

Dating Advice From Justin Kim of 'America's Next Top Model': "If Someone Is Already on Your Team, You Shouldn't Be Looking for Free Agents."



By [Sarah Batcheller](#)

America's Next Top Model has a knack for introducing audiences to their next, most beloved reality stars. The reality TV competition is known for being lathered in glamour, sophistication, and fun. Not to mention, some serious eye

candy. This summer brings in Cycle 22 of *Top Model*, and with it an up-and-coming heartthrob, Justin Kim. Loads of social media adoration surround Kim already, as admirers anxiously await his on-screen debut. A Northern Virginia native and George Mason University alumnus, Kim is taking the modeling world by storm. In this exclusive celebrity interview, Cupid talks to Kim about the road to stardom, the adventures along the way, and his best dating advice.

Cupid's Exclusive Celebrity Interview with 'ANTM' Up-and-Comer Justin Kim

Kim wasn't apt to put any of his dreams on hold while he was attending college. He explains welcoming a modeling career into his life, stating, "I went to [George Mason University], and I commuted, so that allowed me to do my thing on the side. Going to Mason was a blessing in disguise, because at first I'd wanted to go away to college and get the "full experience." Then, my sophomore year [a friend of mine] asked if I wanted to be a secondary model for a shoot. I told him 'no' at first, but a week beforehand he contacted me again, so I did it. People saw the shots, they submitted me to a casting call, and I ended up getting signed. I got to do shoots in D.C. and network. So, it just happened."

Related Link: [Celebrity Interview: Model CariDee English Is "Off the Market Officially!"](#)

Believe it or not, perfecting his "smize" wasn't Kim's biggest battle. In fact, he claims that living with roommates was his first real, personal challenge. "These were essentially my first roommates in my entire life!" he exclaims. "It was a huge culture shock, and there were so many different personalities."

As far as the culture shock goes, Kim explains that his upbringing allowed him a healthy perspective. "I'm blessed...My parents raised me in Northern Virginia, and that is one of the most diverse locations in the entire country. Back at home, there are so many different cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds," he reveals. "For some of the castmates I was with, that was new. For example, one person had never met an Asian-American person in their life."

The newness of the experience must have brought the cast members closer together, though, because Justin named Nyle DiMarco, Dustin McNeer, Stefano Churchill, and Mamé Adje as his closest pals while filming. Although, anyone who has participated in the aforementioned social media hype may be suspicious that Adje and Kim are more than "just friends." Maintaining full-blown mystery, Kim says of his castmate, who is also known as Miss Maryland 2015, "Mamé is an awesome friend."

One relationship that the budding fan-favorite does gush about, though, is that with Tyra Banks. Of the show's host, Kim raves, "Tyra can back up all the hype around her. The aura I felt while standing in front of her is just *real*. It was amazing...She's so genuine. Off-camera she would come and make sure we were doing okay."

Justin Kim Offers Dating Advice for Millennials

As for relationships and love in general, Kim discloses that things haven't changed much for him since beginning his road to stardom, but that he is mindful, and trying to make smart choices. "I try to keep everything the same, and not let anything change me," he says. "People do tell me to be careful of who to meet now because they might have the wrong intentions, and that's true, but at the end of the day you just have to go for who you like, and who you want to be

the Truth About Reality TV



Interview by [Rebecca White](#). Written by Meranda Yslas.

Without a doubt, there's something fascinating about reality TV that makes us tune in and catch the latest episode each week. Lifetime's newest scripted series *UnREAL* exposes the manipulation that goes on behind-the-scenes to keep the drama alive on a popular dating show. In our [exclusive celebrity interview](#), actor Josh Kelly not only reveals the truth about reality TV but also opens up about relationships and love.

Exclusive Celebrity Interview with *UnREAL*'s Josh Kelly

Contestants on shows like *The Bachelor* or *The*

Bachelorette sometime act in ways that make our jaws drop in disbelief. Although we say we would never do half the things we see on television, we shouldn't be so quick to judge: Kelly explains that people often undergo a psychological change when placed in front of a camera. "It was pretty fascinating because, before I auditioned for the show, I was taking a psychology class. I had become friends with a reality TV person, and she told me all these things, and I was flabbergasted," he says. "So I rewrote my thesis paper to show how reality TV shows would be illegal if they were done in psychological experiments. All you have to do is throw cameras at people, and they pretty much do anything. I was really happy when the show came around because it was exactly what I was talking about."

Although having cameras present makes people act a little differently, a big part of why reality TV shows are full of so much drama is the manipulation by the producers and directors. *UnREAL* showcases just how much deceit is put into making a show a hit. It may seem a bit overboard, but the 33-year-old actor insists that it's true. "*UnREAL* is exaggerated to tell the storyline with the characters, but as far as what goes on, from what I've heard, it's not exaggerated at all," the actor says. "If anything, it's almost held back and toned down."

Related Link: [Shiri Appleby Welcomes a Baby Girl](#)

Jeremy, Kelly's character, is the cameraman and a past lover of one of the producers, Rachel, played by Shiri Appleby. Although the two have a complicated past, fans can't help but hope they end up back together. "If you want to be with someone and it's not working out, then you have to ask yourself if you should be with them," he says. "I guess that's the question for most exes. With Jeremy and Rachel, I don't know. I think they both want it to work out, but they've both done some bad stuff."

Without giving too much away, he does hint that more is going

to happen between the exes. “It gets crazier and crazier,” the *One Life to Live* star adds. “Jeremy and Rachel try to deal with their issues.”

While Jeremy may be struggling with a lingering old relationship and love, Kelly knows how to deal with an ex. His relationship advice is to be honest with your former flame *and* with your new partner. “Don’t try to hide anything, and don’t try to keep either side a secret,” he says.

He also shares a piece of love advice for current couples: “If you’re really in love, try and love the person more than you think they love you. As long as they’re doing that as well, then you guys are good.”

Finding Love on Reality TV

Even though it’s clear that what happens on reality TV isn’t always authentic, that doesn’t mean dating shows can’t be successful. Still, regardless of cameras, “finding love is the hardest thing to do,” Kelly believes. He also points out that shows like *Married at First Sight* have helped people find their soul mate. “Doug Hehner and Jamie Otis – they’re still making it. They’re one of the reality show couples that my girlfriend and I have become friends with, and they’re very happy,” he shares.

Related Link: [‘Married at First Sight’ Couple Jamie Otis and Doug Hehner Share Love Advice: “A Strong Foundation is Key”](#)

A big departure from his role on *UnREAL*, with parts in films like *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* and *Jarhead 2: Field of Fire*, Kelly is no stranger to being in war-style movies. Ironically, he has a military background and admits that being a past soldier and then playing one on set can be a bit aggravating. “A lot of people have a preconceived notion of who soldiers are and why they act like they do,” he says. “They think of them as mechanical and not human. On

On After Infidelity



By [Rebecca White](#)

Moving on is never an easy thing to do, but when the [relationship and love](#) ends due to infidelity, it's even harder. In a new Oxygen Media reality TV series titled *Player Gets Played*, each week, one woman with a lurking suspicion uncovers the heartbreaking reality that she is not the only love in her boyfriend's life. Once these ladies discover the truth, they join together to teach their "player" boyfriend a lesson. In our exclusive celebrity interview, four of the stars of the show open up about being cheated on and building trust with a new partner.

Reality TV Stars Open Up About Dating After Infidelity in Exclusive Celebrity Interview

Brittany, Meghan, Nyira, and Jessica all have one thing in common: Their boyfriends cheated on them, and now, they have to open themselves up to love again. “After being cheated on, it took me awhile to finally move on and give someone a chance to even walk up and talk to me,” Brittany shares. “I am still not in the right ‘place’ to get back into a relationship.”

Related Link: [You’ve Cheated, So Now What?](#)

While Brittany wanted to take some time before entering a new relationship and love, Nyira was ready to jump right back in. “It took me about a month to move on,” she says. “I couldn’t allow myself to dwell in that hurt. I just prayed, forgave, and let it go.”

Once you move on, though, there’s still a long way to go. Meghan and Jessica both understand that trusting a new partner isn’t as easy as it used to be. “I’ve moved on, but I don’t let down my walls, and I’ve become more difficult to penetrate mentally, physically, and emotionally,” Jessica shares in our exclusive celebrity interview. “I find that, with a new partner, he has to love me more. I know how to love and be faithful in a relationship, so if he loves me more, then I feel like we’re equal. I don’t think he’ll cheat because he appreciates me more than just in a physical sense.”

Meghan also learned that she no longer trusts as easily. “I actually don’t let my walls down so quickly,” she explains. “I always trusted any guy, but now, I don’t trust someone until it is earned.”

While trusting a new partner after infidelity isn’t easy, it’s important not to judge every relationship based on previous

ones. "If I go into another relationship expecting to be cheated on, then it's going to happen!" Jessica says. "Our thoughts create action. The thing is, you can never tell. You just need to give every person their own blank piece of paper and let them have a fresh, untainted start."

Related Link: [Can Cheaters Ever Change?](#)

Brittany also believes that you need a clean slate in order to build a new flame. "Once you start dating, you have to let your guard down a little, or you will never know if there is a connection between you and the other person," she shares.

No matter what, you have to keep taking chances. When asked about their best love advice, these reality TV stars encourage you to be patient. "You can't go your entire life being scared to love," Nyira says. "Yes, you may get hurt, but you will grow stronger from it. Then one day, that special man that you have been dreaming about will come and sweep you off your feet. Those walls will slowly come down until there is a heart full of love, ready to meet another. Once those two hearts meet, a beautiful love will blossom."

For more information about Player Gets Played, check out their website, www.oxygen.com/player-gets-played! Be sure to watch the show on Oxygen on Wednesdays at 9:30/8:30c.

Celebrity Video Interview: Jonathan Adler Talks Summer

Home Decor and Relationship Advice



By Katelyn Di Salvo

Summer has finally arrived, and designer Jonathan Adler is giving his best tips on how to transform your home into a relaxing sanctuary! This entrepreneur started in pottery and has expanded to much more since then. In our [exclusive celebrity interview](#), he opened up about all things within the home including how to decorate your space when it comes to relationships and love. You don't want to miss this celebrity interview!

