudeikis in the upcoming Apple+ comedy series "Ted Lasso." Only acting for a few years, Manas is a rising star who is ready to take on Hollywood.

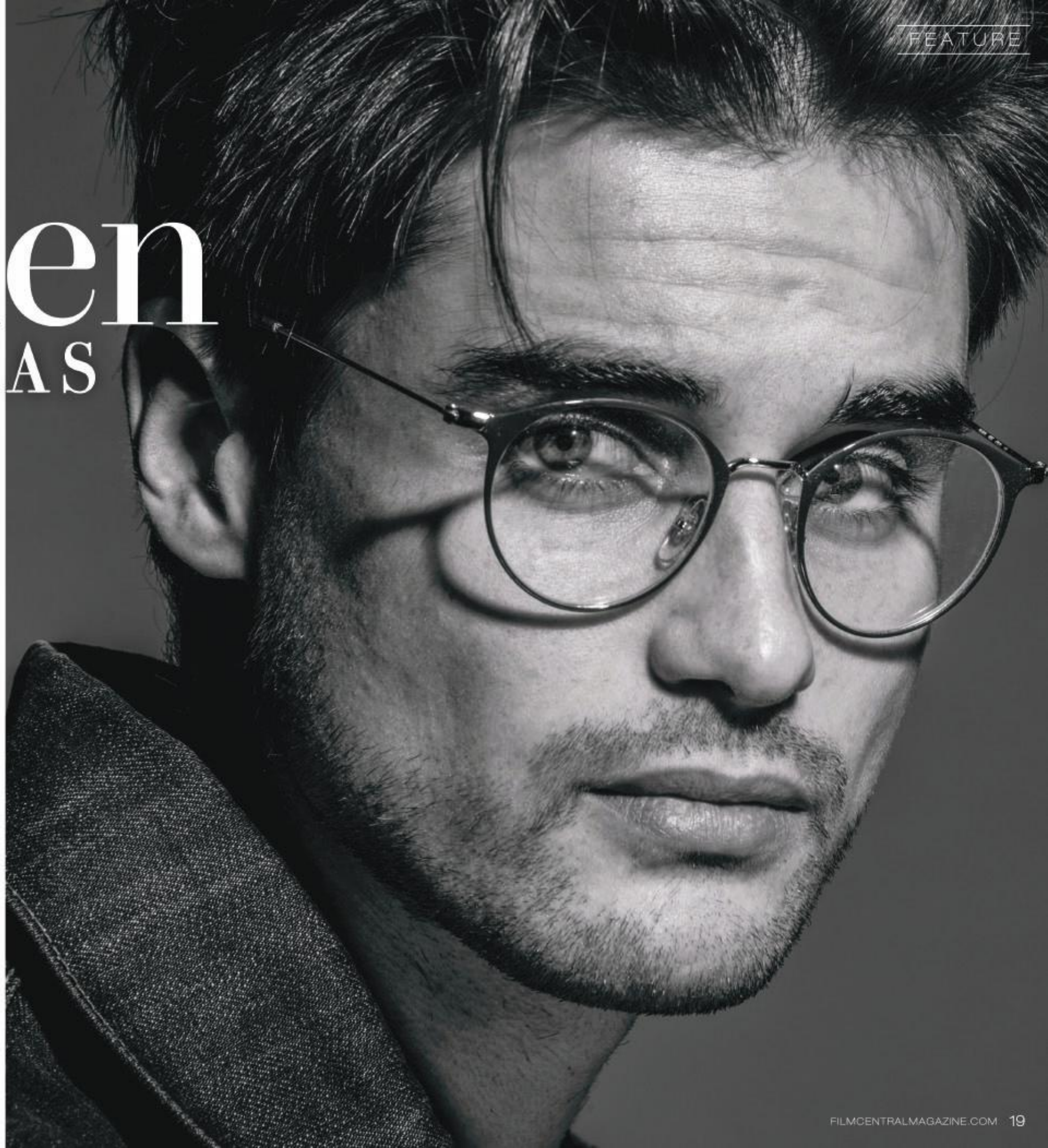
Written, produced, and starring Saturday Night Live alum Jason Sudeikis, the Apple+ comedy series "Ted Lasso" is based on the popular 'Coach Ted Lasso' character Sudeikis played in NBC Sports videos several years ago, an idealistic – and clueless – all-American football coach hired to manage a struggling London soccer team in the top flight of English football – despite having no soccer coaching experience at all. Manas co-stars as one of the team's soccer players, 'Richard Montlaur,' a French footballer who struggles to understand the thick American accent of his new coach. While the series is filled to the brim with physical comedic scenes, at the heart of it is a message of teamwork and hope.

