

Profile Story

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Blooming Actress Hannah Papizan

During her senior year of high school, an aspiring actress was emotionally abused. A meticulous creative with a laissez-faire Baton Rouge attitude arose from the pain.

Hannah Papizan is an actress, singer, artist and nanny. She is easygoing except when it comes to work. Being creative gives her life harmony. She is in love with the life she has created for herself. She has several different things to keep her fulfilled.

She sells handmade art, works at a boutique and teaches acting and vocals. One of her favorite side gigs is her art shop, *Water Your Garden*. She displays her handmade candles, hand embroidery, paintings and more.

Papizan, with a bubbly smile, said, “I love this life I’ve made for myself. Each day I wake up, I know that I have set myself up for a wonderful day.”

She hasn’t always had this cheerful attitude about her day. During her senior year, she was assigned a new drama teacher. The manipulative teacher made Papizan feel like she couldn’t pursue her dream. The emotionally abusive teacher, whom she didn't want to name, destroyed her confidence—a complete 180 to how she exudes herself now.

Papizan said, “He destroyed my confidence, and I did not perform for multiple years after that experience.”

Papizan is the hardest worker on every set. Ellen Starkey, a director who has worked with Papizan, shared that she was always the most prepared and diligent in her desire to improve. Starkey added that as Papizan strove to be the best while performing, she remained humble and sought to lift the talents of others.

“Hannah is that girl who makes everyone else look lazy,” Starkey said. “You will find her work ethic to be unparalleled. She is the worker we all dream of hiring.”

Although Papizan is a meticulously hard worker, college life gave her a different spin. She got a concussion in an accident and had to move back home. She wasn’t able to drive and was

vomiting constantly. While going through all this, a close friend passed away very suddenly. She was going through physical anguish and emotional agony.

Papizan said, "I spent two years in a fog. No singing, dancing or performing. I truly lost myself."

The things that dug her out of the rut from her drama teacher and her unique college experience were her family and gratitude. She has two "lovely" brothers, a "doting" father and a "thoughtful" mother. Papizan's family means everything to her.

"Me and my family are extremely close, and still are to this day. The relationships I have are more important than anything else in my life," Papizan said.

Papizan treats everyone with respect. She was playing the lead of Mary Poppins and had impeccable timing. She knew when to slow down or speed up so her co-stars could get into rhythm director, Starkey stressed.

It is about more than just her performance. Papizan is a great leader and cares about how others perform.

"Papizan is very directable," Starkey said. "She takes notes and directions very seriously and is committed to listening to directions. You tell Hannah one time, and you can count on not having to give that direction again."

Papizan is devoted to what she does and is relentless when working. Although intelligent and talented, she doesn't let her ego show. "She has an innate ability to read the room and respond to cues in the perfect way," Starkey added.

Papizan's 21-year-old brother Benjamin Papizan said, "None of it is for show. She doesn't stop even when she is home. She is one the kindest people I know and one of the hardest working."

The only time Papizan isn't kind is when she plays a character. She repressed her bubbly personality as she played a severe character, Stacey, in the 2024 short film *Vice*. She wrote this short film, and it was nominated for a Louisiana Film Prize award.

"It was weird seeing Hannah in such a gloomy performance, but she showed how skillful she can be," Benjamin Papizan said.

The short film *Vice* is Papizan's baby right now. She has been excited about taking steps into the film world. It is a different feel for her because she performs in front of a crew. *Vice* debuted in October at the Louisiana Film Prize festival, with Papizan nominated for best actress.

Madison Allen reviewed *Vice* and said, "It was a thoughtful film on the angst of loss. Hannah Papizan played Stacey with great care and sensitivity."

Papizan, chiefly a theatrical performer, has recently delved into film. Her dream job would be to appear on Broadway, playing Glinda the Good Witch in *Wicked*. Knowing her drive, commitment and tenacity, it's probably just a matter of time.

Papizan looks up to and admires Reese Witherspoon, another Louisiana native. "I absolutely love Reese Witherspoon and her work and her business mindset," Papizan said.

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Sources:

www.prizefest.com

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