Related Link: [Celebrity Video Interview: Tim Gunn Talks First Date Fashion and Summer Trends](#)

Jonathan Adler Talks Home Decor Tips For the Summer

As the saying goes, “mi casa es su casa,” and this cannot be more true than at this time of the year! Summertime is when many of us get the most traffic coming through our homes with friends and relatives staying for extended visits during the warmer weather. Entertaining can add a lot of pressure when it comes to ensuring your hosting skills are up to par. So, how do you make your guests feel like their at home? “I like to make my guests feel like they are in the most luxurious hotel on earth!” exclaims Adler. He says the best way to make your home feel comfortable and relaxing for your guests is to have stacks of towels, fresh flowers, and some POND’S moist towelettes that come in a very chic vanity case designed by Adler himself!

As far as brightening up the home for the warmer weather, Adler says pops of color are the way to go. “Summer is a great time to throw in some bright and colorful pillows, or you can take up a rug,” he says. “There’s just lots of ways to make it all feel fresh and carefree for the summer,” he explains.

Related Link: [Celebrity Video Interview: Love Advice From HGTV Host Kelly Edwards](#)

The Successful Designer Discusses His Celebrity Relationship and Love

Jonathan Adler has been in his [celebrity relationship](#) with husband Simon Doonan for nearly two decades! The celebrity couple met on a blind date, and Adler explains it was “easy breezy” from the moment they met. The designer even shared his secret when it comes to relationships and love! “I never even thought twice about it. From the second we met it was just sort of done.”

Designing a home with your significant other can be very stressful, especially if you're butting heads on how it should look. In this case Adler believes that the men should stay out of it, saying, "If it's a straight couple I think the big challenge is when the man starts weighing in on design decisions, which he shouldn't, the wife is always right, and if it's a gay couple I think whoever has the chicest shoes should make the decisions!"

We love his thinking!

Adler says he has a lot of upcoming projects, and even shared that he is leaving for Italy for one of those exciting tasks soon. We cannot wait to see what he has in store for us next!

You can find his one-of-a-kind designs at *Neiman Marcus*, and his home decor either on JonathanAdler.com or in one of his 26 stores worldwide!

Holly Madison Says Her Past As Playboy Bunny is Like "The Elephant in the Room That Never Goes Away"





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Katelyn Di Salvo. Holly Madison best known for being a former *Playboy* bunny and Hugh Hefner's #1 celebrity ex has written her first memoir titled 'Down the Rabbit Hole.' In the book, she speaks openly about her relationship with Hefner, the other girls in the house and her biggest life lessons. In our [exclusive celebrity interview](#) with the reality TV star, now author, she expresses that she wishes this book will help other young women in bad relationships and hopes they learn from her mistakes.

Reality TV star reflects on her past

The former *Girl Next Door* has certainly moved on from her *Playboy* days. She has been married for two years and is mom to two-year-old daughter, Rainbow. Madison shared that she is happy to have such a supportive husband who is proud of her for telling her story.

After her [celebrity break-up](#) with celebrity ex Hefner, Madison did her best to stay quiet about her time in the mansion, “I didn’t want to talk about anything *Playboy* related because I felt like that was going back to it and I wanted to get away from it, but there is no getting away from it. It’s the elephant in the room that never goes away.”

It’s been seven years since she’s lived in the mansion and Madison now feels like she has a lot of hindsight behind her. This is why she decided to write the book now, “I have a lot more growth and insight as to what I was thinking at the time, and why I made some of the decisions I made, so I definitely wanted to share that with people.”

Related Link: [Holly Madison Discusses Baby Names and Wedding Plans – Right Before She Heads to the Hospital!](#)

Her Relationship with Celebrity Ex Hefner and the Other Girls

Madison was Hefner’s girl for seven years, and throughout that time, she felt like she did everything she could to make it work saying, “I always tried to make the best of the situation, you know, I always tried to do my best as a girlfriend and make that relationship work.”

Her celebrity ex, Hefner recently had something to say about the release of Madison’s memoir saying that she “chose to rewrite history” to “stay in the spotlight,” but Madison says that she didn’t have an ax to grind. She says she never wanted to hurt him or get a reaction from him, “He happens to be a big part of my life story, and I’m telling my story.”

Kendra Wilkinson- Baskett and Bridget Marquardt were also a part of Madison’s life story, both also being celebrity exes to Hefner. Madison describes her relationship with Bridget as a true friendship saying, “She was a really close friend to me

the whole time I was in the mansion and really the only close friend and the only person I really ever confided in.”

Unfortunately her relationship with Kendra did not stay as tight. The two had a falling out, which Madison describes as “very dumb.” She is saddened that she is not as close with Kendra and said, “The relationships I had with the other girls are very important to me especially after I left the house, because we were the only ones that really shared that experience, and its an experience that weather you are ready to admit it or not, it’s a traumatic experience, but I think she’s still kind of more team Playboy and if that’s what she wants to be that’s fine.”

Overall Madison says Hefner “was lucky to have us” when reminiscing on her relationship with the *Playboy* founder.

Related Link: [Hugh Hefner Says Celebrity Ex Holly Madison Rewrote History](#)

Holly Madison’s Biggest Life Lessons and Relationship Advice

When asked how she will share her past with her daughter, Madison thinks the book will be a great start! She hopes her book will inspire young girls to find healthy relationships and learn from her mistakes. Madison strongly advises girls to find and love yourself before looking for love in someone else. “In a way its the worst advice because you can’t teach anybody how to do that, but it’s so important.”

Madison is hoping to write a second book on the topic of relationships and love, so be on the look out for that!

Reality TV Newcomer Chantelle Fraser Talks Relationship Status & Blood, Sweat and Heels Finale



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Jenna Bagcal.
On this season of the Bravo reality TV show *Blood, Sweat and Heels*, fans welcomed newcomer Chantelle Fraser to the show's cast. The UK native and founder of Flawless NYC made her television debut on the popular show and forged strong friendships and even some rivalries along the way. In this [exclusive celebrity interview](#), CupidsPulse.com Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco caught up with Fraser who shared details about her time on the show, who she's dating, and what's next

for her.

Reality TV Newcomer Discusses Her Experience on the Show

Fraser joined the cast of the Bravo reality TV show in its second season, and cites her experience on the show as “surreal.” She reveals, “Well it’s obviously surreal watching yourself on television, especially because I haven’t been on television before, seeing myself *being* myself. So that’s always interesting.” Fraser adds that she was pleased with how she portrayed herself, but wished that the show reflected more depth regarding disputes between cast members.

Related Link: [‘Blood, Sweat and Heels’ Reality TV Star Brie Bythewood Says, “I Don’t Know How to Be Anyone Other Than Me”](#)

One of Fraser’s biggest disputes this season was between herself and fellow cast member Demetria Lucas D’Oyley. Fraser says that the feud between the two women was not portrayed as well on the show. “Me and Demetria had a bit of beef on the show and I kind of felt like it didn’t really reflect what truly went down from the cut, which was unfortunate,” she says. Currently Fraser confirms that the two women “don’t have a relationship” after the events on the show transpired.

Despite this feud however, the young businesswoman says that she has formed great friendships with some of her fellow cast members including Geneva Thomas and Daisy Lewellyn, both of whom she speaks with regularly.

Bravo Star Shares Relationship Details and What’s Next

Before appearing on *Blood, Sweat and Heels*, the reality TV star was romantically linked to Mario Singer, the ex-husband

of Ramona Singer from *Real Housewives of New York*. Rumors surrounded Fraser and Singer, who were reportedly believed to be a celebrity couple. However, Fraser revealed that she is currently in a celebrity relationship with one of her ex-boyfriends. She shared that she and her current flame, who is a New York City lawyer, have been dating since the show wrapped almost one year ago and that fans can “forget the rumors” that she and Singer are an item.

Related Link: [Celebrity Video Exclusive: ‘Blood, Sweat and Heels’ Star Geneva Thomas Moments Before Brawl with Melyssa Ford](#)

Although she has had a mostly positive experience on the show, she says that being in the cast presented challenges as well. “The biggest struggle I think is staying focused on day to day business activities because people want to pull and push you in different directions. It’s great, but at the same time I still need to keep an eye on my business.”

A new project that the entrepreneur is currently working on is *flawless-living.com*, which she says is a weekly website that is “focused on self development.” Fraser shares “My goal is to be the best version of myself, and I know that it’s the the goal of many other people too. It’s a journey, so we’ve enlisted experts in nutrition, health, wellness, beauty and love.”

After five months of filming, Fraser says that being on the show is better than she imagined. She reveals that the positive feedback from the media as well as the support of her fans have been “overwhelming.” She also adds, “I’m all about growing and learning. By watching myself on TV for better or for worse, I can grow and I can learn.”

Catch up with Chantelle on Twitter @chantyfraser.

Celebrity Video Interview: Tim Gunn Talks First Date Fashion and Summer Trends



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by [Rebecca White](#).

Make it work! Whether it be in relationships and love or the latest fashion trends, Tim Gunn's catchphrase holds true. The Emmy award winning co-host for Lifetime's *Project Runway* shares where to go on a first date and what he's most excited about for the new season of the hit fashion show. In our [celebrity video interview](#), Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco chats with the fashion expert about summer trends and all things *Project Runway*. You don't want to miss this celebrity news!

Related Link: [Celebrity Video Interview: Love Advice From HGTV Host Kelly Edwards](#)

Tim Gunn Talks First Date Looks and Summer Fashion Trends

First dates can be nerve-racking, but you shouldn't worry about what to wear or where to go. "Dress up!" Gunn exclaims. "Dressing up says 'I want you to see the best of me.' It's about respect for yourself and the person you're dating." When it comes to finding the perfect first date outfit, Gunn has three essential elements that need to be balanced: Silhouette, proportion, and fit. "When those three elements are in harmony, you will look fabulous no matter what you're wearing," he says.