Manas grew up in the small French town of Saint-Germain-en-Laye in the suburbs of Paris. With a ski teacher mother, he found a love for skiing and outdoor sports at a young age. Music also heavily influenced his life and he developed a skill for playing numerous instruments including the clarinet, piano, and saxophone. It wasn't until the first Harry Potter film came out that he fell in love with cinema, watching it over and over again. At the age of 17, he moved to Lyon, France for marketing and business school. Shortly after the move he was discovered on the street for acting and got his first taste of the entertainment world when he was cast for a small part in an independent film – falling in love but not quite yet knowing how to break into the industry. After school he took a corporate job in marketing that he hated and when a talent agency based in India cold-called him, he jumped at the chance to work in film again. He made the move to India where he immersed himself in the Bollywood industry, building his acting resume. After two years of living and working in India, he returned to France in 2018 to tap back into French cinema.

While in France, he booked the lead role in the award-winning short film OUT OF FRAME/ HORS CHAMP, for which he also won numerous acting awards including "Best Performance of Fest" at the Actors Awards Los Angeles, "Best Actor" at the Alternative Film Festival, and "Best Actor" at the Top Shorts Film Festival. He was also cast in the film LA BONHEUR DES UNS (A FRIENDLY TALE) opposite well-renowned actor Vincent Cassel ("Westworld," BLACK SWAN), and Academy Award, Golden Globe, and SAG Award-nominated actress Bérénice Bejo (THE ARTIST). The film follows a group of lifelong friends whose loyalties to each other are unexpectedly tested.

When Manas is not working in front of the camera as an actor, he is composing music behind the scenes. With an outside-the-box almost Hans Zimmer-like approach to music composition, his work has garnered him some impressive projects including FAST & FURIOUS 8. Manas currently lives in France where he practices a spiritual life of meditation and gratitude.

FilmCentral Magazine recently caught up with Stephen to discuss his journey as an actor and here's what went down:





**Can you tell us more about yourself? How did you get started in the entertainment industry?**

It all happened by chance for me. When I was 16, living in France, there was a film shooting where casting directors were looking for locals to be extras. I wasn't really interested in appearing in front of a camera but my friends dragged me along and by fate, luck, or whatever it was, I ended up being cast for a role (and not just an extra). I was on set for one week and I LOVED it! My love for film developed from this opportunity and the energy on set – with the creative heads, technicians, and other actors – all came together to create and produce a goal. I truly love it. While on set, I had a great connection with a fellow actor, he was nice, we chatted and I told him that I would be moving to Lyon (France) and he suggested a talent agency I would later meet with.

I ended up stopping by that agency without an appointment. There were so many people in that office which made me curious as to what was going on. They were actually holding auditions for a big advertiser and the owner of the agency approached me to ask me who I was and what I was doing there. I told him my intentions and while he was trying to brush me off and advise me to come back tomorrow or wait there for an hour, the advertising client was observing the entire conversation and he ended up approaching me to audition. The next thing I knew, the client told the owner of the agency "it's ok, I will pick him" (referring to me). And the next day, I was at my very first job, and it all started like this.

**What do you like most about acting?**

I love every aspect of my job but especially the mix of creativity and discipline. As an artist, a huge part of our job is to create, it goes for actors, and of course directors, scriptwriters and many others in the cinema industry. As an actor, there are many skills required – creativity, memorization, improvisation, persistence, and much more. We also need to disconnect with the matrix, to be adequate with our character, in order to have new ideas and new thoughts (all this you have to do without any drugs of course!) BUT, we also have to stay tuned...

We need discipline, there is a very tight schedule to follow, lots of lines to learn, a huge budget is involved and that's where a team comes together to work, to keep you between the focus AND the unfocused. It's what I like most, staying creative and focused with a proper team to offer the best results possible.

