

Logan Browning is
Ready to Hit The
Floor

By Nicole Holman

As she struts her stuff on her new show, *Hit The Floor* on VH1, Logan Browning shares what it was like stepping into the “bad side” to play her most challenging role yet.

Since we were tiny tots in the playpen, our parents have always taught us that we can be anything we want to be and to always follow our dreams. If an opportunity to fulfill that dream presented itself to you at a young age, would you take it? The world’s greatest entertainers like Michael Jackson, Britney Spears, and Leonardo DiCaprio, started out pursuing their aspirations while still learning their ABCs, and in the end have cultivated successful careers. Today, in the acting world, we’ve had the pleasure of seeing our favorite stars like Miley Cyrus and Keke Palmer blossom into not only acclaimed actresses, but also confident young women. But before the fame and glory, they were forced to endure the awkward transition from childhood to adulthood in the public eye. Their innocent images portrayed on television and in movies were at one point frozen in time as they faced the uphill battle between being typecast as the good little girl next door and taking on more mature roles. There comes a time in life when even the characters they portray have to put on their big girl heels and strut into womanhood. Actress, Logan Laurice Browning, best known for her teenage roles as Sasha in *Bratz: The Movie* and Brianna Brown on *Tyler Perry’s Meet the Browns*, slips on a striking pair of Louboutins and finally graduates from her usual and safe role as a high school debutante to a more daring and sexy role as a young adult on her new show. “I’m excited for people to see me as older because I’ll see people online going, ‘Wow I’m sure she’s going to be really beautiful when she grows up,’ and I’m like, ‘I am grown up!’” laughs Logan. “Playing older is fun because I feel like I’ve been 16 for so long.”

The 23-year old stars in VH1’s new scripted dramatic series called *Hit The Floor* that trails the lives of the Los Angeles Devil Girls, the number one professional basketball dance team in the league. Although the players bring the Hollywood fans to the stadium, they share the spotlight with the Devil Girls who create a whirlwind of drama with money, sex and fame at stake. Logan portrays the team’s villainous and seductive star captain, Jelena, who refuses to let the team rookie, Ahsha (Taylour

Paige), be in the limelight. Logan shares what it was like to channel a more risqué persona and get in touch with her dark side. “At first I wasn’t really keen to it I guess,” explains the actress. “I wanted to be the nice girl and play the sweet girl, but as it’s gone on, it’s been a lot of fun. I love hearing everyone’s reactions after we do takes. They’re just like, ‘God you’re evil! It’s been a challenge, but an enjoyable one.’” Despite Jelena’s antagonizing ways, Logan still believes there’s something that young women can learn from her role. “I don’t know if it’s my character that I would want them to emulate, but I still think there is something about this character that people are going to look up to and respect and love.”

Another exhilarating yet challenging aspect of the show is the high-energy dancing. In every episode there’s a dance number, which requires intense rehearsals. Rigorous dance routines, late nights, early mornings in the studio, and keeping up with the professionals became tough obstacles to overcome when filming the pilot of the show last year in April. Acting like a bad girl? Piece of cake. Dancing like the captain of the best team in the league? Not so much. “In the pilot episode, I did a small dance, but nothing like the other girls because I’m not trained to do that kind of dancing,” says Logan. ““I think I’m doing pretty well now because we’ll be doing a dance and I’ll hear some of the crew say to me ‘Wow you’re out there dancing, you’re not just giving face, you’re actually out there moving and dancing and I can see the hard work you put into it!’ So that’s rewarding.”

With the grueling nature of the show, switching directors every two episodes, Logan believes she is fortunate to work with such an encouraging cast and crew. She describes her relationship with cast mates as a “tight knit family” and the environment as a “fun place to be.” On set she’s even learned a few things from her co-star, Charlotte Ross who plays the Devil Girls manager, Olivia. “She’s very similar to me because she’s been doing this since she was younger,” says Logan. “I just learned to be focused, but also have fun. She’ll goof off and then have her serious thing. Sometimes people will walk on to set and be in character and they’re not smiling and not being nice. And that’s so fun!” The show also stars seasoned actors, Dean Cain who plays Pete, the coach of the

Los Angeles Devils basketball team and Kimberley Elise, who plays Sloane, the mother of the newcomer to the dance team, Ahsha.

In addition to her family on set, her real-life family keeps her grounded. Logan was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia to parents Lynda and Larry Browning. She has two older brothers, Clint and Chad, and a younger brother Keith. While most actors and actresses credit their parents or favorite actor of all time as their major influence, Logan says her brother Keith inspires her. “He works really, really hard and it’s paid off,” she says. “I’ve watched him go from being a really shy kid to being this amazing opera singer, and it’s really, really inspiring to see him make this life for himself and just be completely devoted. He’s pretty much the reason why I refocused my acting, because when I was younger I did it but I kind of didn’t know what I was doing and so he’s the reason I’ve refocused and I worked a lot harder and I took it a lot more seriously.”

The starlet recounts her exhausting experience growing up while trying to pursue her acting career. Since the tender age of 14 she lived back and forth between Los Angeles and Atlanta working on her acting career while being homeschooled. This became one of the most challenging moments in her life as she adapted to an adult-like work schedule and sacrificed friends and a normal life as a teenager. Logan admits to times when she was handed a script and felt like she couldn’t relate to the character’s issues because she missed certain parts of high school life that every teenager goes through. Eventually, her mother persuaded her to finish high school in Atlanta. Logan advises anyone desiring to be an actor or actress to enjoy his or her childhood, go to high school, and stay involved in extracurricular activities. She says, “I think it makes it easier to be an actress when you’ve already had normal life experiences that people can relate to once you try to portray them.” However, she doesn’t regret the decisions she’s made saying, “I don’t regret how I did it because that’s just the way that God wanted me to have my journey and have my career, so I don’t regret it by any means.”

With all that she’s accomplished and all she’s overcome, Logan Browning, looks forward to blossoming as an actress and for her fans to see her thrive on her new show. “It might sound cliché, but the idea of

working hard and being fully committed and putting your mind to something is not a joke,” says Logan. “I’m living proof and people will literally be able to watch me grow on this show when they see from the first episode to the episodes on after that because I’ve put in that work. I’ve prayed about it, worked hard on it, and I saw results. I saw things change.”

You can see Logan Browning and the rest of the cast in the new dramatic scripted series *Hit The Floor*, when it premieres on Monday, May 27 at 9 p.m. on VH1.