

The Glamorous Life of Lauren Bradshaw

By Ashley Williams

Lauren Bradshaw walked across the civic center stage in winter 2004 graduating with degrees in creative writing and theater. Yet, she had no firm idea what she wanted to do post graduation. She always dreamed of being an actress but had doubts about that being her career.

Bradshaw, a former resident of Roswell, Georgia, realized her junior year of college she wanted to pursue a degree in writing because she “always loved writing, and English was [her] best subject in school.” So as an experiment, she took an article and essay workshop class over the summer before her junior year. She loved it and added creative writing as a major while also pursuing a degree in theater. Within the class she was able to write a movie review as well as an article about a local coffee shop in Tallahassee. However, the class that had the most impact on Bradshaw was her fiction-writing workshop with Julianna Baggott.

She says Professor Baggott “was a great person to talk to, a mentor of sorts,” and suggested she go into magazine publishing.

While attending FSU, Bradshaw did all the “typical” college things. Her favorite hang-out spot and bar was Bullwinkle’s and she was the manager at TCBY on Tennessee Street. But after graduating from FSU, Bradshaw wasn’t where she expected to be. She worked at the mall and still lived with her parents in Roswell. As Bradshaw recalls, breaking into the entertainment industry, or even the writing industry, took a lot of hard work and what she calls, desperation. She began by sending her resume and some “clips,” which were basically writing samples from classes, to a few publications she wanted to pursue: The Paris Review, Seventeen magazine, and Marie Claire. She heard back from The Paris Review a few weeks later and was offered an interview. Bradshaw flew to New York City and while at her interview with The Paris Review, decided that it might not be for her. So she literally went to the front doors of major magazines such as Seventeen, Marie Claire and CosmoGIRL!

She got past security to enter the offices of Marie Claire but they were not looking for an intern. However, the internship coordinator stated that CosmoGIRL! had recently posted an opportunity on ED2010.com, a website dedicated to magazine internships and jobs. Right away, Bradshaw rushed to Office Depot to use

their Internet but unfortunately that was the “one day in history that the website was down.” So in an act of desperation, she “went straight to [their] office instead.” She met with the internship coordinator and about a week later while “stocking shelves at [her] retail job in Roswell,” she was offered an internship.

She was an intern for five months and had “about twelve interviews, five freelance assignments and one bad gig as a host at a theme restaurant.” Then through networking and a few good connections, Bradshaw became the post-grad intern at Glamour magazine. She stayed there for a semester and, by luck of the draw, an editorial assistant left Glamour to go to Cosmopolitan; as a result, the vacant position created an opportunity for Bradshaw.

She decided to interview for the job, and was lucky enough to get a permanent position at Glamour. She became the editorial assistant under the Entertainment Director Alison Ward Frank and two of the deputy editors.

Under the entertainment director, she wrote “captions under paparazzi photos, reviewed new movies and albums, covered red carpet events, read a ton of tabloids, pitched actresses for fashion stories and even interviewed celebrities for features in the magazines.” Some of the celebrities she was able to interview for features were: Vanessa Hudgens, Vanessa Williams, Jada Pinkett Smith, Hayden Panettiere, Ivanka Trump, Rachel Ray, Olivia Wilde and lots more. She also began to go on cover shoots, such as the shoot for the October 2007 cover with America Ferrera, and to attend the

Sundance Film Festival, as well as Tribeca Film Festival. A few red carpet events she was able to attend were New York Fashion Week and the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), where she interviewed people such as supermodel Heidi Klum, Diddy, and actresses Christina Ricci, Diane Kruger, and Kerry Washington.

For the deputy editors at Glamour, Bradshaw wrote captions for the fashion features and helped with the Glamour Women of the Year awards. For this event she was the contact for the advisory board members, orga-



nized votes, and helped to coordinate almost everything leading up to the big annual event. A few moments Bradshaw described as “surreal” were working the red carpet at the Met Gala and helping coordinate Glamour’s table for the White House Correspondents Dinner in Washington, D.C. One Weekend, she was also able to

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shadow an actress who introduced her to a few friends at the Vanity Fair party afterwards.