

Chanel Ryan - biography



So you're interested in my life story, huh? Well, I must tell you that I am one very lucky person...and my life has been a dream so far.

Believe it or not, It all started at the beach when I was in my teens! I was lying there soaking up the sun when a swimwear company approached me to model for them. Well, as you can imagine, I was SO excited. Of course I said yes!! What could be better than getting paid to hang out at my favorite place? An extra bonus was getting free swimsuits. I was in heaven! The next significant episode that helped shape my career happened at the park! I know you think I'm making it up, but I swear it's true. While my friend Diane and I were hanging out, we were asked to audition for an upcoming catalog shoot. The audition process was relatively painless. The casting director snapped a few Polaroids of each of us, had us fill out paperwork, and we were on our merry way! The next day I received a phone call notifying me that I had booked the job and was to report that Saturday with Diane!! What luck!! You can imagine how thrilled I was! The third remarkable event encouraged me to pursue a career in modeling and acting. I was having dinner with my friend Stephanie and her family. Stephanie's older sister,

Kim, was just breaking into the film industry as a wardrobe stylist working on a Roger Corman film. (Yes, she is now very successful.) Well, guess who was coming to dinner?!? Yup, the director himself! He thought we were really cute and invited us to Venice Beach to be in the film - WOW!! I was given a small role in a film entitled "Beach Balls". Promise not to laugh when I tell you about my part. I played a waitress dressed in a bikini, with a rubber ducky inner tube around my waist, flippers on my feet, and goggles on my head! It's okay to laugh...it was rather comical. But hey, ya gotta start somewhere!

Since I am a big believer in fate, serendipity, and karma, I took these three occurrences to be omens. Things seemed to be going my way, (maybe that's because I'm a Sagittarian - we are thought to be good luck!) I decided to get serious and start pursuing a career more aggressively. I started by having professional photos taken. Some of them are quite sad! So sad they are laughable!. I then began studying with an acting coach, got a theatrical agent, and started auditioning. Lucky for me (even with my funny photos,) the jobs started pouring in... a few shorts, various public service announcements, commercials, T.V. shows, and several full-length features. And of course modeling jobs ranging from swimwear to magazine covers; diet products to the Home Shopping Network. Fortunately for me, my luck keeps getting better despite all the competition...and rejection. Believe me there is a lot of that!

More and more opportunities continue to present themselves and consequently my life keeps improving. I've

had the good fortune to work with many famous celebrities, actors, and directors while traveling all over the United States as well as many tropical locations. And this is called work?? I've appeared on many television shows including: "Roseanne", "General Hospital", "The Magic Show", "The Ricki Lake Show", and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." You may also have seen me on the E Channel in fashion shows such as "Frederick's of Hollywood", "The Swimsuit Spectacular", and Fox Sports net 54321 with host BMXer Kip Williamson for Benchwarmer Trading Cards. One of the highlights of my career so far was the incredible experience of working with Gary Sinise and Mare Winningham in the TNT movie "Wallace" directed by John Frankenheimer. I had a featured role as a southern belle named Susie. I was excited and terrified at the same time! Working with such experienced and talented actors, and such a well-respected veteran director made me realize how much I still had to learn and motivated me to get moving!

Remember the Universal film BASEKETBALL? I was cast as one of the Dallas Felon cheerleaders. It stars those zany creators of "South Park", Matt Stone and Trey Parker with cameos from Jenny McCarthy, Yasmine Bleeth, Kato Kalin, and Reggie Jackson! A whole new wacky sport called Basketball is created. The cheerleaders (that's me) are not your average cheerleaders, oh no! "Frederick's of Hollywood" provided our "uniforms". Mine was black leather lingerie, with a whip instead of pompoms. Get the idea?

