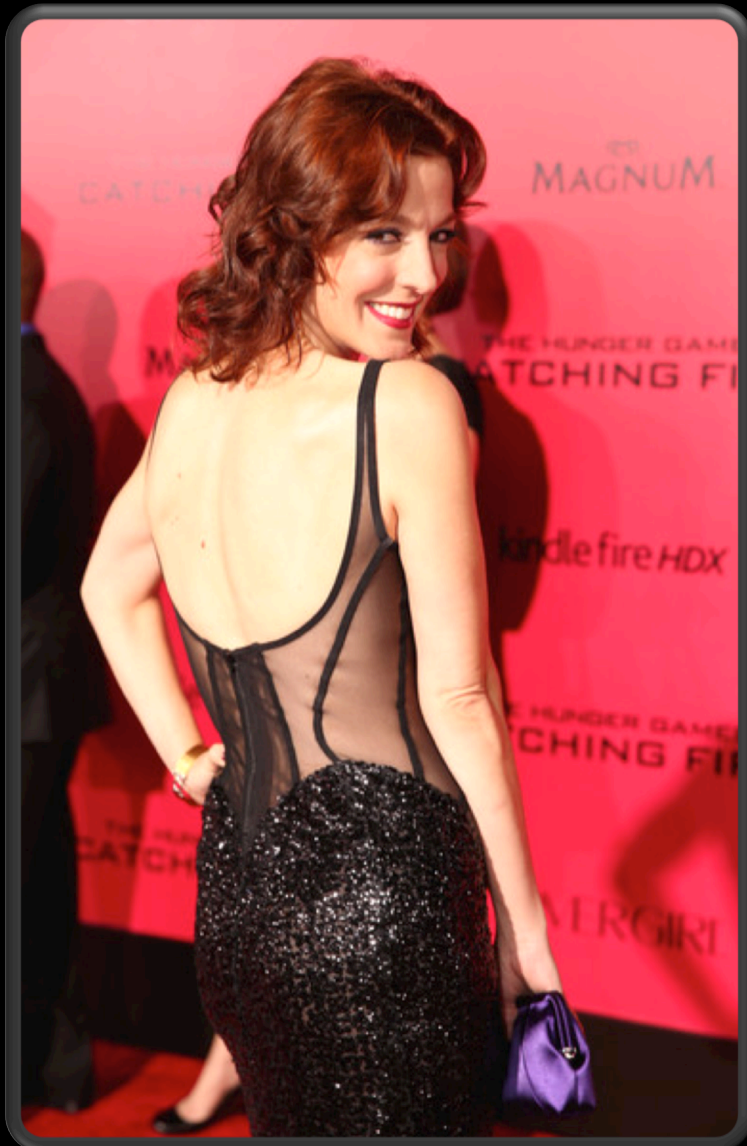


# Megan Hayes



ACTRESS, WRITER  
&  
PHILANTHROPIST

## Meet Megan...

The Atlanta native and NYU Tisch School of Drama Alumni, “SAG” actress has hit her stride alongside some of Hollywood’s biggest names, including a pivotal role as “Morphling Tribute” in her latest film, “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire”, directed by Francis Lawrence.

Megan’s complex role in “Hunger Games” was a lynchpin for the plot, and shows Megan’s range and depth in character development.

Her character in the movie was a former Victor of the games, who had fallen into drugs to deal with pressure from the responsibility of winning. She ultimately sacrificed herself to save the heroine’s life.

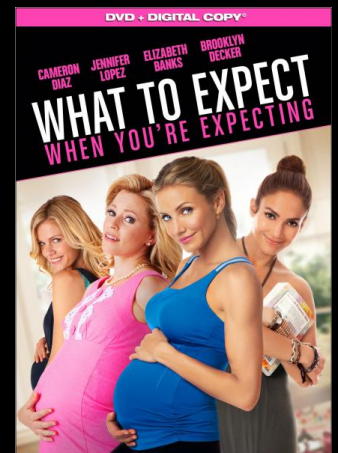
Before Hunger Games, Megan had several other film credits like the role of Bonnie in the thriller film “+1”, directed by Dennis Iliadis in 2013.

She also had a scene in “What to Expect When You’re Expecting.” directed by Kirk Jones, Starring Cameron Díaz, Elizabeth Banks, Jennifer Lopez, Dennis Quaid, and Chris Rock.

No stranger to the small screen Hayes has made a mark on a magnitude of projects as well.

### Cartoon Network

She had a role as “Pepper” in 4 episodes of “Restless Bell” on the Cartoon Network, directed by Dave Drabik. And she has a host of more than 40 voice credits for other shows on



Cartoon Network, like “Fark TV” & “Rising Son” which both aired on Adult Swim.

### HBO Entertainment

Hayes had a role as “Gloria” in one episode of HBO’s smash hit comedy “Eastbound and Down”



### BET Network

She has had several other roles on TV like episodes on BET’s “The Game”, and “Second Generation Wayans” directed by Marlon Wayans.



### TBS

Megan has been a “go to” actress for the producers of Tyler Perry’s TV Projects on TBS.

She has been brought in twice to work with that team for roles on “Tyler Perry’s: For Better or For Worse”, and “Tyler Perry’s: Meet The Browns”



Hayes on-stage credits are countless. Being no stranger to the stage she has worked at just about every Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. Gracing the stages of Alliance, Horizon, Atlanta Lyric, Georgia Shakespeare, and Jewish Theatre of the South to name a few. At Alliance Theatre, Megan played the role of Anne Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker* which was directed by Rosemary Newcott.

She also understudied the role of Honey in Alliance’s production of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* which starred Tracy Letts (Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *August: Osage County*) and Amy Morton (Two time Tony Award nominee).

She understudied the Role of Margo in Alliance’s world-premiere production of *Carapace* which was directed by two-time Tony Award winner Judith Ivey.

## Writing: Stage and Screen

Her full-length play *Opelika* received two sold out runs in New York. The first was with Southern Belle Productions and the second was with Third Eye Repertory.

Megan's play *Unnecessary Monsters* received a world premiere at Aurora Theatre in Atlanta. The play won a Suzi Bass Theatre award for Best Theatre for Youth Production.

She is currently working on a TV pilot with comedian Sherri Sutton, remembered for her opening act performance for Rosanne Barr.

## Charities:

Megan is an official ambassador for Planet.ECO (<http://planetdoteco.com>) an organization connecting people, communities and other organizations to work collaboratively to advance the sustainability of the planet.

