



The Heart Truth Fashion Show

Celebrity Model Biographies

Natalie Brown - Actor

Natalie Brown has enjoyed success in all areas of the entertainment industry for over 15 years.

Born and raised in Timmins, Ontario, she began her career dancing, choreographing, and acting in high school productions. A modeling career soon ensued, and she landed her first international cosmetic campaign, and the very high profile national commercial as "the Heinz ketchup girl", in her teens. Immediately following her high school graduation, modeling took her abroad to many parts of Asia and the U.S., raising money for tuition at York University where she studied fine arts.

Natalie has appeared in numerous Canadian and American magazines, including Cosmopolitan, Chatelaine, Mademoiselle, Seventeen, Fashion, and Wish, and has been hailed, "Canada's 'IT' Girl". To date, Natalie has starred in over 60 television commercials, many of which were award-winning. Her voice is distinct and can be heard hosting and narrating award shows, animated series, and numerous radio and television spots. Her television credits include guest spots on many series such as *1-800-Missing*, *Wild Card*, *ReGenesis*, and Showcase's *Naked Josh*.

Amongst her early film credits are *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* and *Welcome to Mooseport*. She has since landed lead roles in the Lifetime movies, *Black Widower* and *A Woman Scorned*, starred with David Carradine in the feature film *The Last Sect*, and co-starred with Frank Langella and Dean Cain in the NBC mini-series *10.5 Apocalypse*.

Immediately after shooting the lead role in the sci-fi movie *Something Beneath*, Natalie landed the title role in the much talked about *Sophie*, a CBC television comedy inspired by the popular French series, *Les hauts et les bas de Sophie Paquin*. She has just finished shooting the second season of *Sophie* in Montréal.



Chatelaine





Cassie Campbell - Former Captain of Canada's National Women's Hockey Team / Broadcaster

As the former Captain of Canada's National Women's Hockey Team and a heroine of Canadian sport, Cassie Campbell has taken part in three Winter Olympic Games, seven International Ice Hockey Federation World Women's Championships, nine Four Nations Cups and the Torino Ice Tournament. Campbell is the only captain, male or female, to lead Canada to two Olympic gold medals, and she is the longest serving captain in Canadian hockey history. Her teams have won 21 medals in total - 17 gold medals and four silver medals.

Campbell joined Hockey Night in Canada as a rink-side reporter after retiring from professional hockey in August 2006. On October 14, 2006, she became the first woman to do colour-commentary on a Hockey Night in Canada broadcast.

Campbell holds an Honours Sociology degree from the University of Guelph, and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of British Columbia. She also runs an annual street hockey tournament that raises over \$200,000 a year for Ronald McDonald House. Along with Hall of Famers Bobby Orr and Mike Bossy, Campbell is a spokesperson for Chevrolet Safe and Fun Hockey Program. Ground has recently been broken on the Cassie Campbell Community Centre in her hometown of Brampton, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island officially named March 14th as Cassie Campbell Day.

In 2007, Campbell was inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and she was the first female hockey player to be inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. She is currently working for TSN and CBC's *Hockey Night in Canada* and has recently published her first book, *H.E.A.R.T.* The book examines Campbell's career and offers insight and advice on how to be a better athlete, and a better person.

Arisa Cox - Writer / Journalist / Host of *E!*

Prior to becoming the co-host of *E! News Weekend*, Arisa Cox racked up credits as both host and producer in entertainment news and reality television on shows including *ET Canada*, *The Gill Deacon Show*, *Road to Rockstar*, *The A-List*, *Studio 2*, *U8 on Film*, *Arresting Design* and *The Lofters*. Her resume also includes cameos on *The Smart Women's Survival Guide*, *Instant Star* and *CBC Newsworld*.

Arisa attended the Claude Watson School for the Arts and Carleton University's journalism program. She won a national Harry Jerome award for excellence in academics as well as numerous scholarships during this time.



A woman of many talents, Arisa is also skilled in music. In 2004, she won the first Canadian Idol Media competition and donated her \$5,000 winnings to the Harry Jerome scholarship fund.

