

'Lucky Dog' Host Brandon McMillan Says, "If I Can't Laugh Constantly with Someone, It Won't Work Out"



Interview by [Whitney Johnson](#). Written by Petra Halbur.

[Brandon McMillan](#) has dedicated his life to working with animals – so much, in fact, that he hardly has time to date. Now, he's bringing his work to the small screen with a new show for CBS called *Lucky Dog*, which premieres on Saturday, September 28th as part of "The CBS Dream Team" line-up. Each episode will follow the trainer as he adopts a dog from a shelter – one that's hours away from euthanasia – and then brings him back to The Lucky Dog Ranch to be trained before

finding the perfect family.

Related Link: [Must Love Dogs: More Singles Getting Pets](#)

This television opportunity is a logical next step in McMillan's career. He grew up around animals as the son of two circus trainers, moving to Los Angeles at age 18 to pursue a new path. "When I left the circus, I knew I wanted another animal training job, so Hollywood was the ideal option," he explains. "I started working with animals for the movies, but as we all know, movies come and go, so work would get slow a lot. I then began training dogs for shelters, a cause that's always held a spot in my heart."

The trainer speaks passionately about the treatment of shelter dogs in the United States. "I read the facts, and they blow my mind. Every year in America over 1.5 million dogs are euthanized because they can't find homes. I wanted to find out why this was happening."

Despite his concern, McMillan doesn't condemn kill shelters, insisting that he approaches the issue from a different perspective. "My job as a trainer is to spread the word on how to train dogs and help keep them out of the shelters," he shares. It seems that many pet owners simply drop their dogs when their would-be canine companion doesn't behave properly. "They say, 'You know what? Why don't I just drop him off at the shelter? It's just down the street.' It's an easy option. So I attack it from a different angle. I say, 'Why don't you take three days to learn how to train your dog? And he'll keep quiet; he'll stay; and he'll walk on a leash properly.'"

When he's not working the shelter dogs, McMillan helps pet owners train their dogs. He often works with couples who are struggling with differing views on puppy parenting. "The woman usually wants a dog to be more cutesy and more of a lap dog, while the guy wants the dog to be more tough," he explains. It then becomes McMillan's job to help the couple find a middle

ground.

Before getting a dog, couples tend to disagree on the dog's preferable size or breed. To this problem, McMillan advises, "Let the dog choose you. I constantly tell people to go in with a wide frame of mind, saying, "Whatever dog I feel connected to, that's the one that I want in my family." He also suggests that couples wait until they are "pretty established" in their relationship before adopting a pet to prevent a custody battle later on. "Dogs are becoming the new kids in America," he wryly observes.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Cuddle With a Furry Friend](#)

The handsome trainer is raising his own pets by himself. He's currently single because, by his own admission, "I'm so consumed by the show that I go to bed at around 9 p.m. because I have to get up at 4 a.m. We start every morning around 6 a.m. because I want to make sure we work the dogs before the heat kicks in every afternoon."

Still, he knows what he wants in a woman. In addition to a love for animals, McMillan says his perfect mate would have to have a great sense of humor. "I'm a joker and a goofball. If she seems too serious, get out!" he says. "If I can't laugh constantly with someone, it won't work out." An ideal date for him would somehow incorporate the great outdoors – something that's easy to take advantage of thanks to the California landscape and shoreline.

For more information about McMillan, check out his personal site. Tune in for Lucky Dog on CBS on Saturday mornings!

'The Bachelor' Celebrity Couple Jesse and Ann Csincsak Are Expecting a "Play Friend" for Son Noah



This week, our favorite celebrity couple from *The Bachelor* and CupidsPulse.com contributors, Jesse Csincsak and his wife Ann, announced their celebrity pregnancy: They're expecting a second child in March! The famous couple, who married in 2010, are excited to give their son Noah a brother or sister. "He is pumped to have a play friend," Jesse says with a laugh. Noah will turn three right before their [celebrity baby](#) is born.

Jesse and Ann Csincsak Open Up About Their Celebrity Pregnancy

As excited as the family is about the new addition, Ann has had some difficulties with her pregnancy so far and has been sick 24 hours a day. "We had to call in her parents to help out," Jesse shares. "Someone has to take care of Ann, while someone else runs our businesses and takes care of our son." The mom-to-be experienced some discomfort with their first child, but the celebrity couple says that it's completely different this time. "She had morning sickness during her pregnancy with Noah but only in the mornings. This is constant and has been from the start," he tells us. "Not fun!"

Related Link: [Jesse Csincsak Rescues Mother and Son From Same Area as First Date with His Wife](#)

Could all this mean that a little girl is on the way? Jesse told FOX411's Pop Tarts column that Ann was "secretly hoping for a girl to one day take over the fashion business she is building."

For right now, the Csincsak's don't know the sex of the baby and hasn't decided on any names yet. They'll find out if they're having a boy or girl in the next couple of weeks (Ann is in her second trimester), and they plan on filling us in as soon as they know.



Noah Csincsak
holding a sonogram
of his new sibling.

Of course, they can't escape their *Bachelor* roots. The first-ever *Bachelorette* celebrity couple, Ryan and Trista Sutter, live one neighborhood away and have remained close with the Csincsak's. "They've been amazing," Jesse and Ann reveal. "They helped us move into the area and gave us advice on what doctors to use."

Related Link: ['Bachelor' Alumni Ann Csincsak and Partner Katie Meyer Open Vintage Sweet & Chic Boutique](#)

When the foursome get together, they never really talk about their reality TV past. Instead, they focus on real-life happenings. "Ryan and I are always talking about our kids or good hiking spots. Trista loves shopping at Ann's store, Cashmere & Coco, in Vail Village, so they talk fashion and whatever else it is that girls talk about," Jesse says.

Could this be the makings of a *Bachelor to Babies* spin-off?

Stay tuned for more Bachelor news!

