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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: CW's 'Crazy Ex-Girlfriend' Actress Michael Hyatt

Posted By Kristin Downer on Mar 10, 2016

Michael Hyatt has had her name all over a lot of shows you have probably seen or watch on a regular basis. Not only a gorgeous face, but an incredibly talented individual, I fully expect Hyatt to continue taking over the small and big screen for far into the future. In recent times, you have probably seen her on CW's new show "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend". With another appearance of her character and a lot more for her coming up, we got to talk with Hyatt about everything she has done and has yet to show us. You are going to want to here this!



Photo Credit; Lesley Bryce

KRISTIN: You have an impressive list of TV and Film credits under your belt. What is it you love about acting so much?

MICHAEL: Acting is my calling, Kristin. It is one of the things I was meant to do in this world, along with being a mother to my son and my Spiritual journey. I don't have a religious bone in my body but I believe artists (of any medium), in our best selves, are vessels of truth. Think of a dance performance that moves you to tears or a work of art or song that just moves your soul. It's all the same thing and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to be that vessel. I was scared of it for many years; now I'm humbled by it and take my job very seriously.

KRISTIN: You play Dr. Akopian on CW's show Crazy Ex-Girlfriend. People seem to really like Dr. Akopian. Why do you think that is?

MICHAEL: Akopian is the sista' friend you trust implicitly. You know she loves you unconditionally and without judgement but she tells you like it is and you count on her for that.

KRISTIN: You started out by being in episode 7 and come back in episode 14 and 15. If the show gets renewed, are you hoping to reprise your role for season 2?

MICHAEL: Oh, I so hope so. Working with Rachel Bloom, Aline Brosh McKenna, and the entire team at Crazy Ex is a dream come true. Rachel and Aline have created a tremendous project here and I'm extremely proud to be a part of it.

KRISTIN: For those who may not know the show that well or haven't seen it, can you give us a recap on season 1 and how you tie in?

MICHAEL: Rebecca Bunch is a very successful highly paid New York attorney, but a very unhappy woman. She runs into an old heart throb of hers and is convinced that rekindling their relationship is the answer to her happiness. Unfortunately, she quickly finds that he is moving back to his home town of West Covina, CA. So, Rebecca follows what she believes is her heart, quits her job, packs up her life and moves to West Covina to be near her unrequited love. Not the best news to learn that Josh, her old beau, is in a committed relationship, but like so many women, Rebecca believes if she hangs around long enough, Josh will see the error of his ways and run back to her arms. But, how long is long enough? How will she make this work? What has she gotten herself into? Rachel and Dr. Akopian meet when she finally runs out of the several prescribed meds she takes to quiet her sadness and anxiety. But, unlike her doctors in New York, Dr. Akopian would rather see Rachel deal with her feelings than deny and suppress them. After some bad behavior only the doc can get her out of, Rachel agrees to accept Dr. Akopian's offer to be her therapist. Let's see what happens next.



Photo Credit: Lesley Bryce

KRISTIN: What do you think it is about the show in general that draw people in? Personally I feel it's just relatable show.

MICHAEL: I agree with you. I think it's a sigh of relief to watch a show filled with regular looking folk just trying to figure it out day by day. Kind of reminds me of Shameless, in a way. And, then, to add in such wonderful soul speaking music...music always just cuts to the core and fills your heart, doesn't it?

KRISTIN: You also play Detective Sheila Muncie in Showtime's hit show Ray Donovan. What has that experience been like for you? That show kind of blew up!

MICHAEL: Working on RAY DONOVAN has been sublime.

Both Mr. Jon Voight and Liev Schreiber are so wonderful at what they do, I couldn't ask for better scene partners.

KRISTIN: Any other projects you are working on at this moment that you are allowed to talk about?

MICHAEL: I continue to work on RAY DONOVAN, and the other stuff time will tell.

KRISTIN: I want to backtrack really quick because you have a fascinating childhood and educational years. You were born in England to Jamaican parents. Moved to the U.S. Grew up near D.C. And went to college and the Tisch School of the Arts. How do you feel your childhood, years abroad, and multi-cultural background influenced your career?

MICHAEL: In hindsight I can see that my love for the arts began by watching my father and his colleagues perform on stage in Jamaica, and running a muck among the exhibits of fabulous Jamaican art at the National Gallery while mum was upstairs curating. I was swimming in art day and night. There were always parties being thrown, with artists from every medium (my extended aunts and uncles), living as boldly as they want to be. The 70's was a great time for artistic expression in Jamaica and I was in the heart of it, unconsciously soaking it up and paving my future. By the time I got to this country, although I had some more years ahead to fully understand future and my part in it, the dye had already been cast.



Photo Credit: Lesley Bryce

KRISTIN: If you were not acting, what would you be doing?

MICHAEL: Baby, if I weren't acting I'd be a very unhappy, unfulfilled woman. I've tried several times to walk away from the work because it was just too hard or too scary, but the "normal" life I tried to lead just didn't fit me. I was surviving but...a fraction of myself and choking in mediocrity. However difficult, however scary, I had to live my truth. I chose to be more brave than I was afraid and am loving my life as a result.

KRISTIN: Where can we keep up with all you have going on online? Do you have a social media presence?

MICHAEL: I just joined Facebook, [twitter](#) (michaelhyatt16) and [instagram](#). I welcome peoples presence and support.

Social media is new to me and I didn't think I would like it, being very protective of my private space, but it's nice to connect to the love and positive vibes folks have to share. I'll make sure to keep these mediums up to date with the projects I'm working on.

You can check out episodes of Crazy Ex-Girlfriend on CW Mondays at 8 pm EST. Make sure to follow Michael Hyatt on the above linked social media sites. Also stay tuned for more from her with upcoming projects!