**Can you tell us a little bit about your role in "Ted Lasso"?**

I am playing a character named "Richard Montlaurd" and he is a football player. Jason Sudeikis plays Ted Lasso, a small-time college football coach from Kansas hired to coach a professional soccer team in England, despite having no experience coaching soccer.

**Besides yourself, which actor/s in this series is going to blow people away?**

Simple answer... absolutely ALL of them.

Trust me: Jason Sudeikis, Brendan Hunt, Hannah Waddingham, Brett Goldstein, Juno Temple, Nick Mohammed, Phil Dunster, etc... all of them are so talented and were all so creative and fun to create a hilarious comedy. All have worked so hard and created amazing characters. It was impressive to be a part of such a family on set and many times, it was just too fun to keep it serious.

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

It was my first big international project as being the only foreigner. It can appear easy, but it is not that simple to adapt to a different language, environment and people are so fast. I was a little stressed at the beginning, to be honest. But thank God, all the team and the cast welcomed me in the best way possible. They gave me a warm welcome and made me feel comfortable as soon as they met me. I am so lucky I ended up with this cast and team.

**If you could play any other character in this series, who would it be?**

The same one, they made it perfect for me. I couldn't fit better for another character. In fact, I almost feel that I would like to change my name to Richard Montlaurd.

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

Definitely shooting this show "Ted Lasso". I will always remember this project; it was totally amazing, and I felt the project from the first to the last day. In a different way, my first trip to Asia was also a memorable experience in my career. It was very hard to live there but I learned so much about myself and life in general.

**Who has been the most interesting person(s) you've met so far?**

I have met so many interesting people in my life. Technically, everybody is interesting, you just need to get to know people a little deeper sometimes. It is very rare to meet someone and having nothing to learn about them or finding nothing interesting.

While working on the set of Ted Lasso, I spent a lot of time with almost everyone, cast, crew, production, they all had so many interesting things to share with me, thus I have so much from everyone, and shared endless laughs.

Everyone is interesting in the universe of cinema.

**How active are you on social media?**

I am not really active on social media, to be honest. I have lived the very emergence of social media, Facebook, Instagram, and all, it was pretty fun at the beginning but now, I kinda find their overuse dangerous. I share a little here and there, sometimes, the minimum I guess.

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

Ted Lasso again and again! (laughs)

The truth is, I don't have plans, I don't have a business plan for my life all written down with specific objectives like a company. I believe in the journey. We cannot plan everything I believe, otherwise, we all would all follow the exact same path. How could I have planned to be with Jason on Apple TV+ in Ted Lasso? I have "dreams", yes, "goals", yes but the word "plans" doesn't work for me! (laughs)

As a goal and dream: the USA. Having a roof to stay at in L.A. Working in Hollywood, but still feet on the ground always. This is definitely an experience I would like to live and a dream to achieve. My other goal was to work with an American production and cast, which is accomplished now thanks to Ted Lasso!





# RISING STAR SPOTLIGHT: INTRODUCING

# CYBIL LAKE

Tom Sizemore and Cybil Lake star together in the upcoming horror/thriller film *CENTRAL PARK DARK* (out this January), about a one-night stand that turns into a never-ending nightmare. Cybil is also the director of this mind-bending horror film that follows 'Thomas' (Sizemore), an alcoholic married doctor who has a one-night stand with 'Nina' (Cybil).

*CENTRAL PARK DARK* is a 'Fatal Attraction meets Blair Witch Project' set in Central Park. Cybil recast Central Park as a darker place of unknown forces. The picturesque parts of the park are displayed, but Cybil's film digs into the park's underbelly, the off-limits woods that might as well be in the middle of nowhere. This film illustrates how individuals can be completely isolated in a city of nine million people.

Tom Sizemore has established himself as an unforgettable tough-guy actor, sought by the most respected directors in Hollywood. His first break came when Oliver Stone cast him in *BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY* and *NATURAL BORN KILLERS*. Sizemore wowed audiences and critics in Michael Mann's crime thriller, *HEAT*. He was then cast in Martin Scorsese's *BRINGING OUT THE DEAD*, *RED PLANET*, *PEARL HARBOR*. He then starred in Steven Spielberg's WWII epic *SAVING PRIVATE RYAN* followed by another leading role in *BLACK HAWK DOWN* directed by Ridley Scott. Recently, he starred in "Shooter" on USA Network with Mark Wahlberg and the reboot of the TV series "Twin Peaks" directed by David Lynch.