Megan is also very active with the non-profit Blessings in a Backpack. (<http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org>) Through this organization Megan has helped shed light on the issue of child hunger in the US. Showcasing that many students have their last meal at school on Friday and are left hungry through the weekend until classes begin Monday morning. Every month Megan goes to an elementary school in south central LA and bags lunches with parent volunteers. These bags are then distributed to over 1,000 students before school lets out on Friday. Many of the students would not eat over the weekend without this organization.



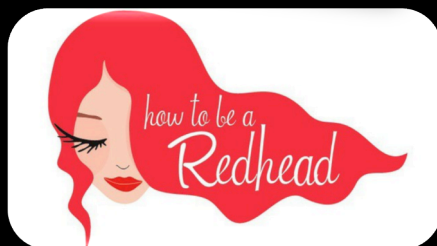


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# ZIMBIO

## Meet Megan Hayes, the 'Catching Fire' Tribute and Morphling Addict from District 6

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013



No matter how crazy the Hunger Games books and movies get, it's the tributes' universally understood struggle for survival that keeps us feeling grounded. *Catching Fire* ups the ante on both the book and movie with veteran tributes reaped from each district's pool of winners. These aren't hapless teens anymore. These are experienced killers.

To fully realize that world, every tribute went through a full casting process. Before filming began in Atlanta, Lionsgate opened up auditions to local talent, which is when Megan Hayes (whose previous work included an episode of *Eastbound & Down*, and indie horror +1), won the role of a drug addict from District 6. On Sunday we spoke with Megan over the phone as she prepared for Monday's red carpet premiere of *Catching Fire*. Here's what she had to say about her work in the movie, and how life has changed since she entered the arena.

**ZIMBIO:** Hi, so jumping right in, did you audition specifically for one of the morphlings?

Yes. I got an email that my audition was specifically for the morphling. So I changed my audition and sent it off to Jackie Burch, the [Atlanta] casting director through my agent who got me the audition. Then the callbacks were in person not too long before shooting started, maybe five weeks before shooting started. So at the callback it was me, my agent, Jackie Burch, and [director] Francis Lawrence in the room, and that was basically it. Then I think it was a week later that I got the call that I got the role.

So what was that like? I mean it's such a high profile movie.

Oh my god, when my agent called me to tell me that I booked the role, and that I was going to maybe shoot in Hawaii, and that it was a minimum of three weeks shooting, I mean I started screaming and sobbing all at the same time. My mother was there, and she was like, "Can you sit down? Because you're going to pass out." That was definitely a spaz fest on my end. Absolutely.

Were you a fan of the books or the movies or anything already?

I love the books, but honestly before I auditioned, I hadn't read any of them. And then I read them like a junkie on crack. They're such an addictive read. My mom read them. It was a big junkie fest of love for [author] Suzanne Collins.

You auditioned without having read the books, so what did you know about the morphlings before you auditioned?

I knew that they were tributes and former victors. I knew everything that's in the book. I knew they were addicted to morphling, which is a painkiller. And I knew her strength, I mean my character's strength, in the arena was camouflage. That's the basic gist of what I knew before I auditioned.

After you got the part, was there anything you did you do to prepare yourself?

The main thing was I had to lose some weight because they wanted me down to an underweight, malnourished look because of the drug addiction. Both of the morphlings are underweight, so I lost 12 pounds. I worked out five days a week. I watched a lot of movies like *Requiem for a Dream*, and *21 Grams*. I did a lot of online research on drugs I think would be similar to what morphling would be.

Wait, you watched *Requiem for a Dream* to research for the morphling?

I did! Because I wanted to watch movies about intense drug addictions, and that movie was so intense. It's amazing. It's surreal. It's so accurate, I mean not that I know firsthand, but I think Jared Leto's performance in that is unbelievable.

Yeah it really is. And it's such an intense movie.

Absolutely, but the morphling girl is pretty intense, so...

Once you got onto the set and you're playing this character, did you have to learn anything about body painting? Because there's this picture of you in *Entertainment Weekly* where you're painting Peet's body.

I didn't really actually — I did a bad thing because I really didn't learn that much about body painting.

That's okay. [Laughs] I'm not judging. I'm just curious what you went through.

[Laughs] I know, I know. And every time a makeup artist would paint like Josh Hutcherson's arm, or paint me because I had to be in makeup for a few hours every day, and I would look at myself when they were finished doing my makeup, and I'm like, "Wow, my character is a genius." [Laughs] She knows everything about painting herself, apparently by hand. And there's some twigs and branches of course.

What about working with Josh Hutcherson and Jennifer Lawrence?

They were incredible. Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson could not have been more gracious, and supportive, and caring. The whole set environment was really wonderful and family-like, and again the scene I did with Josh and Jen, it was just — they couldn't have been more awesome. The whole thing was an amazing experience for me personally.

So I know what I know from the book, and you can't really talk about what happens in the movie, but you do get to wear the wetsuit, and they put you in the arena.

Oh yeah I'm in the arena, that's for sure.

On Friday I spoke with James Logan, who plays the male from District 5 —

I love James Logan! He's the best.

He mentioned that the water was very cold. Did you have to be in the water?

Oh, yes, I was in the water constantly, but James was talking about a scene that was shot in Georgia, but the water I was in was in Hawaii, so it was cold, but not that cold. So I did luck out in that respect.

But I was in the water all the time — thrown in, dragged in, every which way in that water. And you'll see why when you see the movie.

The morphling characters are really interesting in the book. They're sort of mysterious characters. We don't know a whole lot about them, but they're these damaged drug addicts, of course. Did



you get to explore that in any unexpected ways?

Definitely. In the training center I got to explore the effects of the drugs, and the psychedelic aspect. Then also once I'm in the arena, or once my character is in the arena, not only is she scared for her life, but she's definitely going through withdrawal. She's not getting drugs, so unless her district is, like, parachuting in drugs, I don't think she's got a stash on her. She was such an interesting character to wrap my head around, and yeah I think she's terrified. She's going through withdrawal. She's got a lot going on, and that's the kind of character I love to try to tackle.

You're from Atlanta, they were shooting in Atlanta with a lot of local actors. Was there any sense of community there?

There's definitely a very active Atlanta acting community. And it's interesting too, because there were some other tributes who were local hires as well, so what's going to be really fun is [Monday] night at the premiere, I'm going to get to see exactly who all from Atlanta is in it. Because I know some people and don't know others who are in it. I've been joking on Facebook that Hollywood's about to have an Atlanta invasion. [Laughs] I'm super excited to get to the red carpet and see my buddies there. It's going to be great.

So you're going to the red carpet premiere Monday. That's going to be a gigantic experience. Probably the biggest red carpet you've been on, right?

