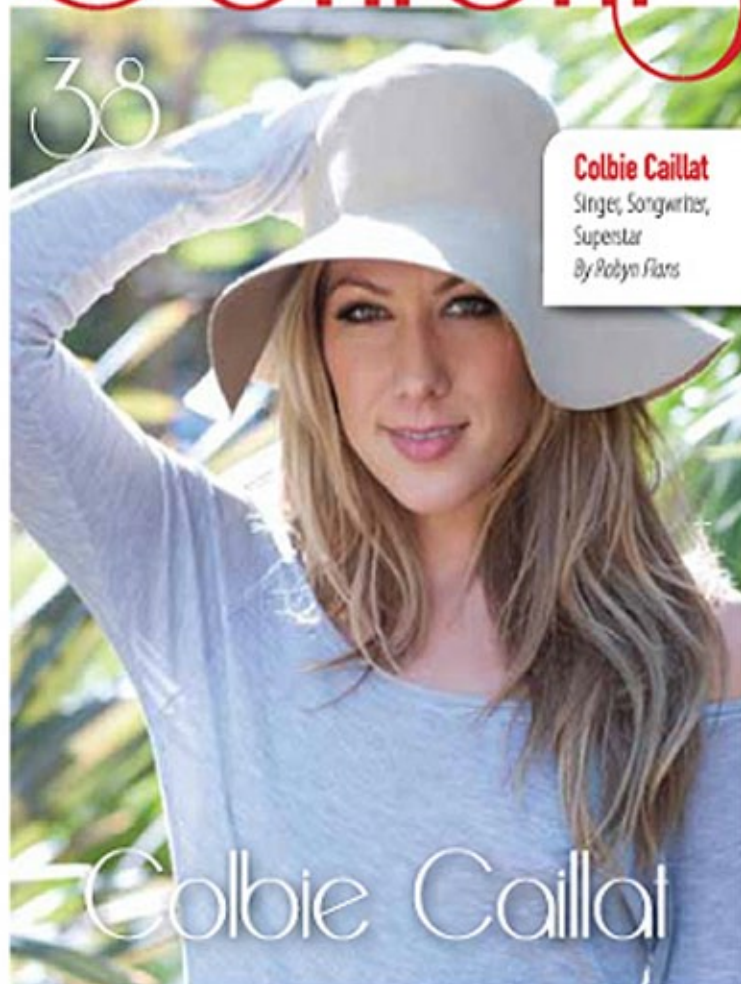


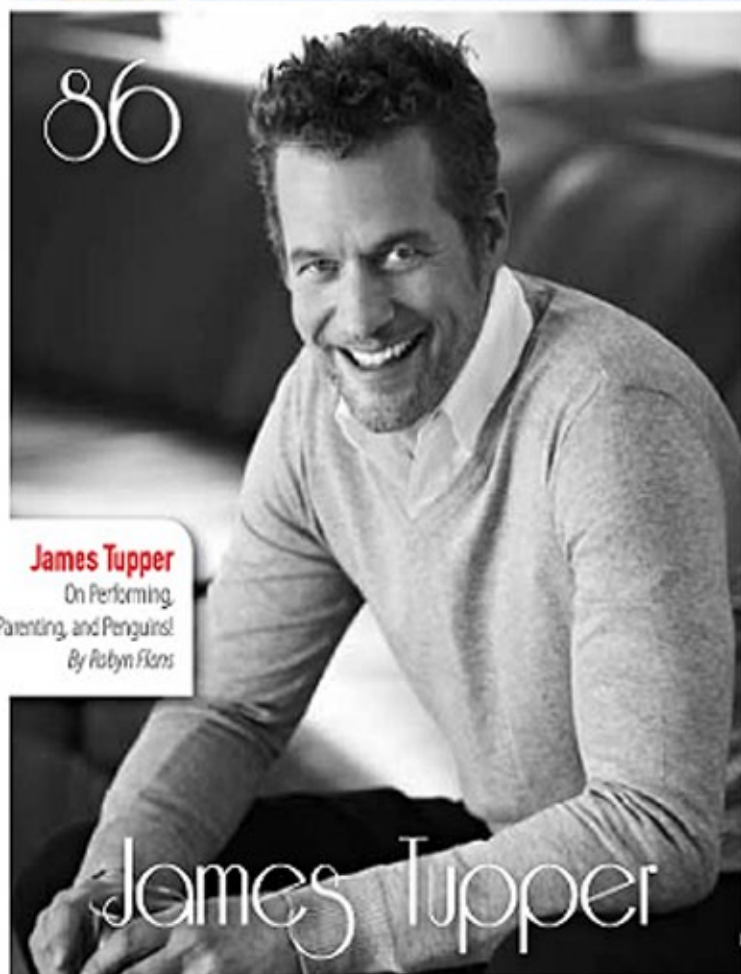
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Shining Star KELLI BERGLUND

by Kari Rodems | Photos by Stephen Morales

At just 15-years-of-age, Kelli Berglund could simultaneously be considered a veteran and one who is on the verge of becoming an overnight success.

A contradiction in terms perhaps, but then we are talking about an industry where perception trumps reality and in any case, this rising star's talent has certainly earned her the spotlight. Currently under contract with Disney XD, Berglund's eloquence and captivating presence easily commands an audience's attention. That, coupled with years of studying dance, music, and acting has landed this "one to watch" with a dream role. Cast as the only female in an ensemble cast geared toward "tween-aged" boys, Berglund describes the show as a "departure for Disney – it has an edgy sarcasm and bite to it with a lot of action, it is different from all the other shows," and added "I really like the writing."

Originally scripted to be an all-male action/adventure production, Berglund was chosen for the sole female part over literally hundreds of hopefuls; sailing through two screen tests and a number of call-backs before learning the part was hers.

Berglund's dedication to her craft has earned her an enviable list of credits and a rock-solid reputation in the industry for being conscientious, unpretentious and always prepared for her parts. Crediting her success so far with the fact that she really enjoys what she is doing and always wants to give "150 percent to succeed," she also conveyed the importance of maintaining her focus and reputation to achieve her dreams, and hopefully one day make it to the big screen.

Clearly comfortable in her own skin, Berglund speaks with graceful ease as she talks about what she learned early on preparing for roles and dealing with rejection in an industry that can often be anything but kind. "When I prepare for a part, I try to take in the sum of what's going on in the scene and not just learn my lines. Learning that way has also really helped me with school," she says. When it comes to not being chosen for a part, she concluded, "Learning to accept 'no' is part of the process. It is really out of your hands. I want to learn from any critiques I get and also realize that a lot of the time they are just looking for something or someone different for the role, so I can't take it personally." Well said - *Westlake Magazine* congratulates this young achiever as it seems Kelli Berglund's star is destined to shine brightly for years to come! **W**