Arisa is currently a red carpet fashion critic for The National Post. She recently completed work on a sexy web series for the CBC and is consulting on an upcoming videogame for EA Games.

Marilyn Denis - Morning Co-host, 104.5 CHUM FM & Host of "The Marilyn Denis Show" in 2009

One of the busiest, most respected, most fun-loving, women in broadcasting, Marilyn Denis, is the co-host of "Roger, Darren & Marilyn", weekday mornings on 104.5 CHUM FM in Toronto. A dominating presence in Toronto radio for more than 20 years, Marilyn's quick wit, knowledge and charm have made her a favourite among Toronto radio and TV fans. For 19 years, Denis hosted the popular daily show *CityLine* on Citytv and in 2009, Marilyn will host *The Marilyn Denis Show* on CTV.

Earning numerous accolades throughout her career, Marilyn has won three Gemini Awards (including back-to-back Viewers Choice Awards) and garnered the 2005/2006 Toronto Sun 'Reader's Choice Award' for "Favourite Local TV/Radio Personality". In March 2006, Marilyn was given The Rosalie Award, honouring Canadian women who have paved the way for others in radio broadcasting (named for legendary Canadian radio pioneer Rosalie Trombley).

Marilyn is committed to many charities. An advocate for the fight against ovarian and breast cancer; Marilyn also supports and encourages organ donation and is one of the first members of the SickKids Constellation, a premier group of stars who support the efforts of the SickKids Foundation.

Monika Deol - Television Personality

Monika Deol is a nationally known media personality. Born in Punjab, India, she emigrated to Marathon, Ontario as a young child with her family. She was studying towards a B.A. at the University of Winnipeg when she started working part-time as a club D.J. and singer for a Top 40/Rock band. This experience led to her first show *Night Moves* on the CTV affiliate CKY-TV in Winnipeg.

From 1986 to 1996 Monika was a host and anchor on Citytv and MuchMusic in Toronto, fronting five shows simultaneously: *Fax*, *Rapid-Fax*, *Ooh La La*, *CityPulse at 6 Entertainment* and *Electric Circus*, which she also co-produced. In 1997, she was the first 6:00 pm news anchor of VTV in Vancouver, now known as CTV Vancouver.



Monika was Chair of the Advisory Board to Channel M when it made its successful bid for a new multicultural television station in Vancouver in 2000. Two years later, she took the 11:00 pm anchor desk when Citytv launched on the west coast. She also hosted Citytv's show *Iconoclasts* which aired in Vancouver and Toronto.

Outside of television, Monika is a contributor to the book, "Between Interruptions: 30 Women Tell the Truth About Motherhood" and is a committed volunteer, serving as a director on a number of charitable boards. She is married with four children.

Rosey Edeh - Senior Entertainment Reporter, Entertainment Tonight Canada

Rosey Edeh is a dynamic, engaging television personality and three-time Olympian with a passion for fitness and healthy living.

As a Senior Entertainment Reporter with Entertainment Tonight Canada, Rosey covers the latest entertainment and celebrity news from across North America. She began her broadcast career as a columnist and sports reporter for CBC Radio in Montreal. She later joined Global Television as a weather and entertainment reporter on Global Morning before moving to the U.S, where she worked as a meteorologist for CNN and NBC's Early Today. She returned to Canada in 2002 as a freelance reporter and segment producer at CFCF-TV in Montreal, and also contributed to e-Talk Daily on CTV.

Rosey made an impressive mark in sport, competing in the 1988, 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games. She still holds the Canadian record in the 400m hurdles. Her athletic career has taken her around the world and as a CBC guest commentator at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Rosey was born in London, England but grew up in Montreal and now lives in Toronto. She is fluent in English and French and holds an arts degree from Rice University in Houston, Texas and a Master's in art history from Montreal's Concordia University. Still the consummate athlete, Rosey is training for another season of road races and charity fun runs and is preparing to share her fitness and fashion insights with her first book, *The Diva and the Jock*.