Julie Benz on Her Marriage: “We Put Our Relationship First Even If That Means Turning Down Work”



By Kerri Sheehan

Unlike many performers, 41-year-old Julie Benz didn't have dreams of appearing on the big screen. In fact, she began her career as a competitive figure skater and didn't consider acting until an injury forced her off the ice. You may recognize her as Darla, the vampire from the television shows

Buffy the Vampire Slayer and the popular spin-off *Angel*, or Rita, the wife of the title character on *Dexter*. Expanding her resume, she'll next be playing mother Stevie Parker in Lifetime's *Taken: The Search for Sophie Parker*, which premieres tomorrow night at 8 p.m. ET. Benz describes her character as "a tough NYPD detective who has to work against the clock to save her daughter and her daughter's friend from the Russian Mafia and sexual slavery ring."

The bubbly blonde was drawn to the role for a number of reasons. "The issue of human trafficking and violence against women is important to me," she shares. "And the script features a woman in power instead of a woman in peril."

Related Link: [Hollywood: Portrayals of Domestic Violence](#)

Given these two factors, that actress had to prepare for such a demanding job. "The role required a lot of physical strength and stamina from me." On an emotional level, Benz had the "honor of speaking to a woman who had been abducted, sold into sex slavery, and rescued by her family when she was a teen," which helped to personalize the story for her. Thanks to her diligence, she truly understands the actions taken by her character. "If I had a daughter and if she was kidnapped, I'd do whatever was in my power to find her. I just hope I'm never put in the position to find out what extremes I would go to."

While Benz is not yet a mother herself, she is a newlywed: The Pittsburgh native married Rich Orosco in May 2012. They both work in the entertainment industry, so hectic schedules and travel often keep the couple in different cities. "We never go more than two weeks without seeing each other. We Skype every day that we're apart," Benz says. "Our careers are busy, but we put our relationship first even if that means turning down work."

The couple was originally fixed up by a friend "just to have fun," and neither of them were looking for a commitment, but

as Benz says, “That’s why I think it worked.” They got the chance to know each other without the pressure of questioning where they wanted their relationship to go. “Just spending time together was – and still is – the best!”

There was, of course, a turning point in their coupledness. Her husband knew she was a keeper when he tasted her cooking. “My husband claims that he knew I was The One when I made him my chicken wings. We now refer to them as my ‘marry me chicken wings!’”

Related Link: [Date Idea: Wine and Dine](#)

Benz first married at the age of 22 and divorced her ex-husband after 13 years together. “Dating in your mid-30’s is tricky, especially in Los Angeles,” she says of learning to date as an adult. “Plus, I hadn’t dated in over a decade. I’m blessed that I have a great group of female friends that helped me navigate the dangerous waters of finding love.”

For other women looking to get back into the dating game, the actress believes that “second chances are a gift, and they should be treated that way. Do the work on yourself after your divorce, so you don’t end up making the same mistakes again.”

For more on Benz, you can follow her on Twitter @juliebenz. Be sure to catch her in Taken: The Search for Sophie Parker on Lifetime on Saturday, September 21st at 8 p.m. ET. You can also see her in the new season of the sci-fi show Defiance.

HGTV Realtor Steven Aaron Talks 'Selling LA' and Love: "You Can't Be Everything To One Person All The Time"



By Kerri Sheehan

From the Hollywood Hills to the Sunset Strip, Los Angeles is home to the rich and famous. Landing a real estate job in the area is like swimming in a shark tank with blood in the water. Steven Aaron, one of the stars of HGTV's reality show *Selling LA*, can attest to that. The cameras follow Aaron and two other real estate firms as they attempt to book millionaire clients, tour breathtaking properties, and network their way to the top of the high-end real estate ladder.

Related Link: ['Love It or List It, Too' Star Jillian Harris Chats About Doing It All](#)

Aaron started his career as an interior designer before discovering his talent in real estate. He urges others to follow their gut when it comes to a career choice. "I followed my attraction to real estate, and it's the best decision I've ever made." Still, his interior design background helps him when it comes to staging a house and preparing a property for sale, as he's able to create a space that potential buyers can see themselves living in and making their own.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Aaron is among the rare, as many people move to the area later in life. He's enjoyed watching the city transform and mature during his years of living there. Due to the region's "traffic problems, so many areas have become walking communities and have their own vibe. That never existed years ago." Each area of L.A. is as unique as the last, from the hills to the ocean to the urban grit.

When working with a client to help them find their dream home in the bustling city, the real estate agent always tries to connect in a personal and understanding way. This method has helped him build a loyal clientele and a reputation for providing results and being as direct and tenacious as necessary.

For couples looking to buy a home together without input from this house hunting expert, consider the following advice: Agreement is key to keeping both people happy. "You have to respect each other's differences in taste," says Aaron. "If you don't agree on something, you can always move onto another choice that you can both agree on."

Speaking of couples, Aaron will soon be marrying his long-time partner in a beautiful backyard ceremony. Their wedding is taking place in the garden of a close friend who has "a lovely, informal, country-style ranch house with lots of

flowers and greenery.” As far as wedding planning goes, they’ve been using the divide and conquer method. “I am in charge of the party. I have always been the one who handles the entertaining.”

Related Link: [8 Things Your Wedding Can Do Without](#)

Aaron and his fiancé have been together since first meeting at a Mexican restaurant in West Hollywood back in 1987. For them, their big day is about celebrating a milestone with their loved ones. “We have so much history together. Since we’re so established, it’s a very different planning process than a younger, new couple.”

According to the real estate tycoon, the two have made their relationship last so long by sharing the same values. “We both love family. We are very close with our families, cousins, and nephews.” They also each have their own interests as well. As he explains, “You can’t be everything to one person all the time.”

Currently, Aaron is working with several investors on fixer homes that they’re flipping. You can catch Aaron in action on Selling LA on Thursdays at 9/8c on HGTV. Be sure to follow him on www.facebook.com/StevenAaronLA or Twitter @StevenAaronRltr for more updates!

