

# Mary Beth's Celebrity Spotlight

## Young and Restless for Beanies®

**Two of daytime drama's youngest stars reveal their addiction to collecting the cutest bean bags in Hollywood**

*In the past three years, Bryant Jones and Camryn Grimes have been kidnapped, adopted, stuck in the middle of a bitter custody battle, seen a parent hit by a car, had a parent beat cancer and still found time to assemble a pretty respectable bean bag collection.*

*Not bad for a couple of preteen stars of the popular daytime drama, "The Young and the Restless."*

**Bryant Jones:  
Mad about the  
Moose**

Jones is a four-year veteran of the "The Young and the Restless." The show has been on CBS for more than 25 years, and for the past four Jones has portrayed young Nate, son of Nathan and Olivia. He also nabbed a 1998 Daytime Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series.

"He's really small, he's cute and he talks a lot," Jones says about his role as Nate.

His acting career has included commercial work

for Hormel Chili and Jelly Bean Jingle, and modeling for the Hilton Hotel franchise. This little charmer began his career in a pageant where he used to "wink my eyes at girls," which led to getting an agent who asked him if he wanted to be in show business. Jones said yes.

Although Jones has been playing Nate Hastings on the show for several years, he hasn't been a collector quite that long.

"Two years ago, I started to like Beanie Babies®," he says. Chocolate® the moose, a gift from an acting studio teacher, was his first Beanie.

"I think it was for my birthday," Jones says hesitantly. Though memories of getting that first Beanie® may be unclear, Chocolate® remains his favorite Beanie and playmate.



Camryn Grimes and Bryant Jones display some of their favorite bean bag friends.



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When asked how he plays with his collection, Chocolate® comes up — a lot.

“I get Chocolate® and go to the hippos and say, ‘Hello, how are you doing today?’” he says excitedly. “I make this toy into a building; I pretend it’s the Statue of Liberty and Chocolate® climbs it.” The moose also has a prime nighttime spot on the corner of Jones’ bunkbed.

And what about other Beanies in his family?

“I play with them sometimes because my sister has some, but not Chocolate®,” Jones says.

He’s the proud owner of a small (but growing) Beanie collection. Although he only has about a half dozen now, he harbors plans for a large Beanie bunch.

“I like Beanie Babies a lot. They’re soft, they’re cuddly,” he says laughing. “I’m going to try to get more and more and more — I want a lot! Maybe 100.”

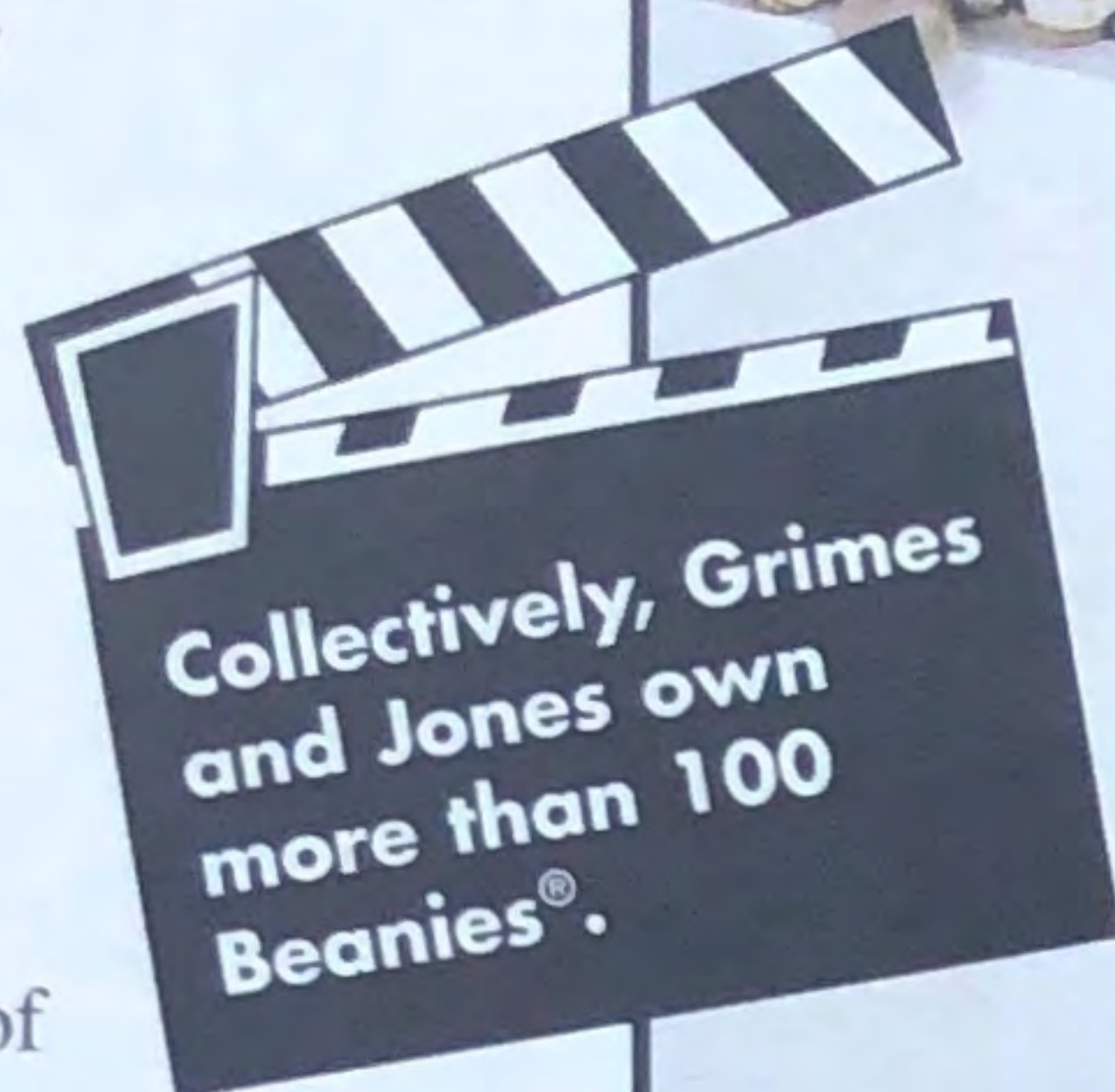
Right now, he stores his Beanies in his bunkbed cubbyholes. “I don’t have enough to fill the bottom,” he says wistfully. “But I’ll get enough to fill it.”