Oh God, by far. I've been telling everyone, "This is my first time at the rodeo." So I'm very nervous, but I'm so excited. We're heading back from Palm Springs where we had this whole relaxation weekend leading into Monday, and it's just kind of everything you dream about as a kid wanting to be an actor.

Have you got your dress picked out?

I'm heading back to LA right now, and we're going straight to [designer] Mark Wong to get my final fitting.

So what's it been like dealing with the fans? Because the fans for Hunger Games are so active, and so passionate.

They're amazing. I've been getting fan mail since I was cast. I mean it's so ideal for me as an actor because I got into acting to be able to tell a really great story, and Hunger Games is this amazingly wonderful, interesting, female-driven story, and the fact that I'm a part of such a great story, and also something that's so wildly popular, it just doesn't get better than that.

Last question: After reading all the books now, and being in the movie, are you Team Peeta or Team Gale?

Oh are you s---ting me? There is no question. Team Peeta. Come on! I've got to stand by my morphling.

<http://www.zimbio.com/Zimbio+Exclusive+Interviews/articles/Pmit5vu20c3/Meet+Megan+Hayes+Catching+Fire+Tribute+Morphling>

## Best Dressed at the Catching Fire LA Premiere

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013



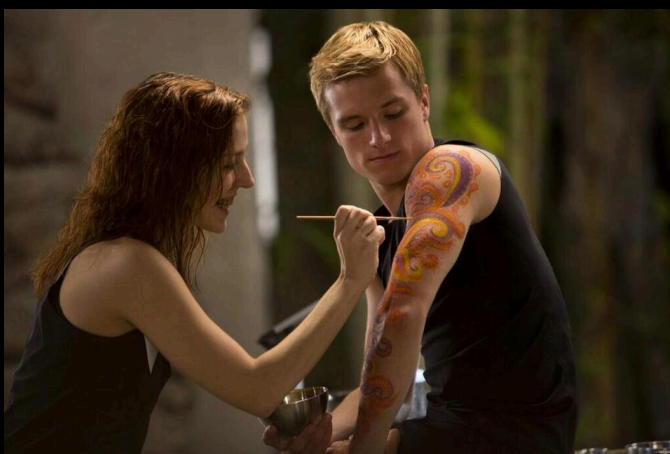
Actress Megan Hayes arrives at the premiere of Lionsgate's 'The Hunger Games: Catching Fire' at Nokia Theatre L.A.

[http://www.stylebistro.com/Best+Dressed+at+the+'Catching+Fire'+LA+Premiere/articles/B0SUI00\\_7r8/Megan+Hayes+in+Black+Sequins](http://www.stylebistro.com/Best+Dressed+at+the+'Catching+Fire'+LA+Premiere/articles/B0SUI00_7r8/Megan+Hayes+in+Black+Sequins)



## **Profile: Megan Hayes catches fire with key role in blockbuster “Hunger Games”**

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013



Megan Hayes was a terrible waitress. “I was fun, I was charming,” she says, “but you didn’t necessarily get what you ordered or have a fork with your meal.”

Hayes laughs as she recalls the various odd jobs she worked while pursuing her acting dreams, a list that also includes cashier and telemarketer. “I could only take three days of telemarketing,” she says. “It was miserable. I just never showed up for the fourth shift.”

Fortunately, Hayes’ clock-punching days are safely behind her. After more than a decade as a mainstay on Atlanta stages, the actor and playwright is about to be seen by her biggest audience yet with a role in the year’s hottest film, “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire,” opening Friday. For today, we’re on the outside patio of the Starbucks in The District at Howell Mill late on a warm September morning. Hayes, born and raised in Atlanta, is back home for a visit after a move to Los Angeles over the summer, but she wants to make it clear she hasn’t gone Hollywood.

“Forgive me if I keep my sunglasses on,” she says as the midday sun glares. “I’m not trying to be cool. If I tried to be cool, it would be wholly unsuccessful.”

As a child, Hayes never could have imagined performing for even one person, let alone millions. “No one believes me now when I say I was shy, but I really was,” she says. “Painfully.” She dreamed of becoming a marine biologist — “What kid at age 10 doesn’t want to be a marine

biologist?" — until a trip to New York City and a ticket to see "Les Miserables" inspired her to swap SCUBA gear for greasepaint.

Hayes says her love of acting overpowered her fear of performing. "I knew if I could be part of telling a story, to move someone like I was moved, that was it," she says. "So really I didn't think about going in front of an audience. I just wanted to tell a story."

After graduating with honors from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Hayes briefly found acting work in the Big Apple before returning to the Peach State and building a steady career in Atlanta theater. She's appeared in more than 20 local stage productions, including "The Miracle Worker" at the Alliance Theatre; "The Perfect Prayer," "Charm School" and "Tree" at Horizon Theatre; "Lend Me a Tenor" and "Butterflies are Free" for Stage Door Players; and last year's "Evelyn in Purgatory" for The Essential Theatre at Actor's Express. Talk to anyone who's worked with Hayes, and you'll get glowing reviews not just for her performances, but for her offstage persona as well. Words like "generous," "honest," "welcoming" and "kind" come up often. She reportedly smiles a lot. In short, she's just plain nice.

Colleagues like Robert Egizio, producing artistic director of Stage Door Players, say it's Hayes' genuine nature that gives truth to her characters. "She's got this great personality that allows herself to look foolish," Egizio says. "She's not one of those people who keeps up a façade in her real life, so what you see is what you get."

"Any enemies she's made have been very well hidden," jokes playwright Topher Payne. "If there's anybody who has a negative thing to say about Megan, then I think it would reveal more about them than it does about her."

Payne wrote "Evelyn in Purgatory" and co-starred with Hayes in the Essential Theatre's "Bat-Hamlet." He says Hayes inspires actors who work with her to work harder. "You take more risks with her, because you know she's bringing everything that she's got," Payne says. "She's not going to ask you to take a bigger risk than she's willing to take herself."

When not onstage, Hayes taught acting classes at theaters across town, including the Alliance Theatre, Jewish Theatre of the South and Aurora Theatre. Her knack for working with kids and teens caught the eye of the creative team at Aurora, who commissioned her to write "Unnecessary Monsters," an anti-bullying play that just won the 2013 Suzi Bass Award for Youth Production. Hayes was also nominated for the annual Gene-Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award, which recognizes a new play by an Atlanta playwright (Payne received the award).

"It's very affirming because it's my first time having ever been nominated as a writer, and for so many years I was shy and not even telling people I was a writer," she says of her first solo award win. "It's really an honor."

