

LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTO BY JAY L. CLENDENIN

AN UNSINKABLE SPIRIT BUOYS  
**DREW BARRYMORE'S** ROLES AS ACTOR,  
DIRECTOR, COVER GIRL AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
NOW OF THE NEW SOUTH FLORIDA  
REBOOT OF *CHARLIE'S ANGELS*

BY ELIZABETH RAHE



**D**rew Barrymore's name flashes across ABC's *Charlie's Angels* trailer like an imprimatur. The star and producer of the *Charlie's Angels* films is not the only executive producer of this new, Miami-based rendition – the list includes '70s TV series honcho Leonard Goldberg. However, it's Barrymore's name that is pop culture gold. She is a respected producer, budding director, glamorous cover model, talk-show darling, much-beloved actress, Hollywood royalty and still the girl next door.

Tenaciously optimistic is how Steven Spielberg has described her. She was his pig-tailed Gertie in *E.T.*, who confided her secrets to the extraterrestrial puppet off-camera. "She had really the kind of imagination that not only invited E.T. into a reality within herself, but it invited all of us to believe that what Drew was seeing was true," he said on *60 Minutes*.

Somehow, she has managed to preserve that open, engaging, ingenuous nature for 30 years, even as she has become one of the most successful stars in Hollywood.

"What Drew brings to everything she does is a great spirit," says Al Gough, producer with Miles Millar of the new *Charlie's Angels* reboot. "She has a wonderful, infectious spirit." Although she is not involved in the day-to-day production of the Miami-based TV series (premiering 8 p.m. Sept. 22), Gough does not rule out the possibility that Barrymore could play a guest star or guest director role down the line, if her busy schedule allows. She was involved in the show's development including the casting process, he says.

"She is a real producer. It's not a vanity thing for her," Gough says. "She does the job; she'll make the calls. With the actors, when you're convincing somebody to move from California to Florida for potentially a long period of time, she can speak to them as an actress and explain how a show like this can be a career changer for them."

Barrymore's own career is in high gear, featuring a slate of production, direction, acting and modeling projects, but she has worked hard to get there. Her difficult days are part of her lore, and her strength. Born in 1975 into the Barrymore acting dynasty, she also suffered under the family curse of addiction, which she detailed in a 1990 autobiography *Little Girl Lost*. Her father, John, was mostly absent, trapped in substance abuse. Her busy mother, Jaid, who served as her manager, provided little supervision and often went to clubs with her very young daughter. Drew has described her upbringing as a hippie/flower-child existence, and she looks back on it philosophically.

"I was raised in unique and trying environments, but they were also amazing platforms for me to have an extraordinary life," she recently told *ELLE* magazine. "Going through hell as a kid made me sensitive to what others in this world go through too."

Both her parents were actors, as was her grandfather, John Barrymore, his siblings, Lionel and Ethel, and many of their predecessors, going back centuries. Drew exercised the family birthright at a young age. At 6 she was playing Gertie in *E.T.* At 9 she had her first drink. At 10 she was nominated for a Golden Globe for *Irreconcilable Differences*. At 11 she smoked marijuana. At 12 she used cocaine. At 13 she entered rehab. At 14 she attempted suicide. At 15, with her career flagging, she legally emancipated from her parents.

Moving into her own apartment, she got a job at a coffee shop – failing miserably, she says – and soon started going on auditions. She took on smaller roles for a time but eventually scored leading-lady billing in films such as *The Wedding Singer* and *EverAfter*. To date her 40 films have earned more than \$1.5 billion at the box office. Her most lauded performance has been her eerily realistic portrayal of Little Edie, a reclusive socialite who lived with her mother in a crumbling East Hampton estate, in the 2009 HBO film *Grey Gardens*. It earned her a Golden Globe Award and an Emmy nomination.

In 1995, at only age 20, she joined forces with Nancy Juvonen to create Flower Films, which has grossed nearly \$900 million. Flower productions have included the *Charlie's Angels* films, *Never Been Kissed*, *50 First Dates* and *Whip It*, Barrymore's directorial debut, which ushered in a new phase in her career.

She recently directed the MTV music video *Our Deal*, for the California indie rock trio Best Coast, featuring a cast of teen stars in a rival-gang, star-crossed lovers tale. The project came about in a typical Drew way, when she met the band backstage after a Los Angeles show. "We were like, 'Okay, how can we work together?'" Best Coast's Bethany Cosentino told *Rolling Stone*.

