

STAR CENTRAL

MARCH 2023

COVER STORY:

AKMAL

amid

MEET ONE OF THE
RISING STARS TO
WATCH OUT FOR

AACTA AWARDS
CHECK OUT THE RED
CARPET HIGHLIGHTS
FROM THE AACTA
(THE AUSTRALIAN
ACADEMY OF CINEMA
AND TELEVISION
ARTS) AWARDS 2022



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Cover

Akmal Omid

Find out more about one of the rising stars to watch out for in 2023



Photo Credit: Tony Palliser

OPENING REMARKS



As the managing director of StarCentral Magazine, I am responsible for building and maintaining a culture that supports our team in their quest to provide quality information to our readers. This is particularly important during turbulent times like we are now in. We hope our publication is making a positive difference in the lives of our readers, and I'm also hoping to get some feedback from you, our readers. We affectionately refer to our team as a "group of friends working together" making a positive difference in the lives of others. Please take some time to get to know our team, especially at our following events. I know you will be happy you did. I may sound biased, but I believe our team is quite simply "the best."

Mike Ilagan
 Managing Director



Photo Credit: Tony Palliser

20 **Paige Tonkin**
 Find out more about one of the models to watch out for in 2023

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Marguerite Assaf Pg. 30



ONE

TV ONE AUSTRALIA

EDITOR'S NOTES

Seventeen years ago we began asking locals to share their stories. Some made us smile, some actually shocked us, and others inspired us. But almost every single time, one story has led us to another. Thank you for your readership and for following us throughout the years. One thing is for sure - everyone has a story and their journey to follow.

We feature our Cover ModelQuest winners, Paige Tonkin and Akmal Omid, on the cover of our latest issue. We also feature our other winners, Taylor Gonzalez, Peter Hanna, Tariq Muhammed, and Marguerite Assaf.

This month, we also highlight the 2022 AACTA Awards. Held annually in Sydney to recognize and celebrate Australia's highest achievements in film and television. We also feature some highlights from the 2022 FOMA runway show and some red carpet highlights from the 2022 ARIA (The Australian Recording Industry Association Music) Awards.

I hope your new year shines bright like a diamond in whatever way creates peace and prosperity for you and your loved ones. God bless.

Victoria Cruz
Editor-in-chief

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Tariq Muhammed Pg. 31



Meet the 2022



Rachelle



Taylor



Helin



Paige



Margeriville



Maddy



Hallie

Covergirls



Abbas



Peter

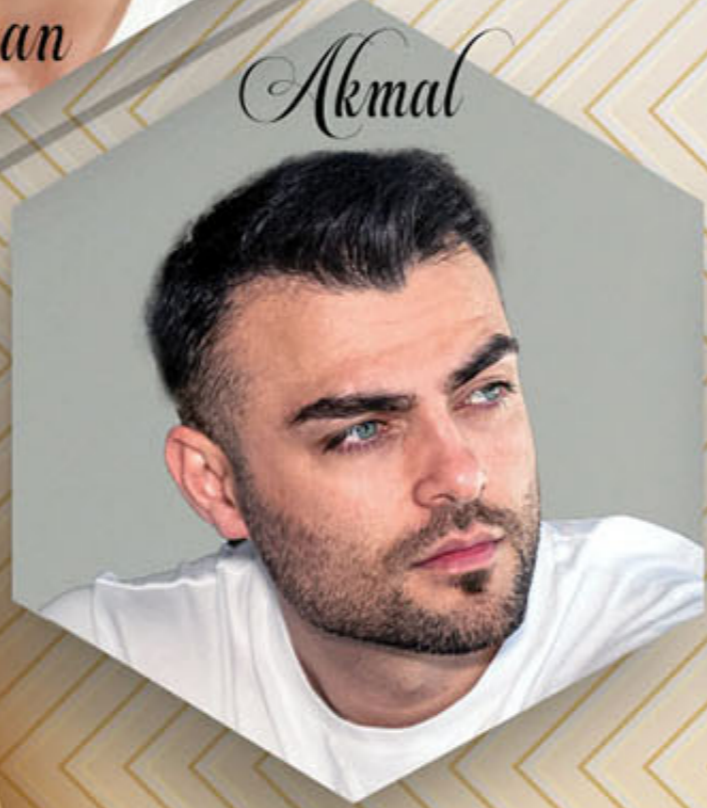


Kaan

MEET THE 2022
Coverguys



Seatt



Akmal



Tariq



The biggest names in the Australian music industry recently gathered at Sydney's Hardern Pavilion to celebrate the 2022 ARIA Awards. After several COVID-affected events over the past two years, finally, the 2022 ARIA Awards became the first "normal" ceremony in a long time.

