

Samantha's one Faire lady!



COURTESY PHOTOS

Samantha Harris at King Richard's Faire at age 6, right, and more recently as the Maiden in Red, above.

The distance from **King Richard's Faire** to Hollywood might not be that far after all.

Samantha Harris has hosted everything from "Dancing with the Stars" to "Entertainment Tonight," but the veteran TV journalist and actor honed her craft playing a fair maiden in the 80-acre forest in Carver where her parents started the summer Renaissance theme park.

"I did everything from performing as a gypsy dancer to working a tremendous amount of time in the gift store," Samantha told the *Track*. "I would hawk the products and yell at the top of my lungs to sell T-shirts and mugs ... I even sold programs for 25 cents a piece at age 7. They're free! My parents found

me with pockets full of change wondering how I got it all."

Harris, who lives in L.A. with her husband and two daughters, will head east to the magical forest after the faire opens Labor Day weekend.

"I go back every season," said Samantha. "My older daughter is almost 5, and I took her last year."

Known for a cut physique that's been on the cover of countless women's magazines, the seasoned athlete (she frequently climbed the stairs in the "Entertainment Tonight" studio's eight-story parking garage with weights on her hands) has a new gig hosting **NBC's** high-octane reality competition show "Stars Earn Stripes." The show pairs eight celebrities with eight elite military and first-responders, and throws them into pseudo-special ops missions, all to benefit simpatco charities.

"We have live ammunition and explosions, and helicopter drops while making really sharp turns," Harris said of the show, which features stars such as **Dean Cain**, **Nick Lachey**, **Laila Ali**, and **Todd Palin**. "What's amazing about our location (in Southern California) is that it looks like we're in the middle of Afghanistan!"



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