Shelly Marks, developer of a show titled "Hunting for Girls"



Michael Blair/MBlair@News-Herald.com

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Story by Jean Bonchak | JBonchak@News-Herald.com

Shelly Marks says she's trying to create a serious hunting show for a female audience.

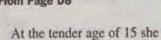
The beautiful nuluess Having taken her shot on

a reality modeling show, Bainbridge Township's Shelly Marks has her sights on a new target helly Marks has her sights set on showing the world that hunting isn't just for testosterone-infused men anymore. ¶ Marks, 40, a model and actress who recently com-

the TV Land reality show "She's Got the Look," hasn't wasted any time taking aim at her next project - a hunting show with a hint of femininity. ¶ The background of the Bainbridge Township gal who drew in audiences with her stunning good looks and dramatic interludes on the reality show, a competition for models over age 35, proves that she's not afraid to take on new challenges. See Huntress, Page D7 TV Land Shelly Marks strutted her stuff recently on the TV Land Show "She's Got the Look."

pleted several episodes as a contestant on

The News-Herald



Huntress

Later, she spent time in Toyko showcasing her talent in print and television commercials. A bit of movie acting, stuntwork and theater also are part of her lengthy

hopped on the traveling fashion show circuit modeling at shopping malls throughout Northeast

a lifetime of targeting new enterprises. 'Hunting for Girls' Along with business partner

media members hoping to hook the attention of networks. Davis noted that they've already received positive feedback from producers in New

Tuning in for the first time, some viewers may think they're

York and Los Angeles.

in store for a show based on pursuing females. They'll be surprised, and, Marks hopes, retain interest, when they discover that much of the show focuses on the trend of women taking up hunting as a hobby. Citing statistics from the National Sporting Goods Associ-

ation that women's hunting jumped by 75 percent in 2005, Marks and Davis are convinced that a fresh audience awaits. Davis said "Hunting for Girls" is the most marketable project on which he's worked because of its uniqueness.

Marks said. "Hunting shows are typically boring to those who are not hunting-oriented." The pair are rolling out new concepts in an attempt to prevent

such as venison, buffalo and wild boar will be introduced. 'Gotta Have That" (tech gad-

etc.) and a yet-to-be announced topic promised to deliver a "wow" factor also will be included. Marks, who hosts the show,

environment. and trim figure, she insists that the show will not deviate from its

Outdoors experience Marks' fascination and famil-

a youngster during family outings spent camping and fishing. About four years ago, while going through a divorce, the

mother of two met Geauga County landscape architect Steve Kellermann, who introduced her

placed a crossbow in her hands

and taught her how to use it.

Thus, the opportunity to present sport, skill, travel and technology wrapped in a new format is just the latest in what has been

Rob Davis, Marks has produced a demo titled "Hunting for Girls." The pair are shopping it to key

"It's an untapped market,"

that from happening. Segments such as "Cooking Wild" featuring Marks' familiarity with preparing frontier foods

deer?

derness. It's hunting season. You

don't want to lose your husband."

or two, Marks said the proprietors

of a 250-acre preserve located

there were welcoming and help-

Plans are to film the show at

different spots around the country

and eventually expand outward to

The demo was shot at Nelson

Ledges Quarry Park in Portage

get it done in Cleveland is totally

wrong," Davis said.

places such as Mexico and

Africa.

gate, waman'e hunting annan

possesses an exuberant personality and an earthy, natural beauty that blends well with an outdoors Despite her obvious good looks

intended path to present a form of "Hot Chick Hunting."

iarity with the outdoors began as

Davis said about \$300,000 would cover costs to create the first 15 episodes. The pair intends to staff the to hunting. show with a Cleveland-based The "woodsy guy," as Marks refers to him, took her to Geauga crew. "The perception that you can't Bow in Middlefield, where he



"Go with him and have fun," started," she said. Kellermann is convinced that she said. "If you want to hunt and Marks has a good shot in seeing harvest an animal, fine, but you the show come to fruition. LeBron James in commercials for don't have to. Just enjoy the wil-

During a recent interview, she comes to her career, she pretty much gets it done," he said. The experienced outdoorsman relished relating a supportive and oft-quoted statement by fellow outdoorswoman Sarah Palin, "We added that he watches several hunting shows and that they're all eat, therefore we hunt." very similar and directed toward Bringing it to Bucksnort

men. He noted that a niche for women exists. The huntress laughed while "It seems like it's in its infancy recounting a story about a recent trip to Bucksnort, Tenn., to constages," he said. "There's a stigma that hunting is for guys, duct research. Though the name of the town may draw a snicker

but once girls take it up they seem to enjoy it. Women like the outdoors and being in nature when they garden and camp. Hunting is even more so."

"Once she sets her mind to

something, especially when it

Hunting aside Marks started working as a teen for the David and Lee Modeling Agency, where she was kept busy with several assignments. A 1987 graduate of Nordonia High

back seat to her budding career. However, persevering with her education, she later graduated from Cleveland State University

with degrees in political science

tial professor introduced her to

"I loved it from the day I

and communications. An influen-

School, she says school took a

viewers would remember.

In line with similar comments

She recently appeared with

Dramatic appearances on epi-

sodes of "She's Got the Look

prompted producers to tell her that even though she landed in

fourth place, she was actually a

star of the show and someone

Vitamin Water and Nike.

from other reality show contestants and in defense of her "meltdowns," Marks claims that crafty editing presented scenes that sometimes veered from actual happenings.

At the show's finale party, judge Robert Verdi questioned the contestants about possible future plans. Marks revealed an interest in joining the cast of a soap opera.

Based on her reputation for

displaying drama, "the room was

in an uproar," she said. Laughs aside, this is one woman who is definitely on the hunt for a diversified and exciting

"I can't imagine doing anything

"I love this business," she said.

To find out more about Shelly Marks and her career, visit www.

shellymarks.com.

