

The **GRATEFUL AMERICAN BIKER** Magazine

Behind the Scenes in the Making of a Short Film
Ride to the Warehouse
House of Machines, Los Angeles
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Founder of Ride to the Warehouse, Katie Carney, is such a beautiful soul and one of those humans who just has this infectious and genuine gift of intuitiveness, generosity, and kindness. Katie has endured and survived two of the most horrendous battles of a lifetime, breast cancer and divorce. She found her ultimate freedom on two wheels when she bought her 2013 Harley-Davidson Softail Slim. When she began riding she didn't have a lot of friends who rode, so she reached out to local San Diego women's riding groups and started taking photos of women riders out of her passion for art. She is a hairdresser, paints and loves photography. With her gift of

creativity, intuitiveness and sensitivity to the needs of others, she began to realize that there was an unbalanced focus on certain types of women in the arts and advertising within the biker community. Finding different types of beauty in every woman rider she met, she was inspired to create a platform where she could highlight the beautiful souls, beautiful minds, beautiful hearts as well as the outward beauty of women of all ages, color, shapes and sizes, as Katie touts she wanted to “showcase real woman”.

In her previous life, Katie owned a salon and art gallery and from that experience she came up with the idea to have an event to showcase these beautiful women in photography, paintings and other arts by having her first Ride to the Warehouse show over 4 years ago. The Ride to the Warehouse name came from the venue of the first show, La Bodega which means The Warehouse, thus Ride to the Warehouse came to life with the intent to continue to showcase these and other amazing women and their beauty with different rides to different warehouses. The Ride to Warehouse show was a manifestation of Katie’s heart where women riders felt safe and encouraged to share their stories in our biker community, to give these women the opportunity to tell their own stories of struggles and successes, to empower the women with their own voices. With her own history of breast cancer and many of the women she connected with also battling breast cancer, Katie decided to compliment her mission with support of the 501c3, Keep A Breast.

Ride to the Warehouse has now had several successful shows with the last one at House of Machines in Los Angeles, CA in February of this year (see The GAB story by Contributor, Robert Green). At her first show at La Bodega in San Diego, a mutual friend brought John Lennon a renowned film maker and photographer and introduced Katie and John. With common passion and interests, these two very cool humans, forged a bond of friendship with a common goal. John was hooked as soon as he heard some of the stories of these amazing women riders. From the beginning, John was impressed with the organic nature of the first Ride to the Warehouse event at La Bodega. The intensity and the intimacy of the stories that these women riders were sharing pierced John’s being and he felt that he needed to create a greater focus on their words than what the photos could convey. He began thinking that their spoken word needed a different platform to convey the message of empowerment they were experiencing in the freedom of the “ride” and the support of the community of bikers that surrounded them.

Since that first Ride to the Warehouse show, John has been inspired to share these stories through his creative and successful medium of photography and film. John, also a rider for many years on many different motorcycles, currently rides a BMW S1000R to satisfy his need for speed. A true biker himself, he could understand and relate to the freedom one finds while riding a motorcycle as well as the prejudice and judgment that is cast on the biker, by the non-biker community. He felt a personal responsibility to be a part of the solution, to help change perceptions and connect with the rest of the community at large by giving a platform for the powerful words of hope, triumph, love, confidence that is portrayed by these very special lady riders.

John assembled his film crew and began to gather the content for this short film based primarily on the stories of these amazing women riders. John’s crew consisted of himself, John Lennon, Director, Lisa Jan aka” LJ” Fogal, Interview Director, Christopher Zimmer, Executive Producer and a great save for the day, Joe McGills, Sound. Katie secured the most amazing and accommodating venue out there, The House of Machines in Los Angeles for the location for the film shoot on March 8th. The women riders came from Baja California, San Diego, Riverside and Los Angeles and spent the day in community with each other while each woman rider shared their hearts out to the lens of the camera that will eventually share their personal stories with the world.

