

Who is Nyle DiMarco?

Name _____ Class · period _____ Date _____

THE SHORT VERSION

Nyle DiMarco (1989–present) comes from a multigenerational Deaf family. He won *America's Next Top Model* and *Dancing With the Stars*, produced *Children of a Lesser God* on Broadway, and founded a foundation built on the idea that every child deserves love and language.

EARLY LIFE AND CAREER

From the Maryland School for the Deaf to network television

01 A MULTIGENERATIONAL DEAF FAMILY

- 01 Nyle was not the only person in his family to be Deaf, but instead is a member of a multigenerational Deaf family whose deafness can be traced back to his great grandfathers.

25 members of his extended family are Deaf, including his siblings (an older brother and a twin brother), parents and grandparents.

Nyle's twin is Deaf as well, and works as a DJ.

- 02 Nyle was taught both English and ASL from the start, and started his education at the Maryland School for the Deaf.

He then went on to earn his degree in Mathematics from Gallaudet University.

02 EARLY CAREER

- 01 Even though he had a solid education, Nyle's physical attractiveness is what started his career.

Starting out as a freelance model, Nyle was discovered on Instagram when he was 25 by the producers of the reality TV show *America's Next Top Model*.

Nyle ended up being a fan favorite, and was the first Deaf winner.

- 02 Nyle wasn't only known as a model, but was also on *Dancing With the Stars*.

Although Marlee Matlin was the first Deaf performer on the show, DiMarco was the first Deaf winner, in 2016.

- 03 Nyle can also be seen in the series *Difficult People*, *Switched at Birth*, and *This Close*, as well as some music videos.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Producing on Broadway, and fighting for language access for Deaf kids

03 A NEW FIELD

- 01 Nyle jumped from the screen to the stage when he decided to become a producer for the show *Children of a Lesser God* on Broadway in New York City.

This is Nyle's first time being a producer, but he feels that it is important for Deaf artists to provide input for entertainment that focuses on the Deaf community.

Nyle believes that Deaf actors should be used for Deaf characters, and that Deaf people should be involved in all areas of the creative process.

Nyle also believes that the Deaf should create content that they feel is missing in their culture. To help this, Nyle developed ASL tutorials for *Children of a Lesser God* so that the audience would receive a peek into the show's themes and languages.

04 THE NYLE DIMARCO FOUNDATION

- 01 Along with modeling, acting, producing and advocating, Nyle became the founder of the **Nyle DiMarco Foundation**.

The foundation is described on its website as "a non-profit organization that exists as a national philanthropic resource for all organizations, institutions and individuals working to improve the lives of every Deaf person in the world."

The organization is focused on Deaf children and their families, specifically with the bilingual education approach to early language acquisition. This is built in with the foundation's broader belief that "every child deserves love and language."

- 02 DiMarco is also a spokesman for **Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids** (LEAD-K).

05 MORE WORK TO DO

- 01 Nyle accomplished all of this by the age of 30. However, he still has much more that he plans to do. A quote that best describes his motivation, passion and accomplishments is:

I don't find not being able to hear an obstacle or a boundary. For me, for many of us, it is an advantage and it's part of my identity. It's a huge part of who I am.

NYLE DIMARCO

06 NAMES AND TERMS TO KNOW**NAME OR TERM****WHY IT MATTERS IN THIS STORY****Maryland School for the Deaf**

Where Nyle started his education, taught in both English and ASL from the start.

America's Next Top Model

The show that discovered Nyle on Instagram at 25, and where he became the first Deaf winner.

Marlee Matlin

The first Deaf performer on *Dancing With the Stars*. Nyle became the show's first Deaf winner in 2016.

Children of a Lesser God

The Broadway show Nyle produced — his first time as a producer — and made ASL tutorials for.

LEAD-K

Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids, an organization Nyle speaks for.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer in complete sentences using what you read

07 WRITTEN RESPONSE

01 Describe Nyle's family. How many relatives are Deaf, and how far back does it go?

02 Name the two competition shows Nyle won, and what made each win a first.

03 Why does Nyle think Deaf people should be involved in all areas of the creative process, not just acting?

04 What does the Nyle DiMarco Foundation focus on, and what does “every child deserves love and language” mean to you?

05 Nyle calls being Deaf an advantage and part of his identity rather than an obstacle. How do you see that belief showing up in the work he chooses?

08 WHERE THIS INFORMATION COMES FROM

Nyle DiMarco nyledimarco.com

Nyle DiMarco Foundation nyledimarcofoundation.com

“Nyle DiMarco Went From America’s Next Top Model to Broadway Producer: How *Children of a Lesser God* Paved the Way” [Deadline Hollywood · deadline.com](http://deadline.com)