Hayes is equally encouraged to see recognition for the play's serious subject matter. "Bullying is an epidemic and it's insidious," she says. "A lot of people are scared to talk about it and they brush it under the rug. If ["Unnecessary Monsters"] illuminated how prevalent and horrendous bullying is to even one person, it's worth it to me."

The play's director, Jaclyn Hofmann, who also heads up the education program for Aurora Theatre, says one of the strengths of the play is that Hayes allowed her natural wit to come through in the script. "With a topic like bullying, you don't expect it to have comedic moments," Hofmann says. "But she was so brilliant at putting comedy into the show, as well as showing the truth of the pain and heartache."

Hayes drew from her own experiences with bullying as a kid and also reached out to her students to make the story relevant for today's youth. "I didn't want to be patronizing or condescending," she says. "When I was a teenager, I wanted none of that."

"She did a really good job portraying real people in real-life situations," says high school sophomore Katie Malcolm, 15, who studied under Hayes for five years at Aurora and helped workshop "Unnecessary Monsters." Malcolm says the play struck a chord with her friends, who told her they related to the characters and were inspired to prevent bullying in their own schools.



"It gave me a lot of hope," she says.

As is all but required for teenage girls right now, Malcolm also happens to be a huge "Hunger Games" fan and can't believe she's about to watch her teacher on the big screen. "I don't even know how I'm going to react when I go to the midnight premiere and see her," she says. "I'm going to jump out of my seat and be like, 'I know her! I know her!'"

Malcolm isn't alone in her excitement about the next installment in the "Hunger Games" movie franchise. "Catching Fire," which was largely shot in Atlanta at the end of last year, is already on track to be one of the year's highest grossing films. Advance tickets went on sale October 1 and accounted for 70 percent of Fandango's online business on that single day.

To land her role, a character known as the female "morphling" from District 6, Hayes first recorded a reading on tape for the film's casting team, then got a callback to audition in Atlanta for the director, Francis Lawrence, in July of last year. Before she knew it, Hayes was on set with stars Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson. "It couldn't have been a better experience," she says. "Jennifer and Josh were just so gracious and supportive of me, and who the hell am I? The whole thing was just fantastic."

Hayes' character has a small but critical role in the story (she can't tell us much more) and even months before the premiere, she was receiving emails and tweets from the famously passionate "Hunger Games" fan base.

"What I love about 'Hunger Games' is it's a fascinating, riveting story," Hayes says. "The reason I got into acting in the first place is to tell great stories. To be in a story that's going to reach so many people, it just doesn't get better than that."

While Hayes' heart will always be in Atlanta, she hopes her relocation to Los Angeles will help her ride the momentum of "Catching Fire" to even bigger roles. After a difficult year that included the sudden loss of her father, Hayes sees the move as the start of a new chapter.

"[Events like that] give you a gauge of perspective," she says. "What have I wanted to do that I haven't done yet? I've always wanted to give L.A. a shot. Why not now?"

Her fan club back home has no doubts about what's next. "It's only a matter of time before someone in the Atlanta theater community achieves recognition on a national or international level," Payne says. "Of course it makes sense that Megan is poised to be one of the first to make that leap. It proves that good things happen to good people."

<http://www.artsatl.com/2013/11/profile-megan-hayes-catches-fire-key-role-blockbuster-hunger-games-sequel/>

## Jetsetting With Actress Megan Hayes

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013



Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Megan Hayes discovered her love for acting during high school. She went on to graduate with honors in acting from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and start a company for emerging artists called Southern Belle Productions. While performing in countless theater projects, Megan was cast in HBO's "Eastbound & Down," the film "What to Expect When You're Expecting," and the IFC thriller "+1," as well as in commercials and guest spots. Her big break, however, came when she was cast as the "District 6 Tribute Girl" (also known as the "Morphling") in the second film in "The Hunger Games" trilogy, "Catching Fire." Filming for the movie took place in both Atlanta and Hawaii, and Megan recently decided to relocate to Los Angeles to take the next step in her career.

Q: What type of traveler are you and why? (ie: adventurer, cultural explorer, free spirit, rejuvenator, spa aficionado, etc.)

A: It depends on my mood and where I'm going. I'm a little of everything. I'm absolutely a free spirit. I love travelling alone. But this also works against me sometimes; just last month, I went hiking alone and got horribly lost in Topanga Canyon. I had to get helicoptered out by three gorgeous firemen. Wait ... maybe traveling alone doesn't work against me.... I love it all, from going to big cities and taking in all of the museums and restaurants to hiking and exploring the outdoors. I used to do more of that when I was younger.

I really want to go white water rafting sometime soon; I haven't done that in years but I *loved* it. Then there are times when all I want to do is find a beautiful beach and spend the entire day going between sunbathing and swimming in the ocean. Don't get me started on my love of body surfing. And who doesn't love a spa? I mean, come on! Wherever I go I want to immerse myself completely.

Q: What types of activities do you like to do on your travels? Do you look for a place where it's quiet and you can relax, or someplace that has great activities or nightlife?

A: What types of activities I do completely depends on what I want from a trip. I have spent an

entire week lounging on the beach and going to the spa in St. Lucia, and I've also stayed up all night enjoying the nightlife in places such as Barcelona and Amsterdam. Barcelona was an extraordinary trip. The city is so vibrant. During the day, I would just walk along La Rambla or gaze at the incredible architecture of Gaudí, not to mention enjoy the sangria and tapas ... yum! Oh and then there was Amsterdam, with its romantic canals and quaint buildings. I biked everywhere, taking in the city's beauty. It was filled with culture yet had a small town feel. The friendliness, the breathtaking art in the Van Gogh Museum, and the incredible history coupled with an exciting and vivacious nightlife with every kind of activity. Listening to live jazz and seeing an improv show were two of my favorite things to do there. I cried the day I had to leave.

Q: When thinking about where you will travel to next, what inspires you to make a decision? And what, if any, research do you do on that destination?

A: I'll make a decision based on what my spirit craves. I do a ton of research, but then once I get to where I'm going, I leave it up to my mood and whims. I love knowing everything available for me to do when I travel and then being able to wake up and think, "Hmmm ... I feel like doing *this* today." And doing it.

Q: What is the most memorable trip you've taken and why?

A: Backpacking through the Highlands of Scotland was pretty spectacular. I was traveling alone, but I had met a group of rowdy Australians. They were so fun! The landscape of the Highlands is like nothing I've ever seen. It's just breathtaking. I loved Scotland in general, the people, the pubs, the history. Everything about it just felt like an adventure and home all in one.

