

'Siberia' & New 'RHOBH' Star Joyce Giraud Says Her Husband Is "Exactly the Type of Man I Dreamed Of As a Little Girl – My Prince!"



By Gabriela Robles

NBC's new scripted supernatural drama series *Siberia* is a show where 16 reality show contestants must survive the Siberian winter in hopes of winning 500,000 dollars. When things start to go wrong and they realize that they didn't sign up for this sort of danger, the contestants must join together in an attempt to survive what lurks in their settlement. One of the

stars of the series, Joyce Giraud, explains, "It's a mix of *Lost* and *Survivor* but entirely different than both of them. It feels like reality television, but you get really invested in the drama because it's a scripted show."

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The former model plays a bartender from Columbia named Carolina and gives us a peek into her character's psyche, saying, "Her family was brutally murdered, and the only person she has left is her uncle who's done everything for her. He's in desperate need of an operation, and she's willing to do whatever it takes to win the money."

Luckily, Giraud's family life is more picturesque than that of Carolina. She's been happily married to Michael Ohoven, the executive producer of *Siberia*, for over a decade. Surprisingly, working together is something new for the couple. "I always wanted to do my own thing because I'm a very independent woman, but *Siberia* was the perfect role."

This celebrity couple were made for each other. They have an adorable love story to thank for their strong marriage: a mutual friend had given Giraud's number to Ohoven against her wishes. The actress avoided seeing him for three months until he tricked her into a date. "I thought he was in Germany, so I told him I was going to order in and stay home. I still remember what he said: 'Perfect, then I'll pick you up at 8.'" Giraud thought she'd turn him off by dressing in baggy clothing and wearing no makeup but was soon surprised with how she felt when he picked her up. "When I saw him, I felt like I had known him forever. He was exactly the type of man I dreamed of as a little girl – my prince!"

In addition to their romantic meeting, the success of this married pair, who have two sons, is based off of the bond that

they share. “My husband is my best friend, and I’d rather spend my time with him than with anybody else,” the Puerto Rican native shares. “It’s important to respect each other, to always think of how to make each other happy and to allow your partner to live the life they want. You need to support each other’s dreams and go through life knowing you can always count on each other.”

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Siberia isn’t the only thing that this actress has on her plate right now. A world-renowned beauty pageant queen, Giraud created the Queen of the Universe pageant in 2012. The competition is open to anyone – married or single – and holds a charitable alliance with United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organization. It’s no surprise, then, that this former pageant star has many beauty tricks up her sleeve, one of which she shared with us: “One of my favorite at-home remedies is an avocado mask that my grandma taught me how to make – it makes my hair very shiny!”

Giraud’s already-busy career is continuing to bloom. She is currently in preproduction of a film that is to shoot later this year. Plus, after many months of rumors, it was recently confirmed that she’s going to be the newest cast member for Bravo’s hit reality show *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. The brunette beauty was caught at LAX with the other *RHOBH* ladies waiting to board a flight to Puerto Rico. Moreover, a source close to the starlet told *E! Online* that she’s already sided with Kyle Richards in the ongoing drama between Richards and Lisa Vanderpump.

We can’t wait to see how Giraud shakes up the set of *RHOBH* and what else she has in store for her fans!

To connect more with Joyce Giraud, follow her on www.facebook.com/therealjoycegiraud/ and Twitter @joycegiraud, and check out her character Carolina’s bio on

NBC. Be sure to catch Siberia this Monday at 10/9c on NBC!

EXCLUSIVE: Designer Christy Biebrich from 'Brother vs. Brother' Says, "Laughter Is The Secret to a Healthy Everything!"



By Sarah Ribeiro

HGTV's hottest new show *Brother vs. Brother* takes John and Drew Scott, stars of the hit series *Property Brothers*, and pins them against each other in a sibling rivalry of design and ingenuity. Interior designer Christy Biebrich, an organizing specialist, joined Drew's team for the ultimate renovation showdown – a task she was more than ready to face and knew how to overcome. “The biggest challenges were the time constraints,” she reveals. “We were doing massive renovations in timeframes as low as 48 hours. There were value-increasing choices that could not be completed simply due to time, so it definitely required strategic thinking.” Despite her prowess in design, she was unfortunately sent home on Sunday night's episode.

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As the owner of Christy B. Designs, she has years of experience in interior design, which helped her make quick and efficient decisions on the show. As a self-proclaimed addict to improvement, the skills she offered her team come second nature to her. In fact, the designer has been renovating since she was a child. “From the time I was little, I was always looking around me and visualizing how I would improve spaces – from my room to my treehouse. I even had a renovation laid out in my head for the barn on our family farm!”

Though it is sad that she was ousted on *Brother vs. Brother*, the talented designer now has more time to focus on her personal life. Biebrich is tapping even further into her love for design with her upcoming wedding – and it hasn't been as easy as one would expect. “People think that, because of my line of work, I would be like a fish in water with wedding planning – not so!” she says with a laugh. “I've been happy to have others helping me through this process because it's very overwhelming. It's how I imagine people must feel when they come to me with a renovation or redesign project – they're out

of their element, and they need me to walk them through the process, to make it easy, make it fun and make their vision come to life.”

And, of course, the West Hollywood native is implementing her design aesthetic into her big day. “I love Art Deco, and we have several subtle hints to that style in our décor,” says Biebrich. “Our centerpieces are very sculptural and architectural, and I like that they feel more like modern art than a bouquet of flowers. My wedding dress and my bridesmaids’ dresses are very simple, elegant and contemporary. There’s not a lot of frills, and I like it that way.”

Most importantly, Biebrich’s fiancé has been helping her throughout the planning process. She even admits that he has the stronger opinions and vision on the ceremony – a real role reversal. Then again, they’ve always had an interesting relationship. “We met on Match.com, but it wasn’t your typical online dating story,” she shares. “I wrote him a critique of his profile because I thought he had the worst headline I had ever seen. Remarkably, his ego was not bruised, and he didn’t care what I wrote. He thought I was cute and asked me out! He caught me off guard; I said yes; and we started seeing each other.”

Biebrich credits her fiancé’s dependability, kindness and good heart for their successful relationship. “We get along so well because we are very silly,” she says. “Laughter is the secret to a healthy everything! Neither of us take ourselves very seriously, so there’s no butting heads or arguing. And the biggest thing is that we don’t bring our work problems home with us or take our frustrations out on each other. We remain grateful, appreciative and respectful of each other and try not to take each other for granted.”

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Once the wedding is over, the designer will face yet another challenge: moving in with her new husband. She believes that all couples should take each others' design styles into account once they share a home. "I'd be completely unrealistic if I thought that I wouldn't have to consider my fiancé's likes and dislikes when it comes to design in our home. I like to think of it as an opportunity to expose myself to style possibilities I might not have considered before, and to become more well-rounded. Luckily, he's already said he will defer to me when it comes to our house, but of course, I will want to know his input because I love him!"

For more information on Biebrich check out her website, www.christyb.com/.

Palmer's Spokesperson Ali Landry Chats About Making Her Family a Priority





By Kerri Sheehan

Hollywood mom Ali Landry isn't letting anything slow her down! Perhaps best known as the Doritos Girl from a 1998 Super Bowl commercial, the former Miss USA is now focused on family life. Since marrying film director Alejandro Monteverde in 2006, she's been staying busy thanks to her growing family: her six-year-old daughter Estela, two-year-old son Marcelo, and the newest edition, baby boy Valentin Francesco, who was born earlier this summer on July 11th.

So does she have any tips for other moms with young kids? Landry answers with a laugh, "No, because I wish they would give me advice!" On a more serious note, she explains, "It's tough to juggle everything because you want to do everything yourself." When it comes to adding another child into the mix, Landry believes it's important to "put your focus on your older children because they're the ones that realize something is different. They need a little extra love."

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As many twosomes know, it's easy to get caught up in being parents and forget the importance of being partners. Landry and her husband, though, always make sure to find time for each other. "Life is really busy, and if we aren't good as a couple, then we aren't good for our family. We definitely make our relationship and our family a priority. We don't take that for granted."

The 39-year-old actress reveals that little getaways help keep their marriage strong. "We'll get away from the house and sleep at a hotel for a night, or we'll do a quick getaway in Mexico. It's our time," she explains. "When we're home, we're still focusing on the family and what needs to be done around the house. When we remove ourselves from that, whether it's for a date night or a short trip, we can really let go and focus on each other. We try to do that pretty often."

As important as her home life is, the television personality isn't ready to step out of the spotlight just yet. In fact, her role as a mother inspired her recent reprisal as the spokesperson for Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula and their national ad campaign. Landry first started using Palmer's products while pregnant with her daughter. "I was looking through magazines, and there were all these ads featuring some of my celebrity mom friends who were pregnant at the time. I thought to myself, 'Oh my gosh, they look so great pregnant! How brave of them to actually show off their bellies! I should really try these products.' I started using Palmer's and really loved the results."

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The model made her debut as their spokesperson two years ago when she was pregnant with her first son. "Our whole family uses Palmer's products, and we love them. I am ecstatic to work with them again!" It's only fitting then that her two older children joined her for the current campaign.

