

Kat Cressida Becomes The Voice Of The 2010 NFL Draft

By: Admin



Kat Cressida

Kat Cressida used to be a literary agent before making the change to acting. Trained in Shakespeare, the actress had roles in the 90s on such TV shows as Murder, She Wrote, Ellen, Caroline In the City, Babylon 5 and The Naked Truth. But something about acting in front of the camera wasn't working for her.

"One day I was in the honey wagon going, 'I don't think that the on camera world is really...I don't think I'm cut out for it,'" Cressida remembers.

From there Cressida entered into the world of voice-over – working for advertising campaigns (Folger's), video games (Avatar, Prince of Persia), sports (ESPN's Pardon the Interruption), as well as for Disney's theme parks (The Haunted Mansion). She can also be heard in the upcoming feature film Robin Hood, starring Russell Crowe, doing animal sounds and looping.

Starting tonight (and continuing Friday and Saturday), on ESPN in prime time, Cressida will be the voice of the 2010 NFL Draft. She is the first female to do so and she's been keeping busy ensuring that everything goes off without a hitch. "I've learned all the names. I can pronounce all the Samoan and Hawaiian players' names," Cressida states proudly.

I spoke to Kat this past Monday, right before her schedule became exceptionally hectic. Below is an edited transcription of that conversation.



Kat Cressida wearing Original Retro Brand

Kat Cressida: I've been really fortunate to be the voice of (ESPN's) *Pardon the Interruption* which has been on the air for nine years. Since they were changing the whole format of the draft this year and they were going for a more glam, sort of Hollywood big show feel, they wanted something that would pop out, stand out from past draft voices. And traditionally those had been men who've done the ins and the outs and the sponsorships during the draft. But they decided to go with a female and they thought I was a right combination of that Hollywood, I guess you would call it "sexy" entertainment driven voice and sports. I'm going to be the voice you hear on television. Similar to the Oscar voice where you hear 'Coming up next' or 'Sponsored by'. Just an entertaining, fluid voice to carry you through.

While looking over your filmography, one role stood out, your work on Archer. Can you tell me about that?

KC: I'm a recurring guest role on that. (I play Uta) one of the many villains. Kind of a sassy, sexy little German gal. It's fantastic! I am so honored to be working with those guys. They're the best. They've been amazing to work with. Very unusual where you get that much playfulness and play time and it's sort of off the cuff and you throw in a line here or there.

What preparation are you doing for this week for the NFL draft?

KC: Learning the pronunciations of all the names. Did a lot of pre records down at the new ESPN in LA across from the Staples center. I'm lucky to have been outfitted by *Original Retro Brand*, which is this phenomenal, upscale, swank sportswear company. They're outfitting me for the whole week. I'll be rocking that all throughout the week. A whole bunch of rehearsal and more pre-records. And then, of course, Thursday the draft starts. I'll probably be working pretty much straight through it.

Tell me a little bit about working on ESPN's Pardon the Interruption.

KC: It's hugely popular. In fact, they did a April Fool's joke and I forgot it was April Fool's, too. Basically, a major press release went out and it was on one of the pages of ESPN where it was canceled and it would stop in August. It was so thorough. It was not just a little blurb. It was so real. One of the producers sent this to me saying, 'Sorry about this, kiddo.' Apparently the outrage was so...the hate mail and the comments the people were sending were so outlandish that it caused them problems with their servers. Or wherever they put that...some sports blog. They pulled it within a few hours because people were not taking the news well.



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KC: I started out on the other side of the business. I decided that before I was 30 that I wanted to stop chickening out and try on camera. I trained in Shakespeare my entire life and then graduated from UC Berkeley and started listening to my attorney parents, which was a big mistake. You know, 'Don't go in entertainment. Don't do the acting thing. There's no security in it.' I would say to anybody out there who loves it and is

addicted to it that any true theater person is. You know, give it a shot! Especially if you've got a college education to fall back on.

You did on-camera work before doing strictly voice-overs. I noticed you were on The Naked Truth with Tea Leoni in the 90s.

KC: I was on the very first show where, Michael York played her (Leoni's) ex-husband and I played York's fiancée. He was great, man! We spent the entire day on set in a bed, because it was a very physical, 1930s screwball comedy. And there I was in bed next to Logan (*Logan's Run*). For me that was a huge thrill, because Michael's training was in Shakespeare. Michael York is a brilliant Shakespearean actor, from Zeffirelli's *Romeo & Juliet* and *Taming of the Shrew*. I literally brought my giant riverside edition of Shakespeare to the set on the third day, got up the nerve and said, 'Will you sign this for me?'. And he said, something like, 'Not only will I sign it but let's go ahead and run some scenes.' Because we were just bored sitting in the bed waiting for camera setups. To this day it's one of the highlights...a rare, weird, serendipitous thing.