

# INTERVIEW with Katie Ross

Katie Ross, originally from Medina, Ohio, has been a regular in our newsletter as she keeps very busy living the life between New York City and Hollywood that many people only dream of. Katie got her start her at Barbizon of Akron and Pro-Model & Talent Mgmt. at the young age of 13 and now calls New York and Los Angeles home!

Katie took a few minutes from her busy schedule to answer a few questions that we are sure everyone will enjoy reading about – from Katie's numerous TV show appearances to her nursing degree, Katie shares all and gives some advice within her interview.

**Katie, how did you decide you wanted to be an actress?**

*Response:* I knew at the wee age of 13 that being an actress was what I wanted to do. I had just finished up a long run as a competitive gymnast and I wanted to give acting a shot. I auditioned for IMTA at Barbizon of Akron and started classes there that focused on scene study, commercials and on-camera work in addition to modeling. Following IMTA I had many opportunities on the west coast but my family and I decided that moving to Los Angeles at the time was not something that was in my best interest. Barbizon also taught me the reality of "the business" which allowed me to set a much more long term goal. I stayed in Ohio, did commercial work and continued with acting classes.

**Katie, we know that at some point you put acting on the back burner and went to nursing school. What made you decide to go to nursing school?**

*Response:* After this pinnacle point in my childhood (IMTA/Barbizon of Akron), I went to high school at Walsh Jesuit doing every fall, spring play, show choir, church choir & two competitive cheerleader squads. I've always been a very busy girl juggling a bunch of things. Then it came time for college and I had another decision to make-what was I going to study? I wanted to be an actress or a Doctor, or so I thought. But my dad, an anesthesiologist, sat down with me and proposed nursing... "You can go through 4 more years of school, then have a career as an RN, working 3 shifts a week, full-time with benefits and salary! Which would then leave you with more than half of the week to audition and pursue acting!" I received a scholarship to the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University and I'm now an RN! My last year of nursing school I also attended the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts in NYC, Case Western worked with me so that I could do both.

**Katie, what happened after graduation from nursing school?**

*Response:* Following graduation from Nursing School and the NYC Conservatory I moved to Los Angeles and the rest is history. Within my first two weeks of arriving in LA I was booked for my first two months of acting work; one of the roles was actually

playing a nurse in a new pilot. After that I was able to secure a job as a nurse working the night shift, leaving my days free for auditioning.

**Katie, has getting your nursing degree helped you become and actress in Los Angeles?**

*Response:* Yes, after working for about a year in a hospital I was able to work on the show "Criminal Minds" as a nurse. I worked with a technical advisor on set for that show; they needed a real nurse for the part! After that I began working as a technical advisor on set. Shortly after that I was asked to be the full time assistant and on-camera nurse for the show "Three Rivers." This was the beginning of yet another career for me as a medical technical advisor.

**Katie, can you tell us about the various jobs that you have done in Los Angeles?**

*Response:* For the past two years I have worked in television and film as either an actor or medical technical advisor or both. I also have picked up many freelance nursing jobs treating patients in their homes. The combination of my now three careers keeps me focused. For me, that's when I get to only act full time and use my nursing for charitable causes.

**Katie, what is your favorite job to date and why is it your favorite?**

*Response:* I've had so many favorite jobs! I've been blessed to work with multiple amazing groups of people. I loved working on "True Blood" as I love that show and "Parenthood" is another favorite show of mine. I was there as a technical advisor and then the Director cast me on the spot to play a nurse and gave me dialogue! I had two scenes with Erika Christensen. The storyline was funny and I had a blast! It was my Hollywood moment! But my all-time favorite is on the "Gifted Man" that I am currently working on in New York City. I get to use all of my skills in one job every-day -nursing, tech advising and acting. Even with a small acting role, I still get to play a huge part on the show and the final product for each episode. It is for sure the best job I've ever had and I'm crossing my fingers for a second season!

**interview continued inside...**



## \$100,000.00 BARBIZON INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Barbizon Modeling and Acting School believes education is one of the most important investments in the lives of children today. As an effort to assist students outside of the Barbizon classroom, Barbizon Modeling and Acting awards a \$100,000 College Tuition Scholarship to one recipient each year.