In another project aimed at a youthful demographic, Barrymore also has signed on to produce and direct *Heist Society*. Based on the young-adult thriller novel by Ally Carter, it's about a young woman who comes from a family of thieves tasked with stealing back a mobster's missing art collection to clear her father.

Before *Heist* she directs *How to Be Single*, expected in 2012, which explores the lives and loves of a group of New Yorkers over a 10-year period, a subject she knows well. "Love is never gonna be a tired subject," Barrymore, 36, told *Entertainment Weekly*. "Being single, this one definitely speaks to me, and I've explored it a lot in the last year and a half. I'm at that age where I'm sort of straddling a great line right now, and I can see both sides very well."

Barrymore has a tight-knit group of longtime friends – her self-made family – many of whom work alongside her. However, her romantic loves have had shorter runs. She had two brief marriages, to club owner Jeremy Thomas and comedian Tom Green. She dated The Strokes' drummer Fabrizio Moretti for five years, and she had an on-and-off relationship with Justin Long, her co-star in *He's Just Not That Into You* and *Going the Distance*. The pair was spotted in South Florida a couple times during their romance. In March 2008 *People* reported them walking along Miami Beach near the Delano Hotel, seeming very much in love. A year later they were photographed here at a Marlins/Yankees game, with Barrymore dressed head-to-toe in Marlins wear, complete with tie-dye leggings, a plastic shark hat and face paint. Recently, she has been linked to Will Kopelman, son of former Chanel CEO Arie Kopelman.

No longer looking for someone to supply her with the fairy tale, Barrymore says she is working to make her dreams come true. Her life is full with other priorities. In addition to her production and direction projects, she is a spokesmodel for CoverGirl, and in February she stars in *Everybody Loves Whales*, a romantic drama about the 1988 effort to rescue gray whales trapped under ice in the Arctic Circle. She is also focused on philanthropy. An ambassador for the United

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— From *ELLE* magazine

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Nation's World Food Programme, she has donated more than \$1 million to the cause. In 2009 she co-founded the Drew Barrymore Education Project to supply borehole wells, food and a new school for two rural communities there. She has traveled to Kenya several times to assess needs and progress.

Barrymore sees travel as the best form of education, and she has spoken about visits to India to explore spirituality, including a trip she made alone last year. She told David Letterman about the impact of the journey and keeping its lessons alive day to day. "I've been reading and writing. I've been keeping up my meditations...I learned certain prayers that you can practice – just to pray and think about your friends and think about what you have...and never lose sight of that. I have been able to bring it with me."

Of course, her *Late Night* performance was also filled with laughter and fun – though perhaps not quite as much fun as her infamous 1995 visit when she jumped up on Letterman's desk and flashed the startled host on his birthday.

That wild, unpredictable Drew seems to have mellowed somewhat. She has spoken in the last several years about becoming a woman. In a fall photo shoot for Neiman Marcus, Drew the woman is in full bloom. Shot by photographer Norman Jean Roy, the images capture Barrymore's classic beauty as she models designer fashions.

"We felt that Drew Barrymore possessed not only the pedigree and glamour of old Hollywood, but also the confidence and spirit of the modern-day woman," says Eddie Nunns, Vice President of Neiman Marcus Brand Creative. True to form, Barrymore was very involved in the creative process, he says, down to the styling of her lush auburn tresses.

Still, as she graces the high-fashion designs of Gucci and Pucci and Prada, one cannot help but imagine the free-spirited, flower-child Drew hiding somewhere beneath, perhaps wearing tie-dye leggings...and pig-tails in her hair.



“She’s a powerful, modern woman, with trans-generational appeal.”

—Eddie Nunns, Neiman Marcus

BARRYMORE IN A TOM FORD DESIGN FOR NEIMAN MARCUS. PHOTO: NORMAN JEAN ROY

# CHARLIE'S ANGELS TROPICALE

## Producers infuse new ABC show with vibrant South Florida flavor

Miami is hotter than L.A., say *Charlie's Angels* reboot producers/writers Al Gough and Miles Millar, and they are not just talking temperatures. Thus, their three new Angels and a buff new Bosley will be solving crimes against a backdrop of Miami Beach high-rises, Atlantic Ocean cruise ships and South Beach cafes.

Creators and executive producers of WB's young Superman series *Smallville*, Millar and Gough also have writing credits on *Spiderman 2*, *Lethal Weapon 4* and *Shanghai Noon*, among others. Plus, they have experience producing a show in South Florida – another young superhero pilot, *Aquaman*, which never made it to television.