The 2022 ARIA Awards paid tribute to those we lost this year, especially to the three titans of Australia's music industry, such as Archie Roach, Judith Durham, and Olivia Newton-John. That said, Yolngu artist Baker Boy was the star of the night, winning in five categories — Best Solo Artist, Album of the Year, Best Hip Hop/Rap Release, Best Cover Art (by artist Adnate), and Best Mixed Album (by Pip Norman, Andrei Eremin, Dave Hammer and Michael O'Connell).



ARIA AWARDS 2022



ARIA



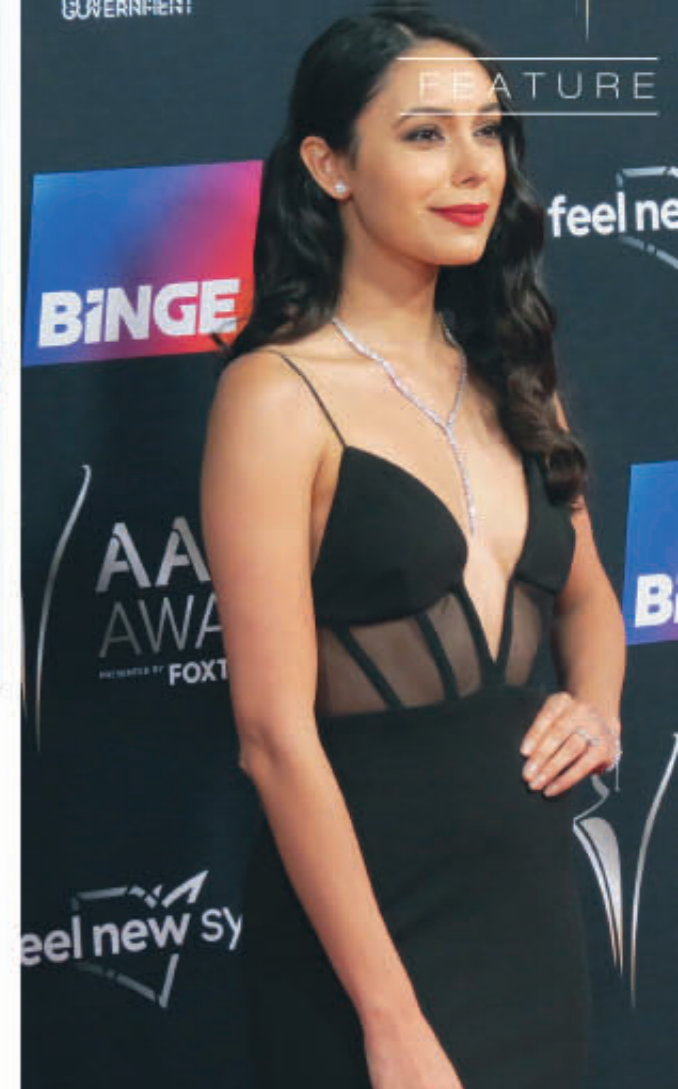


The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards 2022

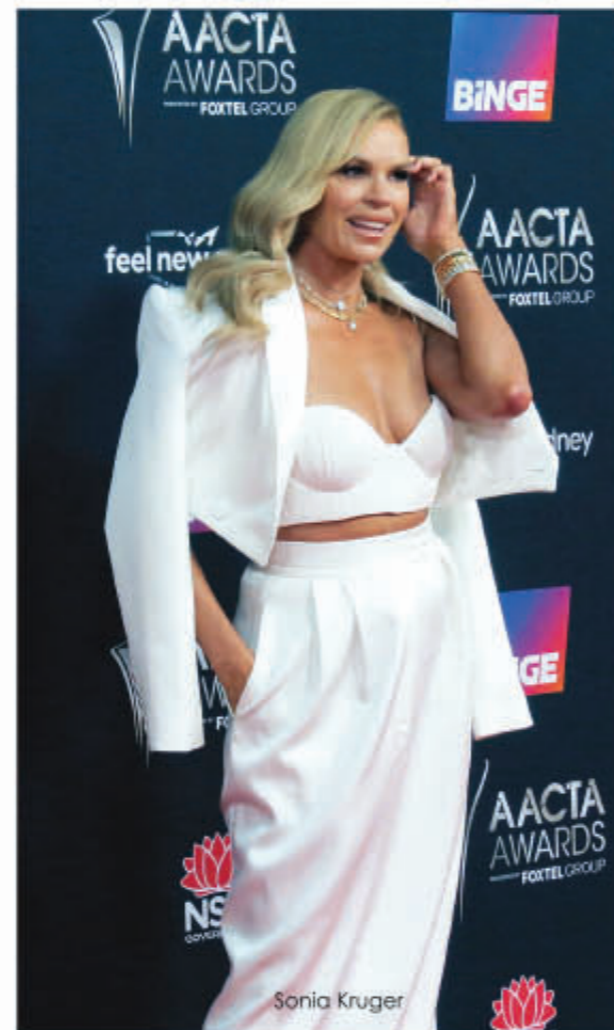


Sooshi Mango

The red carpet was rolled out in Sydney's Hordern Pavilion 5th December 2022 at 6:30 pm AEDT as the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards held its official ceremony for 2022. The cream of the crop in the Australian Entertainment industry attended Australia's night of nights as the who's who of show business gathered to celebrate the best in TV and cinema.



Elsa Pataky and Chris Hemsworth



Sonia Kruger



The cast of Preppers



Leah Purcell accepting Best Lead Actress



Elvis cast and crew

Baz Luhrmann's *Elvis*, starring Austin Butler as the King of Rock 'n' Roll and Olivia DeJonge as Priscilla Presley was the star of the night as it swept the awards categories, taking home a whopping 11 trophies, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Lead Actor, and Best Supporting Actress.



Spankie Jackzo, Hannah Conda and Kween Kong



The cast of MasterChef Australia



Mystery Road: Origin cast



The StarCentral crew



Olivia DeJonge

The fabulous stars of the Australian film industry were on the red carpet for the 2022 AACTA Awards.



Brooke Satchwell accepting Best Supporting Actress in a Drama



The Twelve cast



Heartbreak High cast



FOMA 2022

FABRICS OF MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

Fabrics of Multicultural Australia (FOMA) is a sustainable platform that stimulates economic growth for the creative sector and generates bilateral trading opportunities while fostering social cohesion. It works in conjunction with Foreign Governments and their Trade Commissions based in Australia. Enabling them to leverage visual arts, textile design, and visual storytelling as a conduit for bringing together and sharing unique cultural perspectives in a way that visually depicts Australia's uniquely diverse identity to the globe.

