



**BY LINDA MOSS**

**NEWJERSEYNEWSROOM.COM**

***Christy Pereira***

***Age: 30***

***Resides: Bridgewater***

***Manager of Gatsby Salon, Green Brook***

Christy Pereira, one of the central characters of "Jerseylicious," is an unabashed fan and defender of New Jersey, despite all those jokes about big hair and garbage dumps.

"Personally, I love it here," the dark-haired woman said. "I really do love it here so much because we have beautiful beaches, in my opinion, although some people may not think they are. We have the city right there. We're not far from Philadelphia. I think it's beautiful. I think we have so many gorgeous parts of the state."

Pereira is very close, emotionally and physically, to her mother Gayle Giacomo, who owns Gatsby Salon. They live only about a mile apart in Bridgewater.

Pereira believes that the trials and tribulations of her mother, her and the salon's staff will be entertaining to viewers spanning a wide age group, and that audiences will relate to the stylists.

"Our personal story is interesting, because it's an established business, and it's about my mom taking over this business and really making it her own after the death of my stepfather so many years ago," Pereira said. **RELATED STORIES:**

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"And the stories of the rest of the cast members, they're all at different points in their lives doing different things," she said. "You have these 20-year-olds who are just starting their career and finding out who they are. You have me, who is struggling to be her (Giacomo's) assistant/manager. I'm already married and I'm kind of boring, in a way. Then you have another character, Anthony, and he's a male, so he brings something else to the table"

Before Pereira decided to be a participant in "Jerseylicious," she and her husband sat down to discuss the issue. They decided Pereira should go ahead and take advantage of this unique opportunity.

"Basically, it's an experience, no matter how you look at it, whether it turns out to be excellent or it turns out to be so-so," she said. "How many people really get the experience to do this? And it's been a lot of fun learning and seeing the cameras, the crew, the producers. So there've been a lot of other things that we've gotten to learn and see besides just being on TV ourselves."