

SAMANTHA HARRIS

RUNWAY
Exclusive

of Entertainment Tonight

by Karen McKnight

Once described by her *Dancing with the Stars* co-host Tom Bergeron as "powered by an invisible energy source," this talented Emmy Award-nominee is the quintessential over-achiever. As the co-host of *DWTS* for eight seasons (2006 – 2009), she hit the Hollywood radar screen as the charming champion of the hit show's amateur dance contestants and hasn't looked back since.

In her current role as correspondent and substitute co-host on Entertainment Tonight, Harris writes, produces and appears on screen, making it all look fabulously effortless. Among her long list of entertainment credentials, she's interviewed hundreds of A-list celebrities from Tom Cruise to Oprah and Jennifer Aniston. A red carpet veteran, she's covered the SAG awards, the Golden Globes, the Emmys and the Oscars; she co-hosted the

live, official, red carpet pre-show for ABC's *80th Annual Academy Awards* with Regis Philbin, seen by nearly one billion people worldwide. And her talents don't stop at interviewing - she starred in the Broadway musical *Chicago* in 2009, playing the character "Roxie Hart" to sold-out audiences in New York.

Harris is also a known fitness fanatic. Her dedication to Bikram yoga, cardio sculpting and dance is well documented. Can you say abs to die for?

Married to husband Michael Hess and mom to 3-year-old daughter, Josselyn, this busy wonder woman recently announced she's pregnant with her second child, due in January 2011.

Runway: What is your biggest challenge as a working mom in Hollywood?

Samantha Harris: As for all working moms ... the constant juggling act. I am a 'give-it-my-all' type of person. I want to make sure I am firing at 100% for work but also for family. Where that usually leaves me short is 'me time'.

R: You seem to never stop moving. What's your secret for balancing your busy work schedule and finding time to be with your family?

SH: Some days this works better than others, but I'm usually trying everything I can to be there to wake up with our daughter and put her down for bedtime. Of course, now add to that a second baby! Weekends are essential for family time. Some weekends I do have to work, but making family time a priority above all other things is important.

R: In 2009 you starred on Broadway, playing "Roxie Hart" in *Chicago*. Would you like to work on another Broadway show?

SH: Broadway was a dream come true! Working seven days a week with the dual-duty of my TV show every day was a huge challenge, but it seems to be that the biggest challenges reap the greatest rewards. You never know what the future holds!

R: You're a red carpet veteran. What is your favorite red carpet moment?

SH: Interviewing Brad Pitt at the SAG Awards in 2009. He was just so charming and hilarious!

R: When you're preparing for the red carpet, do you know weeks in advance what you're going to wear or is it a last minute decision?

SH: Usually we narrow in on final gown choices 1-2 weeks in advance but there is always last-minute tailoring and jewels to finalize.

R: Who are your favorite designers?

SH: David Meister and Pamela Roland have always been very good to me. I also love Ina Soliani's gowns; she has a unique flair for beautiful gowns.

R: How would you describe your off-screen style?

SH: (laughing) Casual jeans and a baseball cap mom-on-the-go. I prefer comfort over style during my off-days. But it's also nice to throw on a statement necklace over a basic tank to give the outfit some panache.

R: You've been mentioned as a possible guest on *Dancing with the Stars*. Are you considering that?

SH: I am honored by the thought, but after eight incredible seasons as host with Tom where we couldn't be voted off, I don't think I could dance in their shoes. The competition has become fierce. But you never know - stranger things have happened!

R: What do you dream of doing that you haven't done yet?

SH: Cruise the Greek Islands! I love to explore and travel. That's one reason I have always loved watching [the television show] *The Amazing Race*!

R: What is the one thing you think is most important for you as a mother to teach to your daughter?

SH: To honor herself. It's essential for all aspects of life to have self-confidence and know your worth and how important you are to those who love you.