Stemming from our nation's diverse landscape are a myriad of unique stories, perspectives, customs, and social identities, all of which function harmoniously to position multiculturalism as one of Australia's greatest strengths. FOMA continues to leverage the influence of our creative sectors across a variety of mediums, showcasing to a global audience the interweaving threads that collectively form the unique identity of contemporary Australia from an economic and cultural perspective.

FOMA annually presents an exciting line up of initiatives that comprise of activations, panel discussions, cultural exhibits and runway shows in collaboration with Foreign governments and Cultural Institutions.

Photo Credit: Victor Hawk



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Paige Tonkin is a motivated, bubbly, and caring model/actress who has always been fascinated by watching beautiful models and actors on television and has dreamed of making a name for herself one day.

It was at the age of 14 when her dream was kick-started, and she was scouted and taken to Las Vegas for a talent and runway show. This fantastic experience made Paige fall in love with the industry and made her even more determined to succeed.

Paige was StarCentral Magazine's CoverGirl winner in 2022 and is currently the reigning Miss Oceania Regency International 2023. When she isn't working the camera or the runway, you will find her coaching Aerial Silks, Aerial Lyra, and Women's Artistic Gymnastics at the local gym.

StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Paige and here's what went down:

How did you get into the modelling industry?

I was 14 years old when I was introduced to the modelling industry. I actually found an audition online for acting, so I showed my parents and asked them if I could go and audition. After having a read, they agreed to take me, so we submitted all the forms. I learned the monologue they sent me, and off we went.

We didn't realize that the company was a U.S. Talent Scouting Agency, and that the two scouts were well-known actors and models. I was initially there to audition for acting, but they both encouraged me to audition as a model. So I did, and I made it through and was off to Las Vegas to take part in IPOP, where I learned so much, met a lot of industry professionals, made a heap of friends, and completely fell in love with the industry.

What do you like most about being a model?

