

# 18

magazine



LUCY  
HALE

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# LUCY HALE

PHOTOGRAPHY AMBER GRAY  
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Some know her as the younger sister Effie on *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2* who lost the magical jeans that united our favorite friend group. Others know her as Justin Russo's goth girlfriend Miranda on Disney Channel's *Wizards of Waverly Place*. But most know her as Aria Montgomery on the hit Freeform show, *Pretty Little Liars*, that left us sleepless and trying to solve multiple fictional murder cases like they were real.

Lucy Hale, full name Karen Lucille Hale, was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. As a child, she took acting and singing lessons, aspiring to make it big in Hollywood. At age 15, she moved to Los Angeles hoping to get a record deal but instead ended up guest-starring on many shows that we grew up watching from *Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide*, *Drake & Josh*, *The O.C.*, *How I Met Your Mother* and more.

In 2008, Hale not only made her big-screen debut appearing in *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2*, but she also starred as one of the lead characters on The CW's *Privileged*. A year later, Hale starred in two films, *Sorority Wars* and *Fear Island*, both vastly different films in terms of genre. Later that year, she was cast as Aria in *Pretty Little Liars*, her biggest role to date. The series lasted seven seasons and gained her praise from critics as well as awards and nominations.

In between acting, Hale released a country album *Road Between* in 2014 with Hollywood Records. The year after, she collaborated with Rascal Flatts to perform a cover of 'Let It Go' from the film *Frozen* which was featured on the compilation album *We Love Disney*. Hale also recorded two Christmas songs for *A Hollywood Christmas*, released in 2017, called 'Mistletoe' and 'You're Here'.

Following the end of *Pretty Little Liars*, Hale went on to star and appear in several shows, including the lead in The CW's *Life Sentence*. She also starred in the films *Blumhouse's Truth or Dare*, *The Unicorn*, and Netflix's *Dude*. Most recently, the actress has announced a string of new projects coming up in 2020. She'll be playing the lead character on The CW's *Katy Keene*, a new show based on the Archie Comics character. She will also be starring in the films *Fantasy Island*, *Son of the South*, *Big Gold Brick*, *A Nice Girl Like You* and as the lead character Lucy Hutton starring alongside Robbie Amell in the rom-com adaptation of *The Hating Game* which is based on the novel by Sally Thorne.

We spoke with Hale about her upcoming projects *Katy Keene* and *Fantasy Island*, her love of music, and what she likes to do on her downtime.







**Can you tell us a bit about your new show *Katy Keene*?**

I feel completely honored to play Katy Keene. This show is all about dreamers and going after those big passions. It's about friendship, love, the struggles of being in your 20's and discovering who you are and what you have to offer to the world. Katy is an aspiring fashion designer who is probably the most optimistic, glass half-full character that I have played. She's driven, a loyal friend, and full of life. It has been a joy playing her and I'm excited for everyone to meet these characters!

**In what aspects do you relate to, not just the show, but also the characters?** I moved to LA when I was 15 in hopes of my acting dreams coming true. The story of Katy and these characters reminded me so much of throwing myself into auditions and how I dedicated my life to what I hoped would come true. There is so much passion within these characters and so much passion within me and the real-life actors too. It's such a beautiful vibe on and off set between everyone.

**How do you think this show will differ from *Riverdale* despite being within the same universe?** Tonally, the show is completely different. It's a bright, beautiful world about a bunch of dreamers who will stop at nothing to see them come to fruition. Our show is set in New York City and it's the nostalgic version that we all imagine it to be.

**In your upcoming film, *Fantasy Island*, this island brings alive each person's secret dreams and fantasies. If you were on an island like that, what would you want to come alive?** I'd love to be able to spend time with certain people that had passed away. It would be so cool to sit down with some people I look up to. I would just die to have a conversation with Elvis! But also, to have some more time with my grandmother that passed away years ago. She was so young, and I'd love to get her insight on things.

OPPOSITE PAGE blazer L'AGENCE belt Isabel Marant tights Wolford shoes Vintage CELINE jewellery ALEXANDRA MOR





bodysuit KAIMIN  
bra Fleur du Mal  
panties Wolford  
jewellery ALEXANDRA MOR







**How do you think the island would change that and twist it into a dark fantasy?** Hopefully, the island would have my back and let me have that wish! But I suppose maybe the island would misunderstand and send an Elvis impersonator and not the real thing.

**Who do you play in the film and what drew you to that character in particular?** I play Melanie. She's a snarky, quick-witted millennial who is out for revenge on someone from her past. I loved that she has no filter and kind of grabs the bull by the horns. I wanted to switch up my look too, so I was super tanned and had blonde hair.

**Being based on the 1970's TV show, how does this version differ? Has it been brought up to date?** This version is definitely dark and twisted. It takes people's desires and flips them on their head. The whole moral of the movie is be careful what you wish for because it just might come true. It's definitely up to date and hopefully lives up to how loved the original show was, but it's very different than the original.

**What has been the most surprising thing you learned about yourself through acting?** I think I realized that I possess a lot of empathy for people because in order to step into a character's shoes, you can't judge. You have to be open with who they are and the choices they make.

**As a storyteller in your own right through acting and music, what draws you to the projects you take on?** It's so nice to be at a place in my career where I can be picky about the roles I'm choosing. I want to make projects that I'm passionate about and that have meaning and purpose or are fun and challenging. I definitely am in the phase of my career to really challenge myself.

**Have you thought about making another record? If so, would it be country or are you interested in exploring other genres?** Music has always been one of my favorite things. It's so personal for me now and I think if I were to approach it again, I would want to do it my way. Maybe if the time is right, but I'd want to dedicate lots of time to writing and the process and right now I'm busy with other things. I think a bucket list dream for me would be Broadway. We will see! I've been manifesting that for years. I definitely love country music and always have, but I am open to trying new things. I'd have to see where my heart leads me.

**What kind of music has been on your radar lately?** Lately, I've been really into ILLENIUM and Gryffin. There is also a guy named Patrick Droney that is just crazy talented and he's about to blow up. I love Harry Styles' new album. I'm forever a huge fan of Kacey Musgraves and Maren Morris.

**Are there any other creative hobbies you'd like to pursue further?** Definitely theater. I've also had a calling recently to take up horseback riding. We will see if that happens!

**Being busy with both movies and TV shows, what do you do to unwind and relax?** This is a boring answer, but my version of self-care is a good workout and a great facial followed by binging a TV show at home with my dog, Elvis.

*Katy Keene premieres 6th February on The CW and Fantasy Island is out in cinemas from 14th February!*

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