Cybil Lake is an American actor and filmmaker who has significant experience in the TV and film world. Her TV credits include "The Black List" with James Spader on NBC, "The Following" with Kevin Bacon on Fox, and "Show Me a Hero" directed by Academy Award Winner Paul Haggis for HBO. She has written, directed, and acted in numerous shorts, including *An Echo Remains*, which she screened at the Cannes Film Festival. Cybil was selected by NBC for a new filmmaker's program, *The Screening Room* in 2010. She's a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she majored in film and acting.

FilmCentral Magazine recently caught up with Tom Sizemore and Cybil Lake and here's what went down:

**Can you tell us more about yourself? How did you get started in the entertainment industry?**

I've always had an equal love for writing and acting. I started writing very early and by four years old I knew I wanted to be an actor. I was the lead in the high school performances and I did these dramatic performances for the speech club which involved playing all the roles in a play. I went to Tisch School of the Arts and acted in all the other students' films and my own.

**What do you like most about acting?**

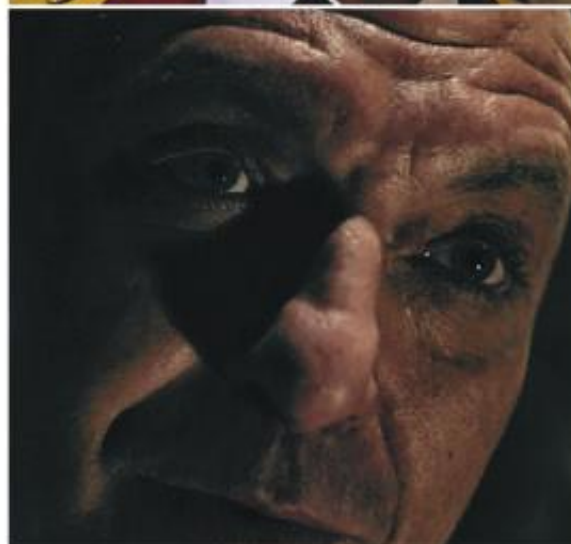
The spontaneity. The moment by moment freedom of expression. It's the most exhilarating and liberating feeling in the world.

**Can you tell us about your role in *Central Park Dark*?**

This role is multidimensional which was thrilling to play. It's probably the most complex role that I've ever played. On the surface, Anna is a thwarted lover seeking revenge. She suffers from unrequited love. But she is also possibly a witch/demon or mentally ill. She looks good on the outside but once she cracks, her trouble is deep. She speaks to her ancient ancestor, Sarah Mae from the 1850s, who appears to her near a fountain in Central Park. Also, she desperately wants to become a mother, despite her failings. It's hinted at that she's in fact homeless; she wakes up in the park where she brushes her teeth and hair. She's also an alcoholic, she's constantly drinking to escape her feelings and remain in her fantasy world.

**What sort of person is going to relate to this character?**

Most people can relate to the experience of unrequited love or being the person not picked. Also, most folks can identify with wanting something that's out of reach — in



Anna's case; that would be a child of her own and Tom. And maybe some audience members can understand Anna's obsession with Tom. Perhaps some of the audience has experienced obsession and feelings of revenge...specifically getting back at an ex-lover.

**How is this character like you? Different?**

I've suffered from a lot of unrequited love myself. Plus, I wanted a child of my own when I wrote the script so that was easy to relate to. Also, I'm a sober alcoholic so I know firsthand the endless drinking that Tom and Anna do. It's a vicious cycle that's nearly impossible to end. However, I'm not a witch or mentally ill. But I can relate to getting stuck on something or someone. I've been there and it's miserable.

**Besides yourself, what celebrity would you like to see tackle this character?**

Taraji P. Henson would be amazing.







**Besides yourself, which actor/s in this movie is going to blow people away?**

Of course the inimitable Tom Sizemore!

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

We had no time to prepare or rehearse. I was pregnant at the time and we needed to shoot asap because I was showing a little already. Of course, we ended up reshooting and I used my pregnancy for the new 'mythology' that I wrote. Directing and acting can be challenging. However, there were two absolutely giant challenges; we lost the production manager just before shooting so I was essentially doing that as well and that was far too much; micromanaging all sorts of minutiae on the set. For example, making sure that the props were in the same spot as the last shot. The second huge challenge was making sure that Tom, my co-lead, was feeling 'taken care of' and that he had what he needed.