‘Bachelor’ Contestant AshLee Frazier and Game Inventor Rob

Ridgeway Sing for Love at Match.com Event



It's no surprise that Match.com's "Spontaneous" Stir Game Night was a huge success. Nearly 100 singles gathered for a night of competitive fun as they played board games and belted out their favorite lyrics at Sen Restaurant on 21st Street in New York City.

Related Link: [Play Your Way to Love With Match.com, Spontaneous and AshLee Frazier of 'The Bachelor'](#)

Attendees included *New York Post* Meet Market columnist, Jozen Cummings; Dateologist, Tracy Steinberg; and Single Gal in the City founder, Melissa Braverman.

Our executive editor, [Lori Bizzoco](#), was there to partake in the fun as well. In this exclusive interview, she sat down

with Spontaneous creator Rob Ridegeway and *The Bachelor* alum, AshLee Frazier. They chatted about the concept behind this popular new game and how board games can help singles find love as well as Frazier's involvement in the event

All in all, it was a great night at a great location with a great game!

For more information about Frazier, follow her on www.facebook.com/ashleenfrazier and Twitter @ashleefrazier. Stay tuned for a future interview with The Bachelor contestant!

Video by Erik Erikson.

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

Kathy Hilton Discusses Fashion Week and Her Collection





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Editorial by Sarah Ribeiro.

With New York Fashion Week currently underway, it's fun to catch up with your favorite celebrities and see how they're participating. During our chat with Kathy Hilton earlier this summer, we spoke to the businesswoman about designing her fashion line and staying inspired.

Related Link: [Kathy Hilton on Her Marriage: "I Thank the Lord Every Day – I'm Very Blessed"](#)

Hilton launched The Kathy Hilton Collection in the spring of 2011. This line of dresses offers women high-fashion apparel at reasonable costs. The entrepreneur describes her line as "exquisite evening wear that mixes high society with marketplace prices." She designs her dresses for women of all ages, and the line is available in over 400 fine boutiques and at major retailers – including Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom stores – nationwide and in 28 countries.

Always looking to challenge herself, Hilton will be launching additional lines of handbags and home goods soon. "My collection is a little bit of everything, which is important,"

she explains. "I don't want people walking in and saying, 'Oh, everything looks the same.'"

This, says the designer, is what made the Kathy Hilton Collection so significant at its onset. Hilton was approached by Mon Cheri CEO Steve Lang after years of run-ins at couture shows in Paris, Milan, and New York, and he asked her to design a dress line. "I was over the moon and excited. It's every girl's dream. Who wouldn't want to design their own fashion line?" she exclaims. "I told him my collection would have to be something that makes sense. I wanted to create something to fill a void. I'm sick of spending over a thousand dollars on a dress. There's nothing out there that's beautiful and affordable, so I decided to make something that doesn't break the bank, something that's timeless and classic – no frills, stones, or lace all over the place."

Related Link: [Kelly Ripa's NYC Chic](#)

What's most important to Hilton's collection, though, is its accessibility. "I want to be able to dress my nieces, my daughters, myself, and my friends – women of all ages and all body types."

While the Kathy Hilton Collection will not be shown at New York Fashion Week, the famous face will still be attending the shows for inspiration. "I think it takes a couple years to be established. It's something to look forward to."

Stay tuned for our final post about Hilton, which will focus on her entertaining tips! In the meantime, you can check her out on Twitter @KathyHilton and www.facebook.com/OfficialKathyHilton.

Kelly Rutherford On Her Divorce: “The One Thing I Know Is That My Kids Are Loved and That We’re Working It Out”



By [Whitney Johnson](#)

Gossip Girl fans recognize Kelly Rutherford as prim and proper socialite Lily van der Woodsen, a character who captured our hearts despite her shortcomings. You could fault Lily for a

number of things but being a protective parent wasn't one of them. When speaking about her character on the show, the actress says, "It was a lot of fun. She was a very different type of mother than we're used to seeing on television."

Now, Rutherford is tackling an even more challenging role in Lifetime's *A Sister's Nightmare*, which premieres this weekend. The blonde beauty plays Jane Rydert, a police officer whose life changes drastically when her older sister Cassidy (Natasha Henstridge) shows up after being released from a psychiatric hospital. Unable to convince anyone that her sister is still dangerous, Jane must protect her niece Emily (Peyton List), who she's been raising for the past 16 years.

Rutherford was initially attracted to the movie because it was "very different than what I had done before. It was nice to do something that was a big contrast to *Gossip Girl* and the character that I played for six years – to shake things up a little bit."

And, of course, the cast is always an important piece of any project. For this role, she reunited with one of her love interests on *Gossip Girl*, Matthew Settle. "It was wonderful to work together again," she exclaims. "Natasha and Peyton are incredible too. They made it very believable for me. It was really a lovely experience."

Ultimately, though, the ending hooked her. "There's this huge twist that you don't see coming. It made me really like the script," the Kentucky native shares. "It was really fun to play a character who ends up being totally different than you thought."

Naturally, being a parent herself – to six-year-old son Hermés and four-year-old daughter Helena – impacts the way she approaches each project. For Rutherford, her kids are always her priority. "I do my best to work around them," she explains. "It all goes by so fast that you don't have time for

guilt. When I'm with my kids, I want to be totally present. And when I'm working, I want to know that my kids are attended to and happy."

Related Link: [Celebrity Couples Who Cannot Wait to Become Parents](#)

It's no surprise that motherhood has changed the single mom. "I learn something new every day. I want to be a better example for my children. It's a different type of pressure to be a good person when you have little eyes looking up at you!" she says with a laugh.

Part of being the best mother she can be is going with the flow. "As a parent, you realize that every day brings new things." This summer brought a lot of fun for the family of three. "I asked my kids what they wanted to do, and they said, 'We just want to be with you.' So that's what we did! We went to the Hamptons for a few weekends. We did everything we love to do in New York City too: go to the museums, ride scooters in the park. They took swimming and piano lessons. My daughter took ballet and French classes."