I honestly love everything about being a model, from modelling beautiful designer creations to the adrenaline and excitement of the runway and all the fun and amazing locations of photo-shoots. But if I had to choose one, it would have to be the fantastic people I get to meet and work with. I get to make new friends every time I go to work.

Downside to being a model?

There are not many downsides to being a model, but I would have to say I am not the biggest fan of having to get into the water on a cold winter's morning or the super early 4 am starts every now and then, as I do like my beauty sleep. In saying that, once I am up and going, I am pumped for the day, and nothing can stop me.

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

Wow, this is really a tough one, as I have gotten to be a part of so many incredible experiences, and I cherish every one of them. I honestly don't think I can narrow it down to just one, so here are a few that definitely stand out - modelling at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, modelling at the Multicultural Fashion Festival and Global Elite Fashion Festival, modelling at The Versace Penthouse, being awarded the Global Elite Model of the Year and the GEQ Teen Queen of the Year and being named the GEQ Cover Model at the recent Australian Golden Sash Awards and the Global Elite International Awards. And, of course, winning StarCentral Magazine's Cover Model Quest 2022 and winning the title of Miss Teen Australia Regency International 2022 at the National Australian Miss Pageant and traveling to Las Vegas with Team Australia to represent my beautiful country.

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

Again, this one is tough, as I have been lucky enough to meet so many amazing and interesting people worldwide. I have had the privilege to meet and work with many amazing photographers, videographers, actors, stylists, HMU Artists, models, and designers. But to name a few, I would have to say the incredible designers Oogi Flower, Lisa Swinbanks, Fal Penny, Tommy Ge, Tammi Parvez, Dee Mukherjee, and Trendy B are all amazing and were all so lovely. I feel so honoured to have been chosen to wear their beautiful creations. Then there is the incredible Bridget Foster (who starred in CSI Miami) and Mark Carroll (Abercrombie & Fitch Model), who encouraged me and scouted me for Las Vegas when I was 14. And lastly, I cannot forget the amazing Sue Turner from Global Elite Media Group and Mike Ilgan from StarCentral Magazine, who have shown me so much support and encouragement.

Photo Credit: Tony Palliser

ALL HAIL
PAIGE
TONKIN

StarCentral
MAGAZINE



What has been the most valuable lesson you've learned while in the modelling industry?

The most valuable lesson I have learned from the industry and something that I live by every day is that confidence is key. You can achieve anything and get to wherever you want to be, if you hold your head high and believe in yourself. DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE.

The other most valuable lesson I have learned is to always know who you are working with, as your safety and integrity always need to come first.

Is your family supportive of you being a model?

My family is definitely my biggest support system, and I would not be where I am today without them. My Mum is always right by my side. She has been there to drive me here, there, and everywhere, helping me with my hair and helping me pack for a modelling job when I need a hand, and always ensuring I have everything I could possibly need. My Dad is always standing there with a coffee in hand when I am up for a big day of shooting, ready to help carry everything to the car, and he even comes along to shoots when he is not working. And, of course, my sister, who is always lending me half her wardrobe, makeup, and more (laughs). My family is beyond supportive. They are always at every event I am modeling and cheering me on from the side. I am seriously the luckiest girl in the world to have such a supportive family.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

One of the best pieces of advice I have been given since I was a young child was always to treat others the way you wish to be treated. This is something that I will carry with me throughout my life. It costs nothing to be respectful, kind, and compassionate.

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

I have always had big plans to make acting and modelling my full-time career and one day be cast in a big-budget feature film and walk on catwalks worldwide. So now that I have completed my HSC, I am even more determined than ever to kick my dreams into high gear.

Photo Credit: Tony Palliser

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Photo Credit: Tony Palliser



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Akmal Omid is an experienced model and actor based in Sydney, Australia, with over eight years of experience in acting and modeling.

Akmal has worked on several fashion and lifestyle campaigns, including high-profile brands such as Nestle, HB perfume, AZIZI Bank, and Telstra. He has also worked as a runway model for Rocky Gathercole's fashion show, Polo De' Marco Magazine, and Love on the lawn Bridal runway.

StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Akmal to discuss his journey in the modeling industry, and here's what went down:

How did you get into the modeling industry?

I was shopping for clothes one day when someone approached me and asked if I was interested in modelling. I did a perfume ad with him, which went really well. From there, I started doing other test shoots and building my portfolio more and more until I was able to grow and eventually work with many big brands.