As an alumnus of *People* magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People, Landry says she relies on Palmer's to keep her skin looking wonderful. She also notes, "I drink a lot of water and always have – you have to hydrate your body from the inside and out. I exercise too." Of course, balance is key. "I'm not super strict with my diet. If I want cake, I'll have cake, and if I want ice cream, I'll have ice cream, but for the most part, I do eat pretty healthy." This attitude makes her a great mother, a great wife – and a great role model for her fans.

For more information about Ali Landry, you can follow her on Twitter and Facebook.

'RHONJ' Star Jacqueline Laurita: "I Try My Best to Get Along With Everyone"





By Kerri Sheehan

You may know the sassy and fiercely protective Jacqueline Laurita from Bravo's hit reality show *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, but that's not her only claim to fame.

Before we delve into this season's drama and last night's episode, let's focus on a few things you may *not* know about Laurita, starting with the fact that this 43-year-old mother of three has her own beauty website, AltruisticBeauty.com, with publicist Suzanne Summers. The two began working on the site together after first developing a friendship. "I told her about my idea, and we decided to turn our love affair for beauty into a business. Since I am a licensed cosmetologist with years of experience and Suzanne is a beauty publicist, we make a great pair. We bring our years of knowledge to the site and also handpicked a team of other beauty and health professionals to blog with us."

Inspiration for Laurita's company came from her days as a cosmetologist. "I had this vision for a beauty website a long time ago. I've spent several years educating people about

cosmetics, skincare and everything beauty. I have literally tried it all." *Real Housewives* viewers were an impetus as well. "Fans of my show would tweet me beauty questions constantly, so I created a platform to get all of their beauty questions answered. I get all sorts of questions from what plastic surgery procedures I recommend to how to make treatments from items in your refrigerator. I love sharing beauty secrets!" she exclaims.

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Inner beauty is just as important as outer beauty, and one thing that shines most about Laurita is her dedication to raising awareness about autism. She has become a strong voice in the community since her youngest son, Nicholas, was diagnosed. On one episode, viewers saw Laurita encourage Nicholas to try out a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, which is thought to help children on the autism spectrum. Family is the most important thing to Laurita and she says that she stays on the show (despite the drama) because it gives her a platform to bring attention to the cause.

If you tuned into the *The Real Housewives of New Jersey* last night, you know that things didn't go as planned during Laurita's reunion with Teresa. "I try my best to get along with everyone," she says. "I really don't need the extra aggravation of fighting over nonsense when I'm fighting for my child's recovery at home. I really don't like fighting." At the same time, this Jersey mom is not afraid to hold her own when challenged. "If a certain situation presents itself to me, I just roll with it by responding organically, and I always have hope for a resolution in the future. This season you may see more "mysteries from last season reveal themselves," she says.

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Despite the fighting and feuding, the beauty

guru's relationship with her husband has remained as strong as ever. She says that their secret is acting as though they just met each other and adds, "We always make sure we schedule in regular date nights. We like to go out with other couples too. It's fun and entertaining." Their typical date night involves good food, good conversation and a glass of good wine.

You can catch Jacqueline and the other Real Housewives of New Jersey every Sunday at 8/7c on Bravo. To keep up with Laurita, follow her on Twitter @JacLaurita or facebook.com/jacquelinelaurita. Head over to AltruisticBeauty.com for some beauty tips and tricks.

Jacqueline MacInnes Wood, Star of 'Her Husband's Betrayal,' Says, "Don't Look for Mr. Right"





By Kristin Mattern

Best known for her role as Steffy Forester on *The Bold and The Beautiful*, Canadian actress Jacqueline MacInnes Wood has received three Daytime Emmy nominations for Outstanding Young Actress and has acted in movies like *Final Destination* and Disney's *Skyrunner*. Now the gorgeous brunette is taking a short break from her soap opera schedule to star in Lifetime's movie, *Her Husband's Betrayal*, which premieres tonight at 8 p.m. ET. Stunning and sophisticated, Wood takes her acting expertise to new heights in this raw and moving feature about a woman who puts herself and her son in danger when she falls in love with a sociopath.

Wood is no stranger to playing intense roles. As *The Bold and The Beautiful* viewers know, for years, she has daily slipped into shoes of the manipulative and sexy Forester. She excels in the rapid world of soap operas, a feat reflected by her many Emmy nominations. "It is always exciting to receive such an honor and to be noticed for the work you do," she shares. "Daytime Soaps aren't easy, and we have to become pretty much one-take specialists." Her long-running career on *The Bold and*

The Beautiful and her devoted fan base certainly point to her mastery of the form.

Switching gears from this fast-paced world of daytime dramas, Wood loved working on the movie. Of the talented cast and crew on the set of *Her Husband's Betrayal*, she exclaims, "They were amazing to work with. It was a total joy everyday of the shoot."

In the film, she plays Cathy, a divorcée who had her son at a young age and who thinks she has found love in her second marriage, only to discover she has fallen prey to the charms of a deadly sociopath. The realistic storyline is what pulled the starlet into the role. "I loved the script right away. Immediately, I felt empathy for her character and her struggles. This is not a movie about some unrealistic hot chick with perfect makeup and perfect hair trying to find the perfect man. In fact, it's quite the opposite."

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Sadly, sociopaths aren't fantasy creatures from a horror flick – they're very real. Women sometimes find themselves tangled up in a relationship with a real-life monster. "Who doesn't want to be charmed?" remarks Wood. "Unfortunately, that's what sociopaths do best, and the lies come in the same bundle."

Her advice for ladies in this situation is simple: "Get out as fast as you can! Don't try to deal with them. They will only make your life even more of a living hell." Love can be blind, and even if it isn't in an extreme case like finding yourself married to a sociopath, it can be easy to overlook a partner's flaws when you are in love. "I believe many of us have been there, at one time or another, until you get a rude awakening."

The actress, who is said to be dating Daren Kagasoff from *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*, doesn't have a list of

who” The One” should be but rather who he *shouldn’t* be. “He can’t be a walking ego; he can’t lack a sense of humor; and most definitely, he can’t be needy or dictate who my friends should or shouldn’t be.” She advises that women shouldn’t look for Mr. Right and should instead “just do what’s right for you. When you meet a potential partner, make sure he is a good fit in your world and doesn’t overtake or undermine it.”

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A huge motorcycle-enthusiast, Wood fell for biking when she was a little girl, a passion she acquired from her Harley-loving dad. “There is great bonding in biking, and I love every year that I see more and more women of all ages getting on bikes and taking control of the handles,” she says. Recently, the celebrity rode through her hometown of Windsor, Ontario as part of a charity ride for angioplasty called Bob Probert’s Memorial Ride. “I rode beside my dad and my sister, Dani Probert, with 1,200 other bikers. We were there on behalf of my late brother in-law, ex-NHL player Bob Porbert.”

There are surely great things on the horizon for this young star. She plans to return to *The Bold and The Beautiful* but is currently taking some time to travel through Europe.

To learn more about Her Husband’s Betrayal, which premieres tonight at 8 p.m. ET/PT, visit their website. For more information about Wood, connect with her on www.facebook.com/Jacqueline-MacInnes-Wood-154810727878252/ and Twitter @JacquelineMWood.

“I Want My Clients to Have Fun With It,” Says Wedding Planner Sandy Malone of TLC’s ‘Wedding Island’



By [Whitney Johnson](#) and Kristin Mattern

Sandy Malone is the woman behind Weddings in Vieques, a full-service destination wedding planning company that will take your wildest island fantasy and make it come true. The vivacious personality is dedicated to making each and every bride happy with her special day and will do whatever it takes, as showcased in a recent episode when she found a helicopter at the last minute. Now, viewers can share the high tension and drama when they join this thick-skinned wedding

planner on her escapades as she creates romantic magic on *Wedding Island*, TLC's new series that showcases Malone and her company.

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Malone's wedding planning career began in 2004 when she had to save her own wedding to the love of her life, Bill Malone. "I hired a wedding planner that *said* she knew Vieques, but clearly, she didn't. It was awful," the reality star recalls. "I was getting frantic phone calls and dealing with vendors who were asking me if I was still getting married. I panicked! We had to fire her and start over."

Malone was able to plan their wedding on her own and realized that she could make a full-time gig out of that sort of work – but only if her now-husband was on board too. When the two first met, Bill was part of the Metro Transit Police Department, and Malone was working as a political journalist. He asked her out, but she politely declined. After many persistent attempts and chivalrous deeds, like clearing the snow from the path to her house, she finally came to her senses and let Bill into her heart.

The pair bought a house in Vieques a year after their wedding, and in 2007, when Bill retired, they decided to make the remote island their home. Soon after, they launched their company with the assistance of a close friend. "She helped me put together our original logos and actually referred our first client, who ended up being someone I knew in grade school," Malone shares. "We did the wedding on 07/07/07 and thought we'd do two weddings per month. We ended up planning forty or fifty weddings that first year."

In addition to adding wedding planning to their resumes, the couple also jumped right into running a business together for the first time. "We've worked hand-in-hand since the

beginning. Sometimes it's hard – we're not the perfect couple, but we respect each other," the event-planning wonder explains. "I focus on the planning, and he focuses on the execution, and we don't interfere with each other's work."