Unfortunately, Rutherford has been dealing with some more serious problems. In June, she filed for bankruptcy due to financial problems stemming from her lengthy custody battle with Daniel Giersch. Her ex-husband, who resides in Monaco, was barred from returning to the United States – which means that Rutherford must travel back and forth to see her children.

"It's not always easy, that's for sure," she says of her divorce. "The biggest thing is to stay positive when you talk about the other parent. You have to be honest; you don't want to lie, but you want to say it in a way so it doesn't have an edge. My kids really pick up on whether I'm okay emotionally. As long as I'm okay, they're okay. If I lose it, who do they have to look to for strength?"

Related Link: [Finding Yourself Again](#)

The actress adds, “When they have questions, I sit down and answer them. I try to be as kind and respectful of them as possible. I let them know that I don’t always know either, that I’m figuring it out too. The one thing I do know is that they’re loved and that we’re working it out. I encourage them to just enjoy every moment, whether they’re with me or their dad.”

Rutherford applies this philosophy to her own life as well. After a relaxing but busy summer, she’s ready to step back into a role on primetime and is excited to be joining the cast of *Reckless*, a show premiering on CBS this fall.

Plus, she’s considering expanding her work as an activist for custody issues into a book. “A few people are encouraging me, but I don’t know if it’s the right time yet. I’m just waiting to see how things play out.” One thing’s for sure: We’ll be cheering for her every step of the way!

You can catch Rutherford on A Sister’s Nightmare on Lifetime on Saturday, September 7th at 8 p.m. ET. You can also follow her on her personal site, <http://www.kellyrutherford.com/> or [Twitter](#) @KellyRutherford/ and www.facebook.com/thekellyrutherford?fref=ts!

‘Tough Love: Co-Ed’ Star Kyle Keller Says, “Listen to Your

Heart and Be Truthful to Yourself"



By Kristin Mattern

Kyle Keller and her lovely personality are no stranger to the media circuit: progressing from a sports broadcaster to host of MAXIM radio to executive producer for MediaKillers.com, Keller's charm has brought her from into the spotlight. Her outgoing persona, stylish wardrobe, and sex appeal have even landed her two shows of her own, *Style with Kyle* and *Kyle's Ultimate Challenge*. "Everything I have done in my career is connected," she explains. "It's all personality-based, whether I'm in front of or behind the camera. I think the most challenging part is getting people to take me seriously, but it's been a fun ride."

Expanding her resume, the blonde bombshell is now a member of VH1's popular show, *Tough Love: Co-Ed*. "I felt like the only way I was going to find love was by going on television," she candidly admits. "I knew it would force me to be true to myself. I couldn't lie if I was on TV." Coached by dating and relationship expert Steve Ward, Keller recalls how the tough love guru used honesty to break down the celebrities and show them that even though they're amazing people, they, like everyone else, have flaws. "I was true to myself and found my own way, and I'm hoping that viewers will take something away from my journey."

Related Link: [Celebrities Who Dated Out of Their League](#)

In a twist, this season of *Tough Love* features not only the famous Steve Ward but also his sister Monica, who provides a feminine view on dating. "Steve is really tough and no nonsense when it comes to giving advice. He's honest to the point where it can break you," the contestant remarks. "Monica is great. She's really tough too. You just have to watch the show to really see them in action!"

Of the other seven cast members, Keller notes, "Everyone has different personalities, and we sometimes clash because of it. We all went on the show for different reasons. I think viewers will see that and will really love it." It isn't easy living in such a full house, but they all learned to improve not only their relationships with love interests but with family and friends as well. When asked about the number one lesson she learned, Keller refers to Steve's book *The Crash Course in Love* and says, "Don't be weird."

The broadcaster begins the show with the title "Miss Disconnected" due to her penchant for long-distance relationships and magical ability to talk her way into the friend zone. "Steve and Monica really honed in on my hang-ups and helped me figure out who I am as a person and who I want to be in a relationship. The question is: Did I listen to

their advice? Did the other housemates?"

When it comes to her personal life, the vivacious blonde is seeking the same spark she sees between her parents, who have been married for 41 years. "They have the best relationship. They're best friends, and they really love each other." Getting more specific, she adds, "I'm looking for someone who is kind and who loves his family. I want kids, so a deal breaker is somebody who doesn't." The star's ideal type is a guy with kind eyes and a great smile, someone who is tall, dark, and handsome.

Related Link: [Dating Deal Breakers](#)

Keller has learned a lot from her past dating experiences and, of course, from *Tough Love: Co-Ed*. For others looking for love, she says to "listen to your heart and be truthful to yourself. And remember that exes are exes for a reason, but they're not a mistake because you learn from them. They're a good thing to have."

The host also advises against plastering your relationship status all over social media: "Unless you're engaged or married, don't do it. Social media ruins relationships. Your love life should be personal."

See more of Kyle Keller and what she learns about love on VH1's Tough Love: Co-Ed, which premieres tonight at 10 p.m. ET! You can also connect with her on her personal site www.mskylekeller.com/, Twitter [@MsKyleKeller](https://twitter.com/MsKyleKeller), [instagram.com/mskylekeller/](https://www.instagram.com/mskylekeller/), and [facebook.com/MsKyleKeller](https://www.facebook.com/MsKyleKeller)

Stacy Keibler and Michael Chiarello Are Looking For the Next 'Supermarket Superstar'



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#); Editorial by Kerri Sheehan

Lifetime welcomed a new reality show to its ranks this summer with the July 22nd premiere of *Supermarket Superstar*. The show has been described as *Shark Tank* with food, giving undiscovered food entrepreneurs a chance to stand out among the big brands in the highly competitive food industry. Stacy Keibler, who made a name for herself as a World Wrestling Entertainment Diva, hosts the program. The blonde bombshell was known as "The Legs of WWE" due to her tall stature, but she rose to even greater prominence during her relationship with A-list actor George Clooney, which ended

earlier this year.

