

# IMTA ALUMS ROCK THE SMALL SCREEN ALL YEAR LONG

**IMTA Press Release**  
**September 16, 2013**

2013 Fall TV Season Shines Bright with IMTA Stars

---

After nearly 27 years of events, there is a fact well-known among Hollywood insiders: it is almost impossible to open a magazine, turn on the television, or watch a motion picture without seeing a face first seen at IMTA. This is particularly true of TV where every day IMTA alumni can be seen in national commercials, guest-starring in a single episode or featured as a series regular. With modern technology and the ever-expanding outlets offered by the internet for watching “web TV” series, the visibility and opportunities for IMTA alums have greatly increased.

So, as the fall TV season prepares to kick off, IMTA is proud to point out just a few—but by no means all—of our alumni who are coming to a TV set, laptop, notebook or smart-phone near you.



NY92 alum Amy Acker has been elevated to series regular on the CBS hit drama “*Person of Interest*” for the upcoming third season. She plays Root, aka Caroline Turing, a psychopathic female hacker who is determined to gain access to the mass surveillance computer system named the Machine. Acker originally appeared in the first season’s finale and was a recurring character during season two. The series returns September 24, the same date that *Much Ado About Nothing*, Joss Whedon’s feature film adaptation of Shakespeare’s play about star-crossed lovers in which

Acker stars, gets its Video-On-Demand release. Also upcoming for Acker, who came to IMTA from John Robert Powers in *Dallas*, is a guest-starring role on the CW Seed web TV series “*Husbands*,” the big screen dramas *The Energy Specialist* and *Ward’s Wife*.

LA04 alum Nicole Gale Anderson, from Barbizon Galaxy in Atlanta, currently recurring as Cat's sister on “*Beauty and the Beast*,” will play series regular Miranda on “*Ravenswood*,” the new ABC Family series premiering October 22 that is a spinoff from the hit “*Pretty Little Liars*.” One of five residents who are struck by a mysterious curse, Miranda is an independent foster child who relies on wit and charm to cover her emotional scars. IMTA trivia alert: Anderson stars in the feature thriller *Red Line*—which has an October DVD release—alongside fellow LA04 IMTA alum Kunal Sharma (Barbizon Boston).



She also recently filmed a co-starring role in the independent drama *Never* which is in post-production.

Mateo Arias, LA05 alum who also came from Barbizon Galaxy, currently stars on Disney XD’s “*Kickin It*.” Set at the Bobby Wasabi Martial Arts Academy, a strip mall martial arts studio and worst dojo in the under-performing nationwide Bobby Wasabi chain, the series—which is now in its third season—revolves around a ragtag crew of lovable misfits who welcome a hotshot skateboarder named Jack who will teach them about life, karate, and how to just plain kick it.

Another LA04 alum and series’ regular is Logan Browning, one more successful Barbizon Galaxy graduate, who currently stars as Jalena Howard on VH1’s “*Hit the Floor*,” a sexy scripted soap centered on the Los Angeles Devil Girls—the dance team for



the city's fictional pro basketball team—which was recently renewed for a second season. Browning has appeared in series such as “*Summerland*” and “*Meet the Browns*,” as well starring in the family feature *Bratz* and the thriller *Breaking at the Edge*.



Brooke Burns, LA94 alum, hosts Game Show Network's (GSN) “*The Chase*,” which received an unprecedented second season renewal before the first season had even launched in August. The hour-long show, based on a UK show of the same name, pits a team of contestants against trivia expert Mark Labette. Burns, who came to IMTA from Page Parks in Dallas, is a veteran host, having handled the emcee duties for *Miss Teen*

*USA* and past game shows such as “*Hole in the Wall*” and “*All Star Celebrity Treasure Hunt*.” She also starred in numerous TV shows such as “*Baywatch*,” “*North Shore*,” “*Melrose Place*” and “*Pepper Dennis*.” IMTA trivia alert: Burns also starred on “*Miss Guided*,” the short-lived series executive-produced by—and guest starred—fellow IMTA alum Ashton Kutcher (NY97).



NY08 alum Tyler Champagne has been starring for two seasons on Lifetime's “*The Client List*” as Travis Parks, the son of Jennifer Love Hewitt's single-mom character. The show's third season renewal has been delayed as writers try to figure out how to deal with Love Hewitt's real-life pregnancy. However, the show's first two seasons are set to begin airing this fall in the UK. Champagne, from Karon Shea Model Management in Worcester, Massachusetts, was a recent guest on the LA talk show “*Teens Wanna Know*,” a popular venue on which many IMTA alums have

appeared, including Katie LeClerc (NY01), Jimmy Deshler (NY08), Joseph Castanon (NY04), Andy Scott Harris (NY07), Brendon Eggertsen (LA08) and Oana Gregory (LA06).