During my brief stint on the daytime soap "General Hospital" I had the fabulous surprise of meeting the singing group, "98 ", who was performing live for the cast during the taping of the show. I was a gangster's moll to the very menacing gangster "Sorel". I can't say enough good things about everyone involved with the creation of GH. Casting, stage crew, wardrobe, make-up, and cast - they were all incredibly nice to me.

Even more fulfilling has been my modeling career. To this day, it still gives me a thrill to book a job and see my image appear on the finished product...whatever it may be. A few of my favorites include:

- Garth Brooks' album cover!! Pretty amazing, huh? I thought so too! It is such a thrill to meet someone I have listened to on the radio, seen his photos everywhere, admired his talent, and then discover he is an unbelievably likable guy too! Any motorcycle racing fans out there? Well, I was fortunate enough to work with another amazingly nice guy - professional motorcycle rider, Jeremy McGrath. The Yamaha ad campaign was based on the whole "Austin Powers" mania. "Yeah, baby!" Jeremy is dressed in a blue velvet suit, looking very psychedelic. Three other beautiful models and I are dressed like Fembots! .

- Talk about your sweet tooth! When I shot ads for "Spree" candy, I was given a whole case of "Sprees" - yum! Those lasted about three days!! * Oh, and that's my mouth your looking at in the ads!

- Calling all beer connoisseurs! You may be interested in the poster for Miller Genuine Draft. It features me along with five other gorgeous models, all sporting sexy soccer outfits. Imagine getting paid to be pampered! That's just what I did while shooting the ads for Burke Williams Spa. Now that's living right. Las Vegas, here we come! That's me dancing in ads for Harrah's Casino. There is a huge misconception that it is always sunny and bright in 'Vegas. I'll let you in on a little secret - it was freezing.

- Jump on the bandwagon. If you aren't yet familiar with Benchwarmer Trading Cards, you will be soon. It's the new craze in collectibles. I am lucky enough to be the featured model on eleven of the cards. Check 'em out.

- Believe it or not. Surely you've seen me wearing daisy duke shorts and a polka dot top in the ads for Ben

Nye cosmetics? Not really - it's body paint!

Laugh? I thought I'd die. We all know who Bill Murray is. Well, I found out he is as funny in person as he is on the big screen. I couldn't stop laughing while working with him on an episode of the Murray Brothers Sitcom, "The Sweet Spot."

Back to the '60s. Filming "The Andy Williams Easter Special", for the BBC network starring Andy himself, was a real kick. I play Andy's girlfriend whose dialog is very tongue in cheek. Imagine me all sixtied out with powder blue eye shadow, frosty pink lipstick, and bouffant hairdo saying things like "Let's go daddio" and "What's happenin' crater papa?"

Don't touch that dial! Be sure to pay attention during the next commercial break - you just might catch me there. Some of my national commercials are Pepsi, Expedia.com, Del Taco, Siemens, Coke, and Visa.

You oughta be in pictures. I have also appeared in the editorial section of SELF and CONTROVERSY magazines. Cover spots include LONGEVITY, HAIRDRESSERS JOURNAL, and MINI BIKE to name a few.

This list would not be complete without a mention of "Frederick's of Hollywood." I have done numerous fashion shows for them, some of which were shot at 4:00 A.M. for the early news programs. And believe me this woman is not a morning person! My very favorite was in New York City for "The Ricky Lake Show." Talk about chaos!! I learned the meaning of the word "backstage." Two shows are taped daily and all the guests for both shows are running around backstage nervous and frantic trying to get camera-ready. I know, 'cause I was one of them.

So there you have it...my life in a nutshell. I love hearing from you, so please, please keep those emails coming. Let me know what's on your mind, and what sort of features you would like to see on my site. All you questions, suggestions, and comments are important to me. Be patient with me and help me along. Right now I am what I call "electronically challenged", although I learn a little more every day. My top priority is to communicate with you, so I'm doing my best to educate myself about computers and cyberspace.

I am very excited about the future...full of hopes and dreams...

I hope you will share it with me.

Chanel Ryan