On *Supermarket Superstar*, aspiring foodie entrepreneurs pitch their products to three mentors: Debbi Fields, the founder of Mrs. Fields Cookies; Chris Cronyn, the president of Dine Marketing; and Michael Chiarello, megastar chef and retail visionary. These recognizable faces help contestants tweak their edibles so that they can win over Tom Dahlen, the buyer for A&P supermarkets. The *Supermarket Superstar* who Dahlen chooses in each episode wins \$10,000 in cash and \$100,000 in product development as well as a chance to compete for their product to be sold in A&P supermarkets and their affiliates across the country.

When she was first approached about the show, Keibler was already developing her own healthy food line. The former *Dancing with the Stars* contestant has “always had a love of food and cooking, so it just seemed like the stars were aligned, and it was a perfect fit.” It’s clear that the actress enjoys being a part of the program, even though she has a hard time guessing the winner each week. “I want everyone to win! I just love seeing their journey and watching them evolve through the whole process.”

Food titan and main mentor for the competitors, Chef Chiarello, would agree. He explains, “I think all of their stories are so extraordinary, and you fall in love as you learn more about each competitor.”

Supermarket Superstar gives some people the big break they’ve been searching for but denies others of their dream. Both Keibler and Chiarello are familiar with the nature of competition – as a WWE Diva and *DWTS* contestant and a *Top Chef Master’s* contestant respectively. In the end, they want to see the contestants do well, and Chiarello expresses his hopes that “as the series grows, we’d like to see a regional launch of each week’s winner because they all deserve a regional

spot.”

Keibler echos Chiarello’s sentiments, saying, “We have people who have a great idea, people who have put their soul into trying to fulfill this goal, so I think the show is such a perfect platform for people to try to make their dreams a reality.”

The model hopes that the show will be renewed for a second season. She believes that it’s captured viewers because it shows “an inside process that most of us are a part of but know very little about. We’re all consumers of food; we all go to the supermarket; and we all eat. We don’t necessarily know the story behind how the products got onto the shelves.”

Speaking of being a consumer of food, Chiarello has some tips for cooking a meal for your special someone. The chef has been married since 2003 to his wife Eileen and shares, “When I’m trying to do something romantic, it’s not so much about lobster and caviar, but instead, it’s about threading a story through the couple of dishes that you have.” For example, you could make a delicious poached peach desert because the scent of peach reminds me of you of your partner.

Chiarello warns against taking your partner out for a swanky four-hour, six-course meal though. “It’s not going to end like you hoped!” he jokes. “Keep things fresh and light and build stories with it. After all, it’s the stories that create the flavor memories.”

You can catch Supermarket Superstar on Lifetime on Thursdays at 10:30/9:30c. For more on Keibler and Chiarello, be sure to follow them on Twitter.

VMA Performer Joey Fatone Says Understanding Is the Secret to His Strong Marriage



Interview by [Lori Bizocco](#). Editorial by Kristin Mattern.

Joey Fatone – former N'SYNC member, *Dancing with the Stars* contestant, host, entertainer, and man of many hats – will be taking the stage tonight in a much-talked-about reunion with Justin Timberlake, JC Chasez, Lance Bass and Chris Kirkpatrick at MTV's Video Music Awards tonight. Outside of this exciting performance, he's stepping into the limelight with a new show for the Live Well Network, *My Family Recipe Rocks*. "It's exciting. We actually go into people's homes and watch normal, everyday people in everyday kitchens break down their recipes that they've passed down for many generations," he shares. "I

think it's a really cool idea." The star loves that he gets to meet so many families from different backgrounds across America who share their unique meal ideas with him.

With experience being on the Food Network as well as dabbling in cooking at home, it's no secret that Fatone is comfortable in the kitchen. On *My Family Recipe Rocks*, he has encountered recipes that harken back to his own Italian roots and bring up memories of making his father's sauce and meatball recipe, while other times, he comes across food he's never made or even tried before. "In one episode, this woman makes a sauce with meatballs that was very similar to what I make – just a few little things were different," the star says. "And it's also really cool to see things I've never seen or would have thought of, like baba ganoush." Thanks to the show, Fatone's had the opportunity to meet people from every walk of life and all kinds of backgrounds – from Egyptian and Middle Eastern to India to Irish and Italian.

Related Link: [Mario Batali Shares His Tips for Cooking at Home on Date Night](#)

The family man has put his newly-honed culinary skills to good use at home too. "I've made a lot of recipes from the show for my family. If I don't have the recipe, I always try to figure it out and remember what it was made of." One delicious recipe he tried out was a dish called Saucy Balls. It has ground pork and turkey made into a meatball with cream cheese and different herbs that is then wrapped in a pastry puff and drizzled with a balsamic glaze after cooking. And that's just one of the many mouth-watering recipes that people pass on to the celebrity host!

My Family Recipe Rocks aims to bring families together over meals. "It's fun to be creative and try to incorporate the recipes from the show at home – like every Friday night have a cooking night with the whole family," the host comments. "I

think that's part of what's cool about the show. It inspires people who never thought they could cook and actually feed their family."

His wife Kelly and their two daughters, Briahna and Kloey, enjoy cooking as much as Fatone does, and together, they love making traditional family recipes as well as breaking out the cookbook and trying something new. His older daughter even made the couple salmon with dill sauce for their anniversary one year. "I'm not a salmon person at all, but I was shocked because it was really good!"

Related Link: [Simon Cowell Speaks Out On Becoming a Dad](#)

The star chalks up his strong marriage to understanding. "It's not easy. You need to be understanding," he explains. "You've got to balance your career and home life, and you have to spend time with the kids." On date nights, he and Kelly enjoy going out for Indian food or trying somewhere new. "We like to try different restaurants in our city. She'll pick a place one week, and I'll pick one another week. It's good. We enjoy trying new spots."

For him, his lovely daughters are the most amazing part of his life. Even when he was on tour with N'SYNC, he still made time for his children, and sometimes, he even brought Brihana with him when he was traveling with the group.

Looking back on his career, Fatone says, "Being a semi-finalist on *Dancing with the Stars* was fun, and performing with legends like Michael Jackson and Celine Dion was equally awesome," he recalls. "When I sit back and think about all the things that I've done, it's kind of mind-boggling. It's just been really amazing."