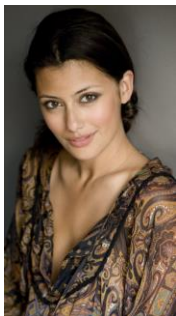


LA01 alum Brittany Curran, from John Robert Powers in Worcester, currently stars as Phoebe Daly in the ABC Family hit “*Twisted*,” which is just ending season one but has been renewed for a second season, returning in January 2014. Curran has several upcoming film projects: the sci-fi feature *Intrepid* is scheduled for release November 1, while the thrillers *Backmask* and *Captured*—which also features NY98 alum Christian Monzon—are in post-production with no release date yet scheduled.

Alum Max Decker, who attended IMTA in LA02 from Nikki Pederson Talent in Bryant, Texas, is the executive producer, writer and director of the comedy web TV series “*Bike Cops Van Nuys*.” The show is described as “mockumentary” television where “*Reno 911* meets a dirty pair of bike shorts.” Decker has a prolific resume that includes *Take Me Out* on Broadway, and appearances on many hit TV shows such as “*Criminal Minds*,” “*The Mentalist*,” “*Heroes*,” “*The Unit*,” “*Reba*” and “*The Suite Life of Zack & Cody*.” He was



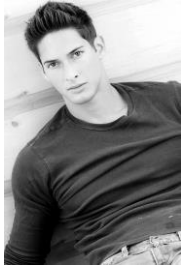
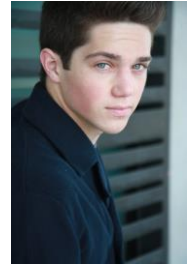
series regular on “*All My Children*” (working as Maximillian Alexander) and also appeared on “*Days of Our Lives*.” Decker appears as Darius in the upcoming feature sequel *300: Rise of an Empire*.



NY09 Female Actor of the Year Sibylla Deen has been cast as a regular in a series pilot for the FX network. “*Tyrant*,” from the producers of “*Homeland*,” follows the story of an unassuming American family drawn into the workings of a turbulent Middle Eastern nation. The series is reported by several industry sources as having a strong commitment from the network and is expected to go to series, airing in November. Deen came to IMTA from a center in upstate New York and won Female Actor of the Year.

NY08 alum Jimmy Deshler, from Caryn International in Minneapolis, currently appears as series regular Rafe Kovich, Jr. on “*General Hospital*.” IMTA trivia alert: Deshler's character's mother was played by NY94 alum Erin Hershey Presley on the “*General Hospital*” spinoff “*Port Charles*,” a role she reprised on

GH at the beginning of 2013. Deshler has appeared with both LA05 alums Moises Arias on “*Moises Rules!*” and “*Kickin’ It*” with Mateo Arias. He recently wrapped filming on the documentary *Hope for Our Own: An LA Story*, on which he is the co-director, writer, cinema-photographer and narrator alongside fellow teen Riley Beres. The documentary is about homelessness and giving a voice to homelessness as a means to create social change.



Alum Matthew Florida currently voices the character Raif on the Smosh animated web series “*Oishi High School Battle*,” which follows young Oishi who is trying to fit in on Earth after her father loses his job hunting demons in outer space. The Shut Up Cartoon series is in production on season three while season two has yet to be added to the viewing schedule. NY05 alum Florida, who came to IMTA from Nikki Pederson Talent, has appeared on numerous shows, including “*Rizzoli & Iles*,” “*NCIS*,” “*90210*,” and as regular character Ford Decker on “*Days of Our Lives*” in 2007-2008.

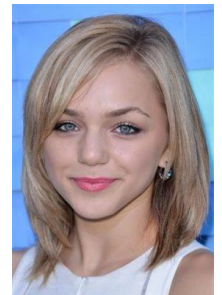
Lyndsy Fonseca currently stars on the CW hit “*Nikita*” as Alex, the young woman Nikita rescued and trained to destroy the secret organization known as Division. “*Nikita*’s” fourth and final season has yet to have a premiere date, but it is expected to begin airing mid-November. LA00 and Barbizon - San Francisco alum Fonseca recently reprised her role as



Katie Deauxma in *Kickass 2*, and also starred in the John Carpenter thriller *The Ward*.

