

# IMTA ALUM JILL WAGNER DISCOVERS “HANDCRAFTED AMERICA”



**IMTA Press Release**  
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“*Handcrafted America*” premieres Tuesday, March 1 on the INSP Channel, 8pm E

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*“All the artisans I met could have had bigger jobs, but they gave up that opportunity to do what they loved. Their passion for what they do is so strong the money isn't what matters.” – Jill Wagner*

If you have ever created something by hand, if you have ever wondered how something is made, or if you are simply a fan of Etsy, Pinterest, DIY, Kickstarter or Maker Faire, then “*Handcrafted America*” is a show you will definitely want to watch. IMTA alum Jill Wagner hosts the new series, traveling the country to seek out talented artisans who continue to make products the traditional way...with their own two hands.



In every half-hour episode, Wagner meets three gifted craftsmen and gets a behind-the-scenes look at how their products are created. Along the way, viewers learn about the history and cultural heritage that inspire and influence the design of their

handcrafted items. “Americans still work with their hands and they seek out unique, one-of-a-kind creations for themselves and for others,” said Craig Miller, VP of Original Series at INSP. “Artisans from coast to coast still create handcrafted treasures. This is the focal point of the series. From glass blowing to ornate clock making to blacksmithing, “*Handcrafted America*” entertains and informs – not in a dry, academic way, but with adventure, spirited discovery, fun and authenticity.”

Wagner, who was LA01 Model of the Year from Barbizon in Raleigh, NC, admits, “I’m not crafty whatsoever.” However, she told the *San Jose Mercury News* that she greatly appreciates talent in others. “It is one of my passions to support someone else’s passion.” She said, “I buy handmade things because of what travels with them. When I look at the item, I recall the person who made it, the place it’s from and the time in my life when I bought it.” She also said that after working on the show, “I feel a lot less talented, that’s for sure. I’m overdue for some art classes.”



While she started as a model, Wagner’s first professional acting job after IMTA was as a cast member on MTV’s sketch comedy “*Punk’d*,” which was created by fellow IMTA alum Ashton Kutcher. She went on to co-star on the series “*Blade: The Series*” and was featured as the Ford Motor Company’s Mercury brand spokesmodel in TV and print ads from 2005 to 2011. She hosted the popular series “*Wipeout*” and had a recurring role on MTV’s hit, “*Teen Wolf*.”

Wagner is currently filming *Braven* alongside Jason Momoa, Stephen Lang and Garret Dillahunt. In the film, Momoa plays a humble logger residing along the U.S.-Canada border who’s confronted by a group of deadly drug runners and must do everything in his power to protect his family. No release has been scheduled.