**If you could play any other character in this series, who would it be?**

It would be fun to play the wife of Tom's character, particularly when she explodes because she finds out that he has been cheating.

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

Perhaps the first time I was on national TV – on the Blacklist with James Spader.

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

Tom Sizemore; he has many sides to his personality. Also, a fire swallowing extra on a tv show. I still can't believe someone would do that.

**How active are you on social media?**

I've been into Instagram these days. Less interested in Facebook. Years ago, I was all about Twitter. I am considering plunging into Tiktok soon. Maybe...

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

I have written several films, tv shows, and books. I want to get my work out there, produced. My two most recent projects are a tv show called, Bicoastal and a feature film called, White Lies and Dark Ones. Bicoastal is a fish-out-of-water dramedy about a New Yorker who moves to LA to become a talent agent while struggling to stay sober, reconnect with her husband, and find forgiveness. White Lies and Darker Ones: Nina, a mother who seeks revenge for her teenage daughter's death, instead uncovers her small town's darkest secrets, including those within her own marriage.

I want to make larger, projects of my own, and others. I'd love to be cast in some fantastic projects. I'd love to find an agent and/or manager, and producers who championed me and my work. Outside of my career, I have two toddler boys who rock my world every day.





# INTRODUCING *Sitara + Winston* VENGAPALLY

Exclusive interview with Winston and Sitara's mother and "momager," Meeta Vengapally.

Winston Vengapally is an up-and-coming actor as well as a comedian. He was recently seen in the movie: "Big Feat" as well as in the music video of "Be Legendary" as the lead singer's child version. He is currently represented by multiple agents and managers around the world.

Sitara Vengapally is a 12-year-old actress, and one of the most sponsored kids on social media. She recently booked a guest star appearance on a Netflix hit series (name under NDA) which is scheduled to shoot in a few weeks. She also starred on Netflix's "Magic for Humans" as well as in the movie: "Big Feat." Sitara is represented in several markets around the globe and she's also an Instagram star as well as a favourite to many famous brands. In fact, she has been sponsored by brands such as Chi Hair, Target, Shein, Pat Pat, Vtech, and many more.

FilmCentral Magazine recently did an exclusive interview with Winston and Sitara's mother and "momager" Meeta Vengapally and here's what went down:

**Can you tell us more about yourself? How did your kids get started in the entertainment industry?**

I am a businesswoman, influencer, writer, and I manage both of my kids; Winston and Sitara Vengapally. They actually got started by accident, I was invited to speak at a business panel at a convention center in a hotel and there was a Disney open call audition happening next door. I was there with my husband and both kids and we planned on spending the night there. As we checked into the hotel, the lady beside us happened to be a casting director and asked me if we were there for the Disney open call. I said no and told her we were there for the business convention. She said hello to the kids and wanted to know if they would like to attend the open call. Kids had a blast meeting everyone and with the entire experience. They caught the bug once they read the short script provided to them and wanted to explore the path. The rest is history.

**What do they enjoy most about acting?**

Their favorite is the experience of living the life of many different characters. In one project they are playing superheroes with special powers and in another, they are planning a mischievous escape from school. I think the variety of genres (comedy, drama, thriller) keeps their imaginations at their peak. As an actor, you never really know what role will get thrown at you and you just have to be ready for anything. This is one of the things I work with both kids on a daily basis, practicing and honing in on emotions including happiness, sorrow, angry, and how to cry on demand.

They also enjoy the journey wholeheartedly, they have met so many amazing people from famous A-list celebrities to famous producers and directors and then of course their fellow actors. They love to train together with their fellow actors.

**What are their weak points when it comes to acting? How do they try to improve them?**

I think one of the challenges for every actor is how to quickly change characters, as it requires an entire emotional shift and then finding that place where it feels true to be in the role. They work on this with their coach and by playing a wide range of roles. This is definitely a work in progress and with more experience they will improve their craft.