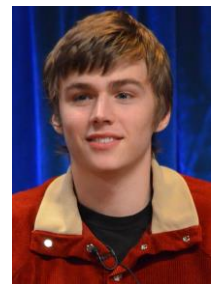
NY90 alum Christopher Gorham stars opposite Piper Perabo as blind tech operative Auggie Anderson on USA’s “*Covert Affairs*,” now in its fourth season. Gorham, who came to IAMTA with Buckingham of Fresno, California, also starred on “*Ugly Betty*” as Betty’s boyfriend, Henry, as well as other series such as “*Jake 2.0*,” “*Harper’s Island*,” “*Medical Investigation*” and “*Out of Practice*.” He recently completed filming the coming-of-age comedy *The Stream* with Rainn Wilson, Mario Lopez and Kelly Rutherford, the proceeds which will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Gorham also voices Barry Allen/The Flash in the 2014 animated feature *Justice League: War*.

LA06 Young Miss Actor of the Year Oana Gregory plays Amanda Bernstein on Disney XD’s “*Crash & Bernstein*,” which will premiere its second season this fall. The Barbizon Royal grad starred as Loosie Goosie in the 2010 hit *Spork*, voiced characters in Nickelodeon’s animated series “*Olivia*” and has also appeared on “*Kickin’ It*” alongside fellow alum Moises Arias.



Brian Gross has appeared on over 30 TV shows, including guest starring roles on “*Anger Management*,” “*CSI: NY*,” “*NCIS*,” “*CSI*,” “*2 Broke Girls*,” “*JAG*,” and “*Psych*,” and made-for-TV movies such as *Gila!* and *Bone Eater*. The NY94 alum from The Image Group in Cedar Rapids is a co-producer, writer and actor on the 2013 web TV series “*Crime & Consequences*,” a “dramedy” that delves into the dynamic lives of an eclectic group of detectives working the Hillside Division of Southern California.

In season five of the NBC hit “*Parenthood*,” NY04 alum Miles Heizer’s character, Drew, is going to college ...and possibly getting a girlfriend. Coming to IMTA from Images Model & Talent Agency in Lexington, Kentucky, Heizer starred 2007’s *Rails & Ties* alongside Kevin Bacon and Marsha Gay Hardin. He has also guest-starred on “*CSI: Miami*,” “*The Ghost Whisperer*,” “*Bones*,” “*Private Practice*,” and in a recurring role on “*ER*.” At IMTA, Heizer won Male Pre-Teen Actor and Male Pre-Teen Model of the Year.





NY01 alum Katie LeClerc currently stars as Daphne Vasquez on the ABC Family hit “*Switched at Birth*,” now preparing for its third season which will begin airing in 2014. The John Robert Powers - San Diego grad, who was nominated for a 2013 Teen Choice Award for Best Summer TV Female Star, recently completed filing the independent feature comedy *The One*, in which a struggling writer, after hearing of a female friend's plight to find “The One,” creates a bogus dating service in order to make some fast cash.

NY05’s Young Miss Actress of the Year Caitlyn Taylor Love, another star from Nikki Pederson Talent, is at present voicing Ava Ayala/The White Tiger on Disney XD’s “*Marvel’s Ultimate Spiderman*.” The hit series, which is gearing up for its third season, follows the adventures of Spider-Man and four other teen heroes who join S.H.I.E.L.D.’s exclusive training program to become the ultimate super heroes. Taylor Love, who was a semi-finalist on the first season of “*America’s Got Talent*,” previously starred as Izzy Fuentes on XD’s “*I’m in the Band*.”



Fans of Nickelodeon’s “*Sam & Cat*” may know Cameron Ocasio attended IMTA NY08 with from an agency in White Plains, New York, winning 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up for both Child Model and Child Actor of the Year. O’Casio stars as Dice on the fledgling series, debuting the first season in this past summer, which is a crossover spin-off from both “*iCarly*” and “*Victorious*.” The show follows Sam Puckett and Cat Valentine when they move in together as roommates and start a babysitting business to rake in some extra cash

Many watchers of AMC’s hit “*Breaking Bad*”—currently airing its fifth and final season—may not be aware that LA96 IMTA alum Aaron Paul, two-time Emmy winner and current Emmy nominee for his role as Jesse Pinkman, has appeared on over 35 other television shows and made-for-TV movies in addition to the role that has made him a household name, a list that includes shows such as “*Big Love*,” “*Bones*,” “*Criminal Minds*” and “*The Simpsons*.” The actor, who attended IMTA with Metcalf Model & Talent of Boise, Idaho, is in the lead role of Tobey Marshall for DreamWorks’ adaptation of the video game *Need For Speed* (scheduled for release March 14, 2014), and is in negotiations for a co-starring role in Ridley Scott’s bible epic *Exodus*, starring Christian Bale.



