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JENN GOTZON

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ACTRESS JENN GOTZON

BY JOHN KIKRILIS PHOTOGRAPHER PAUL SCHEFZ STYLIST RUDY ROCHA MAKEUP/HAIR ALFRED MERCADO FOR AKA MANAGEMENT - MAC COSMETICS/REDKEN

Acclaimed the “2008 Rising Star” for portraying President Nixon's daughter Tricia Nixon in Ron Howard's Oscar-nominated 'Frost/Nixon.' Starring in over 20 independent films as the leading lady, Gotzon continuously garners awards for her Meryl Streep chameleon-like transformations in 'Stained' (168 Hour Film Festival), 'Chemistry' (Wildwood By the Sea Film Fest), 'Light Sensitive' (Joanne Baron Graduate Master Intensive), 'All Heart and Soul' (Sacramento's CREO7) and 'Julie and Jack' (Global Art Film Festival). Studio cameos include 'The Hulk,' 'Yes Man,' 'Role Models,' & TV's 'Pushing Daisies,' 'House' and 'CSI:NY.'



BCBG emerald green jeweled dress
Pantera gold "angel wing" earrings
Mahlia gold bracelet



BCBG cobalt blue dress
Misis silver earrings

It is the duty of the actor to create a world, unto itself, for the moviegoer—to abandon any snippet of themselves when portraying a character, to disappear into that particular persona and take on any and all of their emotional quandaries, subtle nuances, and even their pestering peccadillos. Most importantly, the actor makes you feel as though you're not watching a movie at all—their catharsis so profound and exhilarating, you forget about the sticky, soda-stained floors beneath your feet, the screaming siren-child four aisles behind you, and the overpriced popcorn that, after a friendly request at the counter, still doesn't have enough butter.

Some actors handle this morphing from "self" to "someone else" unusually well—masterfully well, in some cases. Scarily well, in rare cases. Jenn Gotzon is one of those cinematic chameleons that falls in the latter category, a strange and ethereal beauty that is completely unrecognizable from one roll of celluloid to the next, taking on a diversity of characters that challenge her to manifest the earnest extremes of the human condition. She's played the hero and the villain. She's played both the ingenue and the vixen—and yes, she's played everything else in between like your comedic ditz to your emotionally distraught.

"I thrive upon transformation in my characters," begins the gorgeous Gotzon, both born and raised in the Lehigh Valley,

and most recently having appeared in the Oscar-contender "Frost/Nixon." "It is a challenge that I love to take on. I love creating all of the different elements that human being, that character, would have. I love finding ways to manifest the creativity in my physical body, in my mannerisms, in my emotional perspective, in my relationships with other characters onscreen, and all of it becomes an art-form, and I feel as though I'm crafting something that is so opposite of who I am."

Gotzon is a serious actor. A graduate of The New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts, as well as the Joanne Baron and DW Brown Studio and Clay Banks Film Acting Studio in Los Angeles, it is no surprise that the Hollywood community has already been fanatically drawing comparisons between Gotzon and Meryl Streep, as well as Kate Winslet. "Jenn's a chameleon actress. I felt like I was watching a young Meryl Streep on screen," Bill Dance, Casting Director. She has been in over 25 independent films, and has acquired several acting accolades, including the Rising Star Award at the Wildwood By the Sea Film Festival, as well as the coveted Best Actress Award in the 168-Hour Film Festival for her work in the film "Stained". It's hard to believe that a femme of such fever and fortitude has her humble beginnings in the otherwise forgettable world of dinner theatre.

"I loved murder mystery dinner theatre!" shares Gotzon with a sweet shout, obviously happy to revisit such a wonderful memory. "I was known as the girl who could memorize things quickly and pull off any kind of character. Literally, there would be shows where I would be casted, and someone would drop out at the last moment of the run, and I was the first person they would go to because they knew I would be able to pull it off. Something that stands out in my mind, we were doing a production called "Three Weddings and a Funeral", and I was cast as the ugly bride. And when I showed up for rehearsal, the producer told the director that he had a big problem with me playing that role because, visually, he didn't think I'd be able to pull it off."

She pauses and laughs to herself. "And I was like, just wait—let me show you what Jenn can do! So I teased my hair out with some braids, I created a uni-brow and long eyelashes, and a mole with hair coming out of it, and went the opposite of make-up technique, which is used to create beauty, to create the image of something as unappealing as possible, and the pictures were hysterical! And that's what I loved about dinner theatre, that I would undergo these major transformations that played completely against my type."

The simple savor of murder mystery theatre led Gotzon to New York City, where the actress, now housing a more voracious appetite for the craft of acting, performed in several, significantly-potent student films. Soon afterwards, she began her love affair with the West Coast, first settling in San Francisco, and then traveling to Los Angeles. It was here that Gotzon, now well-established in the independent film community, met Josh Weigel, who would later go on to direct Gotzon in the award winning "Stained".

"We went to the same acting conservatory in Los Angeles," begins Gotzon of her friend and colleague Weigel. "We weren't in the same class, but he went through the program, so he knew what the program

produced. And I was telling him and the producers that I would love to work with them, and when he put the lead role of Anya together, he told me that he almost didn't give me the role because he could not see me without my blonde hair."

An all-too familiar story for Gotzon. "He needed to visualize me with my hair dark and dirty and with no make-up and very grungy to accurately portray the political prisoner in the film. And then when he cast me, that was a one-hundred percent, complete transformation. I still walk into rooms and people are talking about the film 'Stained', and people walk up to me and say, 'Oh my Gosh, you've got to see this film,' and then I realize that they don't even know that I was in the film, and they're just sharing because they loved the film so much. And that's one of the best parts about acting, is that people don't even recognize you off-screen because you did such a good job turning yourself into that character. That is something that I really do enjoy." "Jenn was terrific in *STAINED* added real depth to the story telling." Ralph Winter, Executive Producer of *The X Men Series*.

Despite her undeniable popularity in the independent world, Gotzon has made herself more accessible to American audiences with "Frost/Nixon", the 2008 historical drama retelling the post-Watergate television interviews between British talk-show host David Frost and former President Richard Nixon, starring Frank Langella, Michael Sheen, Kevin Bacon, and Patty McCormack. It was both a breakthrough role and promising prospect for the young actress, who recalls the experience of hearing the news that she'd won the part with all the same emotion, sincerity, and passion.

"I remember crying with tears of joy, running from where I got the phone call to where I live on the marina, and I remember looking at the ocean and jumping up and down thanking God," says Gotzon in a broken voice, tears obviously filling her eyes as she shares the story. "When you work in the independent world, and then you