

Kelly Harrison plays Paramedic Nikki Marshall



Originally wanting to be a dancer, Kelly fell into modelling when she was spotted on the streets of San Francisco. “My parents couldn’t afford the fees for me to go to stage school, so I planned to use modelling to enable me to dance.” Modelling, however, took over and Kelly worked on a number of major campaigns spanning beauty and fashion projects as well as commercials and pop videos. Based in London, her work took her to places ranging from Japan to Paris.

Four years later, missing home and disillusioned with modelling, Kelly left London and found herself a job near home in Doncaster. Out of the blue, she was contacted by her old modelling agency in Sheffield who sent her for an audition for the film *Dream* the day after her 21st birthday. With no acting experience whatsoever, Kelly was picked from 2,000 girls to play the part of Emma in the film.

It was actually thanks to her co-stars Sinead Cusack and Brian Conley that she landed herself an agent. “Brian told his agent about me and bullied me into arranging a meeting. Not expecting to be taken on, I went along for some advice and was sent for an audition the next day.” The audition, her first, was for *Casualty*.

Age: 22

Home town: Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Similarities with Nikki: “We’re both young, vibrant, happy and always up for a laugh. We also both have a flair for life. She’s much more headstrong than me though and loves confrontation, which I hate.”

Nikki’s best and worst traits: “Nikki is a real team player and very loveable. She showed her kind side when Jack was diagnosed with cancer and was hurt by his rejection. On the flip side, she is renowned for putting her foot in it and can be extremely tactless.”

Kelly’s real-life *Casualty*: “I was a complete tomboy and rogue when I was a kid and broke my arm when I fell off the top bunk bed. But I went out on my bike afterwards and jarred it and made it even worse. I can’t remember much about going to hospital.”

On-screen romance: “Despite a more ‘off’ than ‘on’ relationship with Jack, there is still a real spark between them and they only really have eyes for each other.”

Favourite food and music: “Crisps and cheese are my favourite foods. I’m an all-rounder music-wise and love anything from clubbing and dance music to the variety of Radio 2.”

How do you keep in shape?: “I don’t do as much as I should, but try to go to aerobics classes once or twice a week. I also walk wherever possible instead of taking the car.”

How do you relax?: “By watching a girly DVD, washing my car or listening to the radio.”

Did you know?

- Kelly researches hairstyles and fashion trends for Nikki on the streets. “Most parents must think I’m mad as I stare at their kids to pick up on the latest trends. I go in to work and suggest things I’ve seen.”