Photographed by: Alex Matt  
MUAH and Stylist: Daniel Cartagena  
Designer: Polo







#### What are their strong points as an actor?

Winston and Sitara both are quick learners and take directions very well. I say this based on the feedback they've received from the directors, producers that have worked with them on different projects. Another strong trait that I think is really amazing is that they tackle every role, character, project, without losing their natural instinct. There are choices that actors have to make at any given moment and I admire how Winston and Sitara allow their intuition to guide them vs. faking something they are not.

#### What have they learned from the directors and industry experts that you have worked with throughout your career?

They were only 9 and 10 when they got started in this business. I think the key takeaways they have learned at such an early age is that politeness, kindness, and working hard takes you far. They have heard countless stories from famous directors and other industry experts on how they got started and it has a humbling factor on them to learn that everyone starts at ground level. It is so easy to get discouraged and disappointed in this business like you have your heart set on a project, and you work your butt off but you don't book. One thing both kids have heard repeatedly from everyone they've had the honor

to work with or meet in their journey is to keep going and not give up.

#### What are some of the difficulties of the acting business?

The biggest challenge of this business is that you can't get your hopes up on any project. I continue to train my kids to put in their 1000% effort in each audition and as soon as that audition is over, forget about it. It is so easy to get tied up in thinking if you did well or not or if there was just feedback that can be provided. Unfortunately, in this industry, no news is bad news. You only hear back from casting or producers if they liked what they saw. However, in our case, these kids stay extremely busy. They sometimes get multiple auditions daily so it keeps them going. For us, the challenge is the juggling act, which I guess is a good problem to have.

#### What's challenging about bringing a script to life?

For my kids, it is almost always finding a link/bridge to their personal life in one way or the other. Most of the time the scripts are relatable but occasionally they'll get something completely out of the blue like the character is an orphan living in an orphanage and the script is surrounding those emotions. In such cases, what's helped them is to create a story in their

Photographed by: Alex Matt  
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personal life about something/someone similar and living through that. It always helps when they can visualize the character in real life and then work backward if you know what I mean.

**What do they do when they are not on set?**

These guys are always filming, seriously. They each have so much filming equipment at home. They are also Top Video Creators on IGTV, so they make content for Instagram regularly as well, including sponsored content. Aside from that, they both love to play competitive sports. Winston plays in a Basketball competition and Sitara is in a Soccer competition. When not on set, they are with their teams practicing and playing games. They also love to play with their friends (who they see occasionally, depending on their schedule). Biking, gaming, and just hanging out on the front porch with their pals is still a fav for both.

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

The most memorable experience is definitely their first big booking. For Winston, it was a show for Comedy Central, and for Sitara, it was her project for a Netflix series. Winston met some amazing actors on set and they are good friends since then. For Sitara, it's also the people she met but also the amazing wardrobe, jewelry, make-up, etc. She enjoyed every bit of it all.

**How do you help your children plan for the future? Inside their acting career or out of it.**

I love this question. The way I see their acting endeavor is equivalent to any sports kids play. The only difference is that they are working in this industry vs. if it were any other industry they don't work till they are adults. I see it as they can get bored of this any day. Because they are in business and are learning what commitment, building relationships, and hard work look like I think it's vital for them to receive ongoing training to stay solid. I have a simple strategy in place that I use with them daily. Each time they receive an audition, I offer them an out. This helps remove the pressure like feeling where they feel like that's too much work and it also provides a reality check. It places the responsibility of all the work required to put onto them but also makes them think hard and reevaluate their commitment and intentions. Mind you, getting an audition is only half the equation, there is an insane amount of effort and work that goes into executing it successfully. By offering them an out it becomes evident how much their heart is into it. I have to say, I get stronger and more genuine performances since I started doing this.



Photographed by: Alex Matt  
MUAH and Stylist: Daniel Cartagena  
Designer: Polo







## AN INSIDE LOOK AT JOHNNY DEPP'S FRENCH VILLAGE

Johnny Depp appears to be ready to relist his stunning French village estate. According to a recent news report, Depp will be putting the village back on the market at \$55.5 million. Depp had listed the village in 2015 and 2016 at various prices from \$27 million to \$63 million, but it did not sell.

