

# Exclusive Celebrity Interview: Josh Kelly From Lifetime's 'UnREAL' Reveals the Truth About Reality TV



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

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

# Exclusive Celebrity Interview with *UnREAL*'s Josh Kelly

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

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

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

the question for most exes. With Jeremy and Rachel, I don't know. I think they both want it to work out, but they've both done some bad stuff."

Without giving too much away, he does hint that more is going to happen between the exes. "It gets crazier and crazier," the *One Life to Live* star adds. "Jeremy and Rachel try to deal with their issues."

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

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

## Finding Love on Reality TV

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

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A big departure from his role on *UnREAL*, with parts in films like *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* and *Jarhead 2: Field of Fire*, Kelly is no stranger to being in war-style

movies. Ironically, he has a military background and admits that being a past soldier and then playing one on set can be a bit aggravating. "A lot of people have a preconceived notion of who soldiers are and why they act like they do," he says. "They think of them as mechanical and not human. On television, they're often supposed to be like robots."

"It can be very constricting if you're an actor and you're trying to play the character, and the writers and producers are like, 'Well, you know, soldiers don't really get nervous,'" he elaborates. "We do. I can promise you that." Although at times frustrating, "it's also really fun to get back in the uniform and play."

With that thought in mind, his latest project is a short film entitled *Prisoner of War*, which was directed by a friend and fellow Army Ranger, Matthew Sanders. "It's probably the most intense role I've ever played," the actor admits. The storyline involves soldier suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder, which he feels are "really important" topics.

Whether his character is a soldier in battlefield or a cameraman for a reality TV show, Kelly thanks his military background for influencing his acting. "It has helped me in many, many ways," he shares. "I learned a lot about hard work, and I'm really happy for it."

*For more from Josh, follow him on Twitter @JustJokingJK and [www.facebook.com/joshkellyofficial](http://www.facebook.com/joshkellyofficial). Tune in for UnREAL on Lifetime on Mondays at 10/9c!*

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# New Docu-Series Will Show Tori Spelling and Dean McDermott's Marriage Troubles



By Louisa Gonzales

New docu-series on *Lifetime* starring Tori Spelling and husband Dean McDermott, will invite viewers and TV cameras into their home during a rough time in their marriage. According to [People](#), the couple's marriage was recently in hot waters because of a cheating scandal involving McDermott, 47, which caused the actor to enter rehab. The series, *True Tori*, will focus on the married duo and it will follow them as they work on their problem, starting when McDermott's leaves treatment. Spelling, 40, has been married to her husband for seven years and they have four children together.

## What are some ways to confront issues in your relationship?

### Cupid's Advice:

Every relationship has problems, its normal. When you and your partner are having issues in your relationship it is better to face them than ignore them, but what's the best way to go about it? Cupid has some advice on ways to confront issues in your relationship.

**1. Practice Beforehand:** Before you confront your significant with your relationship woes, take the time to prepare what you are going to say, open with, end with, etc. Practicing on what you're going to say can help calm your nerves and help you focus on what exactly you want to discuss. Make sure you remember the purpose of your confrontation and that you're trying to resolve your issues not create new ones.

**Related:** [Tori Spelling Slams Rumors That She Is Divorcing Dean McDermott](#)

**2. Make private time to talk:** Take the time to sit down in private and discuss all the relationship problems you may be having with your lovebird. The issues you are having with your partner won't resolve themselves, which is why you both have to schedule a time to talk with each other. Also, be willing to listen to your lovers' side and then sit and think on it before making any rash decisions.

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**3. Make a list or write out your thoughts:** Sometimes talking isn't enough, so why not write a letter of your feelings to your sweetheart. If that is not something you're good at you can still write out a list of the issues in your relationship to help prepare you for your 'talk'. Writing is a good form of expression and writing could help you face your issues.

What do you think are good ways to confront issues in your relationship? Share in the comments below.

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# 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."

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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!’”

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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.*

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# 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."

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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?"

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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!](http://www.facebook.com/thekellyrutherford?fref=ts)*

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## **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 dessert 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.*

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





By Kristin Mattern

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

Wood is no stranger to playing intense roles. As *The Bold and The Beautiful* viewers know, for years, she has daily slipped into shoes of the manipulative and sexy Forester. She excels in the rapid world of soap operas, a feat reflected by her

many Emmy nominations. “It is always exciting to receive such an honor and to be noticed for the work you do,” she shares. “Daytime Soaps aren’t easy, and we have to become pretty much one-take specialists.” Her long-running career on *The Bold and The Beautiful* and her devoted fan base certainly point to her mastery of the form.

