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Price Is Right On The Fast Track To Fame

Story by Shannon Wingard
Photos by Michael Brian
American Superstar Mag,
March 2007

Whether working as a Ford model for major ad campaigns like Ralph Lauren and the Gap, or acting in the independent movie "BUG BOY," Keli Price says "center stage" is where he feels most at home.

The 16-year-old Long Island resident's passion for performing began at an early age and has exploded over the years.

Price believes his passion will become obvious to all when his character "Bobby Love" debuts in April on the Nickelodeon television series, "The Naked Brothers Band," which premiered Feb. 3. The show chronicles the lives of band members from a world-famous rock group, and focuses on crucial issues adolescents face like break-ups and friendship.

As Bobby Love, Price portrays a Los Angeles surfer and leader of a band. He says his character wants so much to look the part of an international rocker that he trades in his surfer lingo for a British accent.

While Price can't relate to being a faux British rock star, he said he drew from his personality, including a passion for surfing, to make the character believable.

"Something we have in common is we both love to perform, and love to be on stage in front of the cameras," he said.



Up-and-coming actor Keli Price has worked as a Ford model for major ad campaigns like Ralph Lauren and the Gap.

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Although it is early in his career, Price aspires to be like actor Leonardo DiCaprio, one of his role models.

"I think he is a great actor, and a lot of the films he has done have inspired me," he said.

His passion for the entertainment industry extends beyond just acting and into music as well. The amateur musician's early inspiration stems from his childhood home where his father, Jeffrey, who performed with a New York rock band, had a recording studio.

"I pretty much grew up in this environment where I was always surrounded by music and performing, because my Dad was a musician," he said. Things like microphones, drums, guitars and a piano were staples of his childhood home.

Price says he not only plays the acoustic and electrical guitars, but writes music as well. His goal is "to record an album soon."

He draws from personal experiences to write his "kind-of-like-alternative" songs that are based on "things that have happened to me and emotions I have felt." He said getting interested in music was easy since he was exposed to it at an early age.

"I was pretty much a chameleon, and picked up different things around me," he said.



Price is making his television debut on the Nickelodeon series, "The Naked Brothers Band."

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american superstar legends

Frank Sinatra

Frank Sinatra is an icon of American musical cool. His official career was singing; he began as a rail-thin crooner during World War II, and matured into the most respected pop singer of his generation. He also took up acting, winning an Academy Award in 1953 for his performance in *From Here to Eternity*. Along the way Sinatra developed a reputation as a well-dressed, fast-living, fist-fighting swinger, with a top-dog swagger that earned him the nickname "The Chairman of the Board." He was the acknowledged leader of the Hollywood 'Rat Pack' of the early 1960s, which included Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and others. Musically he was beloved as a stylish, heartfelt singer of old-school standards like *Come Fly With Me*, *New York, New York*, *All the Way* and *Strangers in the Night*. He ranks with Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley and The Beatles as among the most influential pop musicians of the 20th century.



As a model, Price also has set his sights high and has already accomplished so much at a young age. He thinks his first job was for a Cole Haan campaign, although he isn't sure. When asked how many gigs he has had, that same uncertainty takes over.

While he counts major ad campaigns for Tommy Hilfiger, Nike and Reebok among his accomplishments, Price makes it clear that there are certainly a lot more.

"I've done so much that I wouldn't be able to count," he said.

Despite wearing hats like actor and model, Price is surprisingly similar to other people his age. His favorite thing to do is to hang out with his 13-year-old brother and fellow model, Nikko — "we're like best friends." Since Nikko also plays the guitar, the two "always jam" and are involved in other popular youth activities like wakeboarding and playing sports.

The two brothers also share a common passion for acting, and used to write screenplays together. One of those was an extension of one of his favorite television shows, "Welcome Back, Kotter."

"I loved the show so much that I wrote my own episode," he said.

While the self-described artist loves working hard, he said it sometimes gets in the way of spending time doing the things he loves.

"It's tough sometimes when I have a lot going on, and I can't spend time with my friends," he said.

However, he feels the price of success is the worth the sacrifices it takes to get there.

Shared Price, "This is what I want to do, and I love it."

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