

GT XXXTREME INTERVIEW: KELLEY JEAN

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Born and raised outside of Detroit, Kelley Jean has been involved in music since a very early age. Her father is a musician, and early on she was introduced to his collection of classic rock albums, in addition to listening in on band practices as a child. At that time, she also fell in love with theater, which was one of her initial goals. She sang, studied dance, and eventually launched a solo career as a recording artist, working mostly within the dance and electronica genres and building a fan base in Europe. She can also be heard locally on commercial jingles and advertising tracks.

Kelley Jean worked briefly in adult entertainment as a dancer and actress, but left the industry to pursue her own businesses. Today, she owns and manages a modeling agency, Motor City Dolls, and a party bus company, Good Life Limos. When Tight, the all-female rock band, lost their original singer, Monica Mayhem, she proved the perfect talent to step up to the microphone and join adult-actresses-turned-musicians Tuesday Cross, Alicia Andrews and Layla Labelle.

Tight, the documentary, follows the women, fronted by Mayhem, as they fulfill dates on a poorly booked, ill-financed tour that takes them through dive bars and one-star motels while trying to break into the music industry. Under the tutelage of manager Bree Olsen, the ladies do their best to hone their skills and survive.

Kelley Jean spoke to GT XXXtreme about the many projects she's involved in, from Tight to running her companies, raising her teenage son, her recording career, and using her many talents as a means of giving back to those in need.

With so many irons in the fire, how do make sure everything gets taken care of?

I guess I'm lucky, because I've owned Motor City Dolls for many years and most of it is handled online or by telephone. I take bookings and send girls out. The same goes for the party bus business. Most of that can be done online or by phone, so I don't have to drive around. Everything can be handled here. I have a 17-year-old son, too, so I have a really good balance of family life and taking care of business.

Is your son interested in music?

He's a drummer. I don't know if he can sing, because he won't sing in front of me!

Are you OK with him following in your footsteps?

If he wants to pursue being in a band, I don't think that would be such a bad thing. I would be there to help him and guide him through it. As far as the adult part, I was in it seven or eight years ago and I wouldn't want him to pursue that because the industry has changed greatly since I was in it. It has deglamorized; the value has really gone down.



You also danced in gentlemen's clubs. What led you to that field?

I did community theater growing up and always thought I had two left feet. As a teenager, I worked fast-food jobs and made \$250 a week. When I turned 18, I went to a strip club; I danced one night and walked out with \$500. It wasn't so much of a stretch — I was performing, but with my clothing off. I was a wild kid in high school, so being naked didn't bother me one bit. I didn't think twice about it. But I got consumed with the lifestyle because it's addictive; it really is. When you start making that kind of money and you know you can walk in every night and make that money, it's almost an addiction. I danced for about ten years. I worked in clubs and then I started my own business. We specialize in bachelor parties and we do a lot of modeling, comic book conventions around the United

States, car shows and things like that.

How did you launch Motor City Dolls and Good Life Limo?

I was doing the strip club thing and my girlfriend and I decided we could make more money doing bachelor parties. We called ourselves the Motor City Dolls, printed our own business cards, and we'd go to huge festivals like the Harley Fest and pass out cards. We started to build the business. It took off. We were booking so many parties that we needed help, so I hired my girlfriends and we kept building. My partner got married and retired and left everything to me. That's when I started getting into adult films and getting myself out there as a model in Detroit. I knew that if I were to build up my name, then they'd know the company name. So I utilized my own brand to build what the company is today. The party bus, my boyfriend and I have been saving money and putting it aside for years, and we decided to invest in this bus. It was a church bus, ironically. We got it from Ohio and we parked it in our driveway. He gutted it and rebuilt it to look like a strip club, with a bar, a pole, colored lights and a bathroom. We began renting it out five years ago. It does really well. It's booked every weekend. We recently bought another bus and he's gutting it and doing the same thing.

You mentioned that the adult industry has changed since you were a part of it. How so?

I did adult films for a short time. It was never my goal to be a porn star. I was offered some really good money, and when I did it, it was so much different than it is now. It was really glamorous and there were big stars. Jenna Jameson was really popular, and Jill Kelly, and they were making tons of money. Then the amateur industry took over and anybody can be in porn now. They offer maybe a third of what they used to offer. I still respect the industry, but I'm definitely not going to be involved in it, especially with the prices that they pay. I got in and got out really quick. I worked mostly in Miami or Detroit. I did about 40 titles and I was on numerous websites. I had good experiences and met really good people. I never did anything I didn't want to do. Everyone was always very professional. I was still dancing at the time. I retired from everything mainly because my son was becoming a teenager. When he was younger, it was a lot easier to keep those things from him. He didn't find out until last year that I had done adult films. When I won the Charlie Sheen contest to sing the National Anthem at his show, that was one of the main things that the radio station talked about, and my son started asking me questions. He was 16 and I was ready for the talk, so it worked out.