Jennifer Hedger - Host, TSN SportsCentre

Jennifer Hedger has been a mainstay on TSN since 2002, where she co-hosts the weekday prime-time edition of SportsCentre. In 2007, Jennifer, a native of London, Ontario, was rated by *Hello! Magazine* as one of the Top 10 Most Beautiful Women on Television.



Next year, Jennifer will be front and centre during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter games as Whistler Host of Olympic Prime Time, alongside Brian Williams. She is married to fellow sports anchor Sean McCormick of Sportsnet, and the two currently live in Toronto.

Sitara Hewitt - Actor

Sitara grew up in the small Canadian town of Elora, Ontario with her 3 older sisters, Pakistani mother and Welsh father. Her parents are both academics whose research led them all over the world, most frequently into the Himalayan Mountains of northern Pakistan. During this time, Sitara lived in remote mountain villages with her parents while they pursued their academic research in this beautiful isolated region.

She speaks Urdu and Hindi fluently which has led to several South Asian roles, most notably in the Bollywood comedy *Bollydouble* by Arun Barhali.

Currently, Sitara stars as Rayyan, the outspoken and devout Muslim doctor on the CBC sitcom *Little Mosque on the Prairie*. She can also be seen on the Comedy Network as co-host of *You BET Your Ass*.

A former classically trained dancer, Sitara has worked in many facets of the entertainment industry as a dancer, host, model and actor. She was a fitness model and was even drafted by and trained with World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) before leaving to fully pursue acting.

Sitara divides her time between Los Angeles and Toronto and enjoys a holistic, healthy lifestyle which includes surfing, hiking and yoga.

Jessica Holmes - Comedian / Actress / Writer

Jessica Holmes, a favourite on CBC's *Royal Canadian Air Farce*, has brought the house down opening for such comedians as Jerry Seinfeld and Leslie Nielsen. She is a successful comedian, writer, actress, and speaker and always leaves audiences in stitches with her interactive humour and vivacious energy.

Raised in Ottawa, she moved to Toronto in 1993 to attend Ryerson University, where she majored in writing. After graduating, Jessica began performing stand-up and comedic monologues at local clubs. She was immediately recognized for her ability to transform herself into dozens of hilarious characters.

In 1999 Jessica landed several appearances at the Just for Laughs international comedy festival in Montreal. Jessica joined Toronto's legendary Second City where



she co-wrote and performed in two shows. During those years, she made numerous television appearances and was nominated for several Canadian Comedy Awards for her TV and sketch comedy work.

Holmes co-wrote and starred in the Comedy Network series *The Itch*, and the CTV comedy/music series *Sonic Temple*. She went on to write and star in her own one-hour comedy special for CTV titled *Holmes Alone*. For the special, Holmes received a Gemini nomination as well as the Platinum Award at the Houston International Comedy Festival.

The success of *Holmes Alone* led to the creation of *The Holmes Show*, a hilarious Carol Burnett-style sketch comedy series involving celebrity parodies and edgy satire. Her comedic high-jinks and knack for skewering celebrities such as Céline Dion, Liza Minnelli and Britney Spears, along with her original creations, amuse even the most straight-faced audiences.

Holmes is currently developing a sitcom and writing a book. When not working or spending time with her husband Scott and two young children, she continues to promote causes close to her heart. Her grace, bilingualism, and ability to react on the fly make her a natural live performer.

Cathy Jones - Comedian

Gemini award-winning actor and writer and founding member of the award-winning comedy troupe CODCO, Cathy Jones is Canada's leading lady in character-driven comedy.

Starring in the 16th season of the hit comedy series *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, Jones reveals her remarkable ability to portray complex and difficult characters including the sassy suffragette Babe Bennett and the wise Mrs. Enid with remarkable ease.

Over the years, she has had several successful ventures; including her much admired one-woman shows, *Wedding in Texas* and most recently *Me, Dad and The Hundred Boyfriends*. Her film career includes the lead role in the Mike Jones film, *Secret Nation*, which aired on CBC Television.

In addition to earning numerous Gemini Awards, Jones has earned three Canadian Comedy Awards for Best Writing in a Comedy Series for her work on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*.



