

----- QUICK FACTS -----

Name: Dawn Jani Birley

Occupation: Actor

Birth Date: November 30, 1977

Place of Birth: Regina, Saskatchewan CANADA

Zodiac sign: Sagittarius

Fluent in 9 Languages: American Sign Language (ASL), mother tongue and English; Finnish Sign Language and Finnish; Norwegian Sign Language and Norwegian; Swedish Sign Language and Swedish; and International Sign.



----- BEST KNOWN FOR -----

Dawn Jani Birley is a host and anchor for H3 Network Media Alliance, a Canadian organisation that broadcasts in International Sign for the world all over. Birley's world travel and news videos may be among the fans' favourite but it was her coverage of the Deaflympic scandal in Slovakia in February 2011 that brought extensive international fame.

----- SYNOPSIS -----

Dawn Jani Birley was born on November 30, 1977, in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, to a third generation Deaf family and a younger Deaf sister. Mainstreamed with sign language interpreters all her life and after graduating from Thom Collegiate in 1995, Birley attended Gallaudet University, the only University for the Deaf in the world. In 1999, she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. degree in Communication Arts along many prestigious awards. Growing up, Dawn was heavily involved in sports such as basketball and volleyball. However, Tae Kwon Do was "the sport" - she had earned a spot on the Canadian Olympic Team and represented her country in international competitions from 1989 to 1999. Her best achievements were winning the World Junior Championship title at age 15; being the first female ever in Canadian history to win the MVP award at the 1995 Nationals; and placing fifth in the world. At Gallaudet, she played varsity volleyball, basketball, and softball as well as being a member of Delta Epsilon Sorority serving as a member, Vice-President, and President respectively.

Right after college, Birley accepted an offer to live and work as a teacher in Norway for two years before another job offer brought her to Finland where she has been living for the past 10 years. While being abroad, she has worked as a teacher, Youth Program Coordinator, Camp Director, Assistant to the General Secretary at the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), Culture and Events Coordinator, Photographer, Website Designer, Translator and Deaf Interpreter, employee of Teatteri Totti, a professional Finnish Sign Language Theatre, and TV host for H3.

Right now, Birley is an actor working with different theatre companies all over the world, with Deaf and hearing alike, with the ability of being fluent in 9 different languages and ASL being her mother tongue. Her passion is to show that Deaf and hearing can work together on the front line in bringing positive change in our today's world. That "change" is to divert the belief of Deaf people being handicapped to a language minority instead. This is shown through an example of a groundbreaking work with Nightwood, a theatre company in Toronto. Production is ongoing with premiere and a possible tour in Canada in autumn 2013. On top of acting, Dawn freelances with H3 with the goal of bringing information accessibility to international Deaf communities.

Born a Canadian and always a Canadian, Dawn Jani Birley divides her time professionally and recreationally- that is living in Northern Europe, Canada, and travelling the world.