### BARBIZON OF AKRON'S OWN... Briana Lehman

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

will be attending Loyola Marymount University



"I don't have to worry about money for college anymore which means I can focus on studying and grades and go to the school that I have always wanted to go to!"

Briana Lehman, \$100,000 Barbizon College Scholarship winner from N. Ridgeville, Ohio is not only beautiful on the inside and outside, but is also one very smart young lady. Briana has maintained a 4.2 GPA at N. Ridgeville High School and is 15<sup>th</sup> in her class. Graduating this year, Briana will be continuing her education at Loyola Marymount University, where she was recently accepted. Loyola Marymount University is a very prestigious university located in Western Los Angeles. Briana will be attending LMU's school of business administration & marketing. Thrilled as to what her future holds, here is what Briana told us: "I'm going to be attending the Loyola Marymount University located in Los Angeles, California. Not only do I have a scholarship from Barbizon but the college is also offering me a hefty scholarship because of my academic excellence as a high school student." Briana is receiving an addi-

tional \$24,300 a year to use toward, books & room and board... that is impressive! "Applying for college is stressful enough as it is. I was very stressed until I got my acceptance letter to LMU. But the money that Barbizon has given me has given me the opportunity to look at the school and not the tuition price. Money was not considered when looking for a college and this is what makes me the most happy. I was able to choose the school that was the best fit for me and not the best fit for my wallet."

Everyone at Barbizon of Akron and Pro-Model & Talent could not be more excited for Briana. Not only is she going to get a top notch education she also has the Barbizon advantage... knowing how to present herself in any situation, stellar communication & public speaking skills in addition to being polished from head to toe!!

### Meghan Terry

will be attending Michigan State



"Being awarded the Barbizon scholarship means that I can get a college education at the school of my dreams and not have to worry about student loans when I graduate."

At first glance, you could have confused Betty White's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday special that aired on NBC with the Golden Globes, given the amount of star-power in the room! A "star" and very special person to Barbizon of Akron and Pro-Model & Talent, Al Onorato from Unified Management in Los Angeles, was in attendance at the birthday special and was seated right at Betty White's table! Onorato, a close friend of Betty White, represents well known talent, including

Sean Murray from the hit show NCIS. Al is a big supporter of Barbizon of Akron and Pro-Model & Talent and with his assistance in our national and international auditions Pro-Model & Talent has models/talent working both nationally and internationally. In addition to his guidance and assistance, Al has also taken on talent from Pro-Model & Talent Mgmt. Everyone at Pro-Model & Talent enjoyed seeing Al in front of the camera for the Betty White birthday celebration.

Clients love using Pro-Model & Talent's promotional models for various events at BJ's, Sam's Clubs, Kroger's and Kmart locations for products such as AXE, Crayola and Clairol, to name a few. Miranda, Kendall, Andrea, Cristina, Marina, Rebecca, Kristen, Veronica, Jessie, Alex, Jackie, Christine, Jackie, and MeLisa are just a handful of promotional staff that have been booked recently to get the word out about how great our clients products are to the consumer. Promotional models through Pro-Model & Talent can make anywhere from \$15-\$65 an hour! If modeling/acting is something new for you and you think you could have fun passing out samples and coupons for \$15-\$65 an hour, call the New Faces Department at 330.867.4125 or email [newfaces@pmtm.com](mailto:newfaces@pmtm.com) to see if you can be part of the fun!

# Barbizon of Akron/Pro-Model & Talent Mgmt. NEWS

Spring

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2012



### MODEL/TALENT TALK

The following are just a FEW highlights of a handful of auditions and bookings at Pro-Model and Talent.

Every month, Pro-Model & Talent books our models and talent for opportunities like runway shows, catalog shoots, and TV commercials, not to mention promotional events! Read on and learn all about the fun things for which our talent have been booked!