Be sure to tune in to watch Fatone's performance at the VMAs on MTV at 9 p.m. ET! You also can watch him showcase unique recipes from families across America on My Family Recipe Rocks! on the Live Well Network – visit

livewellnetwork.com/My-Family-Recipe-Rocks/8432939 for episodes and recipes. Connect with the star at www.joeyfatone.com/ or follow him on Twitter @realjoeyfatoneand and facebook.com/RealJoeyFatone

‘Devious Maids’ Star Alex Fernandez Says, “Life Isn’t All About Work”



By Petra Halbur

Chances are, you’re familiar with Alex Fernandez’s work. After

years of playing small roles on television shows like *Heroes*, *Prison Break* and *Army Wives* and lending his voice to video games like *Call of Duty: Black Ops* and *Socom 4: US Navy Seals*, the actor is now enjoying more prominent parts on Lifetime's hit summer series *Devious Maids* as well as *Killer Women* and *The Bridge*.

Related Link: [Jacqueline MacInnes Wood, Star of Lifetime's 'Her Husband's Betrayal,' Says, "Don't Look for Mr. Right"](#)

Additionally, Fernandez recently completed his run as Roy Vickers on the revamped classic *Dallas*. He says it was "pretty amazing" to work on a show with such a legacy. "The original *Dallas* is a show that I grew up watching," he adds. "It was on for so many years in the 70s and 80s, and everybody of my age remembers it. When it came back on and I got cast in a role that was going to be there for the entire season, it was very exciting."

He was also touched by the respect shown to actor Larry Hagman, who played the iconic oil baron J.R. – respect that continued even after his passing last November. On the daily call sheet, which lists all the actors in order of their prominence on the show, Fernandez notes that "Larry was always listed as number one, and I thought that was a really nice testament for those of us who frequently work as televisions actors. I found it to be a really touching tribute."

Hagman isn't the only co-star who stands out in Fernandez's memory. The Miami, Florida-born performer recalls appearing on an episode of *Robbery Homicide Division* back in 2002 and being struck by the warmth and professionalism of the show's lead actor, Tom Sizemore. "That was the first time in my whole career where the star of the show treated me like a scene partner, treated me like a fellow actor. He's had a lot of personal problems over the years that have been in the media, but he'll always have a really warm place in my heart for the

way he acted towards me.”

The actor has also found an amazing co-star in Judy Reyes, who appears as his wife on *Devious Maids*. He plays Pablo Diaz, the husband of Reyes’s character Zoila Diaz, who is an ambitious maid working for a rich family in Beverly Hills. Fernandez describes Reyes as the sort of actress that doesn’t make work feel like work and says that she “knows her stuff” yet is very relaxed on set.

There was one scene, in particular, that he was excited to film with her: At the end of one episode, they shared “a really sweet kiss.” By his own admission, he hasn’t had many romantic scenes in his career since he usually plays “cops and criminals.” “I told my Twitter followers to tune into *Devious Maids* because, for the first time in my television career, they were going to let me kiss a girl on camera!” Unfortunately, he was disappointed when a producer later informed him that the scene had been cut.

Though his many projects keep him on the move, Fernandez doesn’t seem fazed by his busy work schedule. Quite the contrary, he enjoys it. “I really love to work. I love to travel between sets. In the case of *The Bridge*, *Dallas*, *Killer Women*, and *Devious Maids*, they’re all shot in different cities,” he reveals. “You would think that I’d be exhausted or annoyed, but I’m just exhilarated. Honestly, I can’t think of a single time that I felt stressed out.”

However, he does admit that spending so much time away from loved ones is “not exactly fun.” He and his girlfriend live in Los Angeles, and it takes some extra work to keep their relationship strong. “When your job requires that you travel as much as mine does, you have to make a little more effort to make sure that you’re not letting too much time pass between seeing each other.”

Related Link: [Absence Shouldn’t Make The Heart Grow Fonder](#)

Fernandez says that his idea of a great date is a day spent at the movies followed by some coffee and conversation at a cafe. For his last birthday, the couple went to their favorite Chinese restaurant to work on a play that he is directing and she is producing. "We sat at the table and spread out all the papers that we needed. We ate and worked and talked, and to me, that was a fantastic date," he says with a laugh.

He adds, "For anybody who's working a lot, especially if they enjoy what they do, they have to remember that life isn't all about work."

Be sure to catch Fernandez on the season finale of Devious Maids, airing this Sunday, August 25th at 10/9c!

Kathy Hilton on Her Marriage: "I Thank the Lord Every Day – I'm Very Blessed"





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Editorial by Sarah Ribeiro.

Kathy Hilton is no stranger to the spotlight. As a child actor, she played roles on notable programs such as *Happy Days*, *Family Affair*, *The Rockford Files*, and *Bewitched*. Her husband, Richard Hilton, is one of the most high-profile businessmen in the country, and her daughters, Paris and Nicky, have had their share of fame as well. But although you may not see Kathy on the big screen anymore, her life is busier than ever. She works with causes such as Erase MS, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the Starlight Children's Foundation. Plus, she designs the Kathy Hilton Collection – “a line of exquisite evening wear for women of all ages that includes an element of high society at affordable prices” – and she does this all while managing a family and keeping her marriage strong.

Life in the public eye can be difficult at times, and maintaining a marriage is just as hard. Hilton met her husband when she was only fifteen years old, and they were married four years later. “We were always together,” she shares. “We grew up together. A lot of people say, ‘Oh, young marriages

don't work out.' I thank the Lord every day – I'm very blessed."

Related Link: [Tips to Win the Love of Someone Rich or Famous](#)

After 34 years together, she credits alone time at the start of their marriage for keeping their relationship strong. "We got engaged, and we moved to New York. Having that time alone without *anyone* poking their nose in our business gave us the opportunity to grow. If we had a disagreement, I couldn't just run home to my parents."

