

# Maisie's Mani Moments...



Washington's celebrity session tech, **MAISIE DUNBAR**, reveals how her faith and positive mental attitude have kept her encouraged throughout her nail journey

**would like to share my journey with other nail professionals in the hope it inspires and provides hope and happiness. I thank God for my life. I feel I am a testament of His great plans and abundant favour and am taking this opportunity to share some of these favourable moments.**

Earlier this year, my spa lounge had a spa party planned for 32 people and due to the snow, they naturally cancelled. For five days of that same week, all my spa guests cancelled their reservations. My spirit was weak, but I said quietly, 'Lord I trust you'. A few days later, around my birthday, April Watts, writer, producer and presenter for *WHWRocks* (WHW - *What's Hot Washington*) married her schedule with mine after months of juggling and came to interview me and shoot the spa. Within the same timeframe, I contacted my agent, as I'd not heard from him for a while, and he said he'd booked me for the following three days on an ad campaign with Colgate. Things were looking up!

When I got to New York for the campaign I reconnected with the legendary make-up artist Sam Fine and we spoke about doing some workshops together in my spa - I really felt I was being looked after!

Then my day got better when I received a call from Janice Miller, PR for Minx. She invited me to help apply Minx to over 50 fashion and beauty New Yorkers as well as international editors and bloggers.

God has a very strange way of working things out in my opinion. Despite the cancellations, He opened up a way for me and showed his favour in my life, for my career and much more. The lesson learned in this is do not give up - everything has its reason.

As a celebrity nail professional, salon owner, president and founder of Bluffajo Cosmetics, I must admit the journey has been hard, but great. I can honestly speak to all techs out there, whether you work from a desk, freelance or work on a television set or fashion runway. This is an industry that you control your own destiny within. You see, I've had to create and germinate my own opportunities from the very first trade show I attended. The seeds I sowed were the beginning of my now successful nail career. I have never had the opportunity of working in a salon or with other techs where I could learn by being shown the ropes.

My first job as a nail educator was with Seche International. I landed that job by being prepared. When I confronted the lead educator at an exhibition about a job with the brand, she said they were not hiring and to post my CV to her for future reference. I responded, "I can do one better than that; I have a CV and portfolio of my work right here." Needless to say, she hired me on

the spot and told me to call later regarding training.

I remained with Seche until my journey took me on a path to CND. And what a journey it has been! I'm grateful to confess I'm one of the few nail pros that has been privileged enough to have worked for two major nail manufacturers, as well as full-time in my salon. I have also continually mentored my peers nationally as well as internationally, started my own consultancy business, my own product company, as well as freelanced through agency work on TV shows, fashion shoots, magazine covers, ad campaigns, radio interviews, and volunteering in my community etc. And I did all this as a single parent raising my son. I must


say writing this down makes me realise that I'm blessed to be part of such a dynamic industry!

For the nail professionals out there saying, 'I just want to do this on the side' or 'I'm just a nail tech' or 'I just can't do this any more' or 'the economy is bad for my business' etc, I am here to

encourage you by saying YES YOU CAN! You are part of the best industry in the world.

The nail industry has blessed and given me the opportunity to work with some of the most successful entertainers the world has seen and I've grown up listening to.

I am still open to learning as the beauty pie is large. There are absolutely no limits or boundaries to what can be achieved. Just look in the mirror and change whatever you do not like about your nail career - today.

Take it from someone that started with no clientele and can now humbly say that having such great clients, freelancing, educating and enjoying monetary success in nails is a great place to be. Hard work plus God's favour really has paid off for me. 



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By: Maisie Dunbar

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