Sass Jordan – Singer / Songwriter

Juno Award-winning artist Sass Jordan has made a living singing, performing, writing and recording music internationally for the past thirty years. She is an internationally recognized singer/songwriter who has sold over one million CDs worldwide.

Winner of Billboard's Best Female Rock Vocalist award, the bilingual Montrealer has toured and/or worked with many music heavyweights, including Aerosmith, Alice Cooper, Cheap Trick, Van Halen, Carlos Santana and Joe Cocker.

In 1992, Jordan performed a duet with Joe Cocker for the soundtrack of the motion picture *The Bodyguard*, starring Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, which sold more than 27 million copies worldwide. Her songs have been featured on numerous television shows, including *Melrose Place*, *Party Of Five*, *Baywatch* and *Knightrider*.

Also an accomplished actress, she starred in the lead role of Janis Joplin in the off-Broadway hit, "Love Janis." Jordan has guest starred on NBC's *Sisters* and was featured in the Toronto and Winnipeg productions of "The Vagina Monologues."

In 2003, she took on judging duties on the TV ratings blockbuster, *Canadian Idol* – the same year she shared the stage with The Rolling Stones, AC/DC and others as part of the history-making SARS relief concert in Toronto.

She started as a young teenager in her hometown of Montreal, Quebec, and although her professional journey has led her to many different branches of entertainment, such as the stage and screen, she has never abandoned her heart, the sound and soul of music.

Erin Karpluk - Actor

Erin Karpluk has recently completed shooting the first season of the popular CBC series *Being Erica* in Toronto, in which she plays the starring role of "Erica".

The Alberta-born actor graduated with distinction from the University of Victoria as a Theatre Major. Her first big break came when she landed the lead role of "Kate" on *Godiva's*, created and written by Michael MacLellan of *Queer as Folk* fame. The role garnered Karpluk a 2006 Gemini nomination for Best Actress in a Dramatic Series.

After the series wrapped in 2006, Erin continued to work on feature films and hit television shows. Some recent credits include the feature film *Almost Heaven*, starring Donal Logue and *Love and Other Dilemmas*, for which she was nominated for a Leo Award for Best Supporting Actress. Television credits include; *Men in Trees* with Anne Heche, *Flash Gordon* (Sci Fi Channel), for which she received two 2008



Leo Award nominations and *Dark Angel*, for which she was hand-picked by award-winning director James Cameron to play the pregnant X5 Gem.

In 2008, Erin had a recurring role on *The Guard* (Global), a recurring role on the Sci Fi pilot *Revolution*, and the lead role in the cable feature *Wyvern*.

Lisa LaFlamme - National Affairs Correspondent, CTV National News

Lisa LaFlamme is the National Affairs Correspondent for *CTV National News*. Regarded as one of Canada's top journalists, LaFlamme reports on a wide spectrum of national and international news stories that impact Canadians. Also a regular fill-in anchor for Canada's #1 national newscast, throughout her career she has covered some of the most significant moments in history.

A hard news journalist at heart, LaFlamme has reported from locations all over the world. Since 9/11, she has covered every angle of its aftermath - from New York to Afghanistan to Iraq. LaFlamme was on the ground in New York City covering the immediate after effects of the 9/11 attacks on World Trade Centre. Since then she has been in and out of Iraq several times covering the American invasion, elections, the Saddam Hussein trial and the region's ongoing civil unrest. In 2006, LaFlamme spent two months in Afghanistan reporting on the Canadian mission. While in Afghanistan, LaFlamme was embedded with Canadian troops on a grueling 12-day mission to track the Taliban.

LaFlamme is also integral to covering the major stories at home and was a major contributor to CTV's extensive federal election coverage following party leaders across the country on the campaign trail.

Before her move to *CTV National News with Lloyd Robertson*, LaFlamme was the co-host of *Canada AM*. There, she interviewed the country's most influential newsmakers. LaFlamme has also been a political correspondent for *CTV News* in Ottawa where she unraveled complicated political events and national issues for viewers.

