

Shanice and Ryan Lane Star in Kryptonite for the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge.

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Shanice and Ryan Lane Star in Kryptonite for the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge.

(Los Angeles, CA April 8, 2023) – Shanice (the Grammy nominated Singer and Actress) and Ryan Lane (Switched at Birth, Veronica Mars, iZombie) Star in “Kryptonite” for the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge.

The Film Challenge goes live April 8-April 17, 2023.

Log Line: Love can make you weak. Love can make you strong.

Synopsis: Old flames Imani (Shanice) and Alex (Ryan Lane) reconnect after being estranged for over 2 years. Imani has news that will change Alex’s life forever and together they must come to an acceptance of their new reality.

The film addresses disability by not addressing it. It’s just how people live.

Shanice When she was 8 years old she was picked to sing in a Kentucky Fried Chicken Commercial with the legendary [Ella Fitzgerald](#) and was also a first prize winner on the talent tv show, [Star Search](#). By the time Shanice was 11 years old, she had signed her first recording contract with A&M Records and released her debut album "Discovery" in 1987 at 14.

Shanice got a lot of exposure from her first two singles "(Baby Tell Me) Can You Dance" and "No 1/2 Steppin'", it was her smash hit single "I Love Your Smile" off her 1991 "Inner Child" album (released on Motown Records) that brought her international fame. "I Love Your Smile" topped the Billboard R&B charts at #1 while it also peaked at #2 on the Billboard Pop charts.

In 1995, Shanice was cast in the role of Eponine in the musical Les Miserables and also made a cameo appearance in the movie Panther. Four years later, Shanice released her fourth album and broke a Billboard record when her single "When I Close My Eyes" made a tremendous jump on the Billboard Hot 100 in one week from #91 to #16. In February of 2000, Shanice married actor/comedian [Flex Alexander](#).

Social Media:

Instagram: @Shaniceonline

Facebook: ShaniceWilson and Shanice

Twitter: @Shanice_Online

Ryan Lane was the recipient of the 2013 Media Access R.J. Mitte Diversity Award. Ryan was diagnosed with congenital nerve deafness at two weeks old.

Ryan was approached by a Hollywood director/producer who was interested in having Ryan play the lead in a documentary about a deaf baseball player from the 1800's, William Ellsworth Hoy, otherwise known as Dummy Hoy. This documentary led to other guest starring roles on the popular TV shows "Cold Case," "House" and "Miami Medical." to a recurring role "Travis" on ABC Family's "Switched at Birth," for 4 seasons. Ryan has gone on to do some theater, as well as starring in short films.

In September of 2006, Ryan was involved in a dirt bike accident at Pismo Beach, where he suffered a fractured spine and left femur. He underwent surgery on both areas, requiring rod and screw fixation. He spent four months in a body brace, walking with a walker and using a wheelchair to get around when he got back to school.

Ryan is a huge animal lover and spends his time off with his rescued dogs. He supports groups such as "Dogs for the Deaf," "OC Boxer Rescue," and campaigns for organizations like "Save Japans Dolphins," "Sea Shepherd Conservation Society" and "Peta" to name a few.

Social Media:

Instagram: @ryanlane_official

Facebook: Ryan Lane

Twitter: @ryanlane1123

Shaun Earl is a true entertainer in every sense of the word, his incredible talent ranges from dancing to singing to acting and has performed in some of the world's most acclaimed productions.

As a teen, he had a recurring role on the hit TV series, "Fame", and he was recognized as one of the top dancers in Los Angeles. He was asked to tour (singing and dancing) with Paula Abdul, Reba McEntire, Shanice and Jasmine Guy. Shaun danced in the films "Coming to America", "The Body Guard", "To Live and Die in LA", "Austin Powers, Goldmember" and "Punks."

Shaun went back to television as a lead dancer in a series called "Big Break" hosted by Natalie Cole. He performed on "The Tracey Ullman Show", "The Parkers", "Gossip Girl",

“Will & Grace”, “The Goldbergs” “Disjointed” starring Kathy Bates,” Fuller House, Lucifer and just filmed an episode of the new series, “Bob Hearts Abishola”.

Shaun’s Big Break came when he was asked to audition for the Broadway musical “RENT.” The producers hired him on the spot for the lead role of “Angel.” Shaun won the Joseph Jefferson Award in Chicago for playing “Angel” as a supporting actor. Shaun went on being Angel on Broadway and in the 1st National Tour for years. You can also see Shaun in the film version of “RENT” playing the Life Café waiter and he played Paul and Others in Sony Pictures “Rent Live On Broadway” Film.

