

= Kelly Kelly =

Barbara Jean " Barbie " Blank @-@ Souray (born January 15 , 1987) is an American model , former professional wrestler and professional wrestling valet , better known by her ring name Kelly Kelly . She is best known for her time with WWE .

Blank has a background in gymnastics and cheerleading . She studied broadcast journalism , hoping to become a television anchor , and worked as a model for Venus Swimwear and Hawaiian Tropic . In 2006 , Blank was signed to a contract by WWE and sent to Ohio Valley Wrestling , a WWE developmental territory . She debuted on the ECW brand in June 2006 as ' Kelly Kelly ' , with the character of an exhibitionist and performing a striptease . She continued her stripteases , in a segment known as Kelly 's Exposé , weekly on ECW , and also became the valet of her on @-@ screen boyfriend Mike Knox . The following year , she formed Extreme Exposé with Layla and Brooke Adams , and the trio performed regular dance segments on ECW . They later became involved in a storyline with The Miz , which led to the dissolution of the group .

Kelly then began participating in more wrestling matches , and was moved to the Raw brand in July 2008 . Throughout the next year , she unsuccessfully challenged for the WWE Divas Championship on several occasions , before moving to SmackDown in early 2010 . There she challenged LayCool for the WWE Women 's Championship , but was unsuccessful . In April 2011 , Kelly returned to the Raw brand , where she won the WWE Divas Championship for the first time in June . Kelly lost the title to Beth Phoenix in October , ending her four @-@ month reign . In September 2012 , Blank was released from her WWE contract , and later that year , began making appearances on the independent circuit .

= = Early life = =

Blank was born in Jacksonville , Florida to a Jewish father and Christian mother . Blank was a fan of professional wrestling as a child , and cites Stone Cold Steve Austin as her favorite wrestler . While growing up , Blank participated in gymnastics for ten years , before she was forced to quit due to an injury . She later took up cheerleading . Blank studied broadcast journalism , hoping to become a news anchor . She was also a Hawaiian Tropic and Venus Swimwear bikini model .

= = Professional wrestling career = =

= = = World Wrestling Entertainment / WWE = = =

= = = = Developmental territories (2006 ? 2007) = = = =

In 2006 , while working as a model , Blank was scouted by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) official John Laurinaitis , who was interested in signing her to a contract . As a result , WWE contacted her modeling agency and invited her to their then @-@ developmental territory , Ohio Valley Wrestling (OVW) , for a tryout . Despite having no previous wrestling experience , she was offered a contract , which she signed in May 2006 . Even after being called up to WWE 's main roster , she continued to fly back and forth to OVW 's base of Louisville , Kentucky once a week to work shows ; first as a ring announcer and referee , then as a wrestler . One of her first matches took place at the September 6 television tapings , where she participated in a Divas battle royal , which was won by ODB . In late 2007 , she also made appearance in Florida Championship Wrestling (FCW) , another developmental territory .

= = = = Extreme Exposé (2006 ? 2008) = = = =

Blank debuted for the ECW brand as Kelly Kelly . Originally , she was to be named just ' Kelly ' , but

her ring name was expanded to ' Kelly Kelly ' by WWE chairman Vince McMahon . She made her debut on the first episode of ECW on June 13 , 2006 , becoming the youngest Diva on the WWE roster at the age of 19 . Her character , an exhibitionist , was introduced performing a striptease for the crowd . The next week , while performing another striptease , Kelly was interrupted by her on @-@ screen boyfriend , Mike Knox , who came to the stage and covered her with a towel before dragging her backstage . Her stripping became a weekly segment known as Kelly 's Exposé and usually followed the same routine ; Kelly would dance and strip until she was interrupted by Knox , who was upset by her exhibitionism and showing off her body to others . Originally a solo segment , Kelly was joined by the villainous Candice Michelle on the July 11 edition of ECW .