Widely recognized for her work, including the 1999 Galaxi Award from the Canadian Cable Television Association in Vancouver, LaFlamme has received five Gemini nominations in the Best News Anchor category and picked up a prestigious RTNDA award for Best Live Coverage of a Breaking News Event for her continuous coverage of Mayerthorpe. Most recently she received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario.



Elaine Lui - Gossip Blogger and Reporter, eTalk

Self-proclaimed *eTalk* "gossip maven" Lainey is all about celebrating Hollywood while honouring Canadian talent at the same time. With an immensely popular website, www.laineygossip.com, Lainey has been breaking entertainment news with the help of credible sources in Hollywood and Canada. Seeing Lainey's talent, CTV's entertainment news show *eTalk* hired her on as a special correspondent in 2006, adding to its expanding team of experts.

What started as a simple mailing to her friends and colleagues, soon grew to a website with millions of subscribers from around the world. The site now receives an average of 500,000 unique visitors per week, making it a leading international celebrity gossip source. Her site was also selected as one of "Entertainment Weekly's" 100 Websites to Bookmark Now in 2006.

Lainey also regularly shares her gossip updates with CTV News Vancouver and 93.5 FLOW in Toronto.

A graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Lainey lives in Vancouver with her husband and beagle Marcus, and is a consultant for Covenant House, which offers shelter and services for people living on the street.

Elizabeth Manley - Olympic Freestyle Champion & CTV Olympic Commentator for 2010

Canadian figure skater Elizabeth Manley captivated Canadians and became Canada's sweetheart with her electrifying free program at the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary that won her the silver medal.

Elizabeth's amateur and professional skating career has spanned three decades, earning her over 50 National and International medals. She has competed in two Olympic Games, six World Championships as well as numerous competitions and professional tours. Elizabeth began her coaching career in 1999; she has coached all over the United States and Canada, with students competing at the regional and Junior National Level.

Elizabeth has been honoured with the prestigious Royal Order of Canada award and was named the 1988 Athlete of the Year for Canada.

Elizabeth's inspiring story has resulted in three of her own television specials, *Trial of Red Riding Hood*, and *Back to the Beanstalk* with CBC television and *Dear Elizabeth* with CTV television as well as two autobiographies, "Thumbs Up – The Elizabeth Manley Story" and "Elizabeth Manley – As I Am".



On a corporate front, Elizabeth has been sought after as a motivational speaker for companies such as IBM, Eating Disorders Group of Canada and Chartered Hospitals U.S.A. She also has extensive media experience, commentating on the 2002 and 2006 Winter Olympic Games as well as acting as a national spokesperson for various organizations including the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ovarian Cancer Canada, Alzheimer's Canada and the 1991 Canada Winter Games.

Elizabeth Manley was born in Belleville Ontario in 1965. She spent many years living and coaching in the United States and has now returned to Canada, currently residing in Ottawa, Ontario and coaching at the Elizabeth Manley International Training Rink with the Gloucester Skating Club.

Andrea Menard - Actor / Singer

Critically acclaimed actor, singer and writer Andrea Menard was born in Manitoba, and after moving across the northern prairies several times, settled in Saskatchewan.

The award-winning film adaptation of her one-woman musical stage play *The Velvet Devil* with WestWind Pictures (*Little Mosque on the Prairie*), debuted nationally on CBC's television series *Opening Night*. *The Velvet Devil* swept 13 Showcase awards at the 2008 Saskatchewan Motion Picture Awards. Andrea's performance received rave reviews and garnered a Gemini nomination for Best Performance by an Actress in 2006. Andrea recently went on a second cross country tour with the acclaimed stage play production of *The Velvet Devil*.

Andrea is also currently starring in the second season of the APTN and Space TV series, *Rabbit Fall* (Angel Entertainment), a supernatural crime drama shot in Saskatchewan.

Andrea starred in three seasons of the groundbreaking Canadian drama *Moccasin Flats*. She received a second Gemini nomination for her performance as Amanda Strongeagle. The series explored the everyday realities of life from an Aboriginal youth's perspective and is the first Canadian drama to be created, written, produced and performed by an Aboriginal production team.

