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SAINT OR SINNER?
THE MULTI-TALENTED...
**CHRISTIAN
KEYES**
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INTERNATIONAL
ACTRESS
**BAI
LING**
TURNING HEADS
IN HOLLYWOOD
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KEEPING UP WITH...

DAVID CHOKACHI



Known for Baywatch (1989), Witchblade (2001) and Beyond the Break (2006). He has been married to Susan Chokachi, the president and CEO of Gucci America, since 2004. Devoted to animal rights and a dedicated environmentalist. David Chokachi is just an all-around cool guy.



TwelveTen (Shai): You began your acting career in '95 on the Baywatch TV series, which is still now in syndication and now being made into a film with Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron and Amin Joseph, what was it like being on such a huge series?

David: Being from Plymouth, Massachusetts and going from small town from East Coast living, to being thrust straight to the number 1 most watched television show at the time, was super surreal and also extremely exciting! I went to a very good liberal arts college in Maine, Bates College, where I majored in Political Science and had to write a thesis in order to graduate (which I received an A- in) and played football all 4 years. Having this East Coast upbringing kept me grounded in reality while being on this mega hit of a TV show,

where my character "Cody Madison" was dating "C.J.", Pamela Anderson's character. Throughout my 20 years so far as a working actor, I have never allowed the business to pull me from my foundation. I believe being an actor is one of the greatest jobs in the world. However, the business itself can be a beast, and it takes a lot of time and hard work to find ones footing!

TwelveTen (Shai): Do you and Pamela (Anderson) and the rest of the Baywatch series cast, keep in touch? We just recently seen photos with you and most of the former Baywatch cast, how'd that come together?

David: Since Baywatch, the movie has started filming, there has been a spike in interest to see what the original cast is up to. Seven of us from the original cast were approached to film a special for ITV UK.

So that brought a bunch of us together. We also have a project called The B Team, which we have been developing for quite a while. It's a very clever and funny take on how the show came about. We were all bonded deeply by the amazing experiences we had while making Baywatch. Man, I look back at the job, and I am like damn, that was a great gig, especially for someone like me, ... I love love the ocean and I am passionate about protecting it! So to be able to have a job that entails swimming and rescuing people in the ocean, scuba diving, Driving speedboats, wave runners Etc ... Damn dude, being an actor on that show was the perfect fit for me! Even though we may not see each other as often as we like, we will remain forever bonded by the "red bathing suits". Like it or not ! I like it.

TwelveTen (Shai): In '97, you were chosen as one of People Magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People In The World" and Huffington Post was quoted recently as saying, "Cody Madison is still the best looking lifeguard on Malibu Beach". What is your secret to staying youthful and in shape? Any particular fitness regime?

David: Yeah. It's funny , once you are chosen as one of People's 50 most beautiful people, it follows you throughout ones career. Years later, whenever I do an interview, it comes up. It's cool, a fun thing, that sometimes can help you get work as an actor! Man, I have in the last couple years started living a very healthy lifestyle... Which includes lots of yoga, stand up surfing, trail running, lifting weights, climbing ropes, pulling and driving a sled, all kinds of kooky exercises that





more. I am a voracious reader also. I heard this podcast about how people respond in a crisis. The ones that have no fitness, usually don't make it, the ones that can run, life and jump often save their own lives, and save other people's lives! I want to be the latter! I also listen to teachings by Seneca, this famous philosopher who was around 2000 years ago, and he's says when fortune is kind, prepare yourself so when fortune turns violent, you are ready! I like that, it's kind of warrior mentality! The ocean keeps me young, I love it so much, it rejuvenates my soul, and I have huge respect for the power of the ocean. So I train to be able to surf bigger and bigger waves, because that feeling is so primal and just flat out amazing!

TwelveTen (Shai): Yeah, we've seen tons of shots of you out in Malibu surfing. Were you already into surfing or was that something that you got more into after filming on the set of the Baywatch series?

