

# 'Sunny' Brown VJ Extraordinaire

*An Interview With Chris Cummins*

**S**unny Brown has come a long way in a short time. Cool, calm and collected, she knows what she wants in life and goes after it with determination.

At 23, she is already a considerable presence in the Thai entertainment business. In the last five years, she has modeled, acted in Thai films and TV series and hosted her own TV shows for Channel V Thailand.

Born Sunissa Brown in England to a Thai mother and a British father, she'd barely learned to walk when the family packed up and moved to Perth, Western Australia.

After she finished high school in 1998, she deferred university for a year and set off to see the world.

Her initial plan was to make a stop in Thailand then head to Europe. But it wasn't to be. The land of smiles claimed her as one of their own.

"I started with Thailand and I'm still here. I came for a holiday with my mum because we had some relatives here" she said.

Sunny spent her first three years in Ladprao, Bangkok with her mother where she embarked on a modeling career.

"My first year in Bangkok I was getting a bit restless" she said. "I wanted to find something else to do besides modeling and make a decision about how long I should stay in Thailand" she said.

"I wanted something more regular. I was watching Channel V (UBC network) one day and I realized that being a VJ was something I could try. So I went along for a screen test".

At the audition, Sunny was simply asked to chat to camera and be herself. Needless to say, that was enough.

"When I started at Channel V, I tried a variety of shows. Live to air, outside broadcasts and studio programs. Now I am filming once a week doing tapes in the studio which takes about half a day" she said.

Sunny has three programs on air at Channel V. The

Billboard US Countdown (billboard singles and albums charts from the US) which airs every Saturday night and rerun once during the week, the Thailand Top 20 (countdown of the top 20 international hits in Thailand) shown every Sunday and rerun once during the week and Club V, a daily program at midnight featuring club and dance music.

Her job at Channel V has also given Sunny the opportunity to travel - a desire cut short some five years ago.

"Travel's a big factor for me when I'm considering which roles or projects to take" she said.

"I worked for Channel V International for 6 months in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was great experience. It gave me a chance to improve myself and get constructive criticism from other people".

"I had to do some work on my voice initially. In Malaysia, they wanted me to develop a more trans-Atlantic sound".

So she quickly took some voice lessons and studied as many accents as time permitted.

"My accent isn't as broad as it used to be. People can't really tell where I'm from these



days" Sunny said.

"KL is different to Bangkok. Here it's more relaxed, fun and easy going. Channel V is like a second home - everyone's so friendly. I think I've been spoilt living in Thailand, it makes it very hard to leave".

As a mainstream VJ, she is expected to keep herself up to date with the latest music and music videos and familiarize herself with the script before filming each show.

Her music tastes change from year to year but an enduring favorite is the British band Jamiroquai.

In 2002, Sunny broke into films with a co-lead role in the Thai film "Sab Sur" or Tigress of King River.

"Sab Sur" tells the tale of an ex soldier and an ex-monk who arrive at King River. They soon discover locals are being killed by a tiger possessed by a woman who was tortured and killed in a previous life. The lead characters are all connected from a previous life.

A 1900's Karen village replica was built in Sankla Buri, Kanchanaburi province, close

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