Q: What is the "best" food find you've ever found on a trip?

A: Food is my through line for every trip. No matter what kind of adventure I'm on, I want some good grub. I always try to ask around about where to eat, and wherever I go I always ask the server his or her favorite thing on the menu. I went to this one hole-in-the-wall (love hole in the walls) restaurant in Budapest and had the most amazing stroganoff and goose. And the whole meal was, seriously, about \$10. Lockhart Smokehouse in Dallas has the best brisket I've ever eaten. I felt naughty just watching them slice it up; it looked so delectable. Baja Tacos in Santa Fe has the best burrito of all time. Opal Thai in Haleiwa, Oahu, was amazing. The owner took our menus away and asked us what we liked, and the food just started coming out. And Frank Restaurant in New York City ... the last time I was there I sat alone at the bar and ate whatever the bartender suggested; I didn't even ask for a menu. And Gramercy Tavern is always unforgettable.

Q: What, if anything, do you always take with you when you travel?

A: My sound machine for sleeping, my journal, my bathing suit, and my sense of adventure.

Q: What's your best piece of travel advice?

A: Have a plan of what you want to do, but be prepared to go with the flow. Plans can change on a dime, but I find the change is always more exciting and fun than the plan to begin with. And I always end up with a great story!

Q: Is there a destination where you can't imagine not returning? Why?

A: I'd love to get back to Hawaii and explore Kauai. I loved everything about Oahu and can't wait to get back to explore the other islands. Also, I was on a very strict diet for the majority of my trip there so, I'm not gonna lie, I'd like to get back there and *eat* my way through.

Q: Where are your favorite weekend getaways? Why?

A: Back east, Highlands, North Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia. Highlands is such a lovely mountain town, quaint with culture. And it has a great coffee shop, Bucks Coffee. Savannah has everything I love about the South: beautiful architecture, wonderful food, a small town feel. Walking through one of the many squares with Spanish moss dripping from the trees is truly magical.

Now that I'm on the West Coast, I get away to Sedona and San Diego. And who knows? I'm taking suggestions! I'm hoping to make Santa Barbara, Ojai, San Francisco, Sonoma Valley, and Napa Valley my *new* weekend getaways. Help out the new girl in town; I cannot wait. Oh, and a

good friend of mine just moved to Portland. He doesn't know it yet, but he's about to get a visit....

Q: Where would you like to travel next?

A: Well, I'd love to go to London, of course. And Greece, Ireland, and Australia are all on the top of my list.

Q: Tell us about your upcoming project(s)?

A: I'll be appearing in the "Hunger Games: Catching Fire." Check it out in theaters November 22. I've got my ticket. Do you?

Megan Hayes' Bio:

Megan Hayes spent most of her youth either running around in her Wonder Woman Underoos or looking like a boy in a dress. At 15, she discovered an audience's laughter is a euphoric drug when she appeared in her high school production of "The Pajama Game." So, she decided to pursue a life of acting. After high school, Megan attended Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, wondering all the while, "What am I doing in the middle of Amish farmland?" After her freshman year at Kenyon, she transferred to New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. There, she studied at the Experimental Theatre Wing. After graduating with honors in acting, Megan began writing and performing her own work. She started Southern Belle Productions, a company dedicated to giving a voice to emerging artists. SBP produced a short film, several One Acts, and Megan's own full-length play, "Opelika," which had two sold-out runs in NYC. Megan recently moved to Los Angeles from Atlanta and enjoys foot modeling, acting in all mediums, teaching drama, and hanging out with her two dogs, Sadie and Juliette.

<http://www.jetsetextra.com/life-style/jetsetting-with/jetsetting-with-actress-megan-hayes>



## Vegas 24 Seven

# Megan Hayes of The Hunger Games: Catching Fire Spotted at New Hit Show, Top Rock, in Palm Springs

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013



MEGAN HAYES FROM THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE GRACES THE RED CARPET AT TOP ROCK AT THE NEW HARD ROCK HOTEL PALM SPRINGS.

Top Rock recently visited by Law & Order's Christopher Meloni and Model Rodiney Santiago

Drawing crowds from near and far to witness a rock n' roll show jam packed with power ballads, wild dance choreography and classic rock tunes, Top Rock, part of The Edge Series located at the brand-new Hard Rock Hotel Palm Springs, is a 70 minute live music theatrical performance that has rocked its way into the hearts of locals, travelers and celebrities. Actress Megan Hayes, soon to appear in the latest Hunger Games film Catching Fire, made an appearance on the Top Rock red carpet to catch a showing of the production that is "catching fire" in Palm Springs. Hayes, as well as fellow actor Christopher Meloni and model Rodiney Santiago, has been amongst the first celebrity personalities to catch the debut of what is being hailed as a game-changer in Palm Springs entertainment.

<http://www.vegas24seven.com/?p=27846>

## Megan Her 'Catching Fire' Experience

Hayes on



Actress Megan Hayes, who played the female morphling victor in The Hunger Games: Catching Fire, recently spoke with HowtoBeARedhead.com and mentioned some of her time on the set of the film.

H2BAR:: You are in the newest film, "Hunger Games: Catching Fire." Can you tell us what it was like working on this epic film?

MH: I play the Morphling who is the Tribute from District 6. "Catching Fire" is kind of like the TV show, "Survivor: All Stars." So, my character was a past Victor who sadly has developed a terrible drug addiction to a drug called Morphling. My strength in the Games is camouflage which really turns out to be an asset because I save Peeta's life. SORRY SPOILER ALERT! But come on, if you haven't seen it by now. Working on this film was a dream come true! Everyone was so nice to little ol' me and I got to go to Hawaii for a month to shoot. So much fun.

H2BAR: What was it like working with Jennifer Lawrence and so many other amazing actors?

MH: Everyone was amazing. I have nothing but wonderful things to say about them. When we were sitting in Hawaii, we met for rehearsals, it's me and all the famous. I'm looking around thinking, "Who the hell am I? What am I doing here?" But everyone was really inclusive, loving, supportive. In shooting the closeups of my death scene, Jen was so great and kind and fun and supportive.

<http://www.jabberjays.net/2014/02/24/megan-hayes-on-her-catching-fire-experience/>



## Exclusive: Morphling Actress Megan Hayes Talks Filming ‘Catching Fire,’ Working with Jennifer Lawrence, and Getting to Know the Fans

January 2, 2014



We had the lovely chance to talk with *Catching Fire*’s District 6 Female Tribute Megan Hayes, also known as the morphling tribute who [SPOILER] saves the life of a certain Boy with the Bread. She filled us in on getting the role, what it was like working on set, her interaction with Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson, and what she’s got coming up next! This gal’s going places, so you’ll want to check out the full interview below!