And cherishing that alone time keeps their marriage going even now. When they're not balancing their busy careers or hanging out with their four children, they just like being together."We have date nights all the time," the businesswoman reveals. "We enjoy the social life with our friends, but sometimes, we'll both look at each other and go, 'Honey, I'm peopled out!' I'll dress up, and he'll take me out to dinner, or we'll spend some time in private."

The couple will kick off Richard's birthday – Saturday, August 17th – with some "alone time": sitting in traffic on their drive to the Hamptons. "We do the same thing every year. We live in Southampton, so we'll leave from the city. We stop at William Poll Gourmet Foods for sandwiches – they have the best chicken salad with bacon – and pack a picnic to eat while we sit in traffic for nearly three hours." The family plans to dine at The Palm to celebrate.

Of course, the Hiltons expect to be interrupted at times. "We have our own private life, but as I've always told my girls, 'Anything you sign up for in life, there's a price.' There's always people coming up to say hi or ask to get a picture. It's fine – sometimes, we'd rather people just come up and say hi than whisper and point."

Related Link: [Ali Landry Talks About Expanding Her Family, Date Night](#)

But the family manages the fame well – just as long as they get to be together. Although Paris and Nicky have their own careers and live on their own, they still spend time with their parents and brothers. “We spend all our holidays together, I cherish it, especially having four children,” the family matriarch shares. “I love nothing more than knowing each of my children are in the same building. When we’re on holiday, we have breakfast, lunch, and dinner together every single day. They’re my kids, no matter what. They’re always gonna be my little babies.”

Stay tuned for our future posts about Hilton, which will focus on her Kathy Hilton Collection, her entertaining tips and more! In the meantime, you can check her out on Twitter @KathyHilton and www.facebook.com/OfficialKathyHilton.

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





By Gabriela Robles

NBC's new scripted supernatural drama series *Siberia* is a show where 16 reality show contestants must survive the Siberian winter in hopes of winning 500,000 dollars. When things start to go wrong and they realize that they didn't sign up for this sort of danger, the contestants must join together in an attempt to survive what lurks in their settlement. One of the stars of the series, Joyce Giraud, explains, "It's a mix of *Lost* and *Survivor* but entirely different than both of them. It feels like reality television, but you get really invested in the drama because it's a scripted show."

Related Link: ["We Have Each Other": Celebrity Couple Joy Enriquez and Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins On Their Show 'House of Joy'](#)

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

whatever it takes to win the money.”

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

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

In addition to their romantic meeting, the success of this married pair, who have two sons, is based off of the bond that they share. “My husband is my best friend, and I’d rather spend my time with him than with anybody else,” the Puerto Rican native shares. “It’s important to respect each other, to always think of how to make each other happy and to allow your partner to live the life they want. You need to support each other’s dreams and go through life knowing you can always count on each other.”

Related Link: [What Does Unconditional Love Look Like?](#)

Siberia isn’t the only thing that this actress has on her plate right now. A world-renowned beauty pageant queen, Giraud created the Queen of the Universe pageant in 2012. The competition is open to anyone – married or single – and holds

a charitable alliance with United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organization. It's no surprise, then, that this former pageant star has many beauty tricks up her sleeve, one of which she shared with us: "One of my favorite at-home remedies is an avocado mask that my grandma taught me how to make – it makes my hair very shiny!"

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

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

To connect more with Joyce Giraud, follow her on www.facebook.com/therealjoycegiraud/ and Twitter @joycegiraud, and check out her character Carolina's bio on NBC. Be sure to catch Siberia this Monday at 10/9c on NBC!

EXCLUSIVE: Designer Christy Biebrich from 'Brother vs. Brother' Says, "Laughter Is

The Secret to a Healthy Everything!"



By Sarah Ribeiro

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

on Sunday night's episode.

Related Link: ['Design Star' Champion Leslie Ezelle Offers Relationship Advice for a Happy Home](#)

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

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

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

way.”

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

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

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

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

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

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



By Kerri Sheehan

Hollywood mom Ali Landry isn't letting anything slow her down! Perhaps best known as the Doritos Girl from a 1998 Super Bowl commercial, the former Miss USA is now focused on family life.

Since marrying film director Alejandro Monteverde in 2006, she's been staying busy thanks to her growing family: her six-year-old daughter Estela, two-year-old son Marcelo, and the newest edition, baby boy Valentin Francesco, who was born earlier this summer on July 11th.

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

Related Link: [Best Celebrity Moms \(Who Also Make Great Wives\)](#)

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

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

As important as her home life is, the television personality isn't ready to step out of the spotlight just yet. In fact, her role as a mother inspired her recent reprisal as the spokesperson for Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula and their

national ad campaign. Landry first started using Palmer's products while pregnant with her daughter. "I was looking through magazines, and there were all these ads featuring some of my celebrity mom friends who were pregnant at the time. I thought to myself, 'Oh my gosh, they look so great pregnant! How brave of them to actually show off their bellies! I should really try these products.' I started using Palmer's and really loved the results."

Related Link: [10 New Celebrity Moms](#)

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

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

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

'RHONJ' Star Jacqueline

Laurita: “I Try My Best to Get Along With Everyone”



By Kerri Sheehan

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

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

with years of experience and Suzanne is a beauty publicist, we make a great pair. We bring our years of knowledge to the site and also handpicked a team of other beauty and health professionals to blog with us.”

Inspiration for Laurita’s company came from her days as a cosmetologist. “I had this vision for a beauty website a long time ago. I’ve spent several years educating people about cosmetics, skincare and everything beauty. I have literally tried it all.” *Real Housewives* viewers were an impetus as well. “Fans of my show would tweet me beauty questions constantly, so I created a platform to get all of their beauty questions answered. I get all sorts of questions from what plastic surgery procedures I recommend to how to make treatments from items in your refrigerator. I love sharing beauty secrets!” she exclaims.

