

People To Watch Sloane Morgan Siegel

A Local Chasing the Dream — By Victoria Kidd



Most of us have memories of parents, relatives, and childhood teachers telling us that we can be whatever we wish. At a young age, the world of possibilities is endless, and our capabilities are perceived to be infinite. We start our lives dreaming about what we will accomplish, but, for most of us, we fail to pursue our dreams with passion and conviction.

Those of us who do pursue their ambitions are a marvel to the rest of us. They have a seemingly endless supply of courage, and their stories inspire us. One such inspiring story is that of Sloane Morgan Siegel, a young man with local roots who is well on his way to having a successful acting career.

Siegel lives in California, but he is quick to tell you that he calls the Eastern Panhandle home. Born in the fall of 2000, He grew up on a family horse farm in Falling Waters, West Virginia. In this picturesque setting, Siegel's story started to take shape. "I'm really just a kid from West Virginia who grew up on a farm and decided to act," explains Siegel. The chain of events that led to this decision surprisingly set into motion on the soccer field. I love soccer. I played defense mostly, but my coach suggested that I look into gymnastics too."

Siegel's father, Harry Siegel, was happy to help his son pursue his passion. He says, "Sloane is an exceptional soccer player, but the coach thought that gymnastics would help him move his feet faster. I thought it was a great idea, so we signed him up. It turned out that gymnastics wasn't for him. Some of the kids that were in his class started talking about this hip hop dancing program they were involved in, and they said it was a lot of fun. Sloane expressed an interest, and we signed him up."

The young Siegel proved to be a natural hip hop dancer, and he was selected to represent the school at the 2010 Monsters of Hip Hop Competition in Reston, Virginia. Thousands of performers from around the world competed, but Siegel was a distinctive standout. His dancing was exceptional enough to clinch a top spot among the performers in his age group, but it was his intelligence, professional demeanor, and ability to take direction that really caught the attention of one of the choreographers involved with the competition.

Sensing Siegel's underlying talents, she recommended that he get involved with acting classes. Siegel's interest was piqued and, again, his parents signed him up for the classes he desired to take in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Soon after, Siegel's mother heard one of those all-too-common radio commercials about the potential to meet casting directors and industry insiders at a local event in Washington, D.C. Most of us dismiss these announcements, but the Siegel family brought their young star to participate. Hundreds of kids showed up at the designated time and place, but only three were selected for the school of actors. Siegel was one of the three selected. His selection would prove to truly be the turning point in his story.

On his very first day, the school's director asked his parents if it was acceptable to introduce Siegel to a Disney Casting Director. Siegel's parents immediately agreed, and the two met soon thereafter. Impressed with the young man, he selected Siegel to compete at an international competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. Out of thousands of competitors from all over the world, Siegel ranked fourth place, solidifying his ability to get noticed by agents, managers, and casting directors. He went on to win several acting awards, as well as a few scholarships to schools in New York. He continued to work at his new passion of acting, and he would go on to land his first small movie role in the film *Life Fine Tuned* from Renaissance Women's



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Productions in Virginia.

It would be the first of many exciting roles, and Siegel now has more than eighty-five roles to his credit. His résumé includes work in a number of commercials, music videos, feature films, and short films. Since moving to California, he has booked roles in forty-three films, nine television pilots, eight music videos, numerous voiceovers, and fourteen commercials.

He has also appeared in popular television shows such as *Big Time Rush*, where he makes a guest appearance in show number five of season three. He has been a lead in a hit web series called *Kids React*, a popular series with more than two million views per week. (That show was recognized with an award for the best variety web series by the International Academy of Web Television Awards.)

He continues to gain recognition, and people from across the country and in international locations are able to see his work. In the states, you may recognize him as the youngest member of the Steadman family, a fictitious family appearing in CyberLink's commercial and media spots. Alternatively, you may have seen him in one of his humorous Doritos commercials or in a music video by Ximena Sariñana or Ry Cook. He has even worked with big Hollywood actors such as Heather Graham, Rob Corddry, and Kevin Hart on a Fox TV Pilot called *Little in Common*.

His success has not come without sacrifice. These roles are the result of tireless dedication on behalf of both Siegel and his parents. An average day consists of three to four auditions, and these auditions are held all over Hollywood and the surrounding area. This equates to a lot of driving between locations, and it should be remembered that California traffic would be very foreign to some of us living in the Eastern Panhandle. For Siegel, the effort is part of the experience. He says, "Everyday is a new experience out here. It's a lot of work, but it is so exciting."

Each day brings the chance to

meet new people in the business, and Siegel has had the opportunity to meet and work with a number of incredible professionals while pursuing his dream. While he has undoubtedly enjoyed the experience, those he works with are equally impressed with him. James Cullen Bressack, a noteworthy director and producer, says of Siegel, "This kid is dynamite." Director Byron Washington says, "Sloane has a natural talent for acting and a great professional attitude." Numerous others have described him as attentive, detailed, and professional. The general consensus of everyone who works with him is that he has a long and productive career ahead of him.

One may wonder how his initial success and these accolades have impacted the young man, but Siegel's presence is one tempered with a humble nature and a quiet recognition that he still has much to learn. In many respects he is just

like any other young man his age. "I still ride a scooter and play video games," Siegel relays. "I love sports, and I am even a competitive indoor skydiver. I'm still a kid. I just happen to also be an actor."

Siegel's father says, "Every film that Sloane has been in has won an award of some kind. Nevertheless, Sloane is still an incredible young man with great humility. I can tell you with pride that he is a good son, and I am so proud of him." Siegel's father recognizes that his son has the perfect combination of talent, integrity, and drive to be successful, but he also has a compassionate and open heart of which any parent would be proud.

That drive has taken Siegel far in just a few short years. In addition to his continuing pursuit of acting roles, he is putting the finishing touches on his first film. "It is already in front of a few producers, and I know I have revised it more than ten times! I

have a lot of things I want to do. I want to be an actor who also writes and directs."

Truly, Siegel has a seemingly unending supply of ambition, and, while that ambition has taken him far from the Eastern Panhandle, he says that West Virginia will always be home. "This is where my roots are," Siegel says. "It is where I was raised, and although I am here in California for part of the time and there for part of the time, West Virginia will always be my home."

To follow the career of this incredible young West Virginian, visit his website at www.sloanesiegel.com or view his profile on IMDB at <http://pro.imdb.com/name/nm4470846/>. You can also keep up with Siegel's exciting career news through his page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sloane.siegel. As Siegel says, you will certainly be seeing him on big or small screen very soon!

Sloane has had the opportunity to work with many high-profile, Hollywood actors. He is shown here with Robert Davi, the actor known for his roles in *Die Hard*, *License to Kill*, and *The Goonies*.