We caught up with the prolific and personable duo recently to talk about their take on *Charlie's Angels*, their affinity for the hot South Florida vibe, and the joys and challenges of shooting in the subtropics.

ABC's *Charlie's Angels* airs 8 p.m. Thursdays beginning Sept. 22.



Al Gough and Miles Millar

### Why are your Angels in South Florida instead of L.A.?

**Gough:** L.A. didn't seem as glamorous or sexy...maybe because we live here. Miami is a very glamorous city. It's an American city, but it feels very international. We love how people dress up to go out there. It seems to be a city of extremes...the perfect setting for this version of *Charlie's Angels*.

### How important were Florida's tax incentives in bringing the show here?

**Gough:** We creatively had set the show in Miami...and when it came time to actually make the pilot, [the question was] do we shoot in Miami or do we shoot in Los Angeles for Miami? The tax incentive definitely played a big role as to why we are shooting the show in Miami.

**Millar:** We felt very strongly that the show would visually be much more instinctive and distinctive if we shot on location in Miami. The light's very different, the location's very different. It feels so tropical and lush.

**Gough:** The whole vibe of the place would be hard to capture using somewhere else masking for Miami.

### Any challenges to shooting here?

**Millar:** [Laughing] The challenges are the heat, and we're on storm watch now... Shooting on South Beach is very difficult, in terms of the level of noise. We shot a sequence in a café on Ocean Drive, and we had to replace all the sound after the fact. There was just so much ambient noise and music. The party doesn't stop on Ocean Drive.

**Gough:** [Laughing] Yes. Miami is really the city that never sleeps.

### How does your *Charlie's Angels* compare to the original TV show and films?

**Gough:** Our Angels aren't bored police officers. They all have checkered pasts, and Charlie is giving them a second chance. The aim of the Townsend Agency is to help people. It's really a redemption story, for the Angels and the people they help.

**Gough:** What we have in this version of the show, which has been in every version, is that great female camaraderie, that idealized friendship.

**Millar:** These characters are real. Their emotions will show that people get hurt in this world, people die in this world. The DNA of the show is the same. It's still going to be fun and escapist, a blue-sky TV show – and fashion [plays a big role]. But it's a grounded and credible world, which is a departure from previous versions... And Bosley is not a middle-aged valet. He's very much the fourth Angel. He's young, [he's Latino], he's very handsome and he gets into the cases as much as the Angels do.

**Gough:** We describe the show as if Jack Bauer and Carrie Bradshaw had a love child, it would be this *Charlie's Angels*.

### Can you share some of your settings?

**Millar:** We have a show set on a cruise liner. We have a show set in Cuba... We'll have the Angels on airboats, Jet Skis, a cigarette boat. We want it to feel uniquely Floridian and uniquely Miami.

**Gough:** We have the Angels stopping pirates who are taking over a yacht, and we're in a polo match. We shoot a big party scene on Star Island.

### Any hints about surprises in the storylines?

**Gough:** There is a bigger mythology as to who Charlie is that will play out. And Charlie's relationship with Bosley is different than Charlie's relationship with the Angels. [There are] family secrets here. We look at this like they're a family, and the family business is being detectives, and the family secrets are the interpersonal relationships and the drama between them.

### Has anything surprised you about South Florida?

**Millar:** We love that our stages are in Wynwood [Arts District]. It's an incredibly vibrant neighborhood, with the galleries and the wall art and graffiti that's so impressive and dynamic and visually stimulating. The [Miami] Design District is amazing. It's really great to shoot in those environments. There are so many different areas that we're going to showcase. We've just scratched the surface in the first few episodes.

### Any chance *Aquaman* will be resuscitated?

**Gough:** No, probably not. You can buy it on iTunes, though. [He laughs.]

**Millar:** We loved making that down [in Coconut Grove and Bill Baggs State Park]. It was fun.

**Gough:** Yeah, that was fun.

— Elizabeth Rahe





## THEY'RE ANGELS, NOT SAINTS

The detectives of the Townsend Agency – which now has an address on Ocean Drive in South Beach – are beautiful like their TV and film predecessors, but they all have skeletons in their closets. Abby Sampson (Rachael Taylor of *Grey's Anatomy*) was a New York socialite turned world-class cat burglar. Kate Prince (Annie Ilonzeh of *General Hospital*) was a Miami cop turned dirty. Eve French (Minka Kelly of *Parenthood* and *Friday Night Lights*) was a street racer with a mysterious past and a penchant for stealing cars. The new Bosley (Ramon Rodriguez of *The Wire* and *Day Break*) is a hot young computer hacker, who also gets in on solving cases alongside the rehabilitated Charlie's Angels.