In 2001 at the height of his *Pirates of the Caribbean* films franchise, Depp purchased the abandoned, 19th-century Provençal village located only 17 miles from the celebrity hot spot of Saint-Tropez. Depp then spent millions of dollars renovating the buildings during his 14-year relationship with French-actress-and-singer Vanessa Paradis. Turning the property into an idyllic place to live, the couple enjoyed the estate and local surroundings until their relationship began going downhill, leading to their permanent separation.

Depp's village includes the main house, six guest homes (one was the original village church), a private restaurant *Chez Marceline*, a covered wagon with bath and kitchen, and an art studio. Together, the living space is 12,900 square feet with 15 bedrooms and 14 bathrooms. Depp has spent over \$10 million in preserving the stone-and-wood-beamed structures without destroying their original features. Grounds include two swimming pools, a charming town square with lush landscaping and outdoor dining, a skate park, a full gym, and a wine cave. Grounds are dotted with 300-year-old oaks, olive trees, and vineyards.

Depp has been the owner of several unusual properties over the years including a collection of penthouses in downtown Los Angeles, a 45-acre private island in the Bahamas, and a horse farm in Kentucky that he purchased twice.

Saint-Tropez became popular with the jet-set crowd in the 1950s when Brigitte Bardot arrived to film *And God Created Woman* and never left. Many celebrities followed Bardot's footsteps, including Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Moss, Beyoncé and Jay-Z, Elton John, and all the major clothing designers, making it one of the most popular vacation towns on the French Riviera.

Photo Credit: Gibson Sotheby's | Source: TopTenRealEstateDeals.com





# TOP TEN Netflix

## GEMS TO BINGE THIS WEEKEND

With every month, new content comes and new content goes but let's not focus on the bad news shall we? We have plenty of that going around these days. It's always a fun surprise to see what new content is shuffling on each month and with everyone being indoors longer and watching even more streaming content, here are the top 10 best new cinematic and television treats on Netflix; just waiting for you to binge them:

**1. A Whisker Away:** A new anime film that features everything the world loves; colorful animation, whimsical fantasy for audiences of all ages, and cute cats.

**2. Batman: Mask of the Phantasm:** this animated cult classic film depicts Kevin Conroy and Mark Hamill in a feature-length film based on the highly popular "Batman the animated series."

**3. Spaceballs:** a Mel Brooks classic comedy parodying Star Wars is back to bring back some golden perfect comedy for your viewing pleasure.

**4. Unsolved Mysteries:** a new NETFLIX documentary series based on the classic TV series to uncover new mysteries for a modern age.

**5. Warrior Nun:** a new NETFLIX original movie that is as ridiculous and wildly bizarre as the title sounds. It's exactly what it sounds like.

**6. JU-ON Origins:** this new NETFLIX series is based on the original Japanese horror film/American remake film; detailing the origins of this iconic haunted house/figure.

**7. The Twelve:** this NETFLIX series follows Twelve ordinary people called for jury duty for a murder case in which a woman stands trial for killing her own blood.

**8. The Old Guard:** a NETFLIX film starring Charlize Theron and Chiwetel Ejiofor, two warriors in a team of immortals who discover a new immortal threatens their existence.

**9. The Business of Drugs:** a NETFLIX documentary series detailing the business, operations, and overall functional impact of drugs in society.

**10. Down to Earth with Zac Efron:** a new NETFLIX travel show where actor Zac Efron journeys around the world with wellness expert Darin Olien in search of healthy, sustainable ways to live.



# NETFLIX





# Danni Shepherd

## ACTRESS ON THE RISE

Danni Shepherd is a freelance model and actress who hails from West Yorkshire in England. She has been working in the acting/film industry for 12 years and she has been modelling since 2016. She's currently being represented by the agency Y2K Promotions based in Nottingham and she has recently starred in a feature film called *Flower Boy* on Amazon Prime as well as gotten featured in a small role for a comedy sit-com "Keeping Wood" on Amazon Prime as well.

FilmCentral Magazine recently caught up with Danni to discuss her journey in the entertainment industry and here's what went down:

### What do you like most about acting?

I have always wanted to become an actress since such a young age. I love the escapism of becoming someone else. I find it so fulfilling and it's something I felt I have always needed to do. I have studied acting over the years but I am mainly self-taught at the moment (due to the lockdown) and I am finding the time during this pandemic to focus more on my craft and practice as many self-tapes/characters/accents as I can. As well as the escapism, I love meeting new people within the industry and creating those lifetime bonds with them. There's something really beautiful about that.