Dots has once again contacted Pro-Model & Talent for girls for their upcoming catalogs and in-store signage. Kayla Moore has worked with Dots on numerous occasions and was called back once again for some in-store signage. It was like routine for Kayla as she has worked with Dots in the past, even being featured on their Trend Book cover. Kayla had a blast working with all the staff again and we can't wait to see her shots up in Dots Stores worldwide. Kaitie Price completely wowed the clients at Dots after booking with them for the first time! The client reported back that she had great energy at the shoot and took some really amazing pictures for their spring line. Kaitie made such an impression that the clients wanted to book her again right away for more shots. The client also reported back that they will be reaching out to Pro-Model & Talent again in the near future not only to book Kaitie, but also for some additional faces!



kayla



kaitie



Cameron Christian and Lorena Hetruc were jumping for joy... literally, at their Dick's Sporting Goods shoot. The two youngsters were booked to shoot packaging shots for some trampolines that Dick's Sporting Goods carries in stores. Once again athletic ability has come in handy for a Dick's Sporting Goods shoot as both Cameron and Lorena were showing off their gymnastic abilities jumping, flipping and all-in-all having a great time!! Last but not least, Cameron's brother, Conner, laced up his baseball shoes for the season to show off some of their sporting equipment!



lorena



cameron



conner



megan

Yummy, Yummy, Yummy... who wants some ice cream in their tummy? Our models are always out at different events and stores promoting products for all types of clients. Megan Varga was out at the Earth Fare Store scooping out some great tasting samples of Graeters Ice Cream to kids big and small.

Marissa Irwin is making our headlines once again...from print to runway and television...this girl has been doing it all!

Marissa has been presented some wonderful/unique opportunities as of late including an opportunity to model for The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor Auction, held at the famed Christie's Auction House in New York City. Marissa stood next to, and showcased some of actress Elizabeth Taylor's most exquisite jewelry, memorabilia and haute couture fashions. "It was amazing being a part of history and being privileged to come so close to her jewelry. To get to be so close to such amazing jewelry is like something right out of the movies...or a dream!" Marissa said. Although no cameras were allowed inside the exclusive event, you can go to the Christie's website and see all of the glamorous items from the Elizabeth Taylor collection, including jewelry from Bvlgari and Cartier, and haute couture from Chanel and Valentino. Taylor's famed 33 carat diamond ring was auctioned off for a staggering 7 million dollars! From million dollar jewelry to exquisite designer clothes and make-up, Marissa worked her way back onto the set of the Today Show dressed in garments designed by Papyrus, walked the runways of Fashion Week in Avril Lavigne's designer show, and has been booked for numerous bridal shows for the season. To top that off, the famed make-up artist Pat McGrath is in the process of developing her own line of make-up and our very own Marissa Irwin is going to be the face of her new line. This is a step in another direction from her last make-up assignment for Paper Magic, a company that sells/packages a great deal of Halloween items, in which you cannot even recognize Marissa as she is camouflaged in colored wigs and crazy make-up. The opportunity to work with Ms. McGrath who is considered one of the top make-up artists in the world and is in constant demand by celebrities such as Oprah, Jennifer Lopez, and Jennifer Aniston is a great thrill for Marissa. If that was not enough, Marissa also did a shoot for Vogue that was shot on location in Connecticut! Immediately after, she headed back in New York for a 14 hour day of shooting for Vogue Knit, a magazine with knit fashions!

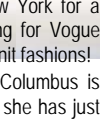
Our very own Jody Stevenson from Columbus is planting her roots in Los Angeles where she has just signed with the Deafinit Model Agency. Jody, the first deaf actress to attend an IMTA convention, is now thrilled to be "picked up"/signed with an agency that exclusively represents deaf models and talent. Watch for more great things from this very beautiful and talented young actress.



marissa



elizabeth taylor



jody

✧ Jennifer Picha, Ashleigh Logan Gowen, Rachel Tirpak, Lisa Wilson, Maria Gerello and Gary Pezzuolo all worked the runway this bridal season in two separate shows featuring gowns from Matina's Bridal and tuxes from Rondinelli's Tuxedo. Runway is an extremely exciting part of the industry that all of our models want to participate in so that they can show off their impeccable runway skills and technical knowledge they learned at Barbizon of Akron prior to listing