Related Link: [Kelly Ripa on Her Marriage to Mark Conseulos: "We Still Dig Each Other"](#)

Along with her team, Malone has now put together over 400 weddings – and the number continues to grow as more and more engaged couples chose Vieques for their big day. "It's been voted one of the top Caribbean spots for the past few years by *Travel and Leisure* magazine. It's pretty spectacular," she says of the island, seven miles off the coast of Puerto Rico. "You can go to the beach everyday and not go to the same one twice for weeks and weeks."

For those brides not lucky enough to be in Malone's capable hands as they plan their walks down the aisle, consider this advice: "If you're working with a wedding planner, talk to them and tell them why you're feeling overwhelmed. If not, talk to your fiancé or bridesmaids. A lot of times, the problem in your head isn't such a big deal. Write it all down, and then bite it off in little chunks."

Ultimately, the wedding planner just wants to represent her industry and her island well. "I hope the show is a good reflection of the wedding environment. I just want my clients to have fun with it all. And we want people to come to the island – most people haven't heard of Vieques."

You can catch Malone and her team on Wedding Island on TLC on Thursdays at 10/9c – see above for a preview of tonight's episode! For more behind-the-scenes details, check out her Huffington Post blog, www.huffingtonpost.com/sandy-malone/. You can also follow her on Twitter @SandyMalone_.

Kelly Ripa on Electrolux and Her Marriage to Mark Consuelos: “We Still Dig Each Other”



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#).

In this exclusive interview, CupidsPulse.com founder and executive editor Lori Bizzoco chats with Kelly Ripa about Super Saturday, which was held this past weekend in the Hamptons; her relationship with co-host and “soul sibling” Michael Strahan; and her strong marriage to Mark Consuelos.

“We just love each other. We still dig each other,” the television personality says of the secret to their marriage of seventeen years. “He does it for me, and I think I do it for him. Otherwise, I don’t think he’d still be here!”

The mother of three also discusses her partnership with Electrolux and their French Door Refrigerator with the Perfect Temp Drawer. Not only does she love their products, but she loves their philanthropic attitude as well. “They’ve been helping me raise money for ovarian research since I’ve been with them. When a company puts forth such an effort not only to make lives easier but also worrying about the health of women, I just think that says something.”

In addition to the event in New York City, Electrolux is inviting Americans to visit www.livelovelux.com through August 22 to enter the Electrolux Perfect Temp Sweepstakes for the chance to win a French Door Refrigerator and a trip to a climate with the Perfect Temp (the Bahamas!). For every entry or share, Electrolux will donate \$1 to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund (OCRF). Visitors to the site can also download Kelly’s favorite summertime recipes, including her famous spicy mango-peach Greek yogurt popsicle!

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our YouTube channel, youtube.com/user/CupidsPulse

Charlotte Ross of ‘Hit the Floor’ Says, “Waiting for Mr.

Right Won't Get You Anywhere"



By [Whitney Johnson](#)

Charlotte Ross has a Hollywood story meant for the big screen: she fell in love with acting at an early age and began pursuing her dream while growing up in Winnetka, Illinois. She worked at Second City and the Goodman Theatre until graduating from high school. Just a month later, she moved to Los Angeles and was quickly cast as Eve Donovan on the infamous soap opera *Days of Our Lives*, a role that later garnered her two Emmy nominations. Audiences now recognize her as Quinn Fabray's uptight mother Judy on the hit show *Glee* as well as Olivia Vincent in the summer series *Hit the Floor*.

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The popular VH1 show, which airs its final episode of season one tonight at 9/8c, is about “a professional basketball cheerleading squad; the back stabbing that ensues to get and stay on the team; and the inner workings of the corporate side of this world.” Her character was a star dancer in her younger years and now serves as the director of the Devil Girls. As the actress explains, “Olivia’s extremely driven, expects complete professionalism and won’t settle for less than perfection at every performance. She can be a bit relentless, but she’s also like a protective mother who just wants her girls to succeed.”

“It’s a ripe background for juicy drama, and the writer and executive producer, James LaRosa, doesn’t disappoint,” she adds with a laugh. I think he was born to write this show!”

As much as she loves being on stage, Ross’s heart belongs to Max, her nine-year-old son with ex-husband Michael Goldman. The couple divorced in 2008 after four years of marriage but continue to co-parent their son. True to her optimistic personality, she chose to remain positive during this difficult time. “The truth is, we all have a good argument as to why our ex isn’t the best partner, parent or friend, but I worked really hard not to focus on the negative because I wanted what was best for my son.”

And what’s best for Max is two parents who are able to “come into each other’s houses without tension or stress. I’m beyond blessed that my son is very well-adapted to having two homes,” she candidly shares. “I enjoy it as well. I get to be fully ‘on’ when I’m with him and then ‘off’ when his father has him.”

Her advice for parents in a similar situation is simple: “Try to deal with the challenges as best as you can because it really makes a difference for your kids. They can actually learn something good from it, like how to work through tough things and treat people with respect.”

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Of course, jumping back into the dating game after divorce is never easy. The single actress says being proactive is the best way to meet someone new. "Sitting and waiting for Mr. Right won't get you anywhere. Instead, step out of your comfort zone and normal circle of friends," she says. "And don't be afraid to be set-up! Remember that your friends know you well and know what kind of partner you want."

As shown by her diverse professional choices, stepping out of her comfort zone is nothing new to Ross. This fearless attitude extends to her personal life too; she's even training to climb Mount Kilimanjaro later this summer. The blonde, who says "nature is like a church," sees this trek as number one on her bucket list. "It's been a dream of mine for years. We all have that list of 'One day, I will...' Well, time is passing, you know?" Reflecting further on the upcoming journey, she explains, "Challenging ourselves can be very healing. This adventure is both a physical one and a spiritual one."

The actress knows firsthand the effects of living a healthy lifestyle. "I truly believe that working out and clean eating (most of the time) is the fountain of youth. I look and feel better than I did decades ago. It amazes me!" As if that's not enough reason to head to the gym, she adds, "When you sweat for an hour or so each day, daily stress doesn't take the toll that it normally would. I think everyone should make time for fitness no matter how busy their life may be."

Don't miss tonight's season finale of Hit the Floor on VH1 at 9/8c! For more information about Ross, check out her website charlotteross.com/ or follow her on Twitter @charlotteross.

Ali Fedotowsky Tells Us How to “Attract More Love and Happiness” Into Our Lives



By Kristin Mattern

Ali Fedotowsky is no stranger to ABC's *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*. She was a contestant vying for Jake Pavelka's affection in season 14 of *The Bachelor* and later starred on season 6 of *The Bachelorette*. Well-versed in love, relationships and reality television, Fedotowsky is now putting her dating and media expertise to work on a new blog for *E!* about the popular dating competition

show. Additionally, she has continued her foray into the world of the small screen as the host of *1st Look*, the Emmy Award-winning travel show from NBC. In an exclusive interview, this adorable TV personality opens up about the current season of *The Bachelorette*, moving on after heartbreak and her happy relationship with Kevin Manno, host of *Abby's Ultimate Dance Competition*.

The bubbly blonde has a unique point of view to share with readers of her *E!* blog. "I kind of feel like my time as the bachelorette was a lifetime ago, so I don't have any emotional connection to the show," she explains, "but I do enjoy watching with my girlfriends. And I definitely have a different perspective on what it's like for Desiree. I know firsthand that it's not easy!" Fedotowsky remembers her time on the reality series as one of the most stressful and emotional times of her life but says that being a contestant on *The Bachelor* was "just fun!" She enjoyed her time hanging out with the girls and talking about boys. The big life lesson she learned from her experience on the shows is to be honest with yourself: "I don't think it changed the way I date. It just made me trust my instincts more."

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Given their similar circumstances, Fedotowsky has become friends with the current bachelorette, Desiree Hartsock. The two hit it off while filming a special that will air during tonight's *Men Tell All* episode. "Desiree is as sweet and down to earth in person as she is on the show. I really have nothing but wonderful things to say about her," the television personality remarks. Wondering if they shared secrets about the end of this season? "When we hung out, I told her to please *not* tell me anything. I didn't want her to think I would try to pressure her for those details. I'm there as a friend, not to interrogate her!" However, Fedotowsky did tell us that she is rooting for Chris but that she "will be happy

with whoever she [Desiree] picks because she's happy! She'll pick the guy she falls for; that's not for me to judge."

Fedotowsky is no stranger to love and heartbreak. She was lucky enough to find her happy ending on *The Bachelorette* with Roberto Martinez, but the couple called it quits after an 18-month engagement. When it comes to moving forward after a broken heart, she suggests staying as busy possible. With this thought in mind, she's thankful for her role as host of the travel show *1st Look*. "It was good timing for me since I was in a transitional period of my life." Of course, this adventure-filled opportunity doesn't come along for everyone. "Volunteer," she advises. "I've done that in the past, and it not only keeps you busy but makes you feel good."

Related Link: [Lessons from Justin and Selena: Should You Get Back with Your Ex?](#)

It's no secret that the Los Angeles native has jumped back into the dating scene. She confirmed her relationship with Manno in April, and the pair was recently spotted celebrating his 30th birthday in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico. When they're not soaking up the sun south of the border, the twosome enjoys playing "darts or any sort of game, like Bingo or bowling."