Knox began forcing Kelly to accompany him to ringside so he could keep an eye on her , making her his de facto valet . As a result , she found herself involved in the feud developing between Mike Knox and partner Test with Tommy Dreamer and his partner The Sandman , including being inadvertently hit with a cane by Sandman when Knox used her as a shield . She made her in @-@ ring debut for the brand on the August 22 , 2006 episode of ECW on Sci @-@ Fi in a losing effort , as part of a six @-@ person mixed tag team match which saw herself , Knox , and Test lose to Dreamer , Sandman and Torrie Wilson , in what was the last match of the feud .

Following the feud , Kelly and Knox were moved into a storyline with CM Punk in September , in which Kelly was shown to have developed a liking for Punk , and Knox was shown to be increasingly protective and jealous . During the next month , Kelly continuously flirted with Punk and was shown watching his matches from the crowd , until Knox stopped her . Subsequently , Kelly 's character dressed as Punk for ECW 's Halloween Costume Contest , enraging Knox and leading to a match between the two , during which Kelly cheered for Punk . At December to Dismember , Kelly and Knox took on the team of Ariel and Kevin Thorn in a mixed tag team match , during which Knox refused to tag in before abandoning Kelly , leaving her to be beaten down by Ariel . On the following episode of ECW , Kelly defeated Ariel with a roll @-@ up on her first ECW singles match , after which Knox came to ringside with flowers , only to throw them in Kelly 's face and perform his signature swinging reverse STO on her , ending their relationship and giving her a scripted injury , removing her from the program for six weeks .

She returned to television on January 16 , 2007 and cut a promo announcing that she was newly single and bringing back Kelly 's Exposé . The following week , she joined Layla and Brooke to form Extreme Exposé . The trio performed a weekly dance segment on ECW for the next several months , as a successor to Kelly 's Exposé . In June 2007 , The Miz was moved to the brand , prompting a storyline in which all three members of Extreme Exposé were attracted to him . When Kelly shifted her attentions towards Balls Mahoney , Layla , Brooke , and Miz mocked her , and Miz later prevented her from going on a date with Mahoney , stating that he owned her contract and would fire her if she did so . On November 1 , Brooke was released from her WWE contract , and Extreme Exposé dissolved as a group , leaving Kelly and Layla to enter an ongoing rivalry with more active wrestling roles . On the October 29 episode of Raw , Kelly won a battle royal to earn a match against the WWE Women 's Champion , Beth Phoenix . After the match however , Kelly was attacked by Phoenix and lost the subsequent match between the two the following week on Raw . Kelly continued to feud with Layla , and they were on opposite sides of a 10 @-@ Diva tag team match at Survivor Series , which Kelly 's team won . In December , Layla formed an alliance with Victoria , which expanded to include Lena Yada in January 2008 , and Kelly continued to feud with the trio . At WrestleMania XXIV , Kelly was a " lumberjill " for the Divas ' tag team lumberjill match . The following month , Kelly was part of the losing team in a five @-@ on @-@ five Divas tag team match at Backlash .

== = Various feuds (2008 ? 2010) == =

Following the 2008 WWE Draft , Kelly was moved to the Raw brand on July 7 . Kelly had her debut match as part of the brand that same night , teaming with Mickie James to defeat Layla and Jillian Hall . She quickly became involved in a feud with Beth Phoenix , facing her on multiple occasions in both singles and tag team matches with a variety of opponents , including Mickie James and

Candice Michelle . During this time , Phoenix was aligned with Jillian Hall , and in late September , Kelly transitioned into a feud with Hall . At Survivor Series in November , Kelly was part of the victorious Raw Diva team which defeated the SmackDown Divas in a five @-@ on @-@ five elimination match ; she eliminated Victoria , before being eliminated by Maryse . The following month at Armageddon , Kelly teamed with Maria , Michelle McCool and Mickie James in a winning effort against Jillian Hall , Maryse , Victoria and Natalya .