Related Link: [RHONJ’s Teresa Giudice Debunks Divorce Rumors](#)

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

If you tuned into the *The Real Housewives of New Jersey* last night, you know that things didn’t go as planned during Laurita’s reunion with Teresa. “I try my best to get along with everyone,” she says. “I really don’t need the extra aggravation of fighting over nonsense when I’m fighting for my child’s recovery at home. I really don’t like fighting.” At the same time, this Jersey mom is not afraid to hold her own

when challenged. "If a certain situation presents itself to me, I just roll with it by responding organically, and I always have hope for a resolution in the future. This season you may see more "mysteries from last season reveal themselves," she says.

Related Link: [10 New Celebrity Moms](#)

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

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

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





By Kristin Mattern

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Related Link: [The Four Biggest Myths About Men](#)

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

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

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

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



By [Whitney Johnson](#) and Kristin Mattern

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Charlotte Ross of 'Hit the Floor' Says, "Waiting for Mr. Right Won't Get You Anywhere"



By [Whitney Johnson](#)

Charlotte Ross has a Hollywood story meant for the big screen: she fell in love with acting at an early age and began pursuing her dream while growing up in Winnetka, Illinois. She worked at Second City and the Goodman Theatre until graduating from high school. Just a month later, she moved to Los Angeles and was quickly cast as Eve Donovan on the infamous soap opera *Days of Our Lives*, a role that later garnered her two Emmy

nominations. Audiences now recognize her as Quinn Fabray's uptight mother Judy on the hit show *Glee* as well as Olivia Vincent in the summer series *Hit the Floor*.

Related Link: ['Glee' Star Cory Monteith is Found Dead in Hotel Room](#)

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

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

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

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

him.”

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

Related Link: [Solo Parenting: Reconsidering Your Ex](#)

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

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

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

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

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



By Kristin Mattern

Ali Fedotowsky is no stranger to ABC's *The Bachelor* and *The*

Bachelorette. She was a contestant vying for Jake Pavelka's affection in season 14 of *The Bachelor* and later starred on season 6 of *The Bachelorette*. Well-versed in love, relationships and reality television, Fedotowsky is now putting her dating and media expertise to work on a new blog for *E!* about the popular dating competition show. Additionally, she has continued her foray into the world of the small screen as the host of *1st Look*, the Emmy Award-winning travel show from NBC. In an exclusive interview, this adorable TV personality opens up about the current season of *The Bachelorette*, moving on after heartbreak and her happy relationship with Kevin Manno, host of *Abby's Ultimate Dance Competition*.

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

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

Given their similar circumstances, Fedotowsky has become friends with the current bachelorette, Desiree Hartsock. The two hit it off while filming a special that will air during tonight's *Men Tell All* episode. "Desiree is as sweet and down to earth in person as she is on the show. I really have nothing but wonderful things to say about her," the television

personality remarks. Wondering if they shared secrets about the end of this season? “When we hung out, I told her to please *not* tell me anything. I didn’t want her to think I would try to pressure her for those details. I’m there as a friend, not to interrogate her!” However, Fedotowsky did tell us that she is rooting for Chris but that she “will be happy with whoever she [Desiree] picks because she’s happy! She’ll pick the guy she falls for; that’s not for me to judge.”

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

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

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

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

Be sure to tune in for tonight’s Men Tell All episode on ABC

at 8/7 pm c. To learn more about Fedotowsky, you can connect with her on facebook.com/MissAliElaine or Twitter @AliFedotowsky. You can also check out her blog for E! and her travel show, 1st Look.

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



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

Baker Johnson

Drop Dead Diva, the relaunched Lifetime hit television show, will be showing their support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community on tonight's episode. In an exciting storyline, the cast will welcome Derek Smith, who is playing a gay professional baseball player. Josh Berman, the show's openly gay producer, stated that this issue was vital for him to tackle because being a gay athlete is becoming a rising issue. "Sports is one of the last frontiers where men and women feel they unfortunately need to be closeted," he explains.

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

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

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

Finding the ideal actor for this part was one of the most important parts of the episode. Berman shares that he was "obsessed" with casting the perfect man to play the fictional

Major League Baseball player. Derek Smith was taken into very careful consideration for this role and was spoken to numerous times about the importance of his character. "Baseball is the most traditional, all-American sport. It gives us the opportunity to show a character who really needs to feel closeted or uphold the idea of heterosexuality," says Cho.

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

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

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

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

Celebrities Share Dating Tips

at 8th Annual All-Star Celebrity Kickoff Party



Interviews by Shannah Henderson; Editorial by Sarah Ribeiro

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

Celebrity guests included musicians Chris Brown, Snoop Lion and Sean Kingston; actor Jamie Foxx; former *Bachelor* and

Bachelorette stars, Bob Guiney and Arie Luyendyk, Jr; and ESPY-nominees for Best Breakthrough Athlete Yasiel Puig of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Colin Kaepernick of the San Francisco 49ers, who was the winner of the award.

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

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

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

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

What is your best piece of dating advice?

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

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

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

“You have to do something special. Don't think that it's all about money. It's about thinking outside of the box, getting weird and making it happen. You know what I got my girlfriend for Valentine's Day? A saxophone player! He came to our house

and played her favorite songs in our living room. It was awkward but awesome” – **Stephen Kramer Glickman, comedian**

“My best dating advice is don’t do it. No, I’m kidding! [laughs] I am a divorced guy, and I would say just be really, really painfully honest. If there is any dating advice that works for me, that tip actually works. I always say, ‘Listen, here is what I am capable of. I hope I outshine what I think I am capable of, but this is probably what I’ve got in the tank at this point.’ It actually kind of helps! If you are honest upfront, there are no misconceptions, and it all really works itself out.” – **Bob Guiney, *The Bachelor* Season 4**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**"We Have Each Other":
Celebrity Couple Joy Enriquez
and Rodney "Darkchild"
Jerkins On Their New Show,
'House of Joy'**





By [Whitney Johnson](#) and Kristin Mattern

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more about Jillian Harris, visit her blog www.jillianharris.com/ or stay connected through facebook.com/designerjillian or Twitter @jillianharris