What do you like the most about being a model?

I'm very interested in fashion, so being around it and included in magazines and photoshoots is really fun. I'm often the first to wear nice shoes, clothes, and accessories and be invited to fancy events. I also like the interesting people you meet, many of which are famous and internationally recognized.

Downside of being a model?

As with anything, sacrifices need to be made if you want to be successful. Constantly maintaining the look through diet, exercise, haircuts, and so on can be a pain sometimes. Also, the irregular working hours can make it hard, as well as knowing that eventually, my career will end and not last forever.

What has been the most memorable experience of being in modeling industry so far?

The best experience I've had so far was walking for Rocky Gathercole, the Avant Garde show in Sydney. That was the first time I had walked in a real high fashion show like that with supermodels. I felt like I belonged there. I have yet to walk for my

favorite high fashion brands, but having the opportunity to walk among supermodels was still a massive accomplishment for me.

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

One of the advantages of being a model is meeting lots of interesting people, such as photographers, models, and fashion designers. If I name them all, there will be a whole page of names, but one of the most interesting and inspiring was Rocky Gathercole, the Avant Garde fashion designer.

What has been the most valuable lesson you've learned?

The importance of self-belief and not doubting yourself. It is the most important underlying factor in everything that you do. If you doubt and don't believe in yourself, it will ruin your chances of success.

Is your family supportive of you being a model?

They were unsure in the beginning, but once they saw my potential and that I was doing well, they started to believe in me more, and now they are very supportive and encourage me to do more of it.

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

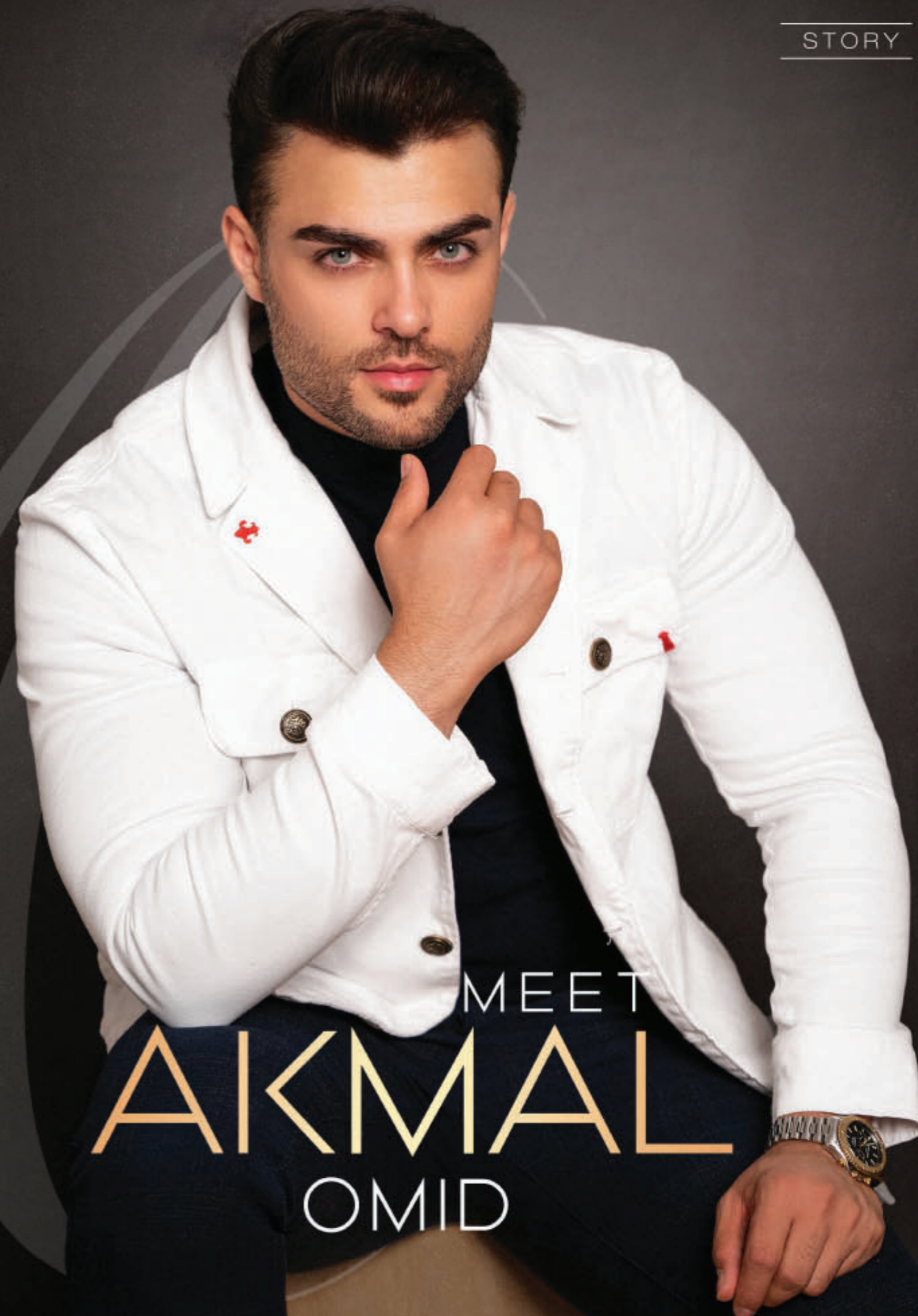
Everything happens for a reason, so I would do everything the same, and if I had done something differently, I wouldn't be where I am now.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." Someone I met through modelling gave me that advice. It's a work strategy. It means that we have to be better than we were previously and learn from our mistakes, be in the moment and do what you can now, and always strive to be better in the future.