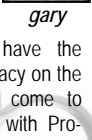
rachel



maria



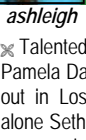
jennifer



gary



lisa



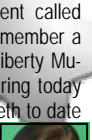
ashleigh



seth



pamela



derrek



lindsey



emma



jessica

✧ Haedin Delarec and Justin Madden put their own yard work to the side to jump into a shoot for MTD lawn equipment, making them great money doing something their families make them do for free! Both guys threw on their weekend work clothes and shot some great images for MTD/Remington for their String Trimmer advertisements. Haedin was excited to work with the company again, as this is his second time being requested back; and for Justin, he made such a great impression with his work ethics and knowledge in front of the camera, making the shots look so realistic that the client is already looking to book him again for additional product shots!

✧ Andrea Debec has been working like crazy in New York City for some great assignments. You can see her in various print ads for well-known designers, including Nando Esparza and within "Zink" magazine. In addition, Andrea has been seen all over the runways for Fashion Week showing off the designs of Betsy Johnson, Bibho Mohaparta, Von Vonn, and Shamaski. To top it off, Andrea's short and funky blonde look inspired by London's street-punk style landed her in a video for L'Oreal hair care and on the cover of "Modern Salon" magazine! Andrea was chosen from a pool of 80 models for the shoot, and was not only selected but scored the cover! The stylist for the shoot, Michelle Charles Duncan, said of her selection that "so many gorgeous models showed up for the casting, but Andrea caught my eye. I loved her bone structure." Clients love working with Pro-Model & Talent models because they are cooperative and easy to work with.

✧ Veterans Derrek Shephard, Jodie Coffey, and Dan Turner did a shoot for General Electric. The shots gathered that day are to be used in the company's advertising brochures and on their website. The three were on set all day shooting various office and interaction scenes. Jodie reported back that they had several wardrobe changes which made for a fun day in front of the camera.

✧ Ryan Hairston was selected from a pool of kids to do a shoot for Children's Hospital in Akron. This was Ryan's first time around the block, and that was apparent as the client reported back that Ryan was super-easy and enjoyable to work with. Ryan's mom, Tanisha, said Ryan had a great time at the shoot and was surprised how at ease her son was in front of the camera. Ryan has also been featured in the Dick's Sporting Goods magalog and as a life sized version of himself on some of their in-store signage!



haedin



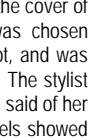
justin



andrea



andrea



andrea



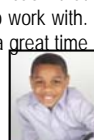
derrek



jodie



dan



ryan

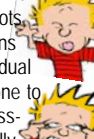
✧ Barbizon of Akron graduate Haley Bennett, originally from Stow, Ohio, has graced the covers of countless international magazines and has been featured in numerous major motion pictures alongside some of the greatest names in Hollywood. She is back at it in an upcoming film by famed contemporary director, Terrence Malick, who is the director of *The Thin Red Line*. Malick is widely known for selecting relatively unknown actresses to star in his films. Historically, actresses who work with him are launched into bright careers in Hollywood. His films and choices for the lead female roles have catapulted many careers including actress Sissy Spacek in the hit movie *Badlands*. Bennett will be starring opposite Christian Bale in Malick's newest film "Lawless"; while little is known about the project, the internet world is already buzzing. We can't wait to hear more about the project and are certain that this will undoubtedly be one of the most talked about films of 2012.

✧ A client of ours was looking to fill a non-speaking part with someone that had lots of personality and great facial expressions for a video they were shooting for Individual Solutions. They were looking for someone to convey confidence, shock, embarrassment, happiness and cockiness-basically any emotion under the sun at a drop of a hat. The talent had to be able to convey these emotions strictly by expression only, and who better to pull of the shots than our very own Jackson Biesecker. With Jackson's extensive training he was able to act out the part and get across to the consumer exactly what the client was wanting for updating their commercial and website. Jackson's personality and great expressions not only earned him a pretty penny, but also a client that is bound to request him back for more!!

