

Baywatch Stigma? Stars Reveal Difficulties Being Taken 'Seriously' After Show (Exclusive)

★ toofab.com/2024/08/28/baywatch-stigma-after-show

Toofab Staff

August 28, 2024



Getty

One actress opens up about losing roles for having Baywatch on her resume, while another conversely shares how the show "gave me a lot of opportunities."

[Baywatch](#) has one of those massive legacies that, even if someone didn't watch the show in the '90s when it aired, they still know what it is.

And that, at least for a few of the show's stars, was to their detriment after their time running in slow motion on the beaches of California came to an end.

Out today, ABC News Studios' docuseries *After Baywatch: Moment in the Sun* delves deep into the show's humble beginnings, eventual popularity, where the series may have stumbled when it came to issues of body image and race, and how being on it affected the lives of the actors themselves.

Both [Erika Eleniak](#), who starred as Shauni McClain for the show's first couple seasons, and Kelly Packard, who played April Giminski for two later seasons, opened up about how they struggled to be taken seriously when they began looking for other jobs.

MORE FROM TOOFAB



[Teen Murder-Suicide Survivor Speaks Out After Being Shot In Face By Stepmother](#)



[Mom Kills 2 Young Sons, Grandmother Before Turning Gun on Self in Apparent Triple Murder-Suicide](#)

Career Curse?

"I grappled with taking it off my resume," Packard said in the doc. "It really stinks now, because I'm this woman who's trying to act still, but I can't be taken seriously because I was a 'Baywatch' baby."

"I mean, I think for me it's, it was always a struggle," Eleniak, meanwhile, told TooFab while promoting the series.

"When *Baywatch* happened, I had to fight really hard for the opportunities to get in rooms," she continued. "Sometimes I'd get in a room and it would actually go really well, and it would be a lot of auditions and then it would be between one other person and myself. And there was one person in the camp that was afraid of the *Baywatch* credit, so I wouldn't get the role."



[Getty](#)

[Baywatch Bombshells: 16 Shockers & Revelations from New Docuseries](#)

[View Story](#)

"I think that never ended. That happened to me 10 years after Baywatch. I was up for a television series and it was a huge audition process," she added.

"Came down to me and another young lady and someone on one of the camps was afraid of *Baywatch* and out I went. So it never ended. It's always been a fight," Eleniak continued. "It's always been a fight for diversity to be able to get those strong female leads. And by the grace of God, I feel like I was given some great opportunities, so I was able to do those shows, but it wasn't easy."



Getty

In the doc itself, Eleniak also said she felt a lot of self-doubt after being on the show, which she feels affected what happened next.

"When I left Baywatch, I left because I really wanted a film career. Some of the most incredible opportunities I had, I blew; self-sabotage because I was so scared," she said, claiming she had an opportunity to read for Sharon Stone's role in *Casino*, but turned it down. "What I did was I burned so many bridges, major bridges, because nobody understood why I wasn't going. I was terrified. I didn't feel good enough."

Career Boost?

For [Alexandra Paul](#), however, being on *Baywatch* had the opposite affect on her career.

"I do feel like it gave it longevity because I had been working for 10 years in feature films and television movies ... *Baywatch* was the first series. And I was really nervous about doing a series because in the early '90s, actors did not move so comfortably between television -- especially television series -- and movies," she told TooFab.



[Collection Christophel / Alamy Stock Photo](#)

[Baywatch Star 'Fluffed' Himself Before Speedo Scenes & More Cast Swimsuit Revelations \(Exclusive\)](#)

[View Story](#)

"Back then, there was definitely a fear that you would stay in TV. The thing was that I loved doing TV and I didn't realize that I loved doing television series. It was a revelation to be able to go to work every day, see the same cast, play the same character, develop her more," she added of playing Stephanie Holden on the series. "I mean, what a joy!"

"And so I did a couple more series afterwards and I think *Baywatch* actually opened up, for me, my career," she added. "I'm sure there were tons of them where people said, 'Oh, she was on *Baywatch*, forget her.' But, as Erika knows, I tend to be a little bit of an optimist. I feel like it gave me a lot of opportunities."

After Baywatch: Moment in the Sun is streaming now on Hulu.



Getty



[Getty/Everett Collection](#)

[Baywatch Stars Down for Reboot, As One Says Efron-Rock Movie 'Didn't Help Brand At All' \(Exclusive\)](#)

[View Story](#)



[ABC](#)

[Baywatch Cast Reflect on Just How Little They Made from the Show \(Exclusive\)](#)

[View Story](#)

[Alexandra Paul Erika Eleniak Baywatch #AlexandraPaul #Baywatch #ErikaEleniak #Television](#)

- 
- 
-



[Every Must-See Star at The Hollywood Reporter & Spotify's Nominees Night](#)



[Noah Wyle Brings Wife & Kids to 'The Pitt' Premiere](#)



[Serena Williams' Husband Alexis Ohanian Claps Back at Skin Bleaching Accusations](#)



[Mayim Bialik Stirred Up A Mess With Her Controversial Comment](#)



[Nicolas Cage's Rare Car Collection Is Everything We Dream About](#)



[Boseman's Last Words Will Break Your Heart All Over Again](#)



[The Tragedy Of Markiplier Is Just Depressing](#)



[These Shows Just Kept Getting Cancelled & Trying Again](#)



[Tyler 'Ninja' Blevins' Transformation Is Beyond Impressive](#)



[Sutton Stracke Addresses Falling Out with Garcelle Beauvais, Ex-Assistant Avi](#)



[The Masked Singer Massive Premiere Debuts 10 Stars, Revealing 2 with an Unprecedented Twist](#)



[Why Jenny McCarthy Will Never Return to The View: 'Over My Dead Body'](#)



[Stranger Things Cast Member Talks Season 5 Omission Amid Cancer Battle, Thinks 'Writers Were Afraid I'd Die'](#)



[Andy Cohen Walks Off Set In Explosive RHOSLC Reunion Moment](#)



[Ashton Kutcher Sells Fountain of Youth STD, Bella Hadid 'Mutates' In The Beauty Trailer](#)



[Exclusive](#)

[Why Erin Napier 'Cried Like an Idiot' During Season 10 'Home Town' Reveal](#)



[Stranger Things Creators Defend Will's Coming Out Scene, 'I Believe' Series Ending](#)