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

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

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

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

there, at one time or another, until you get a rude awakening.”

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

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

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

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

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# '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.

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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.”

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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!*

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



By Kristin Mattern

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

*Anna Nicole* follows the story of Smith (born Vickie Lynn Hogan) from a Texas high school dropout and single mother dreaming of a better life to a stripper who shockingly marries oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall (played by Martin Landau), 62

years her senior. Smith's Hollywood career takes off when she becomes a centerfold for *Playboy* and models for Guess. Sadly, her life begins to deteriorate after her husband passes away and her partying, yo-yo weight fluctuations, drinking and ceaseless pill-popping catch up with her. Deprived of financial support, constantly in and out of court over Marshall's estate and still hungry for the limelight, Smith decides to launch a reality show about her life. The starlet enjoys a brief upswing, but when her son Danny dies of an overdose while visiting her in the hospital after giving birth to her daughter, a grief-stricken Smith falls hard into her self-destructive ways and dies of an overdose herself a year later – an end eerily similar to her idol Marilyn Monroe.

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

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

As we eagerly await Bruckner's portrayal of the tragic star and her relationship with Marshall, everyone wonders if Anna Nicole was just in it for the cash when she married the octogenarian oil tycoon. In the actress's opinion, however,



there was more than money tying this couple together: “I really think that they had something for each other. I think he wanted companionship, love and joy in his life, and she gave those aspects to him with her charisma and love for life. She never really had a ‘father figure’ or a good relationship with her family, and this guy showed her love and treated her the best she’s ever been treated. I do think they both had something for each other and they kind of came together.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Celebrity News: Actress Brooke Burns Says, “Love Is the Inspiration For Life”



By Sarah Ribeiro

Actress Brooke Burns, who is perhaps best known for her role on *Baywatch*, hits the small screen this weekend in the

premiere of Lifetime's made-for-television movie, *A Sister's Revenge*. In the film, she plays Suzanne Dell, a relentless woman seeking revenge on the man who hurt her sister many years ago. "It was a really fun role to play because of Suzanne's single-minded evilness," says the blonde beauty. "She's a rich, layered character who justifies incredible wrongs because of her deep love and devotion to her sister. Her desire to avenge her sister's death blinds her to reality."

Despite this merciless role, Burns tends to focus her career – and her life – on love. She just shot the pilot for GSN's new dating show, *Where Have You Been All My Life?*, which she will be hosting. The show is rumored to be a modern-day version of the popular 70's show, *The Dating Game*, but she explains that the only similarity is that there is one "looker" who is interviewing three bachelors or bachelorettes. "It's different in that we show a timeline of the date's photos from birth to young adult life," the host reveals. "The questions are focused on getting to know the person throughout his or her life. We do occasional 'status updates' and a 'friend request', so the show is congruent with the very popular social media and online dating scene of 2013."

**Related Link:** [Online Dating Isn't a Threat to Monogamy – It's a Blessing](#)

Burns says she was attracted to the show because it focuses on the psychology of dating, which is important to someone who is a self-proclaimed hopeless romantic. "I've always been the girl to save love notes, the napkin we doodled on in Paris, the leaf he gave me at the park," she confides. "Without love, the garden of life is dull and mute. Love breeds growth and vibrancy that allows you to expand, the way a garden does in the spring."

In contrast to her current success with love – Burns is

engaged and happily planning her wedding to director Gavin O'Connor – she has experienced her share of dating woes, not unlike the contestants on *Where Have You Been All My Life?* “The worst date I’ve ever been on was a first date,” the actress reveals. “The guy went overboard and showed up at my apartment with groceries forty-five minutes early. He made himself at home in my kitchen and cooked breakfast. He had a limo waiting outside to take us to a tennis tournament that lasted all day. I know it sounds divine and fabulous, but five minutes into the date, he gave me the creeps! I was young and felt guilty into staying with him the whole day.”