**HG Girl on Fire: What’s your acting background? How did you get involved with *Catching Fire*?**

Megan Hayes: I was in Atlanta, I’d been an actor in Atlanta. I’m from Atlanta, born and raised. I went to NYU’s acting school, and then after college I moved back to Atlanta and I was predominantly a theater actress until 2006/2007. Then I started doing on-camera things in Atlanta and my agent sent me the audition for *Catching Fire* in early July of 2012. I put my audition on tape, and sent it off to my agency and they sent it to the casting director. If I remember correctly, it was a little while before I got a call-back. That’s fairly unusual in my experience. Either you get a call-back right away, or you basically you figure you didn’t get cast. So about 3 weeks later I got called in for the call-back, and Francis Lawrence and the casting director were all in town in Atlanta. It was about a week later, it was July 27, 2012, that I got the call about being cast. I remember the day exactly, it was five in the afternoon.

**So you knew what film and what role you were auditioning for?**

I knew it was *Catching Fire* but I was not well-versed with the books at all. By the time I got called back I had read everything.

**Had you seen the first movie?**

No, I was a terrible fan, and now I'm a huge fan. It wasn't out on DVD yet and I hadn't seen it when it was in the movie theater. The night before the audition I crammed online, researched everything I could, and then before the call-back I read everything. It was so fun to read, the books are amazing. I lent them to my mom, she read them.

**That's how it works. One person lends it to another person and then it's a phenomenon.**

Oh yeah, it's like a junkie on crack. And I'd already heard they were good. I'm a huge Harry Potter fan, so I like anything that's a really fun read in that genre. I loved it and thought it was amazing that it was from a female perspective.

**Besides reading the books, what else did you do to prepare for the role? Did you get to talk at all to Suzanne Collins?**

Oh, no I didn't get to talk to Suzanne. I did a lot of research on my own. I journaled, I did a lot of research on drug addiction. I lost a lot of weight, I had to get down to 103-105 pounds to play the morphling because she's malnourished. In the books they call her skeletal. So I lost 12-13 pounds, and then I did a lot of research on drug addiction, watched a lot of movies about it, and then, everything else is what I do for any character. Read up on it as much as I can. The great thing about the book is she gave a good outline but there was a lot of room for imagination, so that is a lot of fun.

**An image was released before the film came out of you doing the camouflage on Josh Hutcherson's arm. And unfortunately, that scene didn't make it into the final cut of the movie, but can you tell us what was happening in that scene?**

I hope it makes it into the deleted scenes on the DVD, because that actually was my first day shooting on set. The scene is the picture from *US Weekly*, which I loved, is a scene in the camouflage area of the training center. Myself and the other morphling were in the scene, and he was painted head to toe match this bamboo wooded area. Peeta and my character, the morphling, bond over our love of camouflage since Peeta is good at camouflage, too, so that's our bonding moment.

**Were you warned ahead of time that scenes would be cut, or do you just expect that as an actor?**

I was just hoping I made it in at all. And I figured I would because it was the monkey fight. They'd have had to cut the whole monkey fight, or shoot something completely different, and also with my character being part of the revolution, the pack that sides with Haymitch. But, no you never get any warning. No one calls you and tells you. You just cross your fingers and hope for the best.

**Well, the most important part of your role is there, and it's such an important part of the story to understand that these people were sacrificing themselves, and what was going on that Katniss didn't even realize was happening.**

In the book, the three moments that made me get teary-eyed were [the deaths] of Mags, my character, and Wiress. I found those parts really moving in the book.

**What was it like working with so many amazing actors?**

Everyone was amazing. I have nothing but wonderful things to say about them. When we were sitting in Hawaii, we met for rehearsals, it's me and all the famous. I'm looking around thinking, "Who the hell am I? What am I doing here?" But everyone was really inclusive, loving, supportive. In shooting the closeups of my death scene, Jenn and Josh were so great and kind and fun and supportive. It was all-around an amazing experience to work with those people and to have them be such great actors whose work I've always admired. Like Jeffrey Wright, I've loved his work for as long as I can remember. Just to admire so many people's work and then also have them be such incredibly kind individuals was a dream come true.

**The bonding of the cast is really cohesive and it comes across on screen. It just works.**

You can totally tell that Jenn and Josh adore each other. And Sam, they all got along great.

**Who did you work with the most on set?**

I definitely worked the most with Jenn and Josh the most, mainly Josh.

**Well he holds you for a long time.**

Yeah, I have no complaints. If you've gotta go, I highly recommend doing it in Josh Hutcherson's arms in Hawaii. So, ladies, remember that.

**In that scene you have to float out into the water. In the movie, it's a contained space, but during shooting you were actually floating out into the ocean, right?**

Oh yeah, I was in the Pacific Ocean. I was thrown into that ocean every day. It's not really warm, and I had less flabby fat on me, so that water was really cold. We shot at dusk so we didn't have the heat of the sun.



The scariest part, I'm already Jaws-afraid, and I get kind of nervous. There were a couple of days where they put a floaty on back so I'd float when they pushed my body out to sea. There were several takes where they pushed me out to sea and then Jenn and Josh had this scene where he said, "I didn't even know her name." And I would just be floating, pretending I'm dead, trying to be perfectly still. And I was thinking, "It would be so easy right now for a shark to devour me whole."

One time, we were about to shoot action, and I was in Josh's arms and we were waiting a long time for them to start rolling the camera. So his face was really close to my ear and we are in the water, and really quietly he starts going, "Duh-nuh, duh-nuh [Jaw's theme]." He said, "You are completely covered in blood right now, you could so easily be eaten by a shark." I said, "You are the most evil person ever!" He was a like a big brother, being evil and hilarious all at the same time.

**Any other funny stories from set?**

I did accidentally eat Jen's Tic-Tacs one day on set. It was in the makeup bag. I thought it was the general makeup bag for everybody, but it was Jen's makeup bag. And her favorite Tic-Tacs were orange Tic-Tacs, and I just chowed down on a bunch of them. And I said to the makeup artist, "Hey, I ate your Tic-Tacs." She said, "Those are Jen's Tic-Tacs, Megan!" We were about to shoot me popping out of the tree, so I'm hiding in the tree, covered in moss and camouflage, and Jen's walking past me, and I called, "Hey, Jen!" and she turned like she couldn't see me, and I thought she was kidding, but she wasn't because my camouflage was really effective. I said, "Hey girl, I just ate a bunch of your Tic-Tacs, and I didn't know they were yours." And she looked at me like she was going to kill me, and then we laughed about it. So for a wrap present, I gave her two packs of orange Tic-Tacs.