Additional film and television credits include roles in *Redemption* (SCN), *I Accuse* (John Ketchum Productions), *Betrayed* (Barna-Alper Productions), *The Impossible Elephant* (Edge Entertainment), *The Pedestrian* (Cooper Rock Productions), *Skipped Parts* (Trimark Productions), and *Harold & Katja* (WestWind Pictures) – to name a few.

Her most recent Gemini nomination was for her work on the animated series *Wapos Bay* in the Best Individual or Ensemble Performance category.



Andrea also continues her successful recording career, with the release of her new album *Sparkle* this winter. The album is a much anticipated follow-up to her last award winning release *Simple Steps*, which took home a Western Canadian Music Award, three Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards and an Indian Summer Music Award.

Heather Rankin – Singer / Rankin Family

Heather Rankin is the youngest member of the award-winning singing group, the Rankin Family. Heather has a BA from Acadia University, with a major in Theatre. In addition to her singing career, she has taken roles in both theatre and film productions.

In 1991, Heather along with the Rankin Family, were signed to Capitol/EMI Music. A year later, the label re-released the song "Fare Thee Well Love" which went on to become a multi-platinum seller. The song topped the charts at #1 with the title track soon finding its way to the Disney Movie *Into the West*, and put the Rankin Family securely into the hearts and souls of Canadians from coast to coast. Their album *North Country* followed in 1993, another #1 multi-platinum success, containing the popular title track in addition to "Borders and Time". "Grey Dusk of Eve" and "Endless Seasons" were both released in 1995 and 1998 saw the release of their final album together, aptly titled *Uprooted*.

In 1999, the group decided to go their separate ways, each pursuing their own interests and musical projects. Then, in 2000 on an icy winter morning, tragedy struck when their brother John Morris, died in a single car accident on a slippery stretch of coastal road. They considered John the musical heart of the group.

But 8 years later, the 4 remaining members came together to record "Reunion" and tour coast to coast, this time with niece Molly Rankin (the daughter of the late John Morris) completing the lineup. The overwhelmingly positive response led them to return to the studio last year to record their current release, "These are the Moments".

Every year, Heather and her sisters Cookie and Raylene, tour with a Christmas show in support of their perennial best selling CD, *Do You Hear*. Along with one other sister, the girls own the Red Shoe Pub in Mabou, Cape Breton, which features traditional music throughout the season. Heather has recorded with Will Ackerman, guitarist and founder of Windham Hill Records, and along with her sisters, has sung back-up vocals for Carly Simon. Heather is also a songwriter, and has contributed two original songs to the family's latest CD, *These are the Moments*.

The Rankin Family has been honoured with 15 East Coast Music Awards, 6 Juno Awards, 4 SOCAN Awards and 3 Canadian Country Music Awards.



Monika Schnarre - Model / Actor / Television Personality

At fourteen, Monika was the youngest ever to win the prestigious Ford Modeling Agency's; '*Supermodel of the World*' competition. By fifteen, she was the youngest to have ever appeared on the cover of *American Vogue* and in the pages of the coveted *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue.

After five years of a short but remarkable career, Monika left modeling, finished high school with honours, wrote and had published a book entitled; '*Between You and Me*' and moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career.

Not long after arriving in Los Angeles, Monika landed lead roles on the daytime soap; *The Bold and the Beautiful* and on the widely syndicated show; *The Beastmaster*. She has since appeared in over forty television shows including *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Caroline in the City*, *The King of Queens*, *Charmed*, *Total Recall*, *Dead Man's Gun* and *Andromeda*.

Today Monika has set her sights on yet another career as a Television Host. Landing her first hosting job on *Celebrity RSVP* – a look at Hollywood's hottest red carpet events - Monika has found herself steeped in the Hollywood scene interviewing today's biggest stars.

Since publishing her first book, Schnarre has continued writing and has been published in *Hello! Magazine*, *Toronto Life* and *The Globe and Mail* to name a few.

In her spare time, Monika renovates homes in the Toronto area and is an Ambassador for the "Women Build" campaign with Habitat for Humanity.