Choosing a location is also very important when it comes to the beginning of a relationship and love. Gunn's love advice is to always go out to eat. "I believe that a first date should be a meal, because you need to know how they interact with the waitstaff, what table manners they have, and how they interact with you during a meal," Gunn shares. "I think it's all telling."

Related Link: [OWN Star Kiki Haynes Shares Love Advice: "If the Heart Behind It Isn't Genuine, Then I'd Rather Not Have It"](#)

If you're going out this summer, then remember that accessories are more important than apparel this season. Whether it's a new hat, eyewear, or wedges, accessories work with many different looks. Also keep in mind that '70's Bohemian is coming back, so splash into summer with this revived look. "Independent of trends, there is something for everyone," Gunn shares. "Think about what's in your closet and what will enhance it. And always try it on! Under all circumstances, make no assumptions about fit."

Fashion Icon Discusses *Project Runway*

If you're eagerly awaiting the new season of *Project Runway*, then you'll love to hear that filming for season 14 starts in a few days. Unfortunately, this season Gunn was not able to go on the auditions to see the broad range of talent. However, he did get to look over the new contestants that were chosen. "I'm excited about working with them, they have a lot of personality," he says. "I hope they don't cancel each other out with that personality!"

But being on a show for this long doesn't mean it's perfect. Gunn says that if he had to change one thing, he would like to be in the workroom when the designers fit their models. "I've never seen so much delusion presented to me," he says. "I'm always asking how the fittings went and invariably it's 'Oh, they were great.' Then, I look at the work on the runway and I'm like 'What? Is there a new definition of the word great?'"

You can keep up with Tim on Twitter @TimGunn and www.facebook.com/TimGunn.

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

Celebrity News: Caitlyn Jenner Gushes Over 'Over the

Top Great 'Vanity Fair' Photos



By Kayla D'Amour

It's official: Caitlyn Jenner broke the Internet! (Sorry, Kim!) In latest celebrity news, not only did her amazing photo shoot go viral, but she also broke a world record by getting a million Twitter followers in just four hours. According to UsMagazine.com, when talking about what seems like the most shared photo of all time, Jenner gushed, "I mean these pictures—Annie, *Vanity Fair*, spared nothing doing it right, and the wardrobe, everything involved with it were just, the people were just great. It was two of the best days of my life. The pictures came out over-the-top great."

Talk about some major celebrity news! What are some ways to use photos to kick start your love life?

Cupid's Advice:

This love advice is nothing to take lightly. If you use photos in the right way, they can most definitely aid in kick starting your love life. Cupid has some tips:

1. Boost your confidence: Taking photos in your favorite outfit is guaranteed to make you feel good. Find the perfect lighting and snap some sassy shots, girl! Even if you don't show them to anyone, just having photos you feel confident with can elevate your mood and make you feel sexy.

Related Link: [Kim Kardashian and Kanye West Announce Celebrity Pregnancy for Baby No. 2](#)

2. Update up your profile picture: Change up your current profile picture, and take a fresh one! It might just catch the eye of someone special and give your love life the jump it needs.

Related Link: [Kris Jenner Says She and Celebrity Ex Bruce Jenner Were 'A Match Made in Heaven](#)

3. Look through old photos for inspiration: Sorting through old photos of bad haircuts and awkward years will definitely light a spark in you. Share those photos with your significant other for some bonding time and even a few laughs along the way.

How have you used photos to kickstart your love life? Let us know below!

Celebrity Video Interview: Love Advice From HGTV Host Kelly Edwards



By [Rebecca White](#)

Home improvement and lifestyle expert Kelly Edwards shares all of the ins and outs of designing and redecorating your home for the summer season in our exclusive celebrity interview. Moving in together is a big step for any relationship and love, and tackling the design process can be daunting. Don't fret though! In our [celebrity video interview](#), Edwards chats about how to compromise if your design styles don't match up

and how to save money and stay on a budget. Plus, she shares the piece of love advice that helps keep her 11-year marriage strong.

Related Link: [Brooke Burke-Charvet Talks About Her Marriage in Celebrity Video Interview: “We Carve Out Time for Each Other”](#)

Kelly Edwards Shares Love Advice For Decorating and Design In Celebrity Video Interview

If you're moving in as a couple and your design styles don't match up, compromising is the best solution. Take a cue from Edwards' own story: “I had a coffee table that my husband hated, so I told him if we put it in the space and he still hated it after 30 days, then he could take it out,” she says. “Well, 30 days later, he forgot it was even there. I got to keep it! Now, he's in love with it, and it looks amazing.”

Don't be scared of the design and decorating process – you don't have to do it all at once. “It should happen over time,” the lifestyle expert explains. “You should have a curated space that's all you, and you've found pieces along the way from traveling or picking it up together as a couple.”

You can also save money while designing your home by having some do-it-yourself pieces. “I love to say that, if it has good bones and good structure, then you should keep it,” she says. “You should have things in your home that you love.”

Related Link: [Do-It-Yourself Date Night Advice from HGTV Host Monica Pedersen](#)

Lifestyle Expert Talks Relationships and Love

It's no surprise that Edwards and her husband – a photographer – both travel a lot. “We both travel often, so I say that's the key to happy marriage,” she shares in our celebrity video interview. “We travel together and separately too.”

Being in a relationship and love for over a decade is no easy task! Edwards' love advice for a lasting partnership is to find an interest you can share. “Have a hobby you like to do together, so you're always falling in love with something new,” the HGTV star says. “[My husband and I] are big foodies, and we love to travel, so every time we go to a place we haven't been before, we can experience that together. We're creating memories, so later on, no one else has that particular memory but us.”

You can keep up with Kelly on Twitter @KellyEdwardsInc and her website, <http://kellyedwardsinc.com/>.

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

OWN Star Kiki Haynes Shares Love Advice: “If the Heart Behind It Isn't Genuine, Then

I'd Rather Not Have It"



By [Sarah Batcheller](#)

Kiki Hayne's tremendous personality is impossible to ignore. Whether she's on-screen starring as Keisha Jones in Tyler Perry's *For Better or Worse*, which airs on the Oprah Winfrey Network, or divulging her best love advice, she never fails to make her audience laugh. The television star knew at a young age that acting was her passion. After meeting Bill Cosby and other cast members of *The Cosby Show* early in her acting career, she became determined to pursue a successful career in the entertainment industry. Since then, she's captivated fans with her riotous, sassy attitude. In this [exclusive celebrity interview](#), the New Jersey native opens up about her thriving career and the importance of keeping your head up.

OWN Star Discusses Castmates in Exclusive Celebrity Interview

The *For Better or Worse* star explains that she and her castmates are like family. “We’re all team players. It’s gotten to the point that we know each other so well that we play off of each other,” Haynes gushes. “We just have a good time while we’re filming! It’s kind of like having a best friend who you don’t have to say anything to; you can just give each other that look.”

In addition to having such supportive friends, the OWN star names her faith as being what helps her keep her head up during tough times. “It is everything,” she says of her beliefs. “This business will tear you apart. There are always more actors than there is work, so everybody’s trying to get those two or three roles. My faith in God makes me feel a comfort that, when I don’t get a role, no matter how great I was or how hard I worked on the audition, it just wasn’t meant for me. A lot of people think, ‘What did I do wrong?’ It’s not that you did something wrong; it just wasn’t meant for you. I know for a fact that my faith taught me that – it keeps me sane!”

Related Link: [Girl’s Night Movie Pick of the Week: ‘The Single Moms Club’](#)

When it comes to her *For Better or Worse* character, Haynes admits that Keisha is very different from her true self and draws her inspiration to play a villainous woman not only from people she’s known in real life but from reality TV as well. “I’ve met people like Keisha before! They’re not necessarily friends of mine, but I’ve been in settings where I’ve witnessed people bring on the drama,” she reveals. “And I’ve watched reality TV shows like *Bad Girls Club* and *Basketball Wives*. I look at the drama they bring and use those kinds of mannerisms for Keisha. It’s so much fun!

“But I also find a truthful side to her because I wanted the audience to still have a heart for her,” she adds. “She is a lot of trouble, but underneath is a woman who’s hurt.”

Kiki Haynes Offers Old-Fashioned Love Advice

Haynes’s sweet disposition is evident in her outlook on love. Like many single celebrity women, she describes herself as a “renaissance woman” but still values chivalry when it comes to dating. In our exclusive celebrity interview, she points out, “I have a modern outlook that women should be in more powerful positions and be able to be independent, but I still like tradition in my dating life. I like old-school courtship. I want a guy to actually come and ring the doorbell and open the car door for me. I also like it when guys ask me about me; I’ve been on dates when guys talk more about themselves. Don’t just try and sell yourself to me – get to know *me!*”

The Jersey girl’s best love advice comes from the early days of a past relationship, in which she claims if she could go back and do the relationship over again, she would have known better from the get-go: “On a date one night, we were talking at dinner, and he asked me about things I had never done, so I told him things like parasailing and canoe riding. On the next date, we went parasailing, went to breakfast afterward, then went on a gondola ride, had champagne and strawberries, then dinner, and finally went to a huge Latin dance concert. He had the full date planned out from top to bottom. I really felt like a princess!” she shares. “But it was too good to be true because it was all for show. As much as I enjoyed it all, if the heart behind it isn’t genuine, then I’d rather not have it.”

Related Link: [Celebrity Interview: ‘The Real’ Co-Host Jeannie Mai Shares Recycling Tips and Beauty Advice](#)

Of the same relationship, Haynes continues, “Another thing he did was that, every time he came to my house, he would spend a long time in my bathroom, and I found out he actually made a mental note of all of the products I used and stocked his bathroom with the same shampoo, deodorant, etc. so that I wouldn’t have to bring things back and forth. He did all of that in the first month! Not that anything is wrong with that, but I could probably have waited another two to three months. After six months, he showed his true character.”

So what did she learn from this failed partnership? “If someone does too much too fast, they’re probably on a schedule. Why did he have to plan that date in one day? It was too much, too fast! If I could go back and do it all over again, I would have known to run for the hills,” she says.