How did he react?

He's a very cool kid, so when I'd say I was going to the club, he thought it was just a club. I always kept him away from anything R-rated, even music had to be censored, but I never raised him in a box; he knows what's going on in the world. When we had the talk, he was OK, and as he gets older I'm sure he'll understand. It was a difficult talk, but it had to happen.

Tight launched with Monica Mayhem, who is also in the documentary. Has that caused some confusion for fans, as well as a challenge for you to step in as the frontperson?

It's pretty challenging. I'm being asked a lot of questions by a lot of people and I don't know the answers yet. It's a new thing for me. I'm ready to take it all the way, so hopefully the other girls will be on track with where I want to go. I hope they see that I'm serious. I want to tour.

Maybe you could tour with Gang Bang the Band, the all-male porn star group, if they're still around.

I didn't know there was an all-male porn star band! That's so funny! That would be so cool.



You've done a lot of stage and musicals, you're a trained and educated actress and dancer, and you studied ballet, tap and jazz.

I started training in acting when I was 9, when I did my first play. I was an orphan in *Annie*. I trained at summer workshops at colleges as a teenager and I had vocal coaches at a very early age. My dream was to become a Broadway star, but I partied in high school and that was the end of that dream.

Do you still dance?

I go-go dance with clothes on once in a while for the fun of it. It's like getting paid to exercise. A few years ago I did a burlesque show and that was really fun. I was the singer and I did songs like "Hey, Big Spender" and "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend." Those were fun shows. I'm sorry we don't do that anymore. We quit about four years ago.

You also have a recording background, and you write and co-write your material. Where do you track?

Who produces your work?

I record in Detroit at different studios. I write all the lyrics for the dance music. The producers send me the beats and I write the lyrics and melodies. The producers are all in Detroit. I've recorded with quite a few people. The most famous would be DJ Dan Diamond. He does a lot of the Exotica conventions and MCs a lot of them. I haven't really had a team of people behind me. It's been me. One of my best friends, the co-host and producer of [online television program] *Detroit Dungeon*, helps me. We've done everything ourselves and have never asked for help.

Where does your work ethic come from?

I think it came from being poor growing up. My mom raised me as a single mom, she was a waitress, we bought at garage sales and second-hand stores. She made a very nice life for me even though we didn't have a lot of money. When I turned 15, I found a job — you didn't need permission then. I started working at Dairy Queen and then Burger King. I always had a job, always. I bought my own clothes, I paid for my own lunches in high school, and I had to work.

You're a dog lover.

Yes! I have two dogs. Mylie is a lab mix, a rescue dog, and we were given our other dog, Max. He's a sharpei beagle mix. They're both around 3 years old. It was important to me to have rescue dogs. I was looking for another rescue and I took Mylie to a lot of places to meet other dogs and see how she'd get along with them. She didn't like any dogs I introduced her to. I found an ad online from a young couple who were having their second child and could no longer afford their dog. I said, "Bring him over." The dogs were like best friends right away, so I took him. There are so many dogs that need to be rescued. Why would you *not* rescue? They are amazing dogs!




You're also involved in charity work.

I've done charity work for a lot of different organizations. Anything I can get involved in, I do. I've done a lot for dog rescues. When Hurricane Katrina destroyed New Orleans, we raised a couple of thousand dollars with a bike wash. I have somewhat of a celebrity voice around Detroit and I feel that can make a difference if I try. I've been lucky through life. I've had a lot of great opportunities, and not everybody has that. I also wasn't always the cool kid. I was a huge geek until seventh grade, when I got my braces off and I got contacts. In junior high I was the popular new girl after we moved about an hour away. But I still feel like the underdog, and I want to be that voice and take up for people that get bullied. I always have, and especially with the way kids are now. I intercept my son's phone and I read his text messages, and some kid was telling him, "I hope you die." Kids are being raised to be this way toward each other. So even though I wouldn't say, "Take my example and be in adult," I want to use my voice to teach kids to be charitable and not be bullies and take care of the underdogs. In adult, when you're in intimate situations with people you don't know, you have to be open-minded and caring and respectful toward other people. It comes with the industry. Most people I've met in adult are good people; they're the people that are charitable and show love for others. It's the people who aren't in the industry that you've got to worry about. We live in a scary world.

Interviewed by

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