LA05 alum Raini Rodriguez is preparing for her third season—which debuts in October—as Trish de la Rosa on Disney’s hit “*Austin & Ally*,” the #1-rated show among kids and tweens. The comedy is about the unique relationship between a young songwriter, Ally Dawson, and Austin Moon, the overnight internet sensation who gains sudden notoriety after performing one of Ally's songs. Rodriguez plays Ally’s best friend and Austin’s manager. The young actress, who came to IMTA with Nikki Pederson Talent, has starred in feature films such as *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*, *Prom* and *Girl in Progress*.

LA03 alum Zach Roerig stars on the CW hit “*The Vampire Diaries*,” which is readying for its fifth season premiere on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Roerig, who came to IMTA from Barbizon Stone in Cleveland, spent several years playing Casey Hughes on the soap “*As the World Turns*,” and also had recurring roles on “*One Life to Live*” and “*Friday Night Lights*” before landing his current gig as Matt Donovan. He recently filmed the role of Jack Stanard for the feature drama *Field of Lost Shoes*, which is adapted from a book of the same name, about the Civil War Battle of New Market in Virginia on May 15, 1864.



NY06 Junior Actress of the Year Gabrielle Senn has been starring on “*Nick Studio 10*,” a live programming block on Nickelodeon weekday afternoons. Senn is one of four teen hosts who create videos consisting of random access humor directed toward pre-teens and teens. The show, which debuted earlier this year, is presently on hiatus. The busy actress,

who came to IMTA with from an agency now known as Social New York, has appeared on shows such as “*House of Cards*,” “*Elementary*” and “*Law and Order*,” sings in a band, and had has done numerous national commercials that include spots for Macy’s, PowerAde, Blackberry and Axe.



Emmy-nominated alum Freddie Smith has been starring as Sonny Kiriakis on daytime’s “*Days of Our Lives*” for the past three years. IMTA trivia alert: The long-running soap has had a slew of IMTA alums as regular or recurring characters, including Kyle Lowder (NY00), Farah Fath (LA93, LA99), Matthew Florida (NY05), Max Decker (LA02) and Joel West (LA94). An LA06 alum from Barbizon Stone, Smith has garnered a lot of positive publicity for his portrayal of an openly gay character whose storyline tackles homophobia and anti-gay bullying. He has also taken on the role of producing, writing and acting in his own comedy web series, *Addicts Anonymous*, with friends and fellow actors Jack Briggs and Nate Hartley



Disney star and NY00 alum Alyson Stoner has been voicing the character of Isabella on the animated hit “*Phineas and Ferb*” for the past six years. Coming to IMTA from Margaret O’Brien’s Starbound, the Female Child Model of the Year winner also voiced Barbara Gordon/Batgirl on the Cartoon Network’s “*Young Justice*” series during its second season. Next year she will appear in the feature *Hoovey*, a feature based on the true story of a high-school baseball player whose brain tumor forced him to re-learn how to walk and talk. And recently announced is that Stoner will be returning to her role as Camille in *Step Up 5*, the wildly popular franchise of dance movies from Summit Studios.



NY92 Canadian alum Emmanuelle Vaugier, from Barbizon Vancouver, will be returning to her role as the evil Dar Fae leader, The Morrigan, on Syfy’s popular “*Lost Girl*” series, the fourth season which will begin airing in early 2014. In addition to her current series, Vaugier has appeared in more than 55 other TV series and made-for-TV movies, including recurring roles on “*Two and a Half Men*,” “*Covert Affairs*,” “*CSI: NY*” and “*One Tree Hill*.” She has appeared in over 30 feature films and videos, such as *40 Day and 40 Nights*, *Secondhand Lions*, *Saw II* and *Saw IV*. She will next be seen in the upcoming Lifetime TV movie, *Clara’s Deadly Secret*.



LA01 Female Model of the Year Jill Wagner currently hosts ABC’s popular “*Wipeout*,” now in its sixth season. While the Barbizon Avanti grad took off from her hosting gig during season five, she filmed the independent thriller *Road to Paloma* which has just been picked up for distribution by WWE Studios and Anchor Bay. The film stars Robert Wolf as a Native American who is being hotly pursued by the FBI for having taken the law into his own hands after a brutal injustice occurs when his mother is raped and killed on their reservation. Wagner is in the role of Sandy.

Coming to IMTA from Barbizon Shiver, NY04 alum Travis Winfrey currently stars as Omar on VH1’s “*Single Ladies*,” a series that revolves around three friends from different backgrounds and their pursuit of success, prosperity and love in up-and-coming Atlanta. Winfrey has also has co-starring roles on “*The Secret Life of an American Teenager*,” “*Dexter*” and “*Hannah Montana*.”



