

Ashley Callingbull- Burnham



Ashley Callingbull used her knack for fashion and desire for adventure to pave her way in the world. Born in 1989, she is a Cree First Nations woman from Enoch Cree Nation, Alberta, Canada¹. She was a Miss Universe Canada finalist in 2013². Two years later she became the first Canadian and Indigenous woman to win the title of Mrs. Universe, an international talent contest for married contestants^{1,2}. She stood out during the pageant and honored her culture by wearing a jingle dress, which is commonly worn during pow-wows². She also wore a white buckskin dress and sang a traditional song for the talent competition². Callingbull is a survivor of sexual and physical abuse and spoke out at the pageant to help others dealing with similar pain². While competing, she wore a dress designed by Lesley Hampton that aimed to raise awareness for missing and murdered indigenous women³. Later, she was a participant alongside her stepfather in the fourth season of “Amazing Race Canada”¹. She became the first Indigenous First Nations woman to appear in a Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue. She also lobbied for Indigenous rights during the Canadian federal election in 2015 and continues as a motivational speaker. Her acting career includes a four-season role in the series *Blackstone*¹.

Citations

1. IMDb. (n.d.). Ashley Callingbull. IMDb. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4104667/>

2. CBC/Radio Canada. (2016, August 12). Mrs. Universe 2015 is from Alberta's Enoch Cree Nation | CBC News. CBCnews. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/ashley-callingbull-first-nations-woman-crowned-mrs-universe-1.3209179>

3. Simonpillai, R., Bains, C., & Waberi, O. (2021, October 9). Lesley Hampton makes indigenous fashion that anyone can wear. NOW Toronto. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://nowtoronto.com/culture/lesley-hampton-makes-indigenous-fashion-that-anyone-can-wear/>

4. Cooke, B. (2022, May 16). First ever indigenous si swimsuit model married her 'best friend' in 2021. The Focus. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://www.thefocus.news/celebrity/ashley-callingbull-husband/>