✧ Kayley Stallings is fitting right in out in Los Angeles and living the Hollywood dream attending award ceremonies and charity events where she is rubbing shoulders with some big names! Kayley has appeared in numerous commercials, including the memorable Daisy Sour Cream commercial. She has also worked with Dean Cain in both *The Dog Who Saved Christmas Vacation* and *The Dog Who Saved Halloween*. Most recently, Kayley shares with us the excitement she experienced attending the Teen Choice Awards. We are keeping our fingers crossed that Kayley will be attending the show as a nominee or presenter one day!!



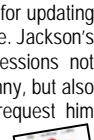
haley



jackson



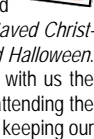
jackson



kayley



kayley



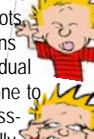
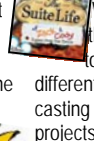
kayley

✧ Matt Coffey and his very talented mom, Jodie, seem to be regulars in our newsletters as they both stay busy pursuing their acting careers here in Ohio and in Los Angeles; traveling back and forth, especially through the summer months, allows Matt to take advantage of both "worlds." Matt was excited to share with us that he had a huge audition for the leading role in a new Disney pilot called "Shmagreggie Saves the World." "Shmagreggie Saves the World" is being produced through Disney's Laugh Productions which has produced shows like "Hannah Montana" and "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody." The executive producer Matt would be working with if selected for the role, Steve Leff, is responsible for shows like "Two and a Half Men" and "Teen Angel!" We are finding that the casting directors at the Disney Channel are really taking a liking to Matt as he has already done a number of different things on the channel. It is said that when casting directors keep calling a talent in for various projects, as they have with Matt, they are looking for the role that fits the talent perfectly!! We are keeping our fingers crossed that it is just a matter of time before Matt is making LA his only home on the set of a very popular Disney Channel show! While we all have been patiently waiting in Ohio for word about his audition for "Shmagreggie Saves the World," Matt picked up a photoshoot for Nestle Water, alongside fellow listed talent with Pro-Model & Talent, Taj Render. Matt has been featured in several commercials and print ads already, including Ohio Travel and Nationwide Insurance so he was able to give the client exactly what they were looking for as the high-energy "sugar kid." As for Taj, this was his very first job as he has just signed with the Agency; but the client said he also did great and they were extremely pleased with the shots they got.

✧ With Spring in the air, Dick's Sporting Goods has backyard games on the brain and has reached out to Pro-Model & Talent for some models to incorporate into their shoots with some of their super-fun accessories! Kayla Moore, Kelly Flanigan and Alexandra Ball traveled to the Dick's Sporting Goods headquarters in PA to team up for a shoot that was bound to pay them a hefty amount! The game/activity for the shoot this time... volleyball! All three girls shot a variety of pictures that are going to be used on some new product packaging. The girls were not only excited to have the opportunity to work with the photographers, but were excited with the paycheck they received!



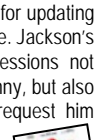
matt



taj



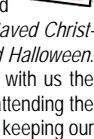
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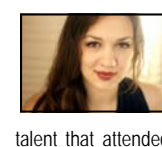
kayla



kelly



alexandra



Ariel Bodman, originally from Akron, Ohio now makes her home in New York City. A graduate of Barbizon of Akron at the age of 14 and a model/

talent that attended the IMTA Convention with Pro-Model & Talent at 15 where she had received interest/callbacks from agents and managers both from the east and west coast is now pursuing a dream that she has worked up to for many years.

Ariel's love for acting and singing began as a little girl playing with her sister. She began to take on acting a little more seriously when she was about 8 years old with the Ohio Conservatory in the festivals they would hold. In addition, she also began training in opera at around the same time along with joining the Drama Department and choir at Miller South. In the 7th grade, Ariel came upon Pro-Model & Talent, hoping to further herself as an actor and singer as much as she could. Ariel took the Barbizon classes, which she states gave her an excellent idea of the industry and what she could expect, and most of all Ariel states that it helped round her as a young woman. After graduating from Barbizon of Akron, Ariel participated in the IMTA Convention. During the Convention, Ariel was able to get experience auditioning for producers and casting agents, and get a feel for what was out there and expected of talent in the industry. Ariel returned to Ohio, finished school and continued studying as an actor and singer through her high school years. After graduating high school a year early, Ariel jumped into the industry feet first and moved to New York, which she now calls home. Ariel continues to pursue her love of acting and singing and last year alone had taken seven individual classes in Opera and Composition at The Juilliard School, and began to work in the film industry. Now Ariel is studying Early Music with Jacqueline Horner-