Over the last 4 years since Katie started the Ride To the Warehouse show, she has amassed so many friends and sisters and has featured over 70 women riders in various Ride to the Warehouse shows. So when it came down to selecting the hand full of women that would be part of the film, it was excruciating for Katie to make the

decisions because every woman and every story that each one has to tell, means so much to Katie. I think John probably had to keep reminding her that this was a “short film”.

Not wanting to give away too much of the stories of these bad ass women will share in the short film, we want to give you a little introduction to them so it will leave you ready for John and Katie’s film that is set to release in June of 2020, God willing.

MARISA “SCOOPS”

Scoops, had already been diagnosed with cancer and was about to be diagnosed with another bout of cancer, when she found her love of racing. Starting with flat track and dirt track racing, she then moved into motocross and tt racing. In 2017 she decided it was time to get her motorcycle license and bought her first street bike, a 2007 Harley-Davidson Sportster. Not surprising, Scoops knew immediately she needed more speed and bought a 1990 Harley-Davidson FXR and never looked back. This amazing, strong vibrant woman rider has been battling breast cancer since 2016.

Her battle with breast cancer has had almost no symptoms except for a lump. She has been through chemotherapy, had a double mastectomy and 33 straight days of radiation. Still on cancer fighting medication, we can happily report there has been little to no growth. Scoops says “L - I - V - I - N. Can’t stop, always move forward and try to have the best time doing it. Not to sound cliché but life is short you do you!”

MICHELLE

Michelle is a manager of a family-owned. restaurant business in Los Angeles which just expanded to San Diego, California and Scottsdale, Arizona. Miraculously and victoriously, Michelle survived a hemorrhagic brain stroke on July 27, 2019. It was during this time, that she realized how liberating it is to develop connections through a network of a women motorcyclist group. Michelle proclaims, “With a speedy recovery riding with my doctor I knew that embracing my passion for motorcycles allowed me a second chance to continue living an outstanding life”.

Michelle rides a 2019 BMW R9T Pure. She cherishes the guidance of other passionate and experienced riders to better assert herself on the street and on the track. She is often recognized by her red, leather, Dainese, jacket.

AUDREY

Audrey rides a 2015 Kawasaki Vulcan 615. She spent the first seven of ten years in Los Angeles without a car, getting around on public transportation or a bicycle. When she was able to afford to buy a car she didn’t want one, because she had been out pacing cars in traffic on her bicycle for years at that point. She was already accustomed to life on two wheels, so getting a motorcycle was the only logical thing to do. She was both confident and determined in her mission that she bought her Vulcan before she had even taken the motorcycle license class. Her approach to riding initially was the “burn the boats approach”, because she was terrified for the first couple of months she was riding. She just rode through the fear and kept saying to herself “you’re going to be fine; you’re probably not going to die.” She rode like a boss. In an effort, to stand out and also, have the coolest helmet, she covered it with Swarovski Crystals in an original design. Shortly after she started her “bling business” Goddess Armor. She calls herself the “Sparkling Motorcyclista”

SHARRY

Sharry lived the “safe life” and after a traumatic event she realized that “bad shit” happens to everyone. Wanting to feel again and to have a full heart she found herself behind the bars of a 2001 882 Harley-Davidson rigid. Dedicating herself to creating a “strong bonded, heart based, community of female riders that are supportive and encouraging to all” Sharry organizes monthly rides for new and experienced riders around the Los Angeles area. She also leads many long-distance rides, to events like Sturgis, Babes Ride Out, Blacktop Ramble. Sharry shares “My heart is rooted in this community, my goals are to always lead with love, allow people to grow in a safe space and feel accepted.” She is a co-leader of the Los Angeles chapter of the world-wide female riding group, The Litas.

CONNIE

Connie lost her mom to breast cancer and her world came crashing down around her and it was devastating. She felt cheated and was angry, treating everyone horribly, including those who loved her the most. Getting on a motorcycle is what helped her deal with the issues in her head, forced to think of something other than the sadness and she started to live again.