And this 7-year-old is full of acting ideas. Some of his dream projects are a far cry from his dramatic soap star role.

“Maybe one day I can do a Beanie Baby movie — a movie about a Beanie Baby who came alive and he didn’t want people to know.”

Which Beanies would he cast in the film? No big surprise — Jones chose an old favorite as his leading Beanie.

“It’d be Chocolate® — and Princess®,” he says.



Look out, Hollywood.

## Camryn Grimes: Serious Character, Serious Collector

Grimes has been on “The Young and the Restless” for two years, portraying Cassie Johnson.

“I like my character a lot because she’s sweet and very mature,” she says. “But sometimes she’s sad. She’s sad a lot.”

Camryn struggled to explain her character, who has been shuffled from household to household in her two years on the show.

happy with Grace. But at first when she went to Sharon’s, she was uncomfortable, but now she loves Sharon and Nick and doesn’t want to leave.”

Heavy stuff for a 9-year-old. But Grimes’ portrayal of the misplaced Cassie has won raves in the soap opera circle. In addition to playing a central character on the No. 1-rated daytime drama, she was nominated this year for a Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Younger Actress in a Drama Series.

Although playing Cassie has been a promising start to her career, Camryn’s not quite ready to commit to acting yet. When asked what she wants to be when she grows up, she reveals she has other plans in motion.

“I’m going for magic,” she says. “I’m so interested in Houdini. I pass by his house everyday on my way to the set. I’m going to do a book report on him.”

But before she focuses full-time on magic, Grimes is concentrating on Beanie collecting. She got her first Beanie



“She’s adopted by Alice,”

Camryn begins, pausing slightly. “While Alice went away, Grace came and got her and for awhile, she was



(Squealer®), three years ago. Princess® and Erin® rank as favorites, but Grimes struggled to recall exactly how many Beanies® she owns.

“Let’s see, let’s see, let’s see,” she says, carefully calculating the numbers in her head. “I think I might have 101.”

She may not have an exact count, but she does have a final goal — 3,000 Beanies. Or more.

“Well, I might still collect,” she says shyly.

Grimes stores her 100-plus Beanies in various ways — on a hanger with pockets on her door, on a pole with rubberbands and in a case (with a few extra at grandma’s.) Not all of her Beanies are for display.

“I play with them,” she says. “I’m very

careful with them.” (But Peace® and Garcia are hands off).

She has also received Beanies from fans and family.

“I do have a fan who is a Beanie fan, too, and sometimes she sends me one,” the actress says.

At the time of the interview, she was eagerly searching for Seamore® the seal. But she was more interested in what I Kiwi®  
*Bean Bag World* had laying around the office, firing off Beanie name after Beanie name in a serious tone more suited for her soap character, Cassie. She wanted to know the truth: Was there really a full set?

“Let me ask you,” she asks in a dramatic hushed voice. “I’m totally serious — do you have Kiwi®?” (We do.)



Like many collectors, Grimes is unsure about just what got her hooked on Beanies.

“I don’t know what I like about them,” she says.

“They’re just so cool!”

## Collecting Costars

Although Jones and Grimes are the two youngest cast members on the show, they rarely share screen time. Jones could only recall one time they acted together on the show — at a swimming party where he and Grimes danced and played volleyball.

The two rarely play Beanies together, either — Grimes is too cautious a collector to even bring hers to the set.

Although she confirmed she and Jones rarely are in the same scene, she dished the dirt on other “Young and the Restless” cast members.

“Do you know who’s a big collector? Jeanne Cooper,” she says. “She has more than 3,000 — she beats me!”

It seems this soap has more than a few stars of the bean bag variety. ♥



Grimes started her collection with Squealer® and Jones with Chocolate® the moose.