Shaun teaches Master Dance Classes regularly at Tokyo’s Broadway Dance Center and has his own web series called “Snack n’ Chat” on his Youtube channel. @shauneveray

Social Media:

Instagram: @Shauneveray

Facebook: ShaunEarl

Twitter: @ShaunEarl1

Cameron S. Mitchell is an award-winning Director, Producer, DP, Writer, and moving camera specialist of narrative, documentary films, and television. His work has been featured on Netflix, Hulu, HBO, Amazon, PBS, and includes Emmy award winning shows such as Cat People and Mare of Easttown.

He is the Director/Writer/DP of Elsa (PBS American Masters, Winner: Filmocracy), The Co-Op (Slamdance Channel, Winner: Bergen International Film Festival), Branded (Temple News Documentary of the Year), the Addy nominated series Haul Away Hunger (Toyota, Philabundance), and Heartbeat (Winner: LA Music Video Awards, Awareness Film Festival).

“Elsa” highlights Deafblind fencer and author Elsa Sjunneson and has been named an official selection of five OSCAR qualifying festivals.

He is an alumni of the 2022 Respectability Lab, a jury member for Doc NYC’s #MyJustice award, a juror/programmer of Slamdance Film Festival since 2021, and was named Slamdance Filmmaker of the Week in September 2022. In their review of Cameron’s debut narrative short the Co-op, Go Indie Now described Cameron Mitchell as a filmmaker “born to tell stories”.

Cameron is the owner and founder of CSM Productions (est. 2013) and his work focuses on how outlier individuals break the mold, particularly when it pertains to disabled individuals. Cameron is an openly queer and disabled member of the Local 600 International Cinematographers Guild and has spoken on numerous panels on disability, identity, and film around the world. You can view many of these projects and more at his website, www.cameronsmitchell.com.

Social Media:

Instagram: @Camerons.mitchell

Facebook: CameronMitchell

Twitter: @csmdop

Joshua Freidman. Kryptonite is the first project he has written. He has a BA in TV and Film from Cal State LA. Penni Wilson was his Professor and recognized him as a “star student”. He was the first person she called to write the script. Joshua has Cerebral Palsy.

Social Media:

Instagram: @joshmf93

Facebook: JoshuaFriedman

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Brian M Cole DASL is the Director of Artistic Language on the film. Initially, they were called Sign Masters and focused solely on making sure the actors’ translations were accurate and the signing clearly to audience members as well as the actors themselves. Brian is also involved in making sure the Deaf aspects adhere to the truth of this world being created. He is also involved in consulting on the physical production, ensuring that sightlines, sets, costumes, and lighting all support the signing aspects of this show without detracting from the story.

He has B.A. in FMA (Film & Media Arts) from Temple University (Philadelphia). He has worked on several films and web-series as an actor, producer, AD, DP and in pretty much every crew position. He has performed at Deaf West Theatre (*Children of Lesser God*, *Aesop Who?*), Casa 101 (*Tamales de Puerco*), and The Road Theatre (*Melissa Arctic*). In addition to acting, his main focus is on writing and producing for TV and film. Producing upcoming Summer Playwrights Festival at The Road Theatre Company. Currently written and directing an upcoming independent film.

Social Media:

Instagram: @brianmikecole

Facebook: Brian M. Cole

Jo-Ann Dean is a Creative Producer and CEO SIGNmation L.L.C. and Broadway SIGNS! live and virtual cabaret productions bridging Broadway & Deaf Artists in NYC/LA. Dean identifies as Deaf. She produces inclusive ASL inclusive content

for stage, television and film and Broadway advocating open captioned content, casting Deaf Artists, American Sign Language (ASL) and it's culture. She received a 2023 National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grant for Deaf Austin Theater to stage, produce and livestream The Laramie Project this fall.

Social Media:

IG @broadwaysignsasl

FB Broadway SIGNs ASL

Twitter @joannsigns

Penni Wilson is one of the Executive Producers, Producer's and Co-Casting Director of Kryptonite. She began her entertainment career as a young teen in a female trio including her sister Crystal in their hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Throughout her musical career, she has performed with or recorded with the likes of Diana Ross, The Emotions, and the late greats, Rick James, Curtis Mayfield and Della Reese. Penni can be heard singing backgrounds in many songs on Barry White's Icon LP, most notably, "Practice What You Preach."