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

Growing personally and living a happy and healthy life, as well as starting my own clothing brand, which will allow me to travel the world and be financially free.



MEET
AKMAL
OMID

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Photo Credit: Tony Palliser

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Photo Credit: Tony Palliser



Marguerite is an ambitious and fun-loving person. She is an aspiring actress and has played lead roles in several short films. Marguerite is a youth worker and loves helping young people in need. Her hobbies include watching movies, going to the beach, cooking, and hanging out with friends. She also loves singing and occasionally does some modelling.

Photo Credit: Tony Palliser



Marguerite Assaf



Photo Credit: Jay B. Gaerlan

Tariq Muhammed



With his positive attitude, Tariq Muhammed was chosen to compete in the Mr. Culture World International 2019 pageant in Vietnam – he represented the Australian culture as an immigrant living in Australia. He was eventually awarded the 2nd Runner-up title. Tariq is a fashion model with experience walking runways for local and international designers as well as charity and fundraising shows. Besides being a model, he also has a master's in business (international business and marketing) from Charles Sturt University, Sydney.

Taylor is an outgoing person with a wild sense of humour - she's the elder twin sister to Toni. She finished HSC in 2022 and starting university at Macquarie in 2023. She wants a digital marketing career and hopes to be a successful model someday. She loves to eat, travel and have fun hanging out with her eldest sister Terence. Taylor loves her dog ChewBee; she loves to swim, get her tan on the beach, and jump off the cliff edge at Coogee beach. She is also an artist - she paints and even painted her mother's bag with her favourite Disney character. Taylor has a very generous heart and is a very thoughtful friend; she has a bright future ahead of her.



Photo Credit: Tony Palliser

Taylor Ganzalez

Photo Credit: Tony Palliser



Peter Hanna

Peter loves to be involved in anything to do with the arts. Whether it's in singing, acting, or dancing, he has been modelling for the last 12 years and intends to keep going with it. In the period he has done modelling, he has won several awards. In 2017, he won the award for the most promising male model. In 2022, he increased his status and won three awards: Social Media Star, People's Choice Online, and overall Second Runner Up.

In other ventures, Peter has entered the likes of Australian Idol, Popstars I, The X-Factor, and The Voice. In acting, he went to Los Angeles in 2013 to catch a break and audition for the best agencies there.

"I like to try my hand in the Arts as I've always had a keen interest and love to entertain people. It's just in my nature to do this". He says cheerfully.

"Don't look at age in stopping you!"

He looks at modelling as a motivation to keep disciplined with his fitness and to promote a healthy life, no matter what kind of work you do.

"Keeping fit is important to me. I believe in longevity and living a full life, with the right food and the odd treat, so you don't stop living".

Behind the scenes, Peter loves to photograph people and bring the best out in them. He says models do get nervous at first, especially first-time ones, but they always blow it out of the water and so well. The photos speak for themselves.

"I love making my models feel confident with and without clothes. Trust is key, as it shows in the photos".

Peter's next goal is to be on the cover of a magazine. Watch this space! You can see Peter's work on Instagram: @peterhannaphotography and his personal page @petes_inst.



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04 September 2022



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