Kwiatek of Anonymous 4, and attends several programs and workshops. She works in film as an actress, editor, production designer and composer, in addition to working as an Executive Assistant and Media Administrator for SECTIONmg. Since moving to NYC, Ariel has been in several independent short films and a music video. Ariel's mother, Amy Barlowe, B.M., M.M. Juilliard and founder of the amazing classical music group Akron Baroque (akronbaroque.org), shares the following about her daughter and her experience with Barbizon of Akron and Pro-Model & Talent: "I just wanted to thank Barbizon of Akron again for the fabulous training your school has given our daughter, Ariel. She's been visiting from NYC, and we've received innumerable compliments on how beautiful she is. We really feel that more than beauty, it is the way she carries herself, dresses and uses make-up, all of which she learned from being in the classes. We will always be grateful to Barbizon of Akron and Pro-Model & Talent for the care, training and inspiration that have been given to her."

In closing Ariel shares, "Barbizon has helped me with my confidence. I've found that 7th grade is a difficult and awkward time for most girls. Barbizon introduced me to new ways of conducting myself in the situations around me. I certainly feel that Barbizon and Pro-Model & Talent helped me get to where I am. I can't imagine how I would have turned out without them. They made me feel that I was capable of accomplishing everything I wanted to, and now I am."

People come to Barbizon of Akron and Pro-Model & Talent to model and act locally, nationally and internationally. In addition, we have people who come to look better and feel better, to really develop that competitive edge that is needed in today's society to be the best that they can be in any field or career.

actor you are, you won't be able to do your job. Acting is a job. There's a reason actors salaries are so high and why many actors' children work more. There are techniques and it takes a lot of practice. I've sought out many different techniques and whenever something finally resonates with me, I add it to my "acting toolbox." One of my teachers in New York said, "To work as an actor, you must think of yourself as an Olympic athlete and train every day." It is true.

**Katie, any last thoughts?**  
**Response:** I wanted to thank all of those people who have supported and rooted for me back in Ohio. I still keep in contact with so many people who believed in me back when I only had dreams and goals. They all have been with me every step of the way and there is only more to come. Stay tuned!

Everyone here at Barbizon of Akron and Pro-Model & Talent is very proud of all that Katie has accomplished and we have our fingers crossed that there is a second season for Katie on the show "The Gifted Man."

**INTERVIEW...continued**

**Katie, you have spent a great deal of time on the set and working on camera on the show "Hawthorne,"**



**this past year. What is it like to work on that show?**  
**Response:** It is a constant hustle. I would wake up at the crack of dawn and then I was on set working for at least 16 hours a day Monday through Friday. I would spend my weekends "recovering" knowing that I love my job, entertainment is a great business and a privilege. I'm thankful every day that I wake up and get to go on set.

**Katie, we hear people say that they don't need training to be a model or actress. What are your thoughts on that? Do you think that training is important to being an actress?**  
**Response:** Oh my gosh yes - Training is essential! Everything we shoot is so technical that if you don't have training, it does not matter how good of an

Barbizon of Akron and Pro-Model & Talent take a very strong stand on the bullying & peer pressure that our young people have to deal with in today's society. At Barbizon and Pro-Model & Talent we look for leaders; we are not looking for people who are into any of the negativity that is out there today. While we can't change the bullying, the drugs, or the peer pressure, we can help our young people with the confidence so that they make the right choices and decisions and not get pulled into something that they should not be involved in.



For the ladies out there 9 years & over, that have never visited the Agency, come into the Agency and receive you FREE INFO & GIFT PACK with lots of great samples—call 330.867.4125 and ask for the New Faces Department! We ladies love our free samples!