

Talent Biographies

Episode 1 – Tom Landis, Dallas, TX



Tom Landis, a Dallas entrepreneur, owns a chain of ice cream stores called Howdy Homemade Ice Cream. Raised by a mother with polio, Tom has always been dedicated to helping those with physical challenges and developmental disabilities. That's why he only employs people with special needs at Howdy, like his store manager Kalin O'Brien. Together Tom and Kalin are leading a movement to bring diversity to the workplace and help eradicate the stereotypes surrounding people with special needs.

Episode 2 – Angela Luna, Los Angeles, CA



While studying at the Parsons School of Design in New York, Angela Luna fostered a desire to combine her love for fashion with a strong sense of public service. Impacted by the suffering endured by displaced people – refugees, the homeless and victims of disasters – Angela designed an innovative multi-function jacket that offers protection during the day and shelter at night: a jacket that turns into a tent. Together with her classmate and fellow designer, Autumn Beckens, the friends look to reinvigorate their creativity and focus once again on designing clothes that empower the wearer.

Episode 3 – Eric & Corey Maison, Detroit, MI



Corey Maison is a transgender teenager who has identified as female since the age of two. Her decision to transition gave her parent, Eric, the courage to transition from female to male soon afterwards. Over the last four years, Corey and Eric's lives have been a media circus, as they've been the subject of countless articles and stories. Through it all, their bond as father and daughter has been sustained by their love for each other and a shared determination to live their truth.

Episode 4 – Mandy Harvey, Orlando, FL



When Mandy Harvey was a child, music was her life. Growing up in south Florida, she sang in a choir and had her heart set on becoming a music director. But at the age of 18, tragedy struck. Mandy lost her residual hearing, forcing her to set aside her dream, which plunged her into depression. Fortunately, her father had an idea: sing a new song. Mandy kicked off her shoes to feel the beat through her feet, belted out a song and began a new career as a singer and recording artist. She started with vocal lessons, tested the waters in jazz clubs, and eventually made it to the finals of America's Got Talent. Despite the obstacles placed in her way, Mandy is truly living her dream.