David: I grew up in Plymouth, Massachusetts, right on the water, and my Mom was a very good sailor, so she got us into sailboat racing at a very early age. I have spent a lot of my life on or in the ocean. I went on to become the Head sailing instructor at Plymouth Yacht Club, where I went to nationals in these very fast 2 man boats, called 420's. I also got heavily into windsurfing,

and went on to qualify for and compete in the Junior Olympics in windsurfing! So, when I was auditioning for Baywatch, a big part of the audition was that you had to pass a pretty



rigorous swim test. I crushed it. The Exec producer, Greg Bonnan is huge swimmer, and he saw my skills and was like, your the man..... Go and get this role, after a few more auditions, I got it. While we were filming Baywatch, some of the crew would always go out and squeeze in a surf session during our lunch Break.

Our sound mixer, Hal Whitby, was like a brother to me, he has recently passed, but he spread his Aloha spirit into me, and gave me my first real surfboard. In 2006 and 2007, I

was cast as the lead in a series called, Beyond The Break, which we filmed in Makaha, on the island of Ohua. I played the Coach to an all female surf team. Brian Keaulana, a famous Hawaiian waterman, who also worked on Baywatch when we filmed in Hawaii, was a producer on Beyond The Break. He got me into stand

up surfing, which I took to like a moth to a flame. We have a place in Malibu, and I am fortunate to be able to surf this amazing point break at Point Dume. I started my daughter surfing with me when she was 3 years old. She's now 4 1/2 and she surfs with me all of the time. As a dad, there's no better feeling than catching waves and being in the ocean with my daughter. The ocean and my daughter feed my spirit in such a profound way!

TwelveTen (Shai): Let's talk fashion sense real quick. Being that your married to Susan Chokachi, who's the president and CEO of Gucci America. Does she give style tips when you're out and about in Hollywood?

David: (Laughs) That's funny! Occasionally she is like, man you can't wear that. But I have my own unique style which, to me, transcends all other style. I wear different things that my wife goes, "wow, that's random but very cool." My daughter is following in my footsteps, she wears mix and match slippers (flip flops) and people at her school are like, hey you have two different flip flops, and my daughter is like, yeah I know ... And the. Sure enough, everyone is like that's super cool. Although Gucci, is on the rise, their designer Allesandro Michele's a genius, and I love some of the stuff! Super cool, super cutting edge!



TwelveTen (Shai): Before we wrap up, let's discuss what recent projects do you have in the works?

David: So, man as an actor, I am at a point in my life, where u I really want to do things that have meaning, and substance to them. I have two projects, that are in development which are two of the best projects I have come across in my 20 year career as a working actor. Black Files, is the title of a project that my writer/director friend wrote for me, and for himself...it's a break out project for both of us! I get type cast as

the good guy, who is polished and I am tired of that character. My good friend Martin Makeriev, who's based in Sofia, Bulgaria. We worked together on the movie Roseville, which he wrote and directed and we both just hit it off. He is a huge talent that the US market has not seen yet, but will soon. Anyway, he knew my desire to want to stretch as an actor, and he wrote he dream role for me. My character, in the movie/ TV pilot is a hardcore mother fucker. He's a deep cover agent for the CIA who is sent in to attempt to solve a heinous

crime, in which the United States Ambassador to Bulgaria, his wife and two sons are assassinated in a very brutal way. My character, is a dark, edgy, and a very talented individual, capable of doing the hard core things that need to be done, in order to stop the growth of terrorism! It's one of the best projects I have ever read, and it's a chance for me to play a character that can change and define my career in a way in which I want it to go! Black Files is a game changer! The 2 Nd project, which is in the more infantile stages, which

I am equally excited about is, Unit 5. It's based on a very successful comic book, written and created by Skip Winter. This project follows the lives of 5 agents of a highly trained tactical anti terror group, called Unit 5! They are brought together through tragedy of 9/11. Each character having a very close and personal story as it relates to the tragedy, and as a result, motivates each one into the group they now find themselves in.