And for those of you just dipping your toes into the water after a split, the starlet shares this sage wisdom: "Get out there and do what makes you happy! I really feel that, when you show everyone that you love and respect yourself, you attract more [love](#) and happiness into your life."

*Be sure to tune in for tonight's Men Tell All episode on ABC at 8/7 pm c. To learn more about Fedotowsky, you can connect with her on [facebook.com/MissAliElaine](https://www.facebook.com/MissAliElaine) or Twitter @AliFedotowsky. You can also check out her blog for E! and her travel show, *1st Look*.*

'Drop Dead Diva' Producer Josh Berman and Star Margaret Cho on New Episode About Gay Pro-Athlete



Interviewed by [Lori Bizzoco](#); Editorial by [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

Drop Dead Diva, the relaunched Lifetime hit television show, will be showing their support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community on tonight's episode. In an exciting storyline, the cast will welcome Derek Smith, who is

playing a gay professional baseball player. Josh Berman, the show's openly gay producer, stated that this issue was vital for him to tackle because being a gay athlete is becoming a rising issue. "Sports is one of the last frontiers where men and women feel they unfortunately need to be closeted," he explains.

Related Link: [RH00C: Fernanda Rocha Speaks Out About Fitness, Love and Being the First Lesbian Housewife](#)

This statement rings true in today's world, as most pro-athletes only decide to be openly gay once they retire from the professional sports lifestyle. In April 2013, the first male pro-athlete in the four major North American professional team sports, Jason Collins, came out of the closet. This series is the first television show to take on the matter in this specific way; the *Drop Dead Diva* cast had been working on this episode before Collins made history, though. "Oddly enough, only one line had to change," the producer tells us.

Margaret Cho, who plays Teri Lee, a paralegal assistant to main character Jane Bingham (Brooke Elliot), is also one of *Drop Dead Diva's* LGBT community members. Cho identifies herself as a bisexual and married husband Al Ridenour in 2003, with whom she has an open relationship. It's no surprise, then, that she's especially proud of this episode. "It goes into how we look at men in sports. We have an idea of who they are and what they're supposed to be."

Finding the ideal actor for this part was one of the most important parts of the episode. Berman shares that he was "obsessed" with casting the perfect man to play the fictional Major League Baseball player. Derek Smith was taken into very careful consideration for this role and was spoken to numerous times about the importance of his character. "Baseball is the most traditional, all-American sport. It gives us the opportunity to show a character who really needs to feel

closeted or uphold the idea of heterosexuality,” says Cho.

Both Berman and Cho want this episode to be viewed by the younger LGBT community, especially those who feel uncomfortable with being athletic and out of the closet. “The importance of sports and the athleticism in the LGBT community can’t be underestimated,” believes Cho, “and I think that this episode really does a good job in promoting it for all of us.”

Related Link: [Blair Late from Bravo’s ‘Newlyweds’ Chats About Divorce and Gay Marriage](#)

The series makes sure to include the LGBT community as a focal point in other episodes as well. In 2011, *Drop Dead Diva* won the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Individual Episode for “The Prom,” which was about two gay students going to prom together. It was only right, then, for this cast to tackle LGBT athletes. “I’m thrilled that we are hitting this zeitgeist shed again with gay and lesbian issues,” exclaims Berman.

Be sure to catch this exciting episode of Drop Dead Diva tonight at 9/8c on Lifetime!

Celebrities Share Dating Tips at 8th Annual All-Star Celebrity Kickoff Party





Interviews by Shannah Henderson; Editorial by Sarah Ribeiro

Earlier this week, on Monday, July 15, 2013, the Playboy Mansion hosted some of Hollywood's hottest celebrities at Beartrap Entertainment's 8th Annual All-Star Celebrity Kickoff Party. The annual event supports the Artists and Athletes Alliance, a not-for-profit organization that helps artists and athletes navigate the political process in Washington, D.C. This glamorous night helped kickoff summer sports awards season the way only a party at the Playboy Mansion could – and CupidsPulse.com was there to celebrate.

Celebrity guests included musicians Chris Brown, Snoop Lion and Sean Kingston; actor Jamie Foxx; former *Bachelor* and *Bachelorette* stars, Bob Guiney and Arie Luyendyk, Jr; and ESPY-nominees for Best Breakthrough Athlete Yasiel Puig of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Colin Kaepernick of the San Francisco 49ers, who was the winner of the award.

We spoke to some of these famous faces about dating and relationships – check out their responses below!

What is the number one thing you don't do on a date?

"Don't ever talk about your ex! I break that rule a lot though, because I talk about my ex a lot." – **Bob Guiney, *The Bachelor* Season 4**

"Don't talk about ex-girlfriends or religion, and don't eat with your hands." – **Arie Luyendyk Jr., professional race car driver and *The Bachelorette* Season 8**

What is your best piece of dating advice?

"My best advice is to just keep your partner happy!" – **Bryan Braman, Houston Texans linebacker**

"That's an interesting question. My best advice is to be true to yourself. That's the most important thing to remember. Everyone wants to be fake and put on this façade, and after six months, he or she is a whole new person. The best thing is to just be true to yourself." – **Bret Lockett, New York Jets safety**

"My best advice is to stay loyal and stay off of social networking sites. Those sites are the best way to get in trouble these days. " – **David Gilreath, Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver**

"You have to do something special. Don't think that it's all about money. It's about thinking outside of the box, getting weird and making it happen. You know what I got my girlfriend for Valentine's Day? A saxophone player! He came to our house and played her favorite songs in our living room. It was awkward but awesome" – **Stephen Kramer Glickman, comedian**

"My best dating advice is don't do it. No, I'm kidding! [laughs] I am a divorced guy, and I would say just be really, really painfully honest. If there is any dating advice that works for me, that tip actually works. I always say, 'Listen, here is what I am capable of. I hope I outshine what I think I

am capable of, but this is probably what I've got in the tank at this point.' It actually kind of helps! If you are honest upfront, there are no misconceptions, and it all really works itself out." – **Bob Guiney, *The Bachelor* Season 4**

"Very cliché, but I would just say relax and be yourself. I think that, most of the time when we go on dates, we're either nervous; we're not ourselves; or we're closed off. It is important to just be open and be yourself." – **Arie Luyendyk Jr., professional race car driver and *The Bachelorette* Season 8**

"Always make her pay on the first date because it's crucial to be different. Everyone is probably going to always pay for her, but if you make her pay, she will say to herself, 'Oh, you're different.' Then you're already starting off on the right foot. If you make her pay, she is going to already know you're different, and you get a free meal. [laughs]" – **Jimmy Butler, Chicago Bulls player**

"My best advice is to be patient!" – **Omar Miller, *CSI: Miami* actor**

"Just be cool, be confident, and believe that in the next two hours, the battle is won." – **Bai Ling, actress**

"If you're a guy, treat the lady with the utmost respect. I have two sisters, so I know how important that is. It's a lot more important than you think. Chivalry is not dead." – **Chris Ogbonnaya, Cleveland Browns running back**

"If you have no trust, you have no relationship. That's what it's all about." – **Andre Branch, Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end**

"Just be yourself and don't try to be someone else. You don't have to try to do all the extra hard work." – **Rapper Tae Snap, rapper**

“Keep an open mind.”- Mehcad Brooks, *Necessary Roughness* actor

“I guess be yourself and be genuine. Also, make sure you don’t smell bad.” – Jarron Gilbert, *Buffalo Bills* defensive end

What piece of celebrity dating advice is your favorite? Tell us in the comments below!

**“We Have Each Other”:
Celebrity Couple Joy Enriquez
and Rodney “Darkchild”
Jerkins On Their New Show,
‘House of Joy’**





By [Whitney Johnson](#) and Kristin Mattern

Pop singer Joy Enriquez and Grammy award-winning music producer Rodney “Darkchild” Jerkins have been married for nearly a decade and have been blessed with three beautiful children: RJ, Heavenly and baby Hannah. In their new show *House of Joy* for NUV0tv, they bring their family into the spotlight as they work together to make Enriquez’s dream of having a hit single come true. “Nine years later, I still want a hit!” exclaims Enriquez. “I still want a song, and now I can say, ‘I gave you the kids, Rodney. We got married, and we’re working together as a family, but I still want to sing.’ That dream is still inside of me.”

House of Joy was not the first reality series that the twosome were approached about doing. “Rodney and I were asked to do a show when we first got married in 2004,” recalls Enriquez, “when *Newlyweds* came out with Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey.” They chose to say no, however, deciding collectively with their parents that it wasn’t the best idea to have a reality show in the beginning of their marriage. “Rodney’s dad

told us that we should take the first year to just spend time together. Now that we've been married for so long, three kids later, we felt like we were ready to show our family to the world."