**The Hunger Games fandom is crazy. What's it been like interacting with fans and when it's already got such a huge fan-following?**

The fans have been absolutely lovely and wonderful. It's a dream come true to step into something that's already so well-established, and is such a great book and great stories. I have had nothing but wonderful experiences with fans. It was because of a fan on Twitter that posted that picture of me in US Weekly that I even knew I was in the magazine. And then they sent me an email that was a perfect scan of it. The fans have been amazing.

**Do you get recognized? You don't look much like your character, but some fans might know what you look like outside the film?**

I haven't yet. It's my favorite thing to be unrecognizable. I haven't been to any kind of high-profile events since the premiere. But no, I don't get recognized on the streets. But that's the thing, I want to be the actress that's in movies, a character actress, that you say, "I love her, she's in everything!" like Allison Janney or Judy Greer.

**What are you working on right now?**

I'm in the middle of shooting a commercial. My best friend from Atlanta is a stand-up comedian, and we are writing a web-series that we are going to start shooting early next year, which I'm super excited about. It's a comedy, it's called "Jesus Freaks." It's a comedy about a cult. We are really excited about it. I think it may round out my third drug addict. They say everything comes in threes.

Interview by: Lindsay McComber

<http://www.hggirlonfire.com/2014/01/02/exclusive-morphling-actress-megan-hayes-talks-filming-catching-fire-working-with-jennifer-lawrence-and-getting-to-know-the-fans/>

## Atlanta Actress' Career is 'Catching Fire'

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012



If you even remotely follow Atlanta entertainment news, then you know that since last month, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" has been filming in the Atlanta area.

The first of the wildly popular Hunger Games trilogy of books was released in 2008 and has since been translated in 26 languages. The film "The Hunger Games" was released earlier this year and enjoyed massive worldwide box-office success.

"Catching Fire" is the second in the trilogy that follows the story of a young girl's quest for survival in a post-apocalyptic world.

Midtown, Buckhead, the westside's Goat Farm, the Georgia Dome, Atlanta Motor Speedway are just a few of the "Catching Fire" locations where filming has taken place. The film, which is expected to shoot until December, is scheduled to hit theatres on Nov. 22, 2013.

The Internet is flooded daily with news of the production. How injured is Liam Hemsworth? Was that really Josh Hutcherson hanging out at Atlantic Station?

Woody Harrelson was at Piedmont Park and not the Clermont Lounge?

It seems everyone wants the latest scoop on "Catching Fire," but you won't get it from Atlanta actress Megan Hayes. Not that she doesn't have it, she's just contractually not allowed to dish the dirt. Such is the deal when you've been cast as the "District 6 Tribute Girl" in the forthcoming film.

"I feel so lucky, so blessed and honored to be a part of this project," Hayes recently told Patch.

"The books are great, the actors are top notch, it's really a dream job."

It's the kind of acting gig that can really propel one's career to the next level - not that success hasn't already been achieved by the actress who resides on the westside of town and is managed by Houghton Talent.

Hayes grew up in Atlanta and graduated from The Galloway School, before taking flight to New York City. A graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Hayes has been acting and writing in the Atlanta area for the last decade.

Maybe you've seen her on HBO's "Eastbound & Down" or Tyler Perry's "Meet the Browns"? Or possibly in the countless theatre projects she's been involved in such as Horizon Theatre's annual "The Santaland Diaries" or the recent Essential Theatre-produced "Bat-Hamlet" at Actor's Express. Her resume, including "lots of commercials," is extensive, so even if you didn't know her, the chances are good you may have seen her.

And now she's readying for the big screen in what promises to be a huge film. If you know anything about the books, then you know the District 6 Tribute Girl part isn't exactly a glamorous one, albeit a heroic role. Think monkeys!

"I wish I could tell you more but I just can't," Hayes said, referring to the many non-disclosure contracts that she has signed. "What I can say is that it really hasn't sunk in, but I feel humbled. I love being an actor. I love being a part of a project of such magnitude and can only hope that more opportunities like this will come down the road."

<http://midtown.patch.com/groups/arts-and-entertainment/p/atlanta-actress-career-is-catching-fire>



## My Hunger Games Cast Countdown – Justin Hix and Megan Hayes

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

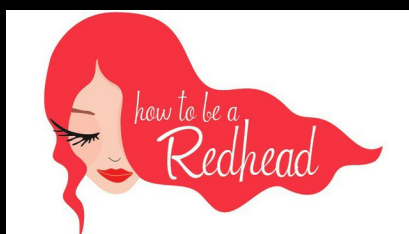


Welcome to Cast Countdown with Hamilton. Every week I will introduce a member of the Catching Fire cast and discuss what it is that they will be bringing to the role of their character. Fair warning, just in case you have not yet read the books, there may be spoilers here. Today's featured cast members are Justin Hix and Megan Hayes.

About The Morphlings: The two former victor tributes for the quarter Quell from District 6. They are referred to as "the morphlings" by Katniss due to the fact that just as Haymitch turned to alcohol to deal with the aftermath of The Games, these two became addicted to the powerful pain medication, morphling. Years of abusing the drug has left their skin a pale, sagging, yellow and their minds weak. They are seemingly more interested in bright colors and painting each other at the camouflage station than anything else. They are also older, in their 60's

About Justin Hix and Megan Hayes: Two unknowns, 32 year old Hayes has been acting only since 2007 with mostly bit parts, though she was a regular cast member of the online sketch comedy show, Fark TV. Hix has zero credits to his name. The two are obviously much younger than their literary counterparts, a trend which is probably a combination of wanting to have cast members more friendly to the target demographic, and an effort to make Mags stand out more as the "old person." They do, however, both look like they could play pale, happy, drug addicts – especially Hix who, in my opinion, looks remarkably like a certain well known, pale vampire. Here's a clip of Megan Hayes playing J.K. Rowling in a Fark Tv episode:

<http://www.myhungergames.com/my-hunger-games-cast-countdown-justin-hix-and-megan-hayes>



## Exclusive Interview with ‘Catching Fire’ Actress Megan Hayes

February 12th, 2014



Megan Hayes is known for her role as the District 6 Morphling addict in “Hunger Games: Catching Fire.” From a young age, she knew entertaining was her calling. She moved to New York City where she studied at the Experimental Theatre Wing. After graduating with honors in Acting, Megan began writing and performing her own work. Despite loving New York and all that it had to offer, Megan decided to move back to Atlanta, which was a great choice because this is where her movie and television career got its start. While continuing to do countless theater projects, Megan was cast in HBO’s “Eastbound and Down,” “What to Expect When You Are Expecting,” as well as numerous commercials and TV guest spots.