On April 5 , 2009 , Kelly competed in a Divas battle royal at WrestleMania XXV , which was won by Santina Marella . On the May 18 episode of Raw , Kelly won a battle royal by eliminating Beth Phoenix and Mickie James , to become the number one contender to the WWE Divas Championship . The following week , she challenged Maryse for the championship and won by disqualification , allowing Maryse to retain . Kelly lost a subsequent rematch on June 8 . Three weeks later , she competed in a fatal four @-@ way match to determine the number one contender , but the match was won by Mickie James . Throughout the remainder of mid @-@ 2009 , Kelly unsuccessfully competed in several number one contender 's matches . At Bragging Rights in October , Kelly , Gail Kim and Melina comprised Team Raw , but lost to Team SmackDown , consisting of Beth Phoenix , Natalya and Michelle McCool . The following month at Survivor Series , Kelly participated in a five @-@ on @-@ five elimination match ; she eliminated Layla before being eliminated by Phoenix , however her team went on to win the match .

In January 2010 , Kelly participated in the tournament to determine a new Divas Champion , after Melina was forced to vacate the championship due to injury , but was eliminated by Alicia Fox in the first round . Throughout early 2010 , Kelly was involved in several backstage segments with the guest hosts of Raw . At WrestleMania XXVI , Kelly teamed with Beth Phoenix , Gail Kim , Mickie James and Eve Torres in a losing effort to Michelle McCool , Layla , Maryse , Alicia Fox and Vickie Guerrero . The following night on Raw , the teams faced off in a rematch with the opposite result . The following week , Kelly took part in a 10 @-@ Diva " Dress To Impress " battle royal , to determine the number one contender for Maryse 's Divas Championship , but the match was won by Eve Torres .

== == Divas Champion (2010 ? 2012) == ==

During the 2010 WWE draft on April 26 , Kelly was drafted to the SmackDown brand . She made her debut on the April 30 episode of SmackDown , teaming with Beth Phoenix to defeat LayCool (Michelle McCool and Layla) . She went on to feud with LayCool , gaining an ally in Tiffany . Over the next several weeks , Kelly and Tiffany faced LayCool in tag team matches , with LayCool winning on both occasions . On the June 4 episode of SmackDown , Kelly made her singles debut for the brand , defeating Rosa Mendes , despite being distracted by Layla and McCool . After defeating both Layla and McCool in singles matches , Kelly received a WWE Women 's Championship match at Money in the Bank in July , but was unsuccessful . On August 31 , Kelly announced that she would be a mentor on the all @-@ female third season of NXT , with Naomi as her rookie . Throughout the second half of 2010 , Kelly continued to feud with LayCool , and gained an ally in Natalya in October . In November , Kelly 's NXT rookie , Naomi , was named runner @-@ up to the winner , Kaitlyn , during the season finale .

In December , Kelly started a storyline with Drew McIntyre , who had developed an on @-@ screen romantic interest in her . She rebuffed his advances on several occasions , stating that he was too aggressive and vindictive . On January 30 , 2011 , at the Royal Rumble , Kelly prevented the Acting General Manager Vickie Guerrero from interfering in the World Heavyweight Championship match between Edge and Dolph Ziggler . On the following SmackDown , Kelly and Edge defeated LayCool and Ziggler in a two @-@ on @-@ three handicap match to retain Edge 's World Heavyweight Championship , with Kelly scoring the pinfall . Following the match , Guerrero fired Kelly in storyline . At Elimination Chamber later that month , Kelly was re @-@ hired by SmackDown General Manager Teddy Long , and made her return by attacking Guerrero . She was stopped by LayCool , who were in turn stopped by Trish Stratus . On the following episode of SmackDown , Kelly gained revenge on Guerrero when Kelly and Edge defeated Guerrero and Drew McIntyre in a mixed tag team match ,

causing Guerrero to be fired in storyline per the pre @-@ match stipulation .