LA89 alum Elijah Wood currently stars on the quirky FX hit “*Wilfred*,” the story of a manic depressive man who inexplicably is the only one who can see his neighbor’s dog as a full grown man in a dog suit. Wood also voices the character Beck in the Emmy-winning Disney XD animated “*Tron: Uprising*.” The actor will soon be seen in the feature *Open Windows*, in which he plays a man obsessed with an actress. When she gets abducted, he goes on a mission to find her, with all fo the action occurring on his character’s computer screen. He also has the world premiere of *Grand Piano* coming up at

Fantastic Fest later in September. He plays a renowned concert pianist who is returning to the stage for one final performance, only to become the target of a sadistic cat-and-mouse game with a faceless sniper. Another upcoming project is the horror/comedy *Cooties*, in which Wood plays an unlikely hero who must lead a motley band of teachers in the fight of their lives after a mysterious virus hits an isolated elementary school, transforming the kids into a feral swarm of mass savages.



Of course, it is impossible to track all of the IMTA alums appearing on TV shows. Many castings are not widely announced, and air dates for many appearances by alums are not known until they happen. Yet, over the years many alums have appeared on TV and in film, establishing long and full résumés and becoming very recognizable faces. Take NY00 alum Wayne Lopez who has guest-starred or had appearances on over 40 different TV shows and

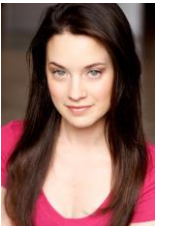


appeared in movies such as *the Soloist* and *GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra*. In the past year alone, the Tomorrow Talent grad has appeared on “*Parenthood*,” “*Dexter*,” “*The Mindy Project*” and “*NCIS: Los Angeles*.”

LA99 alum—and fellow Tomorrow Talent grad—Americus Abesamis has appeared on over 30 different television series and made-for-TV movies, including “*How I Met Your Mother*,” “*Kickin’ It*,” “*Castle*,” “*Don’t Trust the B---- in Apartment 23*,” and has had roles in 20 feature films. For the past year he has appeared in a recurring role as one of the Zabyronian Aliens on the ABC hit “*The Neighbors*,” which is returning later this month for a second season.

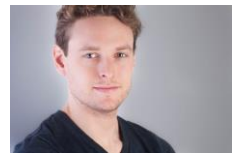


NY03 Actress of the Year Katherine Kresge has appeared on many prime-time mainstays, including “*NCIS*,” “*90210*,” “*The Middle*,” “*House M.D.*,” “*CSI: Miami*,” “*That ‘70’s Show*,” and most recently TNT’s hit “*Franklin & Bash*.” The Barbizon Tucson grad also starred on the web-TV series “*RCVR*.” Kresge had roles in two 2013 big-budget action films, *A Good*



*Day to Die Hard* and *R.I.P.D.*, and will be seen in co-starring roles in the upcoming drama *Brahmin Bulls* and the 2014 horror project *Devil’s Due*.

More recent IMTA alums are taking to the internet to establish their careers and build their résumés, such as NY06 Young Adult Actress of the Year Megan Porter, who has added to her TV acting credits with lead roles in internet series such as “*Return*” and “*Store Front*.” The Barbizon Royal Des Moines grad has also been cast in a number of short films and TV commercials for heavyweights such as Pizza Hut and Microsoft.



Fellow NY06 alum Michael Lane has likewise been taking to the internet for TV series acting credits, appearing in recurring roles on “*Nightwing: Escalation*” and “*Kyle Sands Raptor Hunter*.” The Nikki Pederson Talent grad and IMTA Actor of the Year had a recurring role on NickToons’ “*Alien Dawn*,” and has appeared in numerous independent films and theatre productions.



NY08 alum Larry Van Buren Jr. has been fortunate to have been cast as a regular character for three TV series pilots, including one each for Disney and Nickelodeon...series which were regrettably not picked up. The Margaret O’Brien/Starbound grad had a recurring role on “*The Suite Life on Deck*” and had co-starring roles on “*Hannah Montana*” and “*CSI: Miami*,” has been a principal in a dozen national commercials, and will appear in the upcoming feature *Mucho Dinero*. At IMTA Van Buren won Pre-Teen Model of the Year, Pre-Teen Actor of the Year, and was the Most Sought Male Talent.

There are many, many more IMTA alums that have appeared on TV shows and internet series, as well as in videos, short films, independent and studio features. Remember next time you turn on the TV or iPad, pick up a magazine or watch a film: the odds are very good that you’ll see someone who got their start at IMTA!