Related Link: [Blair Late from Bravo's 'Newlyweds' Chats About Divorce and Gay Marriage](#)

The show features the whole family, including Enriquez's parents, brother and sister, but Enriquez explains that it centers on music and her career "because that's how Rodney and I met." The star couple was first introduced in 1999 when the singer was sent to work with the legendary Jerkins, who was collaborating with Michael Jackson at the time. "We need you to get her a hit song just like you gave J. Lo," she recalls the executives telling Jerkins. She jokes, "I spent two weeks in New Jersey trying to get a hit. Instead, Rodney took me to the movies, to his parent's house, to parties – everything *but* a hit!"

Of course, working so closely with your partner is never easy. When they're in the recording studio, as Jerkins explains, "If I say, 'Do this over,' she gets really offended. And if she tells me she doesn't like a certain track, I get really offended. But we're learning – we have a rhythm going now."

The producer adds, "2014 is going to be our breakout album. It'll be the breakout year for Joy!"

Knowing that Enriquez and Jerkins both have busy careers, it's no surprise that balancing their professional lives and personal lives – especially since their new show merges the two – can certainly be challenging. Luckily, one of the executive producers of *House of Joy* is Patti Stanger, star of *Millionaire Matchmaker*. "She told us that we need to date! You don't usually need a matchmaker to tell you that, but sometimes, when you have three kids, time gets away from you," says Enriquez. "It's so important that you spend quality time

together – even if it’s just a few minutes looking into each other’s eyes and asking about each other’s day. We’re learning to communicate better.”

Related Link: [Patti Stanger Discusses Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel’s ‘Lasting’ Marriage](#)

The experience has also reminded them to hold their special family close to their hearts. “I sing to my children at the end of every episode,” explains Enriquez. “I talk with them and let them know that life can be crazy and have its ups and downs. But no matter what, we have each other.”

To find out more about the musically-talented couple, tune in to tonight’s premiere of House of Joy on NUV0tv at 10/9c!

Doing It All: ‘The Bachelorette’ Star Jillian Harris Launches Her Latest Project, Charlie Ford Vintage





Interviewed by [Lori Bizzoco](#); Editorial by Kristin Mattern

Many of us remember the charming Jillian Harris from ABC's *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*. Since first revealing her sparkling personality, filled with irrepressible humor and emotional honesty, Harris has moved on to expose viewers to her design expertise on both *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* and *Love It or List It Vancouver*. Staying true to her motto of "doing it all," she is now sharing her adoration for vintage and antique items as founder and creative director of Charlie Ford Vintage, a website that brings unique pieces, hand-selected by Harris and her team, to people across North America. "I've always been passionate about antiques. My mom used to take me antiquing when I was a little girl," says Harris. "And I realized that there was opportunity to share the things I loved with the world."

Harris is the quintessential busy bee, and she puts all of the energy her petite frame has into everything she does. Driven by her zeal for design and antiques, she decided to launch her online shop with her closest friends, Tori Wesszer and Alyssa Dennis. *The Bachelorette* star is not only the face of

the brand but also helps search for everything you see on the site. The website offers one-of-a-kind items from a variety of Canadian and American antique dealers that adhere to the company slogan of “redefining the way consumers view and buy vintage and antique home décor across North America.” Harris is excited to work with her friends and the rest of her team, who she notes “is incredible!”

Related Link: [Exclusive: Maitland Ward of ‘Boy Meets World’ Believes that “Friendship, Trust and Laughter” Make for a Strong Relationship](#)

The inspiration for Charlie Ford Vintage came from a mixture of her live-in boyfriend Justin wondering what they were to do with the multitude of early 1900s apple boxes that Harris bought last year and repeated questions on her blog of, “Oh my gosh, where did you find that piece?” The brunette realized that saying she found an item in Vancouver didn’t help someone in Idaho. She quickly decided she should offer the items she found online for others to buy. And with that, Charlie Ford Vintage (named after Wesszer’s one-year-old son) was born.

But this isn’t any regular online antique store. “Essentially, what I’m doing is personal shopping for you,” Harris notes. “I go out, find the items and post them online, and then, our vendors just take a commission. We aren’t marking things up; we’re negotiating to make sure we get the best price.” In the future, she and her team plan to allow for client requests. “If there is something particular you are looking for, like an old cookie jar or a piece of art, we’ll find it. We’re out there all the time, in the trenches, searching for antiques that our customers want.”

Harris certainly has her own sense of style and design. Her favorite piece is a blue, vintage buoy from the early 1900s that she bought while in Paella, Maui and made a part of a nautical vignette in her living room. When it comes to decorating and using antiquated items, she is a pro – and not

just for women's spaces but for men too. "I think the great thing about vintage that a lot of girls don't realize is that guys love it too. If you put an old box for ammo on your coffee or side table, guys think it's awesome, and women love the connection and history. You really can't go wrong," she observes. "I think guys want the same thing girls do: something that's unique, something different. When you're decorating as a new couple or with a guy in mind, going vintage is great."

The former bachelorette has not only found love with antiques but also in her current relationship. Harris met Justin at a bar, and they immediately hit it off. "He was just gorgeous," she gushes. "He was very nice too. I was dating someone awful at the time and thought, 'You know, I'm gonna give this guy a try.' The rest is history."

"I will never let him go," she adds.

Through heartache, she learned what it takes to be happy in a relationship: "I believe that if you can't be happy with yourself first, you're not gonna be happy in a relationship. You can't beat yourself up too much, and you can't force something to happen. If it doesn't feel right, just let it go. Remember that there are plenty of fish in the sea and that you only live once." Wise words that the current bachelorette, Desiree Hartsock, should take note of.

Related Link: [Bachelorette 9, Episode 7: Confession in Madeira](#)

When not working as co-host of *Love It or List It Vancouver* (*Love It or List It 2* for viewers in the United States) or digging for treasures for Charlie Ford Vintage, she enjoys spending her date nights with Justin making dinner at home, playing cards and sipping wine by firelight. As for their future, she says, "I would like to have children in the next few years – in my late thirties, I think, would be a good time." So do we hear wedding bells? "Marriage is really

important to me, but I don't think that marriage defines a relationship. I'm more concerned with our relationship being healthy and happy, and if the marriage part happens, it happens."

Harris also dreams of some more time off and for Charlie Ford Vintage to become her main – and only – project. "It's my passion," she remarks. "I'm hoping one day it can be enough to support me and my family, and I can continue to share what I love about antiques with the world."

To learn more about Jillian Harris, visit her blog www.jillianharris.com/ or stay connected through [facebook.com/designerjillian](https://www.facebook.com/designerjillian) or Twitter [@jillianharris](https://twitter.com/jillianharris)

Alison Sweeney Chats About Keeping Her Family Healthy with Frigidaire





By [Whitney Johnson](#)

Many fans – myself included – look to Alison Sweeney as a source of inspiration when it comes to living a healthy lifestyle. In our exclusive interview with *The Biggest Loser* host, she shares her tips for staying motivated and helping her family make smart choices when it comes to diet and fitness. For instance, when it's snack time for her two children, keeping her refrigerator organized is incredibly important. "I want those healthy choices front and center. I want them in their eye line, so that they see them when they open the refrigerator door," she explains. "I think that makes it much more likely to be something that they pick."

Plus, Sweeney shares some behind-the-scenes secrets from her upcoming film *Second Chances*, premiering on The Hallmark Channel on July 22nd.

Check out *Frigidaire* on facebook.com/Frigidaire?fref=ts and Twitter @Frigidaire for more information.

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our YouTube

Niecy Nash Says That “You’ll Manifest What You Believe” When It Comes to Love



By Kerri Sheehan

Finding true love is never an easy feat, but Niecy Nash knows how to make it happen. The host of “Let’s Talk About Love” on Yahoo! believes that humans are programmed to be in a relationship, yet the way women think nowadays limits their

opportunities to find happiness. “You’ll manifest what you believe. If you believe that all men are dogs and that you’re the bottom of the barrel and have to take what you can get, then that’s what’s going to be handed to you.”

Related Link: [Niecy Nash Explains Why ‘It’s Hard to Fight Naked’](#)

It’s no secret that falling in love herself has been a recent highlight in her life. As the newly-minted author explains, “The fact that I’m in love with love makes me available to try. It makes me available to want to be better.” To encourage other women to adopt a similar attitude, she filmed her 2011 wedding to husband Jay Tucker for a TLC special called *Niecy Nash’s Wedding Bash*. For her, the decision to do so was easy: “I knew so many women who were my age and single after having been married, and they said, ‘I’m just going to focus on the kids. I’m not going to worry about love anymore.’ I wanted to show them that you can get a do-over. And it can be better the second time around!”

It’s difficult for some people to adopt such a positive attitude, but for Nash, it’s just part of her personality. “Being a no-nonsense, straight-to-the-point type of person is who I am. It’s who I am as a parent, who I am as a lover, who I am as a friend.” And when she does get down, she usually bounces back quickly. “I’m very happy that I have a resilient theory and a resilient heart when it comes to love.”

The funny lady ensures that her marriage is a happy one by “celebrating *everything* and celebrating often” with Tucker. “Aside from birthdays and Christmas, we celebrate when we had our first date or even the first time we went to a certain restaurant.” She adds that finding time to laugh every single day helps keep their spark alive and their love fresh.