Amy Sky - EMI Recording Artist

Singer / Songwriter Amy Sky is a Toronto native who burst into the national limelight in 1996 with her debut recording *Cool Rain*. This and her subsequent four CDs, including 2007's *Life Lessons – The Best of Amy Sky*, launched a string of radio hits that make Amy one of the most familiar voices on radio today.

Amy writes for herself and for dozens of other international recording stars including Anne Murray, Reba McEntire, Diana Ross and Roch Voisine. Since 2005, she has branched into producing for others, including four CDs produced and co-written for Olivia Newton-John which received rave reviews from "Billboard" magazine. Amy has worked with many stellar guest artists in collaboration with Newton-John, including Patti Labelle, Michael McDonald, Jon Secada, David Foster, Barry Manilow, Sir Cliff Richard, and Jim Brickman.



As both writer and performer, Amy has been nominated for numerous awards from such associations and awards shows as the Junos, SOCAN, East Coast Music Awards, West Coast Music Awards, Canadian Independent Music Awards and American Songwriting Awards. Amy also commits much of her time to various causes including championing artists' rights for which she was awarded the first ever CRIA Applause award.

Her research into these areas has led to a natural evolution to the role of spokesperson for women's health issues. In addition to hosting Rogers TV parenting series *The Baby Hour*, Amy has spoken out extensively on her own experience with post-partum depression. In 2006 she was awarded the CAMH Courage to Come Back award and in 2009, she was honoured with the Mood Disorders Association Hero/Inspiration Award for her commitment to helping remove the stigma from mental health issues.

Tara Spencer Nairn - Actor

Born in Montreal, Tara Spencer-Nairn was raised in Vancouver and now calls Toronto her home base.

Displaying a wide range of talent, Tara spent 12 years as a competitive gymnast. But she found her love of acting in high school at the prestigious Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island.

Continuing with acting, Tara graduated from the Vancouver Film School, followed by her big breakthrough 1999 when she was cast in the highly-acclaimed film *New Waterford Girl*. The film played at Sundance and the Toronto International Film Festival and was nominated for seven Genie awards, including Best Picture. Tara garnered rave reviews for her portrayal of the disaffected Lou, a Bronx-raised teenager who moves to a small Nova Scotia town and quickly turns it on its ear.

The actress subsequently starred alongside Don McKellar in independent film *Rub and Tug*. Set in a seedy massage parlour, the 2002 film was Tara's first foray into comedy. The experiment was success and resulted in a Canadian Comedy Award for Pretty Funny Female Performance.

In addition to her film work and her success on the hit series *Corner Gas*, Spencer-Nairn has appeared in numerous television productions including *ReGenesis*, *Puppets Who Kill*, *Blue Murder*, *Wes Craven Presents: Don't Look Down*, *Cold Squad*, *The Outer Limits*, *Tom Stone* and *Relic Hunter*.



Kreesha Turner - EMI Recording Artist

Kreesha Turner can't remember a time when music wasn't part of her life. She co-wrote five of the songs on her debut album, *Passion*, an eclectic blend of soulful, jazzy, pop-infused R&B. The oldest of three children born to a Canadian father and Jamaican mother, Kreesha was raised in Edmonton.

With no R&B scene to speak of in Edmonton, Kreesha immersed herself in the city's underground hip-hop community. Her determination to infuse some R&B into the scene was welcomed – and people embraced her smooth voice and stunning looks. Kreesha knew music would become a living. In 2005, she won a talent search contest sponsored by Edmonton radio station 91.7 FM The Bounce and was given the chance to record four tracks with Vancouver-based writers/producers Hipjoint. One of those songs, "Bounce With Me," became a radio hit and attracted the attention of urban music manager Chris Smith (Nelly Furtado, Tamia). The song she describes as "fun" has been featured in episodes of *Gossip Girl* and *Entourage* as well as in promos for *Lipstick Jungle*.

And like any true artist, Kreesha hopes her music touches people. "I want them to know which song they can turn on if they're feeling a certain way," she says. "Regardless of what emotion it is, for me to be able to create that emotion is a privilege and an intimate type of interaction."