

BEAUTY I AM

September 9, 2015



Wait for the Harvest!

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. We hear this sermon preached every fall and if you are anything like me you often question if you are really experiencing the harvest God speaks about in your own ministry. We all seek to plant seeds that will in return bear much fruit someday, but how can one actually measure the fruit of their labor? For some ministries “their fruit” is the number of people accepting Christ while other ministries are more focused on how many people were set free from addictions.

I consider Beauty I AM’s harvest to be the number of

artist in Hollywood, CA remaining true to who God called them to be. Hollywood is a town where even the strongest Christians come with good intentions and then leave with their tail between their legs. In the end they often sacrifice who they are to get ahead. Beauty I AM plants seeds by standing next to artist throughout difficult seasons of their life and encouraging them to stick the course and exercise their faith. Bearing fruit in God’s kingdom never happened overnight. We seek to inspire them with truth, motivate them with wisdom, and to supply them with

practical life skills needed to navigate an industry that is brutal and unpredictable.

As an artist steps into the fullness of their career with strength, identity and roots in Godly character then Beauty I AM is successful. We want artist to look back without regret concerning the decisions they make on the road to success. If we can stand beside artist during the long road of rejection, disappointment, and delayed success we will see artist reach a platform feeling hopeful, whole, and ready to be a light in Hollywood.

By Ashton Roark

There is not a road map to success. This is where most aspiring artist get trapped. At first, the young talented performer believes they can ride on talent alone until they have their first encounter with rejection.

The taste of rejection opens their eyes to the sea of people all chasing after the same dream. Desperate to become actors, models, and musicians but not knowing what will set them a part from the masses.

After experiencing extended periods of rejection, no work, and bills piling up anyone would begin to panic. It would cause one to feel desperate. Desperation will do just about anything to avoid feeling pain or setback which can only lead to personal self destruction!

It is guaranteed that the road will not be easy in Hollywood. We hear so many stories of successful artist who were sleeping in their cars because they could not pay rent, or stars that found themselves taking off their clothes thinking the exposure would get them booked for an oscar winning role.



This is why knowing your **identity** is *vital*. If you do not have a strong sense of who you are and what you want to communicate to your audience you make decisions to sabotage who you are. You will say yes to everything because fear will drive your decision making process.

In this business if you want to maintain yourself you have to be prepared to say no even if it cost you. It is not an easy decision for most artist. I was shocked when I first moved to Los Angeles and lead a bible study of Christian women who had been given the opportunity to sleep their way to

I ended up homeless because my boss propositioned me, and when I wouldn't sleep with him he didn't give me my paycheck. I got kicked out of where I was living, and my rent was due that next day. I thought, 'Well, I'll live in my car for a minute ... get back on my feet,' but I had bad kidneys, and I never could hold down another job because I got sick so often. I didn't have insurance and ended up almost dying in the parking lot of an emergency room because they wouldn't admit me because I didn't have insurance.

I ended up homeless for about a month, and I went back to singing.

Jewel

the top. I was more shocked to know some of these women had even taken the opportunity given to them and the others had strongly considered it. All of these women of faith now attribute having a strong community around them as the main source of support helping them make better decisions as they pursue their dreams in Hollywood.

Young Deaths In Hollywood

1. Heath Ledger 28
2. Brittany Murphy 32
3. Paul Walker 40
4. Amy Winehouse 27
5. Whitney Houston 48
6. Aaliyah 22
7. Michael Jackson 50
8. Natasha Richardson 45
9. Marilyn Monroe 26
10. Lisa Lopez 30
11. Brandon Lee 28
12. Chris Farley 33
13. Gary Coleman 42
14. Heather O'Rourke 13

On the Road to Success

Artist who were homeless...

1. Jim Carey
2. Halle Berry
3. Harry Houdini
4. Hilary Swank: Homeless because her mother could not pay rent while they were attempting to get Hilary to break into show biz.
5. Drew Carey
6. Jennifer Lopez: Parents didn't believe in her and her ability to dance.

On the Road to Success

Artist who started in porn.

1. Jackie Chan
2. Marilyn Monroe
3. Mat LeBlanc
4. Cameron Diaz
5. Sylvester Stallone

Beauty I AM's Artist

Here is a look at the number of artist Beauty I AM has encountered after 5 years of working in LA who are struggling with or have struggled with at least one of these topics mentioned below.

1. Lack of Parents Support **6**
2. New to LA **8**
3. Relational Stress **8**
4. Sleep to the Top **10**
5. Rejection from Industry **16**
6. Feat of Money **22**

Each obstacle demands the support of a strong community to encourage artist to fulfill what God has made them to do.

At 22 I was a young aspiring actress fresh out of theatre school. One evening while at work I was approached by a well known director who was also responsible for helping many A-list celebrities break into the business. I did my own research and I found his credentials to be very accurate according to his IMDB page.

When the director approached me he said he'd liked to create films around the actress and that he needed to know me better than anyone else did. He also asked many questions about my relationship with my father. In the moment I did not catch on to the fact that he had a certain type of woman he was looking for.

After meeting with him he sent me home with 4 movies he directed and he asked me to watch them and let him know what I thought about them and if I was interested in working with him on a future film. The first video I watched was a wholesome romantic comedy. I was really excited until I watched the next film which started to get graphic, and the last two films were basically pornography.

I was confused by the wide range of genre so I had decided that the next time we met I would let him know I was interested in shooting with him if it were similar to wholesome romantic, but he was quick to let me know that he was envisioning a film more like the last two films he had we watch.

The community around me started researching him more, because they were not comfortable with the relationship he was forming with me. In their research they found several other actors had shared the same experience with him and unfortunately many of them took the opportunity to sleep their way to the top and were never put in the film they were promised.

Despite being Christian I still wrestled with taking bad opportunities. Walking away from him now makes me more grateful for the community around me otherwise I may have made different decisions to become successful. Another girl did go on to play the role and the film flopped. For me, I learned that I could gain the whole world but it was not worth forfeiting my soul. If you are going to be a woman of integrity you have to ask yourself, "Do you care more about success or more about your character?" There was a time when I would have chosen success out of desperation, but now I can say with the support of a strong community around me I am able to choose integrity even if it means turning down a role.