On April 26 , Kelly was drafted back to the Raw brand as part of the 2011 supplemental draft . On May 22 at Over the Limit , Kelly unsuccessfully challenged Brie Bella for the WWE Divas Championship . The following month , on the Power to the People special edition of Raw on June 20 , Kelly won a fan vote to determine the challenger for the Divas Championship that night ; Kelly went on to win her first Divas Championship by defeating Bella . Her win later garnered her a Slammy Award for " Divalicious Moment of the Year " . At Money in the Bank in July , Kelly made her first title defense , successfully defeating Brie Bella in a rematch . On August 1 , Beth Phoenix won a battle royal to become the number one contender to Kelly 's championship , and afterward attacked Kelly to provoke a feud between the two . Kelly went on to successfully defend her championship against Phoenix at SummerSlam on August 14 . Following SummerSlam , Kelly continued to feud with Phoenix , defeating her at Night of Champions , before dropping the championship to her at Hell in a Cell on October 2 , ending her reign at 104 days . She failed to reign the championship on the October 14 episode of SmackDown in a rematch . Kelly again challenged Phoenix for the Divas Championship at Tables , Ladders & Chairs , but was unsuccessful .

At WrestleMania XXVIII in April 2012 , Kelly and Extra correspondent Maria Menounos defeated Beth Phoenix and Eve in a tag team match . In June , WWE granted Kelly a period of time off , and she returned on Raw on August 6 , defeating Eve in singles match . On September 28 , Blank was released from her contract . In a December 2012 interview , Blank stated she needed time off to heal a neck injury , and had plans to model .

= = = Independent circuit (2012) = = =

Blank was set to appear at her first independent wrestling show in Waterbury , Connecticut at a North East Wrestling event on November 4 , 2012 , followed by a house show event on November 5 , but her appearances were canceled due to Hurricane Sandy . Blank eventually made her first appearance for North East Wrestling on December 4 .

= = Other media = =

In April 2007 , Kelly , along with Ashley Massaro , Layla El , Brooke Adams , Torrie Wilson , and Maryse Ouellet , appeared in a music video for the Timbaland song " Throw It on Me " , featuring The Hives . On April 11 , 2008 , Blank along with Mickie James , Melina Perez , and Layla El appeared in an episode of Celebrity Fit Club : Boot Camp as trainers . Six days later , she appeared as a " Soccerette " on the British football show Soccer AM . She appeared a second time on Soccer AM in 2009 . On June 14 , 2011 , Kelly and The Bella Twins appeared on an episode of The Price Is Right .

In August 2007 , all three members of Extreme Exposé took part in a photo @-@ shoot for FHM Online . In 2011 , Blank was ranked number 82 in Maxim 's Hot 100 . Blank was later featured on both the front and back covers of Maxim in December 2011 . In 2012 , Blank ranked number 38 in Maxim 's Hot 100 .

Blank is one of the cast members of the E ! reality television series WAGS , which began airing in August 2015 and features a look into the personal lives of the wives and girlfriends of sportsmen .

= = Personal life = =

While training at OVW , Blank lived in Kentucky . Following this , Blank lived in Tampa , Florida prior to moving to Miami . She then returned to living in Tampa in 2010 . As of 2015 , she resides in Malibu , California . She describes Trish Stratus as her inspiration in wrestling .

Blank was in a two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half year relationship with wrestler Andrew Martin , that had ended prior to his death in March 2009 . In August 2014 , she became engaged to former ice hockey player Sheldon Souray . The couple were married in Mexico on February 27 , 2016 .

= = In wrestling = =

Finishing moves

K2 (Leg drop bulldog)

Signature moves

Diving crossbody

Kelly Killer (Handspring back elbow smash , to a cornered opponent)

Hanging figure four necklock

Hurricanrana

One @-@ handed bulldog

Sitout facebuster

Stink face

Corner foot choke

Tilt @-@ a @-@ whirl headscissors takedown

Thesz press followed by multiple punches

Wrestlers managed

The Miz

Mike Knox

Entrance themes

" Holla " by Desiree Coleman (2006 ? 2008)

" Holla (V2) " by Desiree Coleman (2008 ? 2012)

= = Championships and accomplishments = =

Pro Wrestling Illustrated

PWI ranked her # 15 of the best 50 female singles wrestlers in the PWI Female 50 in 2011

World Wrestling Entertainment / WWE

WWE Divas Championship (1 time)

Slammy Award for Divalicious Moment of the Year (2011) ? Kelly winning the Divas Championship