



Strictly
Magazine

presents...

*A narrative, editorial spotlight on the
multifaceted artist,*

Parker Harris

A collaborative publication by CASA ALTA



STRICTLY: Parker Harris



*A military brat born in California, **Parker Harris** spent the first 18 years of his life moving every 2-3 years all around the world. By the age of 3, he knew that he wanted to be an actor and work in the entertainment business. It wasn't until he graduated high school, though, that he could move to Los Angeles and pursue the industry more seriously. He has appeared in film and television shows such as "Glee", "General Hospital", and Apple TV's new show "Palm Royale", and has traveled all around the world as a professional dancer. Whether in front of the camera, behind the camera, or on stage, Parker loves to tell stories. In recent years, he has started creating and directing his own projects and just recently opened up his own production studio called PH Studios.*



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Dear Readers,

It is an honor to share with you, our good friend, Parker Harris!

Parker is the perfect example of wearing multiple hats and owning them all. Not only is he a wonderful actor, but also an inspiring dancer and mover, and fantastic photographer.

Over the past year, he even created his own film and it is already taking the festival circuit by storm! Multifaceted doesn't even begin to define that artist that is, Parker Harris.

In the ever-changing industry that we call Hollywood, you have to be quick on your feet, always training, always refining your craft and skills, and - most importantly - making and maintaining genuine connections. STRICTLY is all about highlighting those artists that we feel are great to know, fun to discover, and the epitome of hard working! So we invite you to take a look into the life and mind of: PARKER HARRIS

With Love,

Alecia Winter Scott

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Editor-in-Chief

PARKER: So, before I dive into your questions, I have to share and paint the picture of where I am as I answer these... I'm currently sitting at the table in my hotel room as I look out at the Pacific Ocean in Central California. The rain has cleared and the air is crisp in a way that can only happen after a storm has passed. The water is so blue here and the trees and vegetation are so lush. It's beautiful and the sounds of the waves crashing against the shore is serene. The only thing that would make this all better is if I had a vanilla latte to sip on...

STRICTLY: *We know you are a multifaceted artist... Did one art form come easier to you than the others?*

PARKER: Oh I wish that were the case! Despite what some people may claim, I have had to work very hard to be multifaceted. What makes putting in the work easier though is that I really enjoy all the different things I do. I have my parents to thank for instilling such a great work ethic in me.

Did you always have a passion for photography? Or, did it seem like the best next move since you've been in front of the camera a lot yourself?

I think after years of being in the entertainment business, in different capacities, I've come to understand that I just have a deep love for *storytelling*. Photography just happens to be the newest shape that it has revealed itself in.



Photo by Parker Harris



Looking back on your acting career thus far, was there ever a moment you felt like you were exactly where you needed to be at the right time? Please, explain...

I wish I had a more specific moment from my career that I could colorfully retell to answer this question. The closest thing that comes to mind is when I'm sitting on the steps of my trailer when I'm on any set.

There's something about that quiet moment, watching all the things happening around me, that speaks to that 3-year old boy who had a dream of being an actor. There is a feeling of peace knowing that I am doing the very thing that little me so powerfully dreamed about.

What has been the hardest part of your career so far?

The uncertainty. There are no guarantees in this business, unfortunately. Someone pursuing this entertainment industry can go through seasons where the work and opportunities are flowing regularly and then it can be bone dry for some time.

How did you get through it?

By being proficient in more than one thing! I've got my hands in so many different things; that helps keep me busy and my life exciting enough during those dry spells.

Do you think you will encounter an instance like that again? If so, how do you keep going knowing that sometimes, that's just how it is?

Oh sure! That's the nature of this business. But I've been in the game for a very long time, so I am much more at peace with the ebbs and flows of how it all works now.



Photo by Parker Harris

You started dancing later on, after you were already acting. How did you go about trying a new art form and also turning it into a career?

I was introduced to dance when I was about 15 years old while my family and I were stationed in southern Georgia. I had a fantastic experience but because of my family's responsibility with the Army, it wasn't consistent. So I like to say that I didn't truly start dancing until college, when I was almost 20 years old. In fact, the only reason I decided to take a dance class was because I had time to kill between my General Education classes and I had a lot of energy I just needed to put somewhere. I never had any idea it would blossom so beautifully into what it has today.