For more from Kiki, be sure to keep up with her on Twitter @iamkikihaynes, www.facebook.com/kiki.haynes, and www.instagram.com/kikihaynes/.

‘American Crime’ Actress Gwendoline Yeo on Relationships and Love: “You Have to Have Similar Hearts”





By [Sarah Batcheller](#)

Gwendoline Yeo captivates audiences with her ability to capture the essence of every character she plays. She is best-known for her roles on *Desperate Housewives*, *Broken Trail*, and most recently, ABC's *American Crime*. While her comedic virtue keeps fans coming back, it's her knack for expressing deep human emotions that is truly unforgettable. The Singapore native is an outstanding example of a female actress whose undeniable talent demands reverence. In addition to her television roles, she has crafted her own one-woman show that reminds us all about the power of inner strength. In our exclusive celebrity interview, Yeo opens up about the representation of women in the entertainment industry, her booming career, and, of course, all things [relationships and love!](#)

***American Crime* Star Discusses the Role of Women in the Entertainment**

Industry

The actress believes that the entertainment industry should always work to increase the number of empowered female roles, particularly when it comes to women of color. During her time on *Desperate Housewives*, she recalls the ways in which the media would miss the point and celebrate women for things other than their acting talent. “I remember that there was a cover story about Eva Longoria saying something like, ‘Mexican Latina Explosion!’ Eva was like, ‘What explosion? It’s just me,’” she says.

Related Link: [Eva Longoria Says She’s Not Angry About Ex Tony Parker’s Affair](#)

She explains the importance of a diverse representation in the TV world by saying, “You’ve just got to keep working at diversity. I do think that many networks are trying to get there. *American Crime* is such a diverse show, and ABC as a network has such a diverse roster.”

She then adds, “It’s also not just about being in front of the camera. It’s important for people to want to be *behind* the camera directing and writing these roles. With all of that being said, I don’t think I work any less than other actresses. I’ve been very fortunate, and half of the roles I have booked have not been race specific. I still believe that talent and authenticity win in a room.”

As far as the behind-the-scenes work goes, the *Desperate Housewives* veteran explains that women are often times harder on her, but she describes that as “a joyful challenge” because, all-in-all, they understand each other.

Yeo is currently working on transforming her one-woman show, *Laughing With My Mouth Wide Open*, into a screenplay. The show details the true story of her journey from abuse and suppression to freedom and happiness, and her goal is to

connect with her audience through art. “I feel that, often times, when you expose yourself, people are actually very accepting because everybody has their own shame about things,” the actress-turned-producer explains. “I really wanted to impact younger women. I had a lot of women come up to me, and while none were very vocal, I think they were like, ‘Wow, I learned something.’”

She continues, “I wanted to prevent people from getting into situations where they feel compromised. Whenever people are victimized in certain ways, they always wonder, ‘Did I cause it?’ But I don’t feel that’s the case.”

Gwendoline Yeo Gives Relationship Advice to Fans

Although there was a time when her parents disagreed with her career choice, Yeo changed their minds when she realized that acting gave her a sense of wholeness. “In any family, you want stability for your children. When we came over to the states, my dad was making twenty to thirty thousand a year, and my mom sold sewing machines at five dollars an hour. All the while, they were putting us through Catholic school. They were doing their best, so I felt indebted to them,” she candidly shares in our exclusive celebrity interview. “Eventually, though, they came around completely. When I found a sense of self-esteem through acting, they had to respect it.”

Of her desire to act, she reasons, “Some people choose the art of creativity because it makes them process things and it makes them more stable people. There’s nothing more important than emotional health.”

Related Link: [5 Pieces of Love Advice From Celebrity Couples in Long-Term Relationships](#)

Sharing her best relationship advice – a tip that applies to

both family relationships and romantic partnerships – Yeo says, “I think that when you are your authentic self and when you’re moving with a purpose – I think that’s the gift that God gave me, to make people feel less alone and entertain people – people cannot deny your self-confidence. People respect it.”

When it comes to sharing her life with someone special, the actress offers sound knowledge on how to balance love with a busy career. “It’s something that I still struggle with! When you are a successful woman, I think communication is important. You have to be able to communicate, navigate, and not be selfish. You’ve also got to realize that any time is quality time. It doesn’t have to be something romantic. If you have four hours, just kick it!” she insists. “I also think you have to have similar hearts. Whether it be a passion for creativity, giving, or kids or even a racial connection, there needs to be an anchor. Whatever that ‘thing’ is – that centripetal force.” While she hasn’t had a celebrity relationship and prefers to keep her love life private, she does believe that “kindness, authenticity, and manners” go a long way.

For more from Gwendoline, visit GwendolineYeo.com and follow her on Twitter @GwendolineYeo and www.facebook.com/GwendolineYeoOfficialFanpage.

Exclusive Celebrity Interview with Reality TV Star Chef

Richard Blais



By Meranda Yslas

With summer around the corner, people will be bringing out their barbecues and getting ready for cookouts. Lucky for us, reality TV chef Richard Blais shared some helpful tips for starting up our grills in our [exclusive celebrity interview](#). Read on for more!

Exclusive Celebrity Interview with Reality TV's *Top Chef*

Blais first appeared on television in season 4 of Bravo's *Top Chef*, and nine years later, he is making his return to the small screen. "I'm returning again as a judge for *Top Chef* season 13, which we're getting ready to film in California,"

he explains. Since his premiere on the reality TV show, the New York native has made great strides in his career. He has already published one cookbook, and the second one will be out later this year. He shares that it's "going to be great," adding, "It'll be in the same vein as my first cookbook, focusing on creativity for the home cook. I'm really excited about it."

Related Link: [‘Top Chef’ Alum Richard Blais on Healthy Holiday Cooking with Benefiber](#)

Being a chef is a career where you're constantly honing your skills and even learning new techniques. There's no doubt that Blais has changed since the start of his career. "My cooking has become more for the people than it is for myself," he says. "I cook for everyone and hope to inspire home cooks to get creative in the kitchen because that's when it's really fun." The *Top Chef All-Stars* winner elaborates on his new approach to cooking: When in the kitchen, "it's not about me; it's about the guest. I cook for everyone else, whether it's at my restaurants or on TV – it's all about the people who enjoy your food."

Learning The Science of Food

Some people may think that cooking is just about throwing in ingredients and hoping for a tasty result, but there is actually a science and psychology behind food decisions. "Science is about asking questions, and as chefs, we often ask questions about how to make food taste good," Blais reveals. "Understanding where food comes from is understanding the science of deliciousness." Being aware of this science ultimately influences how the reality TV star cooks and what ingredients he uses. "I really like to look at flavor, and if it is delicious and makes people happy, then I'm very interested," he adds.

One type of flavor that the Trail Blais owner has been paying

attention to recently is the smoky flavor of barbecue. “There’s a nostalgia with smoked foods – everyone has a personal memory. Whether it is a family cookout, a favorite barbecue dish, or the summer holidays, who doesn’t love smoked foods?” he says.

If you’re interested in grilling out, consider this advice from the chef: “When smoking meat, the type of wood you use is key, as each wood creates a smoke with its own unique and distinct flavor. That’s why I’m excited to be working with Boar’s Head on their Black Forest Beechwood Smoked Ham,” he divulges. “It’s naturally smoked with imported beechwood from Germany and has a clean, balanced flavor. It’s a distinct braise that’s not bitter or ashy, and the texture and color is amazing.”

Related Link: [Wolfgang Puck of ‘Top Chef: Seattle’ Says Taste is the Most Important Part of Cooking for Your Loved Ones](#)

Achieving this distinct and delicious flavor isn’t as hard as one might think. “The best thing to do is use things that already have smoked ingredients...and get creative in the kitchen,” he advises.

Of course, a great date idea for this summer is to fire up the grill with your significant other and try out some recipes with a smoky flavor. Blais offers three final tips to make your cookout successful: “First, wear Hollywood short shorts. Second, do most of the work ahead of time. *Mis en place*. And third, use a wood-burning grill and make sure you have a great playlist!”

You can keep up with Richard on Twitter @RichardBlais and www.facebook.com/richardblaisofficial/!

Celebrity Interview: 'American Idol' Winner Nick Fradiani Is Single!



By [Rebecca White](#)

And the winner of *American Idol* season 14 is...Nick Fradiani! While the 29-year-old singer started out on the reality TV show as the underdog, in recent weeks, he quickly worked his way up as one of the front runners in the vocal competition. As he became more confident, he also became more comfortable on stage and finally began to break through his shell like the mentors and judges have been telling him to do all season. In our [celebrity interview](#), the reality TV star talks about relationships and love and how he will remain relevant as an artist in the future.

***American Idol* Winner Talks About His Relationship and Love Life**

We first got to know Nick Fradiani when he auditioned for this season of *American Idol* with his girlfriend Ariana Gavrilis. However, the now famous couple has not been seen together in recent months, and Gavrilis wasn't even at the finale. So all the ladies want to know: Is Nick Fradiani single? Sure enough, during our celebrity interview, the performer confirmed that he is currently single and that being a musician and maintaining a relationship and love is hard. "Being in music has always made it difficult to have relationships, especially if I've been traveling a lot," the singer shares.

Related Link: ['American Idol' Artist Quentin Alexander Says Communication Is Most Important in Relationships](#)

Winning will also put his love life on hold for a while. "I'm sure it will make things more difficult, but I try not to look for those things. Hopefully, the right thing just happens," he says. Still, Fradiani knows exactly what he wants in a future girlfriend. He has three must-haves in a partner: humor, trust, and comfort. "I like to laugh and have fun, so I need to be with somebody who is funny," he adds. "I also need someone that I can be myself around."

Nick Fradiani Talks About His Post-*Idol* Plans

Now that the winner has been crowned and signed to Big Machine Records, how will he avoid the fate of recent *American Idol* winners and actually stay relevant? "To me, the biggest thing is the songs," the singer says. "I think winners that come off the show and don't have a hit song have a tough time. The time of coming out with a new single can be damaging." Fradiani has no reason to worry though: His single "Beautiful Life" is

already at number two on iTunes. “I think this single will do well,” he explains. “I’m really confident as an artist in my songwriting ability and my ear for pop music, so I think I’ll be able to succeed because of that.”