However, she credits those bad dates with her emotional growth and says “love is the inspiration for life. Every experience I’ve had with love has made me a fuller, stronger person. I’ve experienced the highest of highs and the darkest of lows because of love, and I’m thankful for both. “

Now, as a mother to her twelve-year-old daughter, Madison, Burns has learned how to balance her relationships with her career. “The balance, for me, comes in always putting my family first,” she shares. “It’s the way I’m programmed. My fiancé has an eleven-year-old daughter, and we got really lucky because the girls adore one another.”

**Related Link:** [‘Ready for Love’ Host Giuliana Rancic Says, “Having a Strong Marriage is the Greatest Example You Can Set for Your Child”](#)

Burns, who was married to *Fantastic Four* actor Julian McMahon for two years and also dated Bruce Willis, understands the importance of remaining hopeful and not giving up on romance. “You can never predict when or where love will find you. The secret is...there is no secret. When chemistry comes, it comes, and hopefully, love will follow.”

*A Sister’s Revenge* premieres on Lifetime this Saturday, April 27th at 8pm EST. *Where Have You Been All My Life?* is set to

premiere on GSN in the fall.

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# Celebrity News: Drea de Matteo Talks About 'Stalkers' & How Life Changes After Babies



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

Drea de Matteo best known for her role as “Adriana” on HBO’s critically acclaimed show *The Sopranos*, and “Angie” on ABC’s *Desperate Housewives*, returns to the small screen playing

detective Diane Harkin in the Lifetime Original Movie *Stalkers*, premiering Saturday, April 13th at 8/7 c.

“There haven’t been many great roles out there lately,” the actress says. But for de Matteo it seems like she was drawn to this script and her character. In the upcoming movie, she is a hotheaded detective who is investigating unsolved stalking cases while on the run from her ex-husband. “I’ve never played a cop, and I’ve always wanted to,” she says. “I’m always sort of the “victim” in my roles. In this film, I get to be a victim and a tough woman at the same time. This character has a past, and she’s breakable, but she’s on a mission to conquer her fears. She can’t afford to be afraid.”

As a mother of two, the Sopranos-alum says *Stalkers* reminded her of how important it is to keep her children safe. “I don’t know if I have the strength to figure stuff out like my character, Diane can. As far as teaching my kids to protect themselves, playing a role like this definitely reminds me that there are a lot of crazy people in this world.” de Matteo was filming the movie when the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary occurred, and she couldn’t let herself hear anything that was going on “because of the pain and fear that set in” and the thought of that happening to one of her children.

de Matteo has played a mom since she was in her twenties, but *being* a mom to five-year-old daughter Alabama Gypsy Rose and two-year-old son Waylon Albert “Blackjack,” her kids with fiancé Shooter Jennings, is quite different. “Oh my gosh, my life has changed so much since I’ve had babies. Now, I know what it’s like to be a mom in real life, and I can really play the part,” she shares. “At this point, I don’t even have to think about anything to get upset on camera. All I have to do is see an image of something harmful happening to my children in my head.”

**Related Link:** [Long-Term Relationships: 5 Ways to Keep the](#)

## [Spark Alive](#)

She adds, "I am so madly in love with my children, and they affect everything I do and any role I play."

Shooting *Stalkers* was the first time she was away from her family, but she made the best of a tough situation by traveling back and forth between California, where her daughter is in school, and Vancouver, where the movie was filmed. "That part of it was awful, but luckily, the experience of making the film was so great that it definitely helped to overshadow how painful it was to leave my kids."

Like any parent, de Matteo's still learning what it means to be a mother. "No one ever really gave me advice on parenting," she shares. "I feel like my daughter is my teacher to a certain degree, and I let her guide me. On the other side, I am here to guide her, and I am going to catch her every time she falls."

It's no surprise that de Matteo's children are her number one priority. Still, her work is important too. We can't help but wonder: Can women really have it all? de Matteo says, "I think we can. We just have to work harder than any man has ever worked in his entire life."

**Related Link:** [Kristin Cavallari: "Motherhood Came Very Naturally to Me"](#)

To keep her life in balance, after filming, de Matteo focuses on spending time with her family. "When I come home, all I want to do is hug on my kids. We like simple things," she says. "I love going to the park and walking down the street, holding hands with my babies and my boyfriend."

*Stalkers premieres on Lifetime Saturday, April 13, at 8:00pm ET/PT.*