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What three performances by other actors have most influenced you over the years? How did they impact your work?

Most of the time, I find that I relate to male roles more easily. I find them deeper with many layers that, unfortunately, a lot of female roles lack. With that in mind I'd have to say...

Marlon Brando's work in the movie adaptation of the play ***A Streetcar Named Desire*** was brilliant. Vivien Leigh's work also impressed me, but Marlon Brando was unforgettable.

Edward Norton's work in ***Fight Club*** and ***American History X*** also really influenced me, but again I believe that it's mainly because I found the characters themselves very interesting.

I'm always look to Meryl Streep as my role model. She understands every aspect of the industry. Not only is she one of the best actors ever, but she is also a very smart cinematographer. She knows exactly what makes her stand out on screen. She is always in character and paying close attention to what is happening around her on set.

For example, I read a very interesting article where she revealed one of her acting technique. She stops right before the verb in her line so that the editor has no other choice but to keep her on screen until she finishes the full line. Where many actors will not invest themselves fully in a

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supporting role, every performance she gives is
mind blowing.

**What was your path to becoming a professional
performer? How did you master your craft?
How are you still growing as a professional?**

As a kid, growing up in France, I loved being by
myself because I could create so many stories,
scenes, and roles. I would imagine being chased
by a serial killer, I would scream and lock myself in
the bathroom, jump behind the couch and scream
for my life.

As an after school activity I was always enrolled in
a theater company and I loved being on stage.
Though normally I wasn't all that confident or
outgoing, on stage I felt like a star. I was filled with
confidence. Even my occasional nervousness felt
good, like a shot of adrenaline. My mum, from the
start, was always very supportive because she felt
as if she missed her chance to be a successful
actress.

I went to university, got a Masters Degree in
Business (the 5 most depressing years of my life),
then I entered an Acting School in Paris. During
this time, I founded **Acting Qu'onTest**, a short
movie festival which continues to this day, because
I wanted to encourage new actors to act rather
than simply wait to be cast.

After 2 years I decided to move to Los Angeles. I
got a green card and I started working as a
professional actor in under a year.

I currently study with Gary Austin, founder of the
The Groundlings, who is training me to use

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Montgomery

Lisa London at
Cinema At the
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improvisational techniques in performance. I also study ***The Method*** with Cathleen Leslie, a lifetime member and final judge at the Actors Studio. She teaches sense memory. I am also part of a scene analysis and acting for a camera class called the ***ActClub*** taught by Ryan R. Williams, a successful director.

I have a daily routine I use to strengthen my instrument; my body, my voice, my accent, etc. Everyday I grow as an actor by searching out the truth about myself and embracing who I really am. I've discovered that our weaknesses in life are our strengths in Acting.

As you look back on the work you've done over the years, what performances do you take the most pride in? How did you prepare to play those roles?

I take pride in every performance because every role helps me grow stronger as actor. But, if I have to pick a specific role, it would be my first lead in a short film in France. It was a remake of a difficult scene from Hitchcock's ***Notorious***.

I came to the audition having done strong scene analysis. I'd created a backstory for my character and I had chosen objectives for the scene that would have a big impact on my character's life. The director told me that he hired me because I found new meaning in several lines which he hadn't perceived before.

What unique experiences or insight do you think you bring to roles?

My brother took care of me as if I were his little

Deborah Marks
Bertling
The Robb
Company
Interview with
Omid Zader

EDITOR

Nancy Fulton

brother rather than his little sister. He always wanted to have a brother to play with and just decided to ignore that I was a girl. I was always around boys, doing scary and dangerous things to impress them; the first to take a dare. As a teenager I accepted my femininity and now I embrace it, but I think I'll always bring some masculinity to my roles.

I moved a lot in my life because my parents got divorced when I was 8 years old. My mom and I moved to Switzerland. At 14, I moved back to France to live with my Dad. At 17, I elected to live on my own because I couldn't accept anyone's authority over me.

Do you have unique skills that you think give you a real edge in some roles?

I grew up participating in many sports. I used to ski at a very high level; I was part of the school's international racing team (Giant and Slalom). I've also done a lot of horseback riding, specializing jump competitions. I participated in swimming competitions; my signature style was the butterfly stroke. I played the Cello for six years.

I speak French and English fluently. Furthermore, my grandfather came from Russia so I also picked up a solid Russian accent. In fact, I'm put up for a lot of Russian roles.

In which movie do you see yourself in the future?

Faster, Pussy Cat Kill! Kill! directed by Quentin Tarantino in the role of Rosie who is the Villain's sidekick. I relate to powerful, sexy, strong and

tough female roles, and I love racing cars. I know that this remake is one of Tarantino's future projects. Not long ago I shot a scene from the film to submit to his production company.

What have you done recently that you really enjoyed?

The Great Horror Camp Out and ***The Heretic Haunted House***, two live horror events I did recently were really fun. I love playing a Monster.

How can people learn more about you?

I'm represented by Sherry Robb, Talent Manager, and her Talent Associate, Ann Crawford. You can reach them at (818) 384 0848. Below you'll also find links to my websites and social media pages.

My website:

www.kattbalsan.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/katt.balsan>

Twitter:

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Instagram:

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