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Eliminated Contestant Adanna Duru Says the Reality TV Show “Is Like Superstar College!”](#)

Next, the star will meet with Scott Borchetta, Big Machine Records founder, to discuss where they will go with the new album. “Beautiful Life” is the type of music that he wants to play and put out in the world. “I lucked out big time – I love the song,” he shares. “I’m hoping to write with some cool co-writers as well.”

He may even branch into country music. Borchetta and Fradiani have talked about him going country, but the singer says that won’t happen for a while. “Maybe in a couple years that could be an option,” he says.

You can keep up with Nick Fradiani on Twitter @nickfradiani!

**Celebrity Interview:
‘American Idol’ Runner-Up
Clark Beckham Says, “Right
Now, It’s Like I’m In a
Relationship with Music”**



By [Rebecca White](#)

The American Idol season 14 runner-up Clark Beckham first started singing in a gospel trio with his parents when he was 8 years old. Now, the 22-year-old finishes the [reality TV](#) competition with a platform large enough to become as famous as season 2 runner-up Clay Aiken...or as forgotten as previous contestants who have had no luck gaining fame after the show. In our celebrity interview, Beckham says he wants to model his career after singers like Bruno Mars, Robin Thicke, and John Mayer, although he plans to take his own approach to balancing his career and relationship and love life.

***American Idol* Runner-Up Talks**

Relationships and Love

Beckham leaves the reality TV show with fond memories of being a finalist in one of the top vocal competitions in the country. On Tuesday night, the singer had one of his best performances with "Ain't No Sunshine," leaving the judges and America very impressed. [Jennifer Lopez](#) commented on the song by asking who Beckham was singing to because of the passionate performance. "I remember her asking that, and I was like, 'Oh Lord, do not ask me that,'" he shares.

But don't worry, ladies: The blushing Tennessee native is single and not in a committed relationship and love. "The song is about the person being gone, so maybe it is appropriate because there is no one," the star says with a laugh. "I think I was really able to get into that heartbreak, but there was no one specific that I was thinking of."

Related Link: ['American Idol' Eliminated Finalist Rayvon Owen Says Love "Is the Most Universal Thing"](#)

In terms of how being a musician has impacted his dating life, Beckham says that sometimes it's helpful because of the initial attraction people feel towards musicians. However, it's not always easy. "In the past, when I've been dating someone, she was worried that I would choose music over her, and that's an interesting balance," the singer reveals in our celebrity interview. "Right now, it's like I'm in a relationship with music. I really am in love with her, and I can't imagine a life without her."

He adds, "Sometimes, being a musician can get in the way of my relationships, but I believe that, when it is right, it won't be conflicting. Instead, it will elevate and help the relationship."

Clark Beckham Reveals What He Learned on *American Idol*

During season 14 of *American Idol*, the runner-up has faced many critiques from the judges and Big Machine Records founder Scott Borchetta. The mentors and judges have often stated that Beckham's musical style isn't modern, and they've told him to perform for the audience instead of himself. However, the singer disagrees. "I think the most modern is when an artist can understand and play music that is coming right now and is just on the brink and is right around the bend," he explains. "I really believe the music I put out is what's going to come around the bend."

Related Link: ['American Idol' Eliminated Contestant Tyanna Jones Takes Us Through Her Emotional Journey](#)

While the performer stayed true to himself and his music, he did learn a lot from the judges and mentors. "Keith Urban said, 'Don't sing and play what you can; play and sing what you *must*.' That's the best advice from the judges that I got," Beckham shares. Now that the show is over, the musician says that he's learned to be more conscious of pitch and that he's transformed as an artist from this experience: "I'm able to get more into the song emotionally and get into the music and get into character."

You can keep up with Clark Beckham on Twitter @ClarkBeckham and on his website, [http://clarkbeckham.com/!](http://clarkbeckham.com/)

Celebrity Interview with Founders of 'Reality TV Awards': "We're Not Going to Hide Anything!"



By Jenna Bagcal

On any given day of the week, millions of people sit down on their couches with some good snacks, and tune into their favorite [reality TV](#) shows. But what many people might not know is the amount of hard work and dedication that goes into the production of each show. Whether it's *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, *American Idol*, or *The Bachelor*, massive teams of people put in hundreds of man hours every week to make these shows possible – and the cast and crew of these shows will be

honored at the 3rd annual *Reality TV Awards* on May 13. In this celebrity interview, the founders of these awards, Kristen Moss and Andrew Ward, discuss the production of the award show, who we can expect to see, and the future of reality TV.

Reality TV Awards Founders Discuss Awards Show Process

As it approaches its third year, plans for The Reality TV Awards are bigger than ever. Moss and Ward, the founders and executive producers of these awards say that there is a lot to expect in terms of number of guests and a few other surprises.

“This year we’re going to have over 700 attendees.” Says Ward. “The first year we had about four or five hundred, so it’s grown a lot. We even have the cast of *Dance Moms* coming and the full cast of *Deadliest Catch*. It’s really exciting to see the variation of cast members that are coming to this because all of your favorite reality TV shows in one room is almost like a reality TV show in itself!”

Moss adds that in addition to reality television stars, a great number of networks and production companies will be in attendance that night. “Essentially how we start out is we call production companies and networks, and we have them submit their shows to the categories.” She says. “So as we’ve grown, we’ve seen the support of each of those production companies and networks, which is really important to us. We’re inviting all of them to come this year to show how it [the awards] benefits their shows, their company, the networks, and how their fans are really supportive of them.”

Related Link: [Will Chris Soules Be Tuning in to Watch His Celebrity Exes on ‘The Bachelorette’ Season 11?](#)

Another development in this year’s awards is the increase of fan involvement. This year marks the first time when fans can

attend the award show as well as stream it live online. The venue for the show is the Avalon Hotel in Beverly Hills, which Ward says makes this possible. "The great thing about this year is being in a bigger venue, so we added a fan section. We have a very limited amount of tickets on sale to the public, but this gives the public a chance to see what's actually inside the show, which has never been done before."

In addition, Ward says the live stream of the awards will not only give fans a chance to feel like they're guests, but also to get a backstage look of the event. "It's going to be the nitty gritty, we're not going to hide anything, and we know that people love to see everything there is to do backstage."

Related Link: [Reality TV Stars Kirk and Laura Knight Share Tragic News](#)

Moss and Ward are two people who know the world of reality television very well, especially how much work goes into the production of a TV show. Although audiences only get to view the final product, they reveal that there are hundreds of people working to make things run smoothly.

"I worked on *Master Chef* for a couple seasons," says Ward, "and a lot of people don't realize that you have 150 crew members working behind [the scenes.] There's actually so many people that it takes to film a given episode, which is why we do these awards. It's recognizing the talent on screen, but also the entire team of people that work behind them."

Moss says that for this reason, her favorite award show category is "Bad Ass Crew," which honors the behind-the-scenes crew of reality TV. "It really gives a nod to the production crew who has to endure the hours and temperatures of whatever world they're put into. A lot of time when people are watching these shows, they don't think about the guy who's capturing these moments. But there is somebody out there capturing the moments and putting their own life in danger, whether they get

recognized or not.”

Kristen Moss and Andrew Ward Discuss the Future of Reality TV in Celebrity Interview

After being in the reality television industry, Moss says that the new trend for future shows will be “risk” based shows, specifically in the realm of dating shows. She discusses that the show *Married at First Sight* falls into this category. “I think what it is with *Married at First Sight* is, it’s a wedding, but what’s going to be so shocking at this wedding is that these people are meeting for the first time.”

Ward adds that the show has a huge fan-base who are extremely active on social media. “There are a lot of fan groups for it, and we follow them. I saw a post today that people wanted to know how the couples from season 1 are doing because it’s such a faux pas concept, and that’s what reality TV really is. They want to see if something like that can actually work.”

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Artist Quentin Alexander Says Communication Is Most Important in Relationships](#)

When asked about the future of reality show concepts, the pair said that creators will never run out of original ideas. “Any time I think they’re going to run out of ideas, somebody approaches us or with a new idea, even if it’s a game show, that I had no idea could be possible.” Says Ward.

Watch the Reality TV Awards live on realitytelevisionawards.com at 9PM EST/6PM PST on May 13.

Celebrity Interview: 'The Real' Co-Host Jeannie Mai Shares Recycling Tips and Beauty Advice



Interviewed by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Meranda Yslas.

We all know that, when we take care of ourselves, it not only makes us look good, but it makes us feel good too. And if you're single and looking for that special someone, that positive attitude and glow will project in everything you do. In our [celebrity interview](#) with *The Real* co-host, fashion expert, and reality TV star Jeannie Mai, she explains the importance of taking care of our planet by recycling and shares her best beauty advice for summer date nights.

Reality TV Star Jeannie Mai Talks About the Importance of Recycling

Mai isn't just promoting recycling for the sake of it; she's married to hunter and conservationist Freddie Harteis, who stars in the reality TV show, *The Hollywood Hunter*. Giving back by recycling and helping to keep our land beautiful and healthy for generations to come is something that is very dear to the celebrity couple. This beauty guru says that, for many, recycling means just throwing their cans in a separate garbage bin, but there's actually so much more to it. She explains that recycling isn't only limited to the kitchen, saying, "Most people do know that you can recycle – that's fair bones. But other people don't realize you can recycle many things that happen to be in your bathroom. Today, most Americans have at least eight bottles of plastic in their bathroom." All that plastic could be used and recycled in many different ways, but unfortunately, it's ending up in the trash.

The reality TV star goes on to say, "I think that, once people are educated about it [recycling] and when they see the difference it makes, when they see what it does to relieve the amount of waste in the landfills, it will make people feel differently," she shares. Mai goes on to explain that "there are 29 million tons of plastic that end up in landfills every single year, just because we're not aware."