Related Link: [How Can Jennifer Aniston Make Her Love Last?](#)

Another way that she keeps her commitment strong is by surrounding herself with people who share her values and lifestyle. “When you’re married, you have to have a support system. You can’t just be married and still hang out with all of your single friends – that’s going to be problematic. You have to have people around you who are committed to the same things as you.” For the actress, that means spending time with best friend and co-host of *The View* Sherri Shepherd and husband Lamar Sally. In fact, the gang had just gotten together for a double-date when we spoke to Nash.



Of course, Nash’s life isn’t all about love – she’s got a hot career to focus on too! TV Land’s *The Soul Man* got picked up for a second season, and she’s reprising her role as Lolli Ballantine, the wife of Cedric the Entertainer. She’s also starring in a new show called *Getting On*, which premieres on HBO in July.

There’s no doubt that there will always be a lot of love and laughs in this newlywed’s life.

You can purchase Nash’s new book It’s Hard to Fight Naked on Amazon. To keep up with the actress, follow her on [Twitter](#) @NiecyNash and Instagram www.instagram.com/NiecyNash1/. Be sure to check out her website <http://www.niecynash.com/> too!

Maitland Ward of 'Boy Meets World' Believes That "Friendship, Trust and Laughter" Make for a Strong Relationship



By Petra Halbur

Maitland Ward first won our hearts in the 90's as Rachel McGuire on the hit show, *Boy Meets World*. Though Rachel caused a few love triangles, we adored the towering red head for her

quirkiness, lovability and strength. Thirteen years after the series finale, Ward still speaks highly of her character. “I loved that she was smart and tough yet had a heart of gold. She was someone young girls could look up to.”

Since the show’s conclusion in 2000, Ward has has met the love of her life, continued to establish herself as an actress and, most recently, reunited with her former castmates at the ATX Television Festival. “It was like no time had passed at all,” the California native reflects. “We hadn’t all been in the same room together since the show ended, so it was so great to see all these people who I worked with for so long. My cheeks hurt by the end of the weekend from all the laughing and smiling.” The experience stirred up fond memories of the *Boy Meets World* set too. “Working with them was a blast, and I think it showed on screen.”

She affectionately adds, “These people will always be like family to me.”

Related Link: [Tabatha Coffey Says That Staying True to Yourself Is Important In All Aspects Of Life](#)

Of course, viewers are already gearing up for an on-camera reunion of *Boy Meets World*’s cast in the highly-anticipated spin-off, *Girl Meets World*, which is scheduled to air on the Disney Channel next year. The new show will follow Riley Matthews, the daughter of *Boy Meets World* characters, Cory and Topanga Matthews, and her best friend Maya. Ward is full of praise for the young actresses, Rowan Blanchard and Sabrina Carpenter, who play Riley and Maya respectively. “The little girls are so unbelievably adorable. I know they are going to be breakout stars for Disney.”

While the actress was reluctant to disclose plot details, she assures us that the pilot is “amazing” and that we can expect to see more of our favorite characters from the original hit show. “Creator Michael Jacobs made a point of saying he wants

to integrate the old cast as much as possible, so I'm excited to see what happened to Rachel, Jack Hunter and Eric Matthews. Jack and Rachel left for the Peace Corps in the last episode, and it'll be interesting to see if they are still together. Matthew Lawrence and I were joking at the festival that Eric would've never left Jack and Rachel alone. He probably came after us in Guatemala or wherever we ended up."

Before being Rachel McGuire, though, Ward spent three years playing Jessica Forrester on *The Bold and the Beautiful*, an experience she now sites as inspiration for a script she has written. "It's a crazy, *Bridesmaids*-style comedy about a washed-up former soap star who will stop at nothing to get her career back," she shares. "She finds out her old fan club president (who she treated like garbage and nearly ruined) has made good and become a big time producer with a hot new TV show. So she hunts him down and wants him to give her the starring role. There's a dark twist, but I won't give it away just yet. It's a lot of fun!"

Luckily, life doesn't imitate art when it comes to Ward's personal life. She's been married to hedge fund manager, Terry Baxter, since 2006, which is quite a feat in Hollywood. Though the happy couple tend to stay out of the spotlight, she confesses that her romantic relationships haven't always been drama-free. "I had a few love triangles when I was younger. Nothing like Rachel, Jack and Eric, but nevertheless, they always got messy." When asked if playing Rachel taught her anything about love, she reveals, "It's probably not the best idea to be involved with two best friends who you live with, but, hey, it was fun! Being open and honest about things is probably the best advice I could give about that situation."

Related Link: [5 Conversations Every Couple Should Have Before Getting Married](#)

The auburn-haired beauty says that the key to a successful relationship is a strong foundation. She and Baxter met on a

set when he was visiting someone else, and the two began a friendship that eventually developed into something more. “If you can’t be best friends, then it’ll never work in the long run. You have to enjoy spending time with that person. A sense of humor is important too. I love to laugh, and having someone who makes me laugh is the best,” she says. “I think that’s why it’s lasted. We started with friendship, trust and laughter and built from that.”

You can keep up with Ward on Twitter @MaitlandWard and www.facebook.com/MaitlandWardOfficial/.

‘Anna Nicole’ Star Agnes Bruckner Says People “Need to Be Loved, Feel Love and Give Love”





By Kristin Mattern

Agnes Bruckner, well known for her recurring roles on television shows like *24*, *Alias* and *Private Practice* as well as for playing one of the lead roles in [Lifetime's *The Craigslist Killer*](#), is now the star of Lifetime's Original Movie, *Anna Nicole*. Her diligent research in preparing to play such a character, along with the help of an innovative pair of prosthetic boobs designed by Greg Cannom, enabled her to capture both the Anna Nicole Smith in front of and beyond the flash of the paparazzi cameras. The woman whose ability to make people smile inspired and awed Bruckner, who believes that Smith "loved life."

Anna Nicole follows the story of Smith (born Vickie Lynn Hogan) from a Texas high school dropout and single mother dreaming of a better life to a stripper who shockingly marries oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall (played by Martin Landau), 62 years her senior. Smith's Hollywood career takes off when she becomes a centerfold for *Playboy* and models for Guess. Sadly, her life begins to deteriorate after her husband passes away and her partying, yo-yo weight fluctuations, drinking and

ceaseless pill-popping catch up with her. Deprived of financial support, constantly in and out of court over Marshall's estate and still hungry for the limelight, Smith decides to launch a reality show about her life. The starlet enjoys a brief upswing, but when her son Danny dies of an overdose while visiting her in the hospital after giving birth to her daughter, a grief-stricken Smith falls hard into her self-destructive ways and dies of an overdose herself a year later – an end eerily similar to her idol Marilyn Monroe.

Related Link: [Short Term Celebrity Marriages \(Learn From Their Mistakes\)](#)

The movie avoids focusing too much on Smith's silly side, though Bruckner promises there are plenty of "hot mess" moments in the movie. Instead, the heart of the film focuses on where the model came from, how she grew up and her relationships with her son and husband. "I think it came together," the 27-year-old explains. "We found the perfect balance of fun, goofy wild traits and the heartfelt, human characteristics. I think that a lot of times we saw her as someone who wasn't a real person. For the film, we definitely wanted to show all of her."

To physically transform into the blonde bombshell, Bruckner had to undergo four hours of makeup and the application of faux breasts that took her from a B to a DD. After the experience, the tomboy says, "I took a little piece of Smith away with me. She made me realize that it's okay to be girly."

As we eagerly await Bruckner's portrayal of the tragic star and her relationship with Marshall, everyone wonders if Anna Nicole was just in it for the cash when she married the octogenarian oil tycoon. In the actress's opinion, however, there was more than money tying this couple together: "I really think that they had something for each other. I think he wanted companionship, love and joy in his life, and she gave those aspects to him with her charisma and love for life.

She never really had a 'father figure' or a good relationship with her family, and this guy showed her love and treated her the best she's ever been treated. I do think they both had something for each other and they kind of came together."

And what about Marshall? "He really did love Anna so much," she adds. "His eyes lit up when she walked into a room."

Related Link: [Can People Really Fall In Love Too Fast?](#)

Bruckner calls the people who surrounded Smith after Marshall's death "enablers" who did nothing to stop her boozing, drug habits and over-exposed lifestyle. "I think she put people in a sort of trance," the California native shares, "especially men. Besides her son, there weren't any men who were really there for her."

Bruckner's favorite moments were when she was filming scenes that depicted the struggle between Anna Nicole as a struggling mother and the relationship with her son. She notes that Smith and Danny really had a "special relationship, and there was so much love." To Bruckner, Danny was more than a son; he was Smith's rock and best friend.

During her time on the *Anna Nicole* set, Bruckner says that she realizes how fortunate she is to have friends and family who care about her career, health and happiness. This is what keeps her grounded.

Regarding her love life, Bruckner seeks someone who is a potential partner. "I look for someone who is honest and fun," she says. "At the end of the day, what matters is being with someone you have strong feelings of love for. As a human being, we need that. We need to be loved, feel love, and give love. I think that is so essential."