We sat down with Megan to discuss her many acting roles, the one celebrity who made her ‘turn red’, favorite beauty tips.. and a ton more.

H2BAR: We read you’ve been involved in comedy acting since you were a teenager. How did you get into it?

MH: When I started acting I was certain I wanted to be a very serious actress. My sophomore year in High School I auditioned for my first musical, “The Pajama Game.” I wanted the part of Gladys. You see, she sings Hernando’s Hideaway and I thought for sure I was the perfect awkward, promiscuous girl to do it. There was nothing sexy about my 15 year old self. I ended up getting cast in the comedic role of Mabel, the nosey secretary. I was SO bummed at first. I mean, I WANTED TO SING HERNANDO’S HIDEAWAY DAMMIT! But on opening night, the moment I got my first laugh, I was hooked. Absolutely hooked! It was such a blessing in disguise, because it was really what I was meant to do.

H2BAR: Were there a lot of redheads where you grew up?

MH: I was raised in Georgia and born a strawberry blonde, but as I got older it got darker. I became a vibrant redhead right after college in New York City. So, as much as I would like to say

that there were NO OTHER REDHEADS in NYC that would be a big lie.

H2BAR: Do you play a redhead in most roles you're in?

MH: In TV and film, absolutely! I've had to dye my hair only a couple of times for shows. Once when I played an evil cheerleader in "Be Aggressive", I had to add a bunch of blonde into my hair, but I still kept it strawberry underneath. As well, I played Annie Sullivan in "The Miracle Worker" and was a brunette for that. And I've done several plays where I wore a wig, usually it's for a period piece. I cannot lie, I do love wearing a wig because it makes styling easy peasy!

H2BAR:: You are in the newest film, "Hunger Games: Catching Fire." Can you tell us what it was like working on this epic film?

MH: I play the Morphling who is the Tribute from District 6. "Catching Fire" is kind of like the TV show, "Survivor: All Stars." So, my character was a past Victor who sadly has developed a terrible drug addiction to a drug called Morphling. My strength in the Games is camouflage which really turns out to be an asset because I save Peeta's life. SORRY SPOILER ALERT! But come on, if you haven't seen it by now. Working on this film was a dream come true! Everyone was so nice to little ol' me and I got to go to Hawaii for a month to shoot. So much fun.

H2BAR: What was it like working with Jennifer Lawrence and so many other amazing actors?

MH: Everyone was amazing. I have nothing but wonderful things to say about them. When we were sitting in Hawaii, we met for rehearsals, it's me and all the famous. I'm looking around thinking, "Who the hell am I? What am I doing here?" But everyone was really inclusive, loving, supportive. In shooting the closeups of my death scene, Jen was so great and kind and fun and supportive.

H2BAR: What is your favorite movie/show you've been in?

MH: That's a 3 way tie for me. "Catching Fire", of course; I LOVED being on "Eastbound & Down" and playing Annie Sullivan in the "Miracle Worker" in Atlanta was a very special experience for me. Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan, what an amazing true story!

H2BAR: Who is your favorite redhead actor/actress?

MH: I can't narrow down who my favorite redheaded actress is, so I'm giving you my top 3: Madeline Kahn, Carol Burnett and Lucille Ball. Each of these talented women are comic geniuses in their own right, not to mention beautiful funny ladies. Carol Burnett is the reason I became a redhead. If she's reading this right now, Ms. Burnett remember the time I waited for you outside a stage door in NYC (you don't but let me tell you) and when you came over to chat with me all I could say was a bashful "hi"? What I really wanted to tell you was you are the reason I became a redhead. THE REASON!

H2BAR: We've heard that you're a foot model! You must have great feet!

MH: *(Laughing)* I started foot modeling years ago. And it's a Cinderella story because I got my first job because my foot fit the shoe! How often does that happen?! I haven't done it in a long time, but you can see pictures of my feet in catalogues and online for Footsmart. 5 bucks to the person who can pick out my feet!

H2BAR: We've also been told that you teach drama. Tell us about that.

MH: I taught drama and writing in Atlanta at several places, theatres, schools and camps. I even taught full time at a private school for a year, however I have taught all ages. I love it! Teaching is such an underrated and underpaid position in this country. And it's so important! Many of my life changing moments have been because of an awesome teacher.

H2BAR: What is your favorite color to rock with your red hair? *Walking the red carpet at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles for the premiere of "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."*





MH: Bright green, but I love wearing any jewel tone. It goes great with my hair and fair skin.

H2BAR: What are your must-have beauty items?

MH: For my hair, I love TIGI Catwalk Curlesque Curls Rock. For makeup, Maybelline mascara is my favorite and Bare Minerals is a must because it makes my skin look and feel amazing.

H2BAR: What's your hair routine?

MH: I wash my hair with VERY expensive shampoo and conditioner. For product, I love Beach Waves by Gnarly Whale. I got that in my gift bag at the GBK Pre Globes gifting suite and LOVE IT. And, I usually let me hair air dry and go wavy crazy.

H2BAR: How do you keep your fair skin looking so beautiful?

MH: Honestly, I wash my face with Purpose. I swear by that stuff. I have super sensitive skin (like most redheads) and it works for me. And I use an everyday St. Ives lotion on my face. But I moisturize RELIGIOUSLY! And drink a TON of water. And never go to sleep with makeup on.

H2BAR: With Atlanta being so humid and hot, how do you protect your fair skin and red hair?

MH: First and foremost, I stay out of the sun and wear a lot of sunblock! I find that the humidity works for my hair with my curls and all.

H2BAR: Does red hair run in your family?

MH: Ya know, it does! Every third generation on my mom's side has a redhead. I might dye my hair now that I am older, but I have such a redhead personality.

H2BAR: Why do you love being a redhead?

MH: For the good and the bad, it makes you stand out. And for some reason it affords you a lack of censorship. Not that I think you should take advantage of that, absolutely not. But being a redhead gives me leeway to speak my mind and be my authentic self completely.

H2BAR: What do you have planned for 2014?

MH: I'm currently writing a TV pilot with my writing partner that I am SUPER excited about! It's a comedy and it's going to be good. So keep a lookout!

<http://howtobearedhead.com/exclusive-interview-with-catching-fire-actress-megan-hayes/>

# Contact Information



## Representation:

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## IMDB Link:

<http://www.imdb.me/meganhayes>

## Unions:

Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA) member

