

blew

MEN'S FASHION + ENTERTAINMENT + FITNESS



*BLUE IS THE
NEW BLACK*

PG. 76

THE HOLLYWOOD ISSUE



REGINA HALL
LANCE REDDICK
ADI SHANKAR
ISMAEL CRUZ CORDOVA
AMIN JOSEPH
SHARON CARPENTER

ABC'S
REVENGE
STAR

NICK
WECHSLER

***"I WOULDN'T
CALL MYSELF
AN ACTOR IF I
WASN'T
GETTING PAID"***



Fashion: Renwick photography; Portrait: News Photo Nicole Hemmingway; make-up: Angelo Romo

SHARON CARPENTER

Entertainment's 'It Girl' - Minus The Bad Attitude

Words by Patrice Floy

It seems like in order to be a household name these days, it requires lackluster talent and more fuss on building a career based on being a "personality." Luckily, Sharon is one of the very few that can avoid the fluff and actually be praised for real merits. After being in the game for some years now, Sharon still remains as one to watch. Revolt TV's Broadcast Journalist, host and producer has been on a steady pursuit to make her rounds in the business. Sharon's hustle is indeed a rarity, a persistence that doesn't go unwarranted.

On a sunny Saturday in Brooklyn at about 11:00 a.m. Sharon arrives casually cool, dressed in a black long sleeve fitted hoodie, jeans and glowingly make-up free. She walks in smiling and cheerful, greeting everyone with her British accent. As the shoot's creative director Roni Francois walks around the studio with Sharon to meet the production team and give her a run-down of the day, Sharon's charisma seems to win over everyone instantly.

Before her arrival, Roni shared, "I love working with people who see the bigger picture. She's out here really working hard and I love that!" Roni, who sought out Sharon after being intrigued by her work ethic, takes pride in shooting individuals who truly grasps what it takes to lead.

On-air hosts can often come across overly animated and a little self-absorbed but whether Sharon is reporting news, interviewing or being the interviewee, she exudes a unique style and grace in her poise and delivery. Before working for Revolt, Sharon formerly worked as a contributing reporter for BBC World News, CBS, PIX 11 news, BET, America Global Grind, CNN and a long resume of others.

As if Sharon isn't already busy, last year she let us in on her other skill. Sharon co-created VH1's "The Gossip Game" along with her business partner Tone Boots. "The Gossip Game" was a reality show that revealed the highs and lows of being a female journalist. Some viewers felt that outside of "The Gossip Game," Sharon was the low-key journalist out of the cast. For many, it was a bit of a surprise to see her on reality TV. "I actually just wanted to be more behind the scenes and then after a bit of persuading I decided to be on the show," Sharon reflects. When asked if she was ever worried that the drama on the show would jeopardize her journalistic credibility, Sharon shares, "No, not at all, it showed another side of me and that was okay." To her defense, based on the antics of some of the other cast members, why should she? Her reputation remained pretty much intact. The only aspect of the show that Sharon regrets was letting the cameras get a peek into her relationship with her now ex-boyfriend. "There were probably conversations we shouldn't have talked about," she chuckles. What Sharon does share is how she has fun when she's not working. Sharon who says she's not dating right now because she's busy with Revolt and other projects finds relief in her downtime. She loves soca, Barbados and spending time with her friends, especially if music is involved. "I love dancehall parties, dancing and getting loose once in a while, sometimes to the most ratchet music and just being out with my friends," she giggles. Sharon who was born and raised in the UK has been living in America for eleven years. She loves living here but admits, "I do miss being around people who understand my childhood and I miss the food."

Sharon's transition into journalism was a natural leap even coming from a background in major-

ing in business management and working in the music industry. "It was hard work but after a while it started to become natural to me," she opens up as she sits in the makeup chair. As the makeup artist and hairstylist work together to get her ready for her first look, Sharon answers interview questions unmoved by the cohesive tag-team efforts of the beauty team curling her hair and applying eyeliner.

Throughout our conversation, Sharon's take on making progress in this tough business spells out why being successful encompasses having a certain mindset. "I don't focus on competition. I focus on the best product I can produce because when you focus on other people it brings you down." In terms of competition between other women, Sharon says she doesn't worry about that either. "It's a competitive industry, yes. But it's a competitive industry between men and women, women and women and men and men. There's so many ways to create more content than focusing on competing. It will truly take away from what you have to do." She couldn't have been more precise. After a break in conversation, she waves for me to come back to her at the makeup station to add, "You know I want to add this, another thing, if you really want to be successful, don't take shortcuts if you want longevity in this business." Once her look is complete, Sharon stands tall in front of the camera, svelte and snatched playful posing and chatting with the photographer as she dances to Drake. Several times she requests "Let's hear that new Drake" and of course the motivational favorite, "We Made It," more than once. That song seemed to resonate with Sharon and set the tone for her sharing, "I went on a lot of auditions and got turned down, sometimes because of my accent." The road to where she is now didn't come easy. Sharon also remembers

one blunder that still makes her cringe a bit. "One time during live TV, I was doing 106th and Park and I had a wardrobe malfunction. During a very serious story, my midriff was showing as I lifted the microphone and I didn't know until later" she gasps and laughs at the same time. Sharon who looks to Oprah as being her role model reflects on experiences where she also interviewed people who wouldn't open up and made things a bit awkward and difficult. Sharon believes that no matter what her job as a reporter is, despite the tough days, "making people comfortable, and letting them tell their story, or the story."

As Sharon shoots and changes make up and looks, her reporter hat never comes off. She's inquisitive,

asks questions, makes conversation and is very present. When the shoot is about the celebs you can almost forget about them being so opened to a room of people working on their behalf but not Sharon. She communicated with the style team very openly on the pieces layed out for her. Not once was there a tense feeling that something was wrong, her presence was welcoming.

To budding journalists Sharon, discusses the importance of "creating your own content. We're living in a time where networks are cutting back on cost, so the more skills you have, the more diverse your skills are with regards to producing and creating TV, the more appealing you're going to be to these networks. There are some networks and stations where they'll have people shoot themselves on camera. Like they have to set-up their own camera, then jump and be in front of the camera and then come back and edit their own stuff. The more abilities you have at the end of the day will be a plus for you getting yourself out there." Basically Sharon is adamant about learning to be a self-starter no matter the obstacle.

Towards the end of the shoot Sharon giggles with the team, and belts out for the staff to take behind-the-scenes shots, "I need my Instagram pictures!" she jokingly shouts. Sharon is no stranger to giving credit when it's due. She personally thanks everyone and says, "This is the most efficient shoot I've been on."

There are not a lot of role models for young women that set the standard as high as she does. When it comes to Sharon there are no gimmicks, just a strong woman invested in reporting and producing good content. Sharon seems confident in her approach and where the future of journalism can and will go. Her willingness to embark on that journey is what we'll be looking out for. ★

OPENING PAGE
 shirt & skirt **ANGELY BALEK**
 earrings, ring & bracelet **DANIEL ESPINOSA**

BOTTOM
 blouse **NADIA TARR**
 skirt **LIME**
 bracelet & earrings **CIRCE**

RIGHT
 blouse & pants **ONE HUNDRED**
 shoes **TOPSHOP**
 left bracelet **WAYZ**
 right bracelet & earrings **DANIEL ESPINOSA**

