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Hot Off the Press

Sharon Carpenter makes the news a good look

Excellent news for BET: Sharon Carpenter, 27, is hard to turn off. In just two years, the multi-ethnic (Indian, Italian, British, and Scottish) host has given the network's news coverage a whole new look. Music videos are no longer BET's only must-see TV, and the London-born beauty, who cut her teeth on local news and as a reporter for CBS's *MarketWatch* before landing her current gig, is married to the cause. "BET is my husband," she says, enjoying a drink at Midtown Manhattan's swave Hudson Hotel — and only half-jokingly. "To tell the truth, I don't really date much right now because I'm so focused on work."

And with a slate of impressive news specials — including pieces on failing Gulf Coast recovery efforts, and the N-word controversy — already in the can, plus recurring appearances on *Meet the Fock* (Sunday, 11 a.m. EST), more and more viewers are focusing on the sexily smart Pace University grad. "I grew up in a real racist white neighborhood," she says with a British accent that makes her presence all the more urbane. "I didn't even know I was attractive until my brother's friends started to compliment me." Well, Miss Carpenter, where should we begin?

Mark Alwood

Photographed by
Charlie Langella in
Brooklyn, N.Y.,
on June 5, 2007

Dress by Yigal Azrouel
Earrings by Girlprops