

Ψ

# INDIANA

UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA ALUMNI MAGAZINE

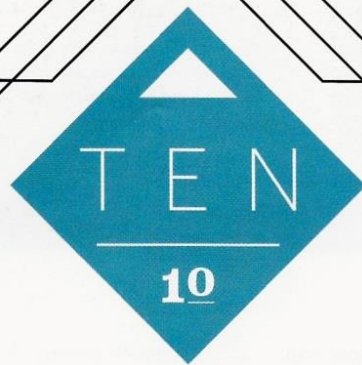


## AMERICAN MYTHIC

**Jamie Hyneman, BA'82**, cultivates his unconventional myth-busting television career.

SPRING 20  
ALUMNI.INDIANA.EDU/MAGAZINE

# THE NEXT



IU alumni have made names for themselves in just about every professional endeavor. Teachers, political figures, doctors, athletes, business leaders, and scientists can all be counted among the impressive graduates of IU's eight campuses. But who's next? Who will carry the torch? IU students are doing great things even while they are still on campus. Meet 10 of IU's most amazing students.

Story by **Laura Lane**

Photos by **Marc Lebryk**

# Showstopper

The challenges of establishing a career in show business, the against-the-odds probability of making a living dancing and singing on stage, did not stop Kaitlyn Smith from choreographing her way in that improbable direction.

As the 2012 salutatorian at Mehlville High School in St. Louis, Smith looked at several colleges with high-level theater programs, including Webster University in St. Louis, the University of Michigan, Ohio's Otterbein University, the University of Oklahoma, and IU. All have nationally recognized musical theater programs.

But Smith was smitten with IU from the day of her audition.

"It was this small, cultured town in the midst of Indiana with pride that resembles my own hometown of St. Louis," she says. "At other schools, they treated me like, 'You would be lucky to be at this school.' At IU, they treated me like, 'We would be lucky to have you.'"

An academic scholarship helped with the tuition, and in the fall of 2012 she became one of a dozen

freshmen in IU's musical theater program. Now a Hutton Honors College junior with a 3.9 GPA, she has appeared in a wide variety of IU productions: Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Pilar in *Legally Blonde the Musical*, Jovanka in *Honey Brown Eyes*, and Coco in *Zombie Prom*. She has choreographed multiple productions as diverse as *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Rocky Horror Show*.

She finds joy in teaching children to dance and working with the Hoosier Tap Company — she got her start in performance as a young tap dancer. She is immersed in University Players, an IU student theater troupe that performs plays and musicals throughout the school year. Now, Smith has set her sights on a higher stage.

"I plan to move to New York and pursue a career in musical theater to either get in a Broadway show or a national tour of a musical," she says. And if that doesn't work out, her dream of performing will move to another venue. "If I don't get into any musicals anywhere, I hope to perform on a cruise. And travel the world."

2

**KAITLYN  
SMITH**

IUB | JR.

