

Crazy about Nazie!

Quvenzhané “Nazie” Wallis was born on Aug. 28, 2003, in Houma, La., where she attends Honduras Elementary School. She is the daughter of Venjie and Qulyndreia Wallis, and sister to Qun-yuekya, Vejon and Venjie Jr.

Nazie loves reading, singing, dancing, acting and playing her iPod and Nintendo DS. She’s a big fan of China McClain, Selena Gomez and Miley Cyrus, and her favorite sports are basketball, volleyball, dance and cheerleading.

Here, she talks about her Oscar-nominated performance as Hushpuppy in “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” a visually-enchanting modern parable issuing a dire warning about the threat to the planet posed by civilization and corporations if left unchecked.

Kam Williams: Hi Quvenzhané, thanks for giving me an interview. You were so beautiful and so amazing in this movie! I was really stunned by your stage presence.

Quvenzhané Wallis: Thank you.

KW: I thought you were funny and charming when I saw you interviewed by Jay Leno on the Tonight Show recently. And I know that you also went to the Sundance Film Festival and travelled to France for the Cannes Film Festival. What was that like?

QW: I had a lot of fun in France. I liked how they said my name over there. They wouldn’t say Quvenzhané. They would say a whole other thing.

KW: What type of name is Quvenzhané? I thought it was French, especially since you’re from Louisiana, where there are a lot of people with French ancestry.

QW: It’s Swahili.

KW: My name is Swahili, too. Kam is short for Kamau.

QW: [To her mother, excitedly] His name is Swahili, too! [To me] What does Kamau mean?

KW: “Quiet warrior.” What does your name mean?

QW: My name means “fairy.”

KW: May I call you by your nickname, Nazie?

QW: Yes, but it’s pronounced “Nay-zee.”

KW: Sorry, “Nay-zee.” You were only 5, when you auditioned for the role of Hushpuppy. Had you acted or taken acting lessons before?

QW: No.

KW: Did you enjoy making Beasts of the Southern Wild?

QW: Yes.

KW: A lot of scenes were shot on the bayou and around animals like alligators, pigs and chickens. Were you ever afraid, Nazie?

QW: Yes, I was afraid of the pig.

KW: What was it like seeing yourself on the big screen for the first time, after the film was finished?

QW: I was like: “Wow! There is actually a bigger me, but I can handle it.” It was something you wouldn’t get used to, but I felt smaller, and my voice was smaller, too. So, there was like a bigger me with a smaller voice, and a smaller me with a big voice. It was something I would never have thought would happen that way.

KW: You are the youngest of four kids. Do your sister and big brothers treat you any differently now that you’re a movie star?

QW: Nope, they treat me the same way.

KW: Nazie, are you anything like your character, Hushpuppy?

QW: In some ways I am, in some ways I’m not. We both like to go outside and do some things that you wouldn’t even think about.

KW: What do you think people will learn from this movie?

QW: That when you’re a little kid, you might have to take care of your parents as much as they take care of you. Otherwise, they might get sick, and that’s something you don’t want to happen.



CELEBRITY INTERVIEW

by Kam Williams

KW: What do you like to do to have fun?

QW: Ride my bike.

KW: What is your favorite movie?

QW: Happy Feet 2.

KW: What is your favorite book?

QW: “Judy Moody.”

KW: Have you seen the Judy Moody movie?

QW: No, I don’t think so, but I might have seen it at school.

KW: I think you’d remember it if you’d seen it. It’s really cool! What do you like to watch on TV?

QW: The Disney Channel.

KW: Which Disney show is your favorite, Nazie?

QW: “Jessie.”



Quvenzhané Wallis

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A colonoscopy can save your life.

We know. It’s not a test you’re looking forward to. But because colon cancer has no early warning signs and can be deadly if it progresses, screening is essential. Colorectal cancer is highly preventable. If caught early, it’s highly curable. If you’re African-American and age 45 or older, ask your doctor about colon cancer screening.

Free community events

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and we’ll be talking about colon cancer prevention and treatment. Join us at one of our free events. **Space is limited, and reservations are required.**

For more information or to register, please call Providence Resource Line at 503-574-6595 or visit www.providence.org/coloncancer.

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Free community events

Monday, March 11
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Providence Milwaukie Hospital
Mother Gamelin and Mother Joseph conference rooms
10150 SE 32nd Ave.
Milwaukie
(Lunch provided)

Tuesday, April 2
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Providence Willamette Falls Community Center
519 15th St.
Oregon City
(Lunch provided)

Friday, April 5
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Providence St. Vincent Medical Center
Souther Auditorium
9205 SW Barnes Road
Portland
(Lunch provided)

Cancer Talk Series:
Monday, March 11
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Providence Portland Medical Center
Cancer Center Amphitheater
4805 NE Glisan St.
Portland
(For people affected by colon cancer)

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