



the
**Henry
Ford**®



Alesi Gerthe

1990-Present

Nationality: American

Started Racing in 2001

<http://alesigerthe.com/>

Origins: Even when she was young, Rockdale, TX-native Alesi Gerthe was attracted to anything motorized. By the time she was four years old, Alesi was already steering the family car in the driveway while perched on her father's lap. At the age of eight her grandfather, Gunar Gerthe, officially taught her how to drive, a skill she frequently used around the family's property in eastern Texas. Alesi and her younger brother Ayrton stayed busy driving go-karts, dune buggies, four-wheelers, golf karts, motorcycles, and dirt bikes as children, great practice for both of their future racing careers.

Early Influences: Racing has always been a family event for the Gerthes. After Alesi and Ayrton earned their full-size dragster licenses in 2001, Alesi's parents Duane and Lisa founded "New Breed Racing," a National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) and International Hot Rod Association (IHRA) racing operation. That same year Alesi began racing Jr. Dragsters under the tutelage of Terry McMillian, owner of Hoosier Thunder Motorsports. Although she immediately enjoyed racing and excelled at the sport, it wasn't until she was 15 that Gerthe considered pursuing racing professionally. In 2005 for the first time fans were allowed to visit the starting line in drag racing events and Alesi was moved by their outpouring of support and enthusiasm. Instead of seeing racing as a past-time, Gerthe started seriously considering owning her own car, a racing team, and joining the professional circuit.

Racing Accomplishments:

- In 2003 Alesi was named runner-up in the Division 4 Teams Finals Gambler's Race and in the Temple Dragway Jr. Dragster Track Championship.
- She dominated IHRA's Division 4 in 2004, winning the division's Team Jr. Dragster Championship in San Antonio, Jr. Dragster Gambler's Race, and Jr. Dragster Master's Race at West Texas Raceway. She also earned four runner-up positions throughout the season.
- Alesi earned runner-up positions in the 2005 Lone Star Raceway's Pro-Am and Renegade races, Tulsa Raceway's Pro-Am, and at the Cajun Jr. Nationals Quick 32 in Lufkin, TX.
- Gerthe made her presence known when she decided to start competing on a national level in 2007 and won the first round of her first national quick rod event in San Antonio. She finished the IHRA Quick Rod season ranked 88th out of the series' 452 racers and 34th within Division 4.
- In 2008, Gerthe was the highest-ranked woman in IHRA Quick Rod, being ranked 42nd nationally out of 398 racers within the series.
- Gerthe qualified for the Texas Nationals Dallas Raceway IHRA Quick Rod Quarter Finals and was one of the top-seven finishers in Amalie Oil Texas Nationals in 2009.

Life off the Track: Currently a sophomore communications major at University of Texas in Austin, Gerthe manages to be a typical college student while still competing in drag races across Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. She enjoys reading (particularly the *Twilight* Saga), watching "Desperate Housewives" on television, listening to music by Jason Mraz, and cheering on University of Texas's football team.

Achievements and Awards:

- In 2006 earned 8.90 Index License from Doug Foley's Drag Racing School
- Featured on the NGK Spark Plugs Enthusiast website (ArtOfFast.com) in 2008
- 2009 ThisIsBracketRacing.com Live Drag School Graduate
- 2009 Women in the Winner's Circle Project Podium Grant Recipient
- 2010 Women in the Winner's Circle Driver Development Academy Participant

Sources Consulted

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