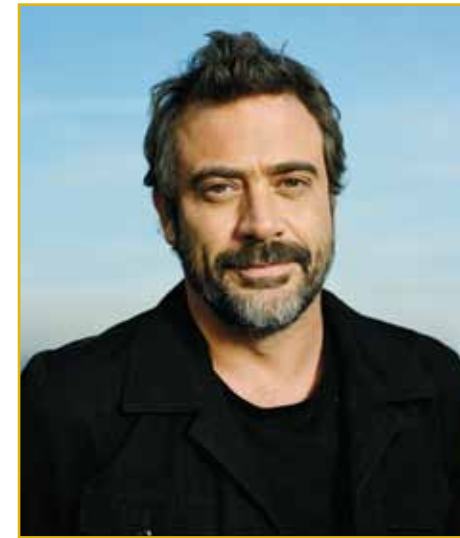
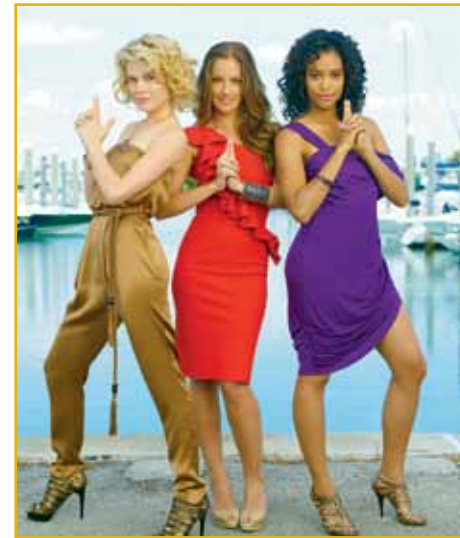
Angel actors Rachael Taylor, left, Minka Kelly and Annie Ilonzeh model the latest in detective fashion on Ocean Drive.

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MATTHEW JORDAN SMITH



## THE LIMELIGHT STATE

### TV and film productions bring South Florida into focus

**ABC's** new *Charlie's Angels* is a coup for South Florida TV and film production. It's been more than 20 years since a major network show, *Miami Vice*, was shot here. Even more impressive, *Angels* is one of many TV productions currently filming locally, including USA's *Burn Notice*, A&E's *The Glades*, and Starz's *Magic City* (premiering in 2012), plus telenovelas, reality shows and the star-studded film *Rock of Ages*.

The boom is thanks to the state's entertainment industry incentive, which attracts producers with a 20-30 percent tax credit on Florida-based production costs. In turn, supporters say, the industry brings a financial boon, jobs and – as Florida's assets are broadcast around the world – potentially more visitors to the state.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the breadth of styles that we have, which help show us off," says Graham Winick, head of the Miami Beach film office. *Burn Notice* has the dichotomy of sleek Miami juxtaposed with Miami River-based action, he says. *Charlie's Angels* is going to focus on the new, modern, upscale Miami Beach, downtown and the nautical scene. *Magic City* is set in 1959 Miami Beach, and it showcases South Florida's art deco and Miami Modern architecture – which Winick predicts will lead to a wave of nostalgia tourism.

"We have all of these great shows showing different sides of our city, and then we have *Rock of Ages* thumbing its nose at Los Angeles, saying we can do L.A. better in Miami," he says. "It's appropriate – or ironic – that *Rock of Ages* put the Hollywood sign on Mount Trashmore." (That's the 225-foot-tall landfill between Coconut Creek and Deerfield Beach.)

– Elizabeth Rahe

#### SHOT IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Philip Michael Thomas and Don Johnson (top left) in NBC's *Miami Vice* (1984-'89); Gabrielle Anwar and Jeffrey Donovan in USA's *Burn Notice*; Matt Passmore in A&E's *The Glades*; Rachael Taylor, Minka Kelly and Annie Ilonzeh in ABC's *Charlie's Angels*; Tom Cruise in the 2012 film *Rock of Ages*, Jeffrey Dean Morgan in Starz's *Magic City*, debuting in 2012.