For more information about Agnes Bruckner and the upcoming Lifetime Movie [Anna Nicole](#), which premieres Saturday, June 29th at 8pm ET/PT, follow her on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Blair Late from Bravo's 'Newlyweds' Chats About Divorce and Gay Marriage



By Marisa Spano

Imagine inviting strangers into your home to observe your first year of marriage and allowing millions of people to watch the honeymoon stage of your love life. Newly-minted reality star Blair Late can tell you a thing or two about that experience – all good things. Late and his spouse Jeff Pedersen were all for having cameras follow them around as

they transitioned into married life.

Of course, reality television was a familiar world for the couple: “I first met Jeff when I was working on a reality series for Melanie Brown from Spice Girls,” he explains. “A producer friend who hung out with us commented that we were a really odd couple.” A year later, they got engaged, and that same friend suggested that they audition for Bravo’s new documentary series, *Newlyweds: The First Year*. They soon got a call from the network, and after an extensive three-month background check, they agreed to be part of the show.

Related Link: [EXCLUSIVE: Jill Zarin Says, “Women Can Have It All, But Not All At The Same Time”](#)

So why did these lovers decide to showcase their new beginning? “It was done by a very prominent documentary team who had won Oscars and Emmys, so knowing that it was a style of show that hadn’t been done before definitely influenced our decision,” says Late. “Plus, we were the only gay couple on the series and the first gay couple to really be featured on a show about marriage. It’s a big deal when you consider that gay marriage isn’t completely legal yet.”

That’s not to say that the couple is hoping to be spokespeople for gay marriage. They just want to share their story, a story about “a guy from Texas who has been ‘out’ for quite a while, who has support from his family, who’s in the entertainment business and who is fun, dramatic and just loves life. That same man falls in love with a man from California who’s a bit older, who didn’t get family acceptance, who isn’t in the business of entertainment and who is more responsible.” The couple seems to be sculpting a little chunk of history with their appearance on the show.

The amount of feedback and admiration they’ve received is incredible. In response to whether he thinks their inclusion on *Newlyweds* is impacting public opinion, Late says, “We have

opened people's eyes to the fact that domestic partnerships and gay marriages have little if any equal rights to straight marriages. We're certainly educating people." He believes that they're empowering young gay people across the country. "I've had so many people say, 'Oh, I'm just like you, Blair, and I hope I can find a Jeff someday.'"

Some would argue that couples often suffer from a failed relationship when they are cast into the reality show spotlight. However, Late says that the show actually *helped* their marriage. "We were forced to discuss certain topics and to put things on the table because of the cameras."

Even though their personal thoughts and problems were viewed in public, it never made the duo feel uncomfortable. "I try not to regret anything that happened or be embarrassed about it. Sure, people complained about us talking about our sex lives on television, but maybe it won't be such a weird thing for gay men to do in five years."

For Late, his view on relationships was affected by his parents' divorce. "It had a negative psychological impact and made me feel more needy and have a fear of abandonment. One thing that I've really focused on this year is figuring out what triggers me and what makes me a little more dramatic sometimes."

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"My parents' divorce made me realize that I only want to get married once," he adds.

It's easy to see that Late's love life is going well, and he appears to be having success in his career too. He's found fame as a songwriter, actor, television presenter and pop singer – he'll soon be performing his new single "Love Calling" in San Francisco. Additionally, he's working on his own cardigan line called Crest and Letters. And, of course, he'll be appearing on tonight's final episode of *Newlyweds* as

well as on *Watch What Happens Live* with Andy Cohen after the finale airs.

We can't wait to see what he does next!

For more information about Late, visit his [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page.

Jill Zarin Says, "Women Can Have It All, But Not All At The Same Time"



By [Lori Bizzoco](#) and Marisa Spano

America watched the zesty and talkative redhead on *The Real Housewives of New York City* for four seasons as she threw sophisticated parties and worked for her husband's fabric shop. While we may not be seeing her on a feisty Bravo reunion again, she's still making a name for herself. She took a quick break from her hectic schedule to share some advice with CupidsPulse.com on how she manages to juggle it all.

Zarin is definitely one woman who seems to have figured out how to balance her family, career and social life. So we asked her opinion on one of the hottest topics in the news today: Can women really have it all? The former reality star believes that women "can" have it all but goes on to admit that "you can't have it all at the same time." She knows firsthand that you need to prioritize. "Maintaining a marriage is the most important thing because the truth is that children grow up and leave home."

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As most viewers know, Zarin has a close bond with her college-aged daughter from her first marriage, Ally Shapiro, and a loving relationship with her husband, Bobby, whom she married in 2001 after five years of dating. But the *Housewife* tells us that having a strong marriage wasn't always her priority. Over time, she's learned to be mindful of her husband's needs. "The priorities in my life are constantly moving around," she says. "I know when Bobby doesn't like being in the back row, so I move him quickly to the front row. He's the first one to get a ticket. If he wants to move his seat, he can move his seat anytime he wants."

When asked if there was other advice or tips she'd give women to help them have a successful marriage, she says that "being present" is very important. "Nowadays, relationships are so complicated by electronics. It's difficult to sit down for dinner because you're dying to see that text or e-mail that you've been waiting for."

Related Link: [Is Your Perfect Man Criteria Keeping You Single?](#)

Of course, when Zarin was growing up, technology was much different. Her house had only one screen: the television. Now, screens are everywhere – on computers, tablets and smart phones and in the living room, bedroom and even the car. It's no surprise that these "screens" affected her parenting skills. "I don't think that I was present a lot of the time for my daughter. I was home, but I wasn't present," she candidly admits. "My daughter would come home from school, and I'd be on the phone. My daughter would want a snack, and I'd be on the computer. I was always like, 'Just wait one minute, one minute, one minute.'"

She feels that technology has a big impact on dating and relationships too. "There are a lot of things that can make dating challenging, and our phones and computers are two of them," she shares. "People are uncomfortable with verbal communication nowadays." That's one strict rule that Zarin has taught her daughter: don't date through text.

Related Link: [Five Reasons Why Men Text Instead of Call](#)

Currently, Zarin is working on a relationship with herself and taking her own "spiritual journey." One of her commitments is to be present as much as possible. This means that wherever her feet are placed, she needs to be in that moment. "If I'm at home, I shut everything off. My feet are there, and that's where my mind needs to be too."

Still, the reality star doesn't plan on slowing down anytime soon. She'll be promoting her Skweez Couture shape wear line on QVC this month, and she's filming an *Open House* segment at her new home in the Hamptons. She also has a line of beautiful baubles called Jill Zarin Jewelry Collection.

Zarin is certainly focusing on the good stuff!

For more information about Jill Zarin, follow her on [facebook.com/jillzarin](https://www.facebook.com/jillzarin), Twitter @Jillzarin, or check out her website, <http://jillzarin.com/>.

Best Selling Author Sylvia Day Discusses Crossfire Series, Love and Having it All



By Nicole Cavanagh and [Lori Bizzoco](#)

#1 New York Times Best selling author, Sylvia Day chats with CupidsPulse.com about her new novel, and shares where her inspirations come from. A true romantic herself, Day knew she wanted to be a romance novelist when she was just twelve years old! She speaks about current trends between relationships,

love, and reading and tells us how she wants to spread her message about happy endings. Plus, find out about her newest project, the upcoming groundbreaking collaboration with Cosmopolitan and Harlequin. Day believes women really can have it all and reinforces pursuing your dreams both in life and in love.

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our youtube channel, www.youtube.com/user/CupidsPulse

Tabatha Coffey Says That Staying True to Yourself Is Important In All Aspects of Life





By Kerri Sheehan

Australian hairstylist, salon owner and television personality Tabatha Coffey sure has a solid resume. She has been in the hair industry for over 30 years, and in 2007, she was voted the first ever Fan Favorite on the Bravo network's reality series *Shear Genius*. Since then, she received her own spin-off series, *Tabatha's Salon Takeover*, in which she helps failing salon owners turn their businesses around. After three successful seasons, Coffey has moved on to sprucing up a variety of small businesses on her newest reality television endeavor, *Tabatha Takes Over*.

"I just had such an overwhelming, positive response from everyone writing to me and saying, 'I really love what you do. I wish you could help me, but I'm not a hairdresser. I really need help with my business.' It seemed like a natural progression to be able to go into other businesses and help them turn things around," says the reality star sensation.

The current season of *Tabatha Takes Over* is the second of its kind, and Coffey hints that viewers will have quite a lot to

look forward to. “We still have some salons that I’m going into, and for a lot of people, the salons are still the favorites. We have a lot of non-salons that we’re going into as well, and I know a lot of people enjoy that too. It’s a lot of fun. There’s a nice balance with both.” Coffey also alludes to the return of some of the show’s alumni. “We may check in with some past favorites,” she says.

After seeing her in action, it’s no surprise that the hairdresser loves filming the show and helping people turn their lives around. “I get so emotionally invested with every business that I go into that I take the journey with the owners and the employees.” Her favorite times on the show are when she is really able to help the business owner and employees turn over a new leaf. “I always enjoy any time that I see success, that I see people turn their business around. When we’re able to save a business, that’s my favorite because that’s ultimately what I hope for every time.”