She rides a 2017 Harley-Davidson Low Rider; she calls Burt Reynolds as well as her first motorcycle a H-D Sportster she calls Willie Nelson. She also co-hosts, with Beulah, a podcast known as Girl on a Moto. Connie says she started the podcast for “women by women, to empower one another in the motorcycle community, letting women know they are not alone out there on the road.”

BEULAH

Beulah rides a 2012 Harley-Davidson iron 883 and a 2005 883 custom Sporty that she inherited after her husband, of 20 years, Mike, passed away from a car accident in October 2018. Now a widow she is also the mother of two sons who are both serving in the military. Beulah is also the co-host, with Connie, on the podcast, Girl on a Moto.

This Girl on a Moto, co-host, shares, “The moto community has been such a source of love and support that I never imagined I would need or could have asked for. Sometimes it’s better not to ask why because there isn’t always an answer. I regret the things I didn’t do more than the things that I have done“

SARAH

Sarah rides a 2007 Honda Shadow and says, “Being on my bike is meditation for me. I’m totally present on two wheels“

She practices massage therapy and traditional Chinese medicine. Her experience with CPTSD and fibromyalgia remind her to live for each moment. She lives in Los Angeles with her wife, Dawn and their four kitties.

CHRISTINA

Christina rides a 2002 Harley-Davidson Sportster 883 she has named Barbara Steele. She was raised in California and has been an independent hairstylist for 10 years. Christina touts “When I ride, I am alone with my thoughts where I can express every emotion or sing at the top of my lungs under my helmet while still being

exposed to the atmosphere. It's a way for my introverted mind to be comfortable, have pure liberation and solace. Part woman, part wolf in the wild."

This part woman, part wolf, is the founder of SheWolf Moto Co. a woman's vegan motorcycle company that donates a percentage of the proceeds to animal charities. The entire concept of the company was created to collaborate with other artists, empower women and raise awareness to animal rights through motos."

DIANNA "DEE"

Dee started riding motorcycles at the age of 26, after a bad break up. She used her motorcycle to "find herself" She says "I promise to keep working on being a better spiritual being in this human experience" Dianna is a self-proclaimed, free spirit, lone wolf, Afro Latina feminist and bona fide biker. Originally from Brooklyn, now living in Los Angeles. She rode her Ducati Scrambler, solo, across country in November through December 2018 on a mission to heal her soul. She survived the trip and settled in Los Angeles "for now".

"Riding a motorcycle was the best thing I could have ever done for myself. It's given me the confidence to pursue my dreams, travel the US and live an unconventional life. Without Motorcycles, I never would have had the courage to start Sugarbush babes, my woman's Moto line and it's afforded me the ability to continue to travel. I highly encourage any woman who is curious about the sport to just do it"

GINGER "GIGI"

Gigi rides a 2012 Triumph Bonneville T100. She is the founder of Gigi Montrose, a unique line of women's functional and fashionable Motorcycle apparel. Ginger started Gigi Montrose as a tribute to all the influential women in her life. These women were her role models, encouraging her to be a better woman, inspiring her and most importantly are endlessly the shiny examples of you can do anything.

This shiny, ball of fire says "I ride because it is my life expression. The expression of how my soul feels, how my heart flies, the beating adrenaline and laser focus, yet the calm breath of confidence, knowing I made two major accomplishments; I arrived at my destinations and was home safe"

This small introduction to these women riders is just a fraction of their incredible, collective stories and we hope this encourages you to find your tribe, to step out in faith in yourself and in others, to share your own personal stories of triumph over tragedy and be part of the solution, not the problem. A special thank you to Katie at Ride to The Warehouse and John Lennon Photography for all that you are doing to share the genuine stories of the biker lifestyle with the world and for allowing us to be part of this very special day.