### How different is it to act in a movie and to act in a TV series? And which one do you prefer?

They're not much different in my personal opinion. I find them equally as significant but I find more with a tv show, you have more to play around with. Such as character development, understanding the journey of that character throughout the course of the seasons, where is the plot going to take you next, etc.... I find with films, you have an endpoint so you have something to focus your energy on, that end goal. They're both equally fun for me from experience but I have to say, I have done a lot more films so I have much more excitement with that.

### What are your weak points when it comes to acting? How do you try to improve them?

I find my weaknesses are mainly stemmed from self-doubt. I have struggled for years on and off with my confidence, almost on the verge of quitting it has been that bad at times. I know I would never quit this industry, I have come too far to go back. However, I just find that sometimes as an actor, you portray a character a certain way then when it comes to rewatching what you have created on screen, you pick out faults within that role you could have done better. I think every single actor goes through this. To say I am a model as well, I struggle with my appearance and rewatching myself because of that. There are so many insecurities at times that I have to keep reminding myself how I am feeling is normal. Everybody goes through it and experiences that self-doubt.

### What are your strong points as an actor?

My strongest points as an actor are that I push myself to my limit with every single role I portray. Whether that's a victim, a girl next door, a comical role, etc. I always push myself and really get into the mindset of that character. Sometimes it can be difficult to do but with tonnes of practice, tonnes of patience, I always come out on top which is the main thing. Another strong point as an actor are accents. I love vocal/voice work and I have always found this one of my strongest assets; most accents I have been trained in, I originally learned myself which can't always be easy. Like I said earlier, I love a challenge and I always push myself further.

### What have you learned from the directors that you have worked with throughout your career?

So much! They have all been really different to work with, that's another reason I love this industry. You are constantly learning new things, meeting new people, and gaining more and more knowledge. Most of them have reassured me a lot of the time that I am doing really well and I need to stop questioning my talent. Sometimes it's easier said than done but it really helps to have that push. You learn so much about method acting, so much about realism when you are in front of the camera; the industry is just an ongoing education. It's amazing.



**What are some of the difficulties of the acting business?**

The reality of the acting business is quite harsh, you will get knockbacks and it will be hurtful at times when you know you have done all you can for that audition/role. However, you have to look at it as a positive. When one door closes, another one opens. There are always things out there for you but you can't give up. The whole fun of this industry is the practice, is the knockbacks so you can further better yourself. That's what keeps teaching you to become better at what you do.

**What's challenging about bringing a script to life?**

I find a lot of the difficulties of bringing the script to life are being present within that character when you have never experienced a situation they have. Understanding those emotions, those thought processes, those real-life situations. It can be challenging but it is also very doable when you really place yourself in that mindset. Your mind is such a powerful tool, you can convince yourself to do absolutely anything if you wanted to (except turn into a dog, we aren't THAT advanced). But you really have that power to do something beautiful with that role. Some of the challenges this industry makes you face are some of our greatest blessings.

**What do you do when you're not filming?**

I usually do a lot of freelance modelling in my spare time when I'm not filming. I am a worker at heart. There is no stop button on me (laughs). I also like to spend as much time as I can in nature, going for walks, exercise, meditating, and socializing with friends, exploring new things. I work full time as well on top of everything I do, I just like to keep busy. I don't know what a rest day is.

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

I have starred in two productions which are now on Amazon Prime. That for me is a huge success and both productions have been put on Amazon Prime in the same year... so it just goes to show that you can do anything you set your mind to. I have been extremely lucky to have worked with the directors/crew that I have worked with. They really are striving to be the success they deserve; there is no stopping them. I find surrounding myself with individuals like them really enhances my game. It makes me want to push myself more which is a good thing.

**If someone is going to make your life into a movie, who would play you?**

100% Mila Kunis. She is just as crazy as me and I reckon she would nail my character/persona! (She's way cooler than me but a girl can dream right?).

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

Travel, travel, travel! Travelling on the job is a massive aim of mine. I am already ready and set to go to Canada this summer to do some acting in a Summer Camp. That's just one exciting thing on my bucket list, there are plenty more but I am hoping one day I can start a full film acting career ahead over there (if life is on my side). But until then, I am just gonna keep riding my way up.

