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TRENDRIVEMAGAZINE.COM

2018
IF ISSUE NO. 32
FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



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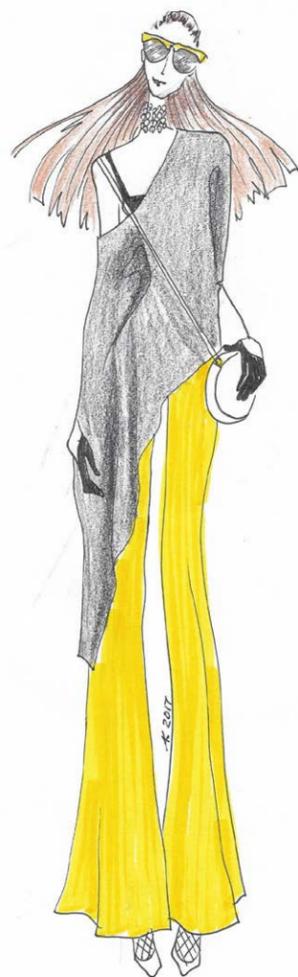


SUMMER STARTS HERE!

ANASTASIA KRYUKOVA

Fashion Diary No. 3

Anastasia is a fashion designer and our editorial wardrobe assistant.



Kelvin Taylor

An actor on an atypical path - Written by Cameron Carpenter

In the landscape of stories about actors, the story reads the same. Being an American in New Zealand this story reads somewhat like that, but this is also a story of change and courage, but mostly illustrates life is about keeping your head up and sticking with the journey. Kelvin's story is an interesting one, that's still only at the beginning, yet what a journey so far!

You may know his work from the Emmy award-winning documentary *The Golden Hour*, or from The sci-fi series *The Shannara Chronicles*, or the series *Spartacus* and *Ash Vs. Evil Dead*. Most recently he's had parts in *American Playboy: The Hugh Hefner Story*, and several film and TV parts in post-production for 2018 release. Getting to know the actor, man, and human Kelvin Taylor, I had to dig deep while face-to-face, online, and via emails. It was a surprisingly easy and open engaging time. Just like Kelvin Taylor himself.

Born in Virginia, USA and moving around a bit, he was immediately attracted to acting and performing. He starred as "the gingerbread man" in his first-grade school play. Performing in school and especially in churches, Kevin knew early on how enticing acting was. Having a rough and somewhat outsider upbringing with a devout family emphasizing church over socializing he found it a perfect and positive escape (for a short while until it turned out to not be so productive) as well as being a great breakdancer and MC. During this time and at the onset of taking personal strides towards perfecting his craft, Kelvin met a handful of key players along the way who also were native to his local area, and this lifted his spirits, intention, and focus. With a playwright grandmother Irene Walker, and NBC Hollywood iconic anchorman/actor Dave Alan Clark realizing another acting talent like Jay Pharoah of *SNL Fame*, and Michael Copon of *One Tree Hill* and *Power Rangers* fame, who returned to his hometown often to speak. Kelvin was onto something.



Cut to 1999 and taking classes in high-school, plus extra acting lessons under Nikki Roberts Keegan, he was definitely on his way. Post high-school, there was some local modeling work with great brands and events that showed another side of being onstage. An NYC stint in life learning brought him to music and the multitasking entrepreneurial life. During a post-plastic surgery period, he was offered a spot in The John Robert Powers Performing Arts school, which he had to decline. These events led to an opportunity to work in Music Management of Acts in Australia. A big chance for a new setting and opportunities was necessary, so of course, he jumped in. Being in a liaison position for a music management company moving to Australia was a fluid motion. Representing music acts such as Common, Jason Derulo, The New Boyz, Sebastian, LMFAO, Big Sean, Mike Posner was an exciting time professionally.

In 2010 Kelvin decided to seek new ground and ambition towards Asia-Pacific's Australian neighbor, New Zealand. In Auckland, New Zealand, a while working as a presenter, Kelvin landed multiple big brand TVC campaigns internationally for Samsung, Milka by Kraft, Seasonique, and Miller64. Today Taylor's career continues to flourish with three leading roles in upcoming independent features, also making an appearance on Warner Brothers International's 2015's *Come Dine with Me New Zealand* (2015). He also serves as creative director of his own digital media company "LightUpTV" acting, writing, producing his creative content with friend and creative partner Lorenz Gunawan of "The Collaborators."



He has worked with Industry Veterans, Manu Bennett (*Arrow*, *The Shannara Chronicles*) and Liam McIntyre (*Hercules*) on *Spartacus: Blood and Sand* (2013), Season 2 "Vengeance" and Season 3 "War of the Damned." During this period, he met his partner Tannaz Barkhordari, a then-fashion student, now industry designer and working on her solo ventures. Studying the Meisner Technique of acting with industry pro-coach Michael Saccente on perfecting his kiwi accent, Kelvin is bolstering his approach as well. Lastly, being a writer-producer, he created the *Electro City 3*, a self-produced series and is currently writing *Revolver: Electro City 4* to send to international film festivals.

Kelvin has always had a fighting spirit, but he's channeled that into one that fights with heart. As we sat and had coffee together, after all the back-and-forth e-mails, I experienced the depth of what's at hand, and I found the puzzle pieces that makeup Kelvin as such a magnetic fit. Speaking on what makes him tick and what he's about, we shared laughs, similar family traits and outlooks on racial equalities that seem to have taken a backslide in the U.S. Finally, he speaks on what it means to be a humanitarian today.

Kelvin has always loved the idea of empowering people, and the *Black Lives Movement* has struck home for him. More importantly the broader scope of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade that's beyond the U.S. and Eastern Europe.

It's also about the current human slave trade and righting the wrongs of the history changes. There is a multi-faceted approach and support network that needs to be established finally.

I ask how he's engaged in this and he tells me: "The United Nations is currently undergoing a lot of scrutiny before the recent General Assembly and now under reform by António Guterres, so hopefully there will be a never-ending hope to handle and control this matter."

Strange enough, the day I am editing this, is the day that the U.S. President Donald Trump has proclaimed January 2018 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Kelvin also supports his partner's cause as it came so close to their daily lives. Kelvin's father passed away from cancer in 2013 and Tannaz's nephew was diagnosed with rare cancer.

"My partner and Fashion Designer Tannaz Barkhordari creating a fashion collection titled "Arian" that's geared towards DIPG form of brain cancer (that affects young children across the world), soul stirred my heart since its conception. It's about sustainability and strength of the mind overcoming the body with a blend of organic dyes and fabrics. I was thankful to help assist her in bringing her show to life, assisting with models, photographers, and fundraisers held for her nephew Arian. His story has touched many including American-Iranian comedian Maz Jorbrani who posted Arian's story through his Facebook account."

That's a lot to take on in New Zealand or anywhere, but the global human causes community has long ties and many strong hearts. We depart and take a fantastic selfie, but Kelvin assures me: "Who knows, maybe my position as an actor I can garner for public speaking or be the voice the world needs. Hold me to that gesture". (He smiles) - We will, and I'm sure we will see more of Kelvin in the entertainment and humanitarian spheres. Kelvin Taylor is represented by Johnson and Laird Management and Gina Stoj Management.



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Photo by Mauro Lorenzo