Related Link: [Celebrity Couples Saving the Earth](#)

Beauty Advice for Summer Date Nights

As host of the Style Network's *How Do I Look?* and digital correspondent for NBC's *Fashion Star*, Mai not only knows how beautiful it is to recycle, but she knows what women can do

to look their best when it comes to date night too. Here, she gives us her best three tips:

1. Take care of your skin: “When it comes to the way that you feel and the way that you look, your skin is everything,” she says. “It’s what your guy feels; it’s what he’s looking at; and it’s the way that your expression glows on top of the beautiful skin on your face.”

2. Consider the lighting: The daytime host warns, “God knows what kind of lighting you’re going to walk into in that coffee shop or restaurant or wherever you’re going to meet your guy! So I always focus on having a good highlighter. I love a good powder that’s a little pigmented, like either a gold or a tawny bronze, just to highlight the planes of your face so that your skin shines and has that luminescent glow.”

3. Create angel eyes: “Take a quarter-lash and just stick it on the very ends of your eye lashes so that your eyes project a beautiful, soft bedroom eye,” the beauty expert explains. “It’s super easy, and you don’t need much makeup at all to apply them.”

Exclusive Celebrity Interview: Behind-the-Scenes with *The Real*

When Mai isn’t out recycling or working on her fashion segments, she is one of the five hosts on the talk show *The Real*. “Every single day before the show, we pray that the women who are watching feel like we are their girlfriends,” she reveals in our celebrity interview. “It’s loud; it’s exciting; it’s energizing; and it’s funny.”

The other hosts are celebs Tamar Braxton, Tamera Mowry-Housley, Loni Love, and Adrienne Bailon. The *Fashion Star* correspondent shares, “I’m learning something new about the ladies everyday. These ladies are ladies I want to know and

learn more about. I want to become more like them in different ways. It's so cool to be a part of a group of women that are just awesome in every way."

Related Link: [Celebrity Pregnancy: Tamera Mowry-Housley Is Expecting Second Child](#)

It's not surprising, then, that Mai has created strong relationships with her fellow co-hosts. "I'm close to all of them for different reasons. If I want to talk about spirituality and motherhood or if I have questions, Tamar and Tamara are really helpful to me. Tamar also helps me to stand up for myself. Sometimes, I have problems voicing my opinion if I'm afraid it's going to hurt someone's feelings. She helps me with that – to be able to just be real and know that it comes from a good place," she candidly says. "Lonnie helps me laugh; she makes everything brighter every day. Adrienne is that girl who teaches me to have fun and party and have a good time because she does that all the time."

To get people more conscious and excited about recycling, Mai is promoting a giveaway hosted by Unilever. To enter the giveaway, contestants just have to take their picture and post it on Instagram or Twitter with the hashtags **#reimaginethat** and **#sweeps**. "All they have to do is take a picture of how they recycle," she says. "It can be in their bathroom – that's where I took mine that I put up on Instagram. It can be anywhere – by your recycling bins or by your plastic containers."

To keep up with Jeannie Mai, you can follow her on Twitter @JeannieMai. For more information regarding the giveaway, check out Unilever's website, <https://brightfuture.unilever.com/>.

'American Idol' Eliminated Finalist Rayvon Owen Says Love "Is the Most Universal Thing"



By Jenna Bagcal

Rayvon Owen has been referred to as “the comeback kid” during his time on *American Idol*. The Richmond, Virginia native was a finalist on the hit [reality TV](#) show and lived up to his moniker every week. Although he was consistently in the bottom two, he was saved by the fans and made it to the final four. He says that being able to redeem himself each week “brought out a fight in me that I didn’t know I had.” In this celebrity interview, Owen talks about his relationships with his mom and

God and what he's looking forward to in the near future.

***American Idol* Contestant Opens Up About His Relationship and Love**

Owen says that his favorite topic to sing about is love. "I think it's the most universal thing and is a language that everyone can relate to and understand," he explains. During his performance of "Want to Want Me" by Jason Derulo, the singer had someone in mind to make the delivery of the love song convincing: "It's nothing serious right now. I'm not in a relationship or anything, but I was thinking about someone."

Related Link: ['American Idol' Artist Quentin Alexander Says Communication is Most Important in Relationships](#)

However, Owen says that it is difficult to balance romantic relationships while pursuing a career in the music industry, but he's open to finding someone special once things calm down. "Before the show, I was in a relationship, and it's tough," the singer reveals. "It's hard for me to even take care of myself, let alone truly dedicate myself to someone else. But since I am a lover and am someone who connects with people, that's something that's on my radar."

Although the performer predominantly sings about love, he says that his songwriting process stems from different experiences in his life. "Sometimes, it comes in a melody or a groove, and I just spring out random words and feelings. Sometimes, it's a little more intimate and specific...like I had a sucky break-up, and there is one new emotion that I'm feeling, so how can I portray that in a song?" he says. "Other times, there are some songs that are just *there* after I've woken up. That's happened a few times."

Reality TV Star Discusses His Relationship With His Mom and God

The *American Idol* contestant credits his great success to both his mother and God. “I’ve always wanted to make my mom proud and thank her for all her hard work and sacrifice that she’s made for me,” he shares. “Honestly, I would not be here if it wasn’t for her pushing me and making sacrifices like sending me off on all those trips, rehearsals, and lessons. She sacrificed what she had and what she didn’t have for me and my sister to give us an equal opportunity, even when we were in a situation where we wouldn’t necessarily have that opportunity.”

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Eliminated Contestant Tyanna Jones Takes Us Through Her Emotional Journey](#)

Owen adds that God has had the most important role in his life and career. “I could have not done this without God. I pray every single day. I never prayed to win the competition; I just prayed that God’s will be done and that His light will shine through me,” he says. “I think that what He has in store for me is amazing, and I hope that I can inspire people as well.”

In addition to having a thriving singing career, Owen hopes to get into acting in the near future. He says that his perfect project would be a movie or a show where he could incorporate singing and acting. “I would love to appear on *Empire* – I love that show! Or have a similar moment like Jennifer Hudson in *Dreamgirls*,” he shares.

Keep up with Ryavon on Twitter @RayvonOwen. Watch American Idol on Fox at 8/7 every Wednesday!

Transgender Facial Surgeon Discusses Celebrity News Surrounding Bruce Jenner



By [Katie Gray](#)

Since [Bruce Jenner's](#) celebrity interview with Diane Sawyer aired on Friday, April 24, the world has been *Keeping Up with Bruce*.

Jenner's gender transition and bombshell interview has been making celebrity news since it aired. During his conversation he stated that he has been slowly transitioning

since the early '80s but never felt completely comfortable to go through with it until now.

At 65-years-old the star of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* says he is now “relieved and happy about moving forward and going public about his transition.” Jenner also said that he is on a mission to help others in the transgender community who are facing discrimination. In our recent [celebrity interview](#) with Dr. Jeffrey Spiegel, a world renowned facial plastic surgeon specializing in facial feminization surgery, we were able to gather some great insight.

Transgender Facial Surgeon Comments on Bruce Jenner's Celebrity News

Facial Feminization Surgery (FFS) is defined as a group of surgical procedures that alter the face to increase its femininity. In addition to FFS, Dr. Spiegel specializes in advanced facial aesthetics for both male and female patients. His patients come to him from around the world in order to complete the final, and most important step in the process. “A lot of people assume that the most important part would be the sexual reassignment surgery or the genital reassignment surgery,” explains Dr. Spiegel. “But a transgender woman knows she's a woman. The problem is, that people she meets don't see her that way. I help a person to present to the outside world exactly the way that they feel on the inside,” he says.

When talking about Jenner's transgender decision the physician isn't surprised. “Bruce Jenner's story is very consistent with others, especially because transgender men and women know their identity at a very early age.” He adds, “While trying to come to grips with these feelings, often those who are transgender will try to pursue something that is extremely manly or extremely macho: becoming a police officer, a firefighter, joining the military.”

Related Link: [Kim Kardashian Reacts to Latest Celebrity News of Bruce Jenner's Transition](#)

Transgender men and women often struggle during their lifetimes with how they really feel inside, which is why the age in which a person transitions tends to vary. This could explain why Bruce Jenner is coming forward now in his sixties and addressing this matter. Dr. Spiegel points out that Jenner grew up in an age without the Internet and that could be a good reason why he didn't decide to do anything until now. "As a young child feeling like a woman, there weren't many resources for him to figure out what was going on. Therefore, there was probably a lot of confusion when he was a child due to the fact that he felt like a woman on the inside while still retaining the outward appearance of a man."

Dr. Spiegel also advises that there are a few things that Jenner must consider before taking the next step in his journey. "Bruce needs to decide what choice he's going to make. He needs to decide how he wants to live. If he wants to live as Bruce Jenner, someone people see as a man, but one in which he *feels* like a woman, or if he wants to transition and live full time as a woman," explains Dr. Spiegel. If he wants to fully transition, there are a few surgeries that he would need to undergo over a period of time.

Celebrity Interview with Dr. Jeff Spiegel Reveals Family Expectations

Big life events such as the gender transition of a family member can also be difficult for loved ones to handle initially. Dr. Spiegel says, "In general there is a sense of disbelief followed by examination and they look for clues of the behavior of the person that may have manifested over the years." When it comes to the family, Spiegel says family members actually go through a mourning of their loved one. He explains, "If you have a brother who becomes a sister, you

lose your brother; your brother goes away. [But] you gain a sister. It's the same person. It's a happier person in many ways and eventually they become a better person because they become whole."

Another topic that people are unsure about is the sexual preference of a transgender person. "A person's sexual preferences and who they are sexually attracted to, doesn't really seem to be predictable when a person transitions. As with any other woman, some transgender women are heterosexual, some are homosexual, some are bisexual," says Dr. Spiegel. There is no real connection to predict which preference an individual may have. In Jenner's case, he told Diane Sawyer in his interview that he is "asexual."

Related Link: [Bruce Jenner's Ex-Celebrity Wife Reacts to ABC Special](#)

In reference to his profession Dr. Spiegel says, "The most rewarding part of being a plastic surgeon is making people feel whole." He enjoys helping people outwardly look the way that they feel on the inside. "They feel comfortable. It gives them self-esteem, it gives them pride, confidence and improves [their] health."

