

Instagram Hacking Forces Los Angeles Actress Hunter Phoenix to Rebuild Cyber Presence



Los Angeles, Jan 7, 2019 (IssueWire.com) - Los Angeles actress and model Hunter Phoenix confirmed that her Instagram account with approximately 40,000 followers has been hacked. Phoenix woke to an email from hackers threatening to ruin her account and reputation unless she sent an undisclosed sum of money in bitcoin within 3 hours. Phoenix who has a highly engaged fan base and has built her account to a commercial level is routinely approached by advertisers to feature their products in her posts in return for financial compensation.

A career actress and model with hundreds of advertising campaigns to her credit, Phoenix calls Instagram “the next gen magazine” but notes a large responsibility is placed upon models to produce the content and manage their own brand to attract advertisers. *“This has been extremely stressful and nerve-wracking,”* says Phoenix. *“It takes considerable effort and resources to build a loyal following, and yes, it’s a business. Losing the account even temporarily means losing clients and trust.”*

Instagram, with more than 1 billion users has seen a significant upswing in hacked accounts in recent months. This was first reported in August 2018 by the global media giant, [Mashable](http://Mashable.com) and also the [New York Post](http://NewYorkPost.com). Data from analytics platform Talkwalker shows there were more than 5,000 tweets from 899 accounts mentioning Instagram hacks in just a seven day period last year. Instagram does not provide assistance with account recovery even for coveted Instagram Business accounts as is the case with Ms Phoenix.

LAPD Cybercrimes Unit was called to assist in the matter due to the threats and monetary demands. “We see this every day with actors and models in this town” notes Det. Larsen with the unit “Our first concern is for the safety of the victim and the security of their other online accounts, particularly bank accounts, and cell phones which are often targeted after a social media hack.” Phoenix expressed deep gratitude for their help stating that the advice and support she received from the police was invaluable in what has turned out to be a domino attack as predicted.

Phoenix was able to regain control of her account but not her account name so it still remains largely dormant while in flux. “My first obligation is to my followers,” says Phoenix, “without them there is no reason to post and no business.” Instagram’s algorithms only promote only very active and engaged accounts and will remove followers from latent accounts which Phoenix has been experiencing due to the downtime and continued re-hack attempts. Phoenix was fully transparent with advertising partners about the situation to have the account restored and re-established by the end of February 2019.

Hunter Phoenix is an actress, model and voiceover artists who have appeared on-stage and in film and television productions across the U.S., Canada and Europe. She has also appeared in more than 200 commercials, print ads and voice-over roles. To find out more about Hunter Phoenix visit: IMDB.me/HunterPhoenix or www.HunterPhoenix.tv



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