Related Link: [Celebrity Couples Who Have Turned Over a New Leaf](#)

Of course, her life isn’t all work. Coffey has been in a committed relationship with her partner for more than a decade. She cites communication as the key to keeping her love a priority despite her hectic schedule. “It’s hard for everyone to find a balance because I think we all get so busy and get so into our own things,” she explains. “So if I’m travelling, I make sure that I’m sending a text and seeing how everything’s going. It’s important to check in and not just be concerned with what’s going on with me.”

As someone who is open about being gay, the television personality shares some tips to anyone struggling to be honest and open about their feelings: “It’s easy to become wrought with the fear of having to tell the truth to your family and friends, but you have to really believe in yourself and be true to yourself. It’s your life, and you have to live it and

be happy with who you are and be honest about who you are. You can't live inauthentically."

Coffey believes that staying true to yourself is vital in every facet of life, especially when it comes to your primping rituals. When asked about hairstyles for different events, she thinks the best rule to follow is to be you. For a first date, she says, "It's great to glam it out a little bit and, you know, put a little bit more makeup on or dress your hair up a little bit, but you should also be true to who you are. If you're going to go overboard and really glam it out and that's just not you, then you're really not letting your date see who you truly are."

Related Link: [Four Dates and a Wedding](#)

For a more glamorous night, like a romantic dinner, she thinks that it's okay to do something fancier with your locks. "I'm sure that the dress you're going to wear is a little bit sexier, and your hair should follow suit."

More likely than not, your spouse has a strong opinion about how they like your hair. "Let's say your guy likes your hair when it's curly, but that's not your favorite thing. Maybe then, your romantic date night is the time to indulge your significant other. Make sure that you play into their opinion a little more and do what they like." Whether it's wearing your hair up, down, slicked back or with some extra texture, show your partner what he wants to see.

As for a wedding day, Coffey urges readers to not stray from what they know works and says, "Never make a drastic change before your big day!" The weeks before a wedding are always heavily laden with emotions, so a bride may feel like she's being spread thin. Therefore, a major change can lead to disaster. When you feel out of control, the one thing you *can* control is hair, so it's never a good time to change your hair when you're engulfed in emotion. "Stay true to yourself

because a lot of brides go crazy and do something that they normally wouldn't do with their hair. When they look at their pictures, they don't even feel like themselves anymore."

You can catch Tabatha Takes Over on Thursdays at 10/9c. If you can't get enough of Coffey on Bravo, you can catch her speaking tour called Meeting with Tabatha, which will begin in Connecticut before it heads to Los Angeles and Arizona. It will give business owners tips for turning their business around and allow them to have an up-close-and-personal questions-and-answers session. You can also follow Coffey on Twitter and Facebook.

Dating Advice: Mario Batali Shares His Tips for Cooking at Home on Date Night





By [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

In this exclusive video interview, chef Mario Batali shares his tips for cooking at home on date night and prepares a chicken pasta salad, a recipe that he put a spin on in honor of Hellmann's 100th birthday. Plus, he chats about which of his restaurants is the best spot for a romantic night out, the importance of bringing your family together for dinner and his sons' new cookbook, *The Batali Brothers Cookbook* – which they originally put together as a Father's Day gift!

For more videos from [CupidsPulse.com](#), check out our [YouTube channel](#).

Brooke Burke-Charvet Says

‘Dancing With the Stars’ Is “Unpredictable and Evenly-Matched”



By [Whitney Baker Johnson](#) and [Sarah Ribeiro](#)

Brooke Burke-Charvet is a star in so many ways: actress, model, *Dancing With the Stars* (DWTS) winner and now co-host. Given her past dancing record (she won season 7), it's no surprise that *DWTS* is something she holds near and dear to her heart.

“I loved the experience of learning how to dance. It was an incredible life lesson. Hosting the show and being such a big part of the *DWTS* family does make me want to dance again, but I doubt that I'd be able to pull off dancing and hosting at

the same time!”

As for the current season, the co-host thinks it will be full of surprises until the finale (which airs tonight). “Every couple brings something different to the ballroom,” she shares. “I love how unpredictable and evenly-matched it is this year. On some nights, when I think a certain couple will shine, another couple surprises me. That’s the beauty of the show. At this point, I have no idea who will take home the coveted mirror ball trophy. Even if I had a favorite, I wouldn’t tell you anyways!”

Related Link: [Brooke Burke-Charvet Shares Love Life Secrets](#)

But despite keeping her favorite couple to herself and juggling multiple activities and roles, the most important role seems to be that of being a good mom to her children and wife to husband David Charvet. “We [David] and I try to get out once a week, just the two of us. Our golden rule is that we can talk about anything but the kids. We do a lot of double dates, and we love the local hot spot in Malibu, Nobu, which is only five minutes away from our house. A really important part of our relationship is to carve out that time just for us.”

In addition to balancing her personal life with her hectic schedule, Burke-Charvet has another challenge and it happens during allergy season. Each spring, she’s faced with excessive sneezing, runny nose and itchy, watery eyes. This is not something that fares well in her busy career. Knowing that she isn’t alone when it comes to seasonal allergies, Brooke is partnering with Claritin on the Claritin Clear Challenge to get the message out to others who are going through this. Claritin keeps her healthy while she carries on with her busy life at home and in the spotlight.

“My allergy symptoms slow me down as a mom,” she reveals. “And it can also be really embarrassing when you’re on television.

Claritin really works for me, so I teamed up with them to take their Claritin Clear Challenge and share my story.”

Related Link: [With Claritin, The Difference Is Clear](#)

Of course, Burke-Charvet has faced worse health problems than allergies. Last year, she announced that she had thyroid cancer and underwent preventative surgery. Even so, just like her allergies, she didn't let her diagnosis get in the way of living a normal life. “All of it was hard, but as a public figure, I have a responsibility to share personal things when I think other people can grow from them,” she explains. “I was astonished to learn how many women have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer and have had thyroidectomies. I hope sharing my story was comforting for those people.”

It wasn't a one-way street though. “I certainly learned a lot from the exchange on social media. The outpour of love, support and prayers from everyone around the country really helped me manage my own fears, and I'm happy that I was able to control the story and share it. We all learned from one another – that's why I'm so open and vocal on social media.”

It's no wonder this strong, courageous and likable woman won *DWTS!*

Be sure to watch *Dancing With the Stars* on ABC tonight at 8/7c to see who wins – and to see how Claritin helps Burke-Charvet stay allergy-free.

For more information about Burke-Charvet, follow her on [Twitter](#) or check out her Web site, [Modern Mom](#).

'Bad Girls All-Star Battle' Host Ray J Says a Bad Girl Is "Confident, Sassy and Independent"



By [Sarah Ribeiro](#)

He may be notorious for being a bad boy, but now, Ray J is hanging out with a bunch of bad girls. The singer, actor and reality television star will be hosting Oxygen's *Bad Girls All-Star Battle*, which takes 14 of the most popular ladies from [Bad Girls Club](#) and pits them against each other, competing for 100,000 dollars and the title of "Baddest Bad Girl of All Time."

After appearing on his own show *For the Love of Ray J*, he is once again surrounded by girls – but this time, he says it’s all professional. “Being on a dating show with all these girls trying to be with you is a whole different concept from being on a show with the baddest bad girls on the planet,” he says. “So I looked at it as a new challenge. It’s a step up to me from anything I’ve done so far.”

Of course, it’s no secret that Ray J knows all about bad girls. His history with Kim Kardashian – and their sex tape – is still a big identifier for the singer. His newest single “I Hit It First” is a definite shout-out to Kardashian and her new beau Kanye West.

Related Link: [Kim Kardashian Wears Floral Dress at Punk-Themed Met Gala with Kanye West](#)

One thing has changed though: Ray J can now tell who’s a bad girl and who isn’t. According to the musician, a bad girl is “a girl who never gives up, who is confident in herself, who has been through things. Maybe she’s been knocked down and got right back up. She keeps fighting and keeps moving forward. And a true bad girl has been through some tough things but is still a winner and continues to go on with her life as a champion.”

His new gig on *Bad Girls All-Star Battle* has even shown him that every bad girl has a good side too. “Some of these girls are coming on this show to win this money for real positive reasons. There is a single mom trying to win the money to help her daughter have a better life. Another bad girl is trying to help her brother get out of foster care. It’s a great show with challenges, but there’s also some real substance.”

It’s this substance, he says, that helped him become a good host: “You want to know certain things about somebody that you trust and care about. For the show, I had to go deep with the questions. I had to really get inside of the girls’ minds

and understand their angle, their plan, their emotions.”

Ray J has also grown on a personal level and adds, “It has helped me become more honest with the people around me, so as far as control and authority, I stepped up my game a thousand percent.”

Related Link: [The Pros and Cons of Taming a Bad Boy](#)

Because of this new truth, he has a lot of respect for his “bad girls.” He believes it takes strength to be bad and that being bad doesn’t mean, well, being *bad*. “I think a bad girl comes from within,” the host explains. “I don’t think a bad girl is a bad thing. I think it’s just a girl that’s confident, sassy and independent. If you’re a good girl or even a great girl, you can still be strong. You can still believe in yourself and stand up for what you believe in.”

Oxygen’s Bad Girls All-Star Battle premieres on Tuesday, May 21st at 9/8c. You can keep up with Ray J on [Twitter](#) and his personal site www.rayj.com.