In terms of what Bruce's Jenner's public announcement means for the future of the transgender community he believes that this will create a greater awareness of the transgender community and that people who face this same challenge will look to Jenner as a role model. "I think Bruce Jenner has a lot of responsibility to the transgender community now and in the future, particularly those who are undergoing a transition process." He concludes, "They will watch how Bruce Jenner handles this and will potentially model their own behavior because of his actions."

'American Idol' Eliminated Contestant Tyanna Jones Takes Us Through Her Emotional Journey



By [Rebecca White](#)

American Idol reality TV star Tyanna Jones has been pursuing music since she was five years old. Growing up in Jacksonville, Florida, the 16-year-old has had a rough upbringing and was even homeless at one point. Her *American Idol* journey was no less emotional. In our [celebrity](#)

[interview](#), the eliminated contestant says that the show “at times can get really hard. My faith and my beliefs have helped me through a lot of that.”

Behind the Scenes of Tyanna Jones’ *American Idol* Journey

Making it into the top five of the singing competition is no easy task and all of the contestants have had good weeks as well as bad weeks. Jones was no different. The Jacksonville native had her own rough patch during the middle of the show. The judges were constantly questioning her choices, even though she was a front runner and power house from the beginning of the competition. The performer says, “My rough patch was a result of all of my feelings at the time and the stress and frustration that comes with the show.”

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Eliminated Contestant Adanna Duru Says the Reality TV Show “Is Like Superstar College!”](#)

As an emotional artist, when Jones was eliminated she started to break down when the montage of her time on the show began to play. “I was watching how far I had come,” the singer shares. “It really showed me how much I’ve grown.” Even though she didn’t make it into the top four, Jones still sang a send-off song, Beyoncé’s “Who Run the World.” The performer says that Beyoncé is one of her main influences. “I have wanted to do that song for so long,” Jones shares. “I knew that I had to make sure it was one of my best performances because it was one of Beyoncé’s songs.”

Jones hopes to be a role model for her fans, just like Beyoncé and her other favorite artists have been to her. She hopes that “seeing someone their age get to do this and be here will inspire fans.” She plans to use her position on the summer tour to make an impact in people’s lives. “I know many of the

people I look up to now were a part of this tour,” Jones says. “Now, I’m going to be someone people look up to.”

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Artist Quentin Alexander Says Communication Is Most Important in Relationships](#)

After being eliminated, the singer feels like she has learned a lot from being in this competition. Big Machine Records founder Scott Borchetta has pushed her as an artist to find herself and truly understand what kind of music she wants to put out there. Similarly, the judges, Keith Urban, Jennifer Lopez, and Harry Connick Jr. told her to continue being herself and she’d be successful. As she moves forward with her musical career, Jones says, “I’m not the type of artist that puts myself in a box. Whatever I can sing or do to connect with the audience, I’ll do it.”

You can keep up with Tyanna Jones on Twitter @iamtyannajones and [www.facebook.com/IamTyannaJones!](http://www.facebook.com/IamTyannaJones)

Brooke Burke-Charvet Talks About Her Marriage in Celebrity Video Interview: “We Carve Out Time for Each Other”





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by [Rebecca White](#).

Fans may recognize Brooke Burke-Charvet from her time on the reality TV show *Dancing with the Stars*, but she's come a long way since then. She is married to musician and actor David Charvet and spends much of her time with her family, promoting a healthy lifestyle. In our [celebrity video interview](#), Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco chats with the actress and model about her relationship and love life, motherhood, and her busy career, including her current partnership with Walgreens for Red Nose Day.

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

Brooke Burke-Charvet Talks Red Nose Day in Celebrity Video Interview

Celebrated for over 25 years in the UK, Red Nose Day has been a day dedicated to raising money for underprivileged children and families. On Thursday, May 21, the event will take off for the first time in the United States and include a night full of comedy, music, and fundraising that will help 12 charity

organizations lift children and young people out of poverty, both in the U.S. and throughout the world. Burke-Charvet decided to partner with Walgreens for this fundraiser because she likes that “it’s really about children and young families.” Just buying the red rubber nose for one dollar at Walgreens will have an impact: “That money is going to go and make a difference for a lot of different causes – the Boys and Girls club of America, United Way, Feeding America,” the actress says.

As the mother of four children herself, she understands that teaching her celebrity kids generosity and charity is an important lesson. The model reveals that leading by example is the best way to teach your children that hard lesson. “It’s really interesting for them to be able to see it and understand it,” she shares in our celebrity video interview. “You can teach them to be generous and to give.”

Of course, fans remember the health scare that Burke-Charvet faced after being diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2012. Now, she says, “Everything’s good. My health is perfect.” Her experiences and health issues have helped her recognize that “there’s somebody else somewhere who’s struggling with similar issues.”

Related Link: [Brooke Burke-Charvet Finally Weds David Charvet](#)

Television Personality Talks About Her Relationship and Love Life

Although she’s a busy celebrity mom, she makes sure to prioritize her relationship and love life. “We carve out time for each other, which is super important,” she says of her marriage, “even if it’s just having lunch while the kids are at school.” When their schedules permit, the famous couple’s favorite date night is eating at a local restaurant in Malibu. “We cook so much that sometimes it’s nice to be

served a meal!" she divulges.

You can keep up with Brooke Burke-Chavet on Twitter @brookeburke or her blog, www.modernmom.com/

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

'American Idol' Artist Quentin Alexander Says Communication Is Most Important in Relationships





By Jenna Bagcal

Conceptual, artistic, bold, and distinctive are all words that describe 21-year old Quentin Alexander. The New Orleans, Louisiana native was a contestant on season 14 of [American Idol](#) and made a name for himself during his time on the reality TV show. He blew audiences away with his performances each week, combining his emotion-filled vocals with stunning effects and clothing. The performer is self-assured in who he is, saying, “The type of artist I want to be is one that touches on all of the senses. A concert of mine would be something that would be just as appealing visually as it is musically.” In this celebrity interview, Alexander opens up about his experience on the show and his plans for the upcoming year.

***American Idol* Contestant Shares How New Orleans Shaped Him As An Artist**

New Orleans is known as a cultural and musical epicenter of America and is a place that Alexander is lucky enough to call home. He cites his hometown as a major contributor to his

artistry and personality overall. “Growing up there really played the biggest part in the way that I present my art and the way that I am,” he shares. “There are so many different musical and cultural influences, so many different ways of life all in one small bowl. It’s like a Gumbo pot, just a mixture of everything.” He adds that being from such a culturally-diverse city gives him a unique outlook and advantage in terms of his music and avant-garde fashion sense.

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Star Joey Cook Opens Up About Her Celebrity Engagement: “He’s the Love of My Life!”](#)

In terms of relationships and love, Alexander reveals that having a partner who isn’t in the music industry makes for the best support system. “It’s always great to have that teammate supporting you from the outside, someone who isn’t really in the same kind of boat that you’re in,” he divulges. He also believes that the most important factor in a successful partnership is communication. “For anything to work, the best thing to do is to communicate and let each other know what’s going on,” he says.

Reality TV Star Discusses His Experience on the Show

Although he was eliminated from the reality TV show, Alexander has taken away many valuable experiences and pieces of advice from his time on *American Idol*. The most valuable tip came from [Jennifer Lopez](#), who told him to “hold on to your art – it’s the one thing that makes you *you*.” He adds, “It’s the truth. The one thing that separates me from everyone else is my art, my personal feelings, and how I go about doing things.” The singer says that the superstar’s comment assured him of his role in the competition and validated that he was going in the right artistic direction when he was questioning his choices. “Should I compromise my performances just to fit in this mold?,” he asks. “She confirmed for me that I

shouldn't. Just be yourself, and everything will work out like it's supposed to."

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Contestant Sarina-Joi Crowe on Being Eliminated: “It Motivates Me Even More”](#)

Now that his journey on *American Idol* is over, Alexander is excited to get home to New Orleans and attend the various festivals and events. "It's the greatest time of year in New Orleans to have all the music come in and all the people coming in from different parts of the world," he says.

In the future, aside from pursuing music, the performer plans on releasing some of his short films that include original music and fashion that he has designed. He also hopes to design an original clothing line within the next year. We can't wait to see what he does next!

Catch up with Quentin on Twitter @QAlexanderXIV! American Idol is on FOX at 8/7c every Wednesday.

Celebrity Interview: At Home in Hollywood Founder Lisa Johnson Mandell Reveals Secrets of Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's Hollywood Home!





By Meranda Yslas

Without a doubt, celebs live extraordinary lifestyles. From the designer clothes they wear, the expensive cars they drive, and the luxurious parties and dinners they attend, it's natural to want to take a peek into their world. Luckily, thanks to our [celebrity interview](#) with Lisa Johnson Mandell, we're able to get an inside look at the homes of some of the most famous celebs.

A Look Inside Celebs' Homes

The HGTV Los Angeles correspondent has toured the houses of many stars, including the home of Hollywood couple [Kim Kardashian](#) and [Kanye West](#). One of Mandell's favorite parts of their Hidden Hills house was the master bedroom. "The master suite is fabulous and enormous. It's like 3,000 square feet, which is bigger than most of our homes," she reveals. "It has a sitting room, a kitchenette, his-and-her bathrooms, his-and-her closets, and his-and-her dressing rooms." That's not the only impressive room in this 50 million dollar mansion: It also has a spa room, a gym, a courtyard with a fountain, and a

backyard that can easily hold 500 people.

Related Link: [Famous Couple Kim Kardashian and Kanye West Show PDA After Brit Awards](#)

Without a doubt, their house is gorgeous, but this famous couple was also guilty of “the worst celebrity purchase” that the founder of At Home In Hollywood has ever seen. The two bought “an absolute rundown shack.” She elaborates, “It was a ranch style home that had fallen into disrepair. Nobody lived there; weeds were growing inside of the house; and everything was dilapidated.” Even with such an unflattering descriptions, the married celebrity couple paid three million dollars for it. The reason for this seemingly outrageous purchase was for security purposes. This “awful shack” overlooked their beautiful new home, so they bought it and “will probably just tear it down and keep the lot so that nobody can peer into their backyard,” the real estate agent shares.