Was it something that just sort of happened? Or did you challenge yourself to start doing it professionally?

Dance has been one of the greatest gifts in my life. I never had any intention of becoming a professional dancer. I always joke that "I'm just an actor that moves" and I think that helped take a lot of pressure off myself in regards to achieving some grand end goal of becoming a professional dancer. I loved dance because I could storytell in a new medium. I loved dance because I could explore deeper into myself as an actor, as a person. I loved dance because it has brought a lot of healing into my life. Getting to do it "professionally" was just a wonderful bonus.

All that being said, I was fortunate to be friends with a choreographer who believed in me and was kind enough to set up a meeting with his agency. The team took a chance on me and I've been with them ever since!

From shooting with you many times, and also witnessing you work with others behind the camera, what or who taught you to have the eye you have, for capturing exactly what everyone wants from their photos?

I think it's a combination of things! I think it comes from working with photographers who I really admire, connect with and watch what they do. I think it also comes from photographers that I worked with, didn't connect with as well and watched what they do. I also just love to learn and challenge myself; that's the exciting part for me! In fact, I probably have hundreds of images saved on social media of different photographer's work that I love and I will spend time in the studio trying to recreate it OR use it as a jump off point of inspiration to create something new. Like most things in life, it's a lot of trial and error before getting to that sweet spot creatively.

Let me elaborate: When I shot my headshots with you, I felt more seen and captured than anyone who I had ever taken my headshots with before. I got the exact results I wanted, even if I didn't know how to articulate what I needed with you. How do you do that? It's like magic!

Well, first of all, thank you! That means a lot. I think the most important part to all of this is my love of people. I feel pretty confident that one of my God-given gifts is my ability to connect with people.

I love to ask questions when people work with me. I want to know all about them: where they're from, their dreams, what they've done/what they want to do, etc. All of those questions help me get a better understanding of who you are and help guide me during a session.



When people work with me, I want to create a space for them to just be who they are, a space for them to feel comfortable and a space where they know they are enough. I want the people I work with to leave feeling better than when they came in.

Are you psychic? LOL

Ha—I wish! It definitely would have saved me a lot of time and heartbreak if I was.

As a filmmaker, storyteller, movement artist, actor, photographer, etc. What art form to you is the most pure?

I definitely thought about this question for some time before answering it...because I wanted to say: each and every one of them. At some point in my creative journey, I could have explained why any one of those listed was the most pure to me at that given moment. But if I had to pick one, I'll say movement. I truly found the extent of my personal and artistic depth through movement over the years.

Where do you feel you can be the most yourself, without filtering any thoughts or feelings.

Oh that's tough to answer. So I'll say that I am torn equally between my movement and the films that I create.

Do you find it scarier to participate in that art form?

Not at all.

Why do you tell stories? Every performer has a reason they do what they do. What is yours?

I think it ranges from “let me just see if I can do this” to “this will be funny” to “this is something on my heart I want to share”. I find that more often than not though, it’s that last one. I’ll be the first to admit...I am sensitive. So whenever I am going through something, look at my work. It usually manifests itself there because I know that that’s a safe and healthy place to channel it.

In five years, where do you see yourself? Go in detail. Use this as a little space for manifesting your life, if you will.

Somewhere quiet and successful. I would love to be the kind of successful that Los Angeles is just where I come to work but my home and roots are somewhere outside of it. I would love to have a family. Recently, I spent my first time in Montana and that trip changed me. I could easily see myself, a little later, splitting my time between California and there. There was something about being there that allowed me to just deeply exhale in a way that I’ve wanted and needed to for a long time. I think it also reminded me, again, the importance of true balance.

I know this about myself though – I need balance. Living in Los Angeles and pursuing this business is a lot of fun but I know that I know that I also need the slow, quietude to refill my cup and to recharge. That’s actually been a huge life lesson for me in recent years—that it’s great to pour into others. Just make sure that you are filling yourself up too.

So to recap, 5 years from now: Successful, living a balanced life somewhere with my family.

Would you rather... Have been around to perform in the 1920s silent movies, OR 1950s movie musicals?

1920’s Silent Movies

Stage OR Film?

Film

Black and white photos OR Color?

Oh come on! I have to pick??...Color

Award Shows OR Sports Events?

Award Shows

Drama OR Comedy?

Drama



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