Penni served as adjunct faculty for the Television, Film and Media Studies Department at CSULA for over 16 years during which she received many honors, including, "Lecturer of the Year", by the California Faculty Association, alumni of the year by the department of Television, Film and Media Studies and the Black Community Honors Award, sponsored by the Pan African Studies Department. In that same year she graduated from the Los Angeles African American Public Policy Institute, hosted by USC.

For 20 years, Penni served as a co-producer and co-host of Pacifica radio's "Beautiful Struggle" which airs on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on 90.7 FM, Los Angeles and 98.7 FM in Santa Barbara. She has provided entertainment commentary on episodes of TV One's "Unsung", been interviewed on various YouTube shows, and made appearances on her family's reality show, "Flex and Shanice" which aired on the Oprah Winfrey Network for several seasons.

In 2016 Penni and her sister made their theatrical directorial debut as co-producers and co-directors of the award winning play, Magic 8 Ball; My Life with Asperger's, written and performed by George Steeves, which has been honored with 3 Hollywood Fringe Awards, one North Hollywood Fringe Award and was selected "Pick of the Fringe" in Edinburg, Scotland. The play is the inspiration for the documentary they executive produced, titled the same.

Penni continues to record with her sister in their vocal group "Crystal Penny" whose latest single, "Standards", debuted in the United Kingdom during the production of "Kryptonite."

Social Media:

Instagram: @penniwilson

Facebook: PenniWilson

Crystal Wilson IS one of the producers of “Kryptonite” and is the Mother of Grammy nominated and winner of Germany’s Golden Lion Award, recording artist Shanice, best known for her international smash “I Love Your Smile.” Crystal started singing at a very early age in her hometown of Pittsburgh, PA with her sister and now business partner, Penni. Throughout her career, she has performed or recorded with the likes of Diana Ross and the late greats, Rick James, Curtis Mayfield, and Della Reese among many others. Crystal can be heard singing backgrounds in many songs on Barry White’s Icon LP, most notably, “Practice what You Preach.” Crystal also had the honor of working with the late great, Maurice White of “Earth Wind and Fire” in collaboration with the Grammy Award winning group, “The Emotions”, of which she is now a member. Her entertainment travels have spanned the globe.

She coached her daughter Shanice as a young singer, as well as co-managed her early career, and since relocating to California, she worked as a vocal performing coach for celebrity children, such as the daughters of Niecy Nash and LL Cool J. Crystal also starred on OWN network’s series, Flex and Shanice with her daughter and family.

She went on to make her theatrical directorial debut with her sister Penni, in co-directing the award winning play, “Magic 8 Ball: My Life with Asperger’s”, written and performed by George Steeves, the inspiration of the documentary titled the same. In addition to performing with The Emotions, she continues to record with her sister, in their group, “Crystal Penny”, whose latest single, “Standards” debuted in the United Kingdom during the production of Kryptonite.

Social Media:

Instagram: @crystalwilson_sings

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David Zimmerman is an Executive Producer, Producer, Acting Coach and Casting Director on Kryptonite. David has been coaching actors and putting together workshops for over a decade. He is the Creator and Producer of the "Meet The Biz" workshops, which looks to make diversity a common place and bridges the gap between ability and disability. As a personal coach, he has been hired by production companies such as Ryan Murphy's ground breaking series "Nip/Tuck" and worked on Michael Patrick King's, "Love You More..

As a Casting Director his credits include the Showtime pilots and Star Price Productions "Project X" and "Shadow Point, as well as the popular series "Penn & Teller's Bullshit." He has also cast feature films including "Fighting Words" and "Carol of the Bells", produced by Joey Travolta and Inclusion Films Starring RJ Mitte, Lee Purcell, Donna Mills, Andrea Friedman and Donna Pescow.

In 2007, David was honored at the 25th Annual Media Access Awards at Universal Studios Globe Theatre with the Media Access Award of Merit along with Norman Lear, Stevie Wonder, and others.

In 2013, his "Meet The Biz" program was incredibly honored to receive a grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation through the Actors For Autism and a grant from the Friends of Californians with Disabilities, Inc. for the "40 Series".

For his consistent work in bringing people together, David was honored with the prestigious 2022 SAG AFTRA Disability Awareness Award by the SAG AFTRA National People with Disabilities (PWD) Committee at the 2022 Media Access Awards.

He produced "Hunny Bunny" for the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge which has gone on to win awards at many festivals.

Social Media:

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Easterseals Disability Film Challenge: Disability representation in the media is important now more than ever. This year marks the 10 Year Anniversary of the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheDisabilityFilmChallenge>

For more information call (Peggy Lane 818-266-3436) Awareness Campaign.