



Travel Channel Host Visits City

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Samantha Brown talks with patrons at Wonder Bar

By DON STINE

Samantha Brown, host and correspondent for the Travel Channel, paid a visit to Asbury Park's beachfront over the weekend to film a show segment on the Jersey Shore and focusing, in part, on the rock and roll music scene in Asbury Park.

The show is tentatively scheduled to air in September.



Brown teamed up with well known local musician Lance Larson who took a ride down the boardwalk and Ocean Avenue with Brown on a rented bicycle surrey.

"We discussed the music scene from the 1960s to the present day and how Asbury Park was always a destination for bands to play their own original music," Larson said.

"I explained to her how other clubs in the area wouldn't allow bands to do original music but that Asbury Park was always the exception. That's what drew a lot of artist here," he said.

Larson said he told Brown that almost every band playing in Asbury Park today still showcases some of their own music.

"That's what makes Asbury Park such an entertainment area," he said. Larson said that he is happy that Brown is showcasing the Jersey shore music scene, particularly Asbury Park.

"Asbury Park is finally getting the attention it deserves," he said.

Larson also taped a live performance of his own music outside the Wonder Bar with the band Outside The Box for the show.

"Samantha had a great time here," he said. "She even came back with the crew later and hung out. She said that she is going to come back with her husband soon for a visit."

"She said that she has never met a friendlier group of people than the ones she met in Asbury Park and this is a woman who has traveled all over the world. Everyone opened their arms to her in Asbury Park," he said.

Brown also stopped by the Wonder Bar for the bar's weekly Doggy Yappy Hour.

Wonder Bar manager Debbie DeLisa said she thought Brown stopping by to visit the dogs and the owners "was great".

"Not only did she cover the Asbury Park music scene but also the Doggy Yappy Hour," she said.

The Wonder Bar holds a weekly get together for dogs and their owners on a special deck on the southern side of the building at Fifth and Ocean Avenues.

"She was very compassionate with the animals and I think she loved it. I think the dog owners were also excited and it was a great scene," she said

DeLisa said that she appreciates all of the dogs and their owners for showing up and having people like Brown visit Asbury Park does a lot to promote the city.

"It helps put Asbury Park on the map. A show like Brown's has million of viewers," she said.

"Something new and exciting happens every day in Asbury Park," Delisa said.