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home > julia lukas, a 24 year-old brainy beauty is becoming a star on the westside! by adrienne papp



Julia Lukas, a 24 year-old Brainy Beauty is Becoming a Star on the Westside! By Adrienne Papp

Is this Westsider the next Julia Roberts?, By Adrienne Papp

By Adrienne Papp | December 20, 2013

The great ones seem to know it at an early age. With many of the world's most talented people there seems to be a moment, a turning point when they clearly understand their destiny and commit themselves to a single-minded pursuit of their career goals.

That's what happened to Julia Lukas, whose talent and looks remind people of a young Julia Roberts. The talented young actress, who has recently signed on to become the face of a large collection of anti-aging products, has had a series of visions which led her to believe, and believe very strongly, that after numerous setbacks in her youth, she is now poised to take the next big step in a highly promising movie career, taking aim, literally, at the stars.



Julia Lukas

From the beginning Julia's story was very interesting and truly inspiring. Her home life was unfortunately very rough. Most youngsters would have turned to drugs, alcohol, or the most recently so fashionable marijuana, but not Julia. Galina, Julia's mother, was frequently subject to abuse, and her father had a serious drinking problem. "Even when I was pregnant with Julia my husband would beat me and kick me and demand money," Galina remembers. There was nothing anyone could do.



Julia Lukas on a movie set

The abuse continued and in most families the siblings and parents would have fallen apart and a series of tragic events would have unfolded. "My poor children would hide knives under their pillows thinking they would have to defend themselves or their mother from their father's abuse," said Galina. Later, Julia's diary was found, which contained a volume of writings and songs about her fears, the violence in her family, and her way of dealing with the traumatic

moments in her young life.

But, despite all odds, Julia went to bed every night with the determination to succeed, and woke up every morning with a renewed strength to survive another day, while holding the very image in her mind that later on landed her in a lucrative career. It was obvious to the people around her that nothing would derail her. THAT is a bold and brilliant mind in action. That is what quantum physics calls "creation." Julia thought herself into being who she has become today, which is however just the beginning.

Truth be told: I personally have interviewed many of the most successful and recognized people in our lifetime. The common denominator in each has always been two major factors that stood out each and every time: Overcoming terrible, almost inhuman circumstances by a force of unstoppable sheer will; and working harder than anyone around them by believing so tangibly in their dreams that they can actually touch it, verbalize it, taste it, and feel it! Rare indeed! So, it has become my conclusion that when the person within becomes stronger and greater than the person without, which is their outside circumstances: they have mastered their lives! From there on success is just a matter of time.



Julia Lukas Photographed in Santa Monica



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Julia and her brother moved to New York with their mother when Julia was just six years old, shortly after the ongoing traumatic experiences at home. It was a new life in the land of promises and freedom, despite that it was a difficult transition at a sensitive age of six and Julia never saw her father again.

But, now in the fourth grade in the US, Julia had been bumped up a grade due to her intelligence. Julia learned English quickly and began to assimilate into the new culture, looking for ways to get herself onstage in her new country. She soon found herself in a school production of *The Little Mermaid* and then *Annie* with the Millbrook Day Players. "It was just very whimsical and fun and confirmed to me that this was what I should be doing," she says. A bright, young talent, Julia has no accent whatsoever, rather she can mimic a dozen.

Another confirmation came in a moment she saw the classic film *Mogambo* in English for the first time. "I had seen the film before and absolutely loved Grace Kelly," she says. "She epitomized everything I wanted to be as an actress. And I loved the other classic American actresses like Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe. But seeing *Mogambo* in English in my adopted new country seemed like a sign for me and confirmed that these actresses were now to serve as role models in my career."

While Julia continued to assimilate into the American lifestyle and also acted in middle school productions like *Guys and Dolls*, in high school she also began to concentrate on the dramatic arts, taking all the courses available, developing a sense of acting as a real vocation, and began following the business and the industry award shows.

Although Julia was finding her way into the acting roles, problems continued to plague the family. Julia's brother started on drugs and despite the best efforts of the family, her brother was unable to stay away from destructive influences, which took his life in 2009. Julia's brother overdosed and passed away. Now, alone yet again, and without the encouraging support her brother had been giving her in her pursuit of acting, Julia experienced another tremendously painful personal loss. When soul mates part, parts of the soul depart! The pain then can only be expressed through art when creativity wins over destruction. And, that is what Julia did.

Her brother's death also had a disastrous effect on her estranged father when her father died of a heart attack after he got the news. The tragic events continued nevertheless when Julia found herself pregnant at the age of 16, had a car accident that broke a bone in her neck, her face covered in blood as pieces of shattered windshield glass had cut her, and full recovery was not in sight just yet. Shortly after the accident doctors found an orange-sized abdominal tumor on her hip and had to have it removed. "I thought I was going to die, but we decided to get another opinion, " which turned out to be the opposite of what she had been told before. Julia asked her second doctor 'Am I going to live,' and he told her 'not only are you going to live, you are going to outlive me.' And she asked him 'Will I be able to walk,' and he told her 'Not only will you be able to walk, but you will also be able to run.'"

"I had lived so many lives, moving from Europe to America, adapting to a different culture, becoming a mother myself at an early age, and one tragedy after another. But I felt like I really hadn't lived a life for me. I hadn't really fulfilled my destiny. I wanted to be an actress, to perform on Broadway and in films. That was what I felt I was born to do. I could see myself holding an Oscar onstage, and it was so real that I could feel the weight of it. And from that moment on I knew that this was something I wanted to pursue with all my might. I couldn't give up on my dreams."

Once recovered, Julia started to learn from BettyAnne Leesburg-Lange. "I started acting in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but I also wanted to make sure that I was well-rounded, combining various roles from comedy to drama. I do not want to be just another pretty face, I want to be the girl who comes on your screen and makes you feel deeply, and touches you in a very human way by transmuting pain and hardship into creative work"

Julia's dedicated efforts have resulted in a number of recent credits, including TV work on *"The Brotherhood"* and *"The Men that Built America,"* and she continues to expand her repertoire by adding skills like acoustic guitar, ballet (6 years with Jenny Male, Lester Holmes, and Adrienne Duckett) jazz and hip hop dancing and fluency in foreign languages including Russian. She can mimic British, Southern, New York, French, Australian and Irish accents, just to mention a few.

This coming May Julia will graduate from the University of Maryland and will be moving confidently into the world of performing arts on the West Side of Los Angeles. She landed with a Santa Monica based publicity company, Atlantic Publicity with a presence around the world, and also a West Side based first class manager.

A courageous and drop dead gorgeous Westsider, Julia is an inspiration to young adults who seek a vocation and want to develop values in life! Someone once said "never waste a crisis," and that's an attitude that has served Julia Lukas well. No matter how tough things got, she has always been able to find the personal strength that allowed her to triumph. There is a lot to take away from her story for everyone as phone calls invade her agency daily about her life. Young adults want to follow her strong beliefs and tenacity. The mind is a directing force that, if used right, can propel one to endless possibilities regardless of outside circumstances. I can't wait to see what successes await her in the future and how her fans will turn their own, sometimes, grim life around!



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