The decision to move into a home in Hidden Hills is not that shocking, especially for a Kardashian. According to Mandell, their new house is really close to momager Kris and sisters Kourtney and Kendall. Celebs tend to buy homes in exclusive neighborhoods like this one because “it’s a great community, especially for families. It’s super private.”

For the most part, stars usually hire professionals to help decorate and make interior design decisions. It makes a lot of sense, considering they are constantly traveling or working and don’t have a lot of down time. However, that’s not always the case. Mandell shares that there are some celebrities who “really have a flare for decoration.” Annie Potts from *Designing Women* is one of them. “She just put her house on the market a couple of months ago, and it is absolutely gorgeous,” she divulges.

Real Estate and Relationship Advice

Not only is Mandell an expert in all things related to celebrity real estate, she is also familiar in offering relationship advice. As the author of two relationship books *How to Snare a Millionaire* and its sequel *How to Snare a Millionaire Now*, she is able to combine both of her areas of expertise and share some great real estate tips for couples.

Related Link: [What You Need to Know Before You Move In Together](#)

For couples deciding to move in with each other, “it’s really a good idea to get a new space.” She further explains, “There are things that will remind your new partner of your ex, so I think it’s definitely best to start fresh if possible.” She jokingly adds, “If you can’t afford to move, at least get a new bed!”

When it comes to raising a family, there are a few things a couple should look for in a home. The relationship author believes the school district should be the number one priority. Although she does admit that buying a house in a good school district is going to cost a little bit more, “it ends up being a good investment.” She explains, “If you’re paying to put kids in private school, tuition can be 30,000 dollars or more a year. It’s going to be pricey. The extra money you’re putting in your home, you’ll make up later in school costs.”

She also makes a note of caution regarding the stairs. “If there is a staircase in your home, you’ve got to make sure it can be carpeted if you’re going to have little ones,” she says.

Related Link: [‘Million Dollar Listing’ Star Josh Altman Says, “Relationships are Harder Than Owning a House”](#)

The journalist shares a few tips to offer anyone who is single and house hunting. Reminiscing about her own bachelorette pad, she suggests that it'd be "really great if your home can be within walking distance from nightlife, restaurants, coffee shops, and stores. If you could walk home at night without having to worry, that's always good," she says.

One thing that singles shouldn't stress out about when looking for a new home is the size. Mandell explains that "square footage is less important than location." If you do end up entering into a new relationship and love, living in a smaller house makes it more convenient for you. "The fewer possessions you have, the easier a move is and the freer and less encumbered you can be," she shares.

You can keep up with Lisa on her website [At Home In Hollywood](#).

'American Idol' Star Joey Cook Opens Up About Her Celebrity Engagement: "He's the Love of My Life!"





By [Rebecca White](#)

Joey Cook will not only leave the reality TV show *American Idol* having gained experience and knowledge in the music industry, but she's also walking away with a [celebrity engagement](#)! Cook's longtime boyfriend Evan Higgins proposed a few weeks ago, and the now-famous couple shared the news on Twitter on Thursday, Mar. 26. In our celebrity interview, the performer opens up about the special moment, saying, "The proposal was really sweet. He's the love of my life!"

Behind the Scenes of Joey Cook's Celebrity Engagement

Even though *American Idol* keeps the contestants incredibly busy, Higgins whisked Cook away for ten minutes in between photo shoots to get down on one knee and put a ring on her finger. "There was this garden with a bench in the hotel we were staying at," the performer reveals. "He started out with all of this heartfelt stuff, and I thought he was going to break up with me! I was thinking, 'Wait until the show's

done!" Not only did Higgins find the perfect backdrop for a proposal, but he also made sure that the singer had her support system with her to make it even more special. "Evan called my family and made sure my mom was going to be there. My childhood best friend was there too," Cook adds.

Related Link: ['American Idol' Performer Qaasim Middleton Says, "My Girlfriend Has Been a Huge Impact in My Life!"](#)

The couple has carried out their relationship and love since 2009 and will celebrate their anniversary this summer – just in time for them to tie the knot. "I want to do the wedding soon because we've always wanted a summer wedding," the reality TV star gushes. "And it'll be six years this summer, so it's perfect!" Although we're sad to see her leave the competition, we're excited that she now has time to plan the perfect celebrity wedding with her beau.

***American Idol* Contestant Talks About What the Reality TV Show Taught Her**

Of course, Cook didn't just chat with us about her perfect celebrity engagement story. The eliminated contestant says that *American Idol* has provided her with so many resources for her future. "They've exposed me to millions of people," she shares. "I've never had vocal lessons before, and getting access to all of this information and being able to work with my vocal coach was amazing. I learned more about music in this last few months than I did in my whole life before now!"

The singer says she couldn't be more grateful for the life-changing experience, which taught her more about herself as well. "I wasn't confident as a vocalist before, and this show has shown me that, along with playing instruments and writing

music, I'm a singer, and that's what I do," she explains. "It's proven to me that I am good enough, and I am capable and deserving." We couldn't agree more!

Related Link: ['American Idol' Eliminated Contestant Adanna Duru Says the Reality TV Show "Is Like Superstar College!"](#)

After saying her goodbyes, Cook has a different vision of who she is as a performer. "Now that I've been soaked in the *American Idol* world, I see myself so much differently when it comes to what I can do with a show and a backdrop and little things like that," the singer says. "It made everything larger than life for me."

You can keep up with Joey on Twitter @IamJoeyCook!

Reality TV Star Lea Black Says, "Once You Find the Right Person, You've Really Got to be Committed to Having Equal Power"





By [Sarah Batcheller](#)

The ever-glamorous Lea Black has appeared on *The Real Housewives of Miami* since season 1. Her charm and sass – not to mention her whirlwind lifestyle among Florida’s elite – have drawn audiences in. With a steady celebrity marriage and beloved thirteen-year-old son, the reality TV star has also balanced a cherished domestic life with all the glitz. She hosts an annual charity gala to raise money for troubled teens and, in addition to her philanthropic efforts, is the president and CEO of The World of Lea Black, a multi-brand company that offers everything from jewelry and handbags to beauty products.

Now, in her upcoming novel *Red Carpets & White Lies*, Black has penned a fictional depiction of the scandalous, unpredictable lives of Miami’s top socialites. In this [exclusive celebrity interview](#), we had the chance to speak with the newly-minted author about her book, the *Housewives*, and her best love advice.

Reality TV Star Discusses Her Glamour-Filled Upcoming Novel

The spunky Texas native believes that the city of Miami is one of the best in the world, so it's no surprise that she wanted to capture its essence in her novel. "Miami is a very complex city, and it's very international – there's a very diverse crowd," she explains. "So I think it is one of the most exciting cities in the world because it really is a gateway to Central and South America. It's so multi-cultural; you get everything from the really serious intellectuals to the people who came here wanting to live the American Dream to the riff-raff who come and go and sort of reinvent who they are."

Related Link: [Bethenny Frankel Calls Money 'the Root of All Evil' in Split with Celebrity Ex Jason Hoppy](#)

Of course, the best people to inspire the characters in Black's novel were none other than herself and her intriguing social circle. So we had to ask: Are her characters based off of real people? "They all are in a way," she confirms. "But they're compositions of people. I would take the personality traits of one person along with the character of another and kind of camouflage them."

Whether or not we'll see the *The Real Housewives of Miami* stars, whom readers may be able to identify in *Red Carpets & White Lies*, grace the small screen again is still up for debate. The reality TV star says, "Bravo continues to say they haven't made any decisions, and I think that's totally true. Our ratings were certainly close to some of the other shows that were renewed, so they *could* justify bringing the show back."

The network may be rethinking the cast too. "I think that some of the personalities on the show weren't as well-received by the audience as they would've hoped...and that may include me!"

she adds. Having formed friendships with other *Housewives*, including Lisa Vanderpump, whom she did business with in Los Angeles, and Kathy Wakile, it's safe to conclude that Black won't be falling off the radar anytime soon.

Related Link: [Top Ten Most Down-To-Earth Celebrity Wives](#)

Despite her busy career, her number one focus is always her family. Not only do the jewelry designer and her husband Roy love to have date nights when they travel, but they work to raise their son to be a respectable young man. "It's funny; I've sent my son twice now to etiquette and charm school! As for my husband, he does good and bad, so I point it out to my son when he does something that's not acceptable!" she reveals with a laugh. "I put a big effort into teaching my son manners. I think if you don't have an ounce of manners, then later in life, people will view you differently." As for their summer vacation plans, the family of three are planning to travel to Los Angeles, something they do each year.

Lea Black Shares Best Love Advice

The reality TV star's happy celebrity marriage can be attributed to her commitment to working at her relationship every day. She believes that communication is key. "You should communicate *before* things escalate, not after," she insists. "And you need to be on the same page in life. If you focus on the 'me' instead of 'we', then that relationship is not going in the right direction."

The beauty guru believes that, after you find the right person, you need balance. "Once you find the right person, you've really got to be committed to having equal power, an equal balance," she asserts. "That's why I'm so against guys who make girls sign prenups – because it situates the guy to have more power through money. You have to go in expecting both people to have an equal say."

Related Link: [Celebrity Couple Gabrielle Union and Dwayne Wade Signed a Prenup](#)

Black also thinks that, if you're facing disapproval from your friends and family, you need to make a decision about who's worth keeping in your life. "You have to tell your friends to support you unconditionally. If not, you can be friends with them at a distance and be amicable, but they can't be in your daily life," she believes. "If they're judging your relationship, then it'll just cause problems. If they're going to be in your life, they need to be supportive. They don't get to criticize your spouse unless it's something very serious that requires an intervention."

Keep up with Lea on Twitter [@leablackmiami](#) and www.facebook.com/LeaBlackMiami. Don't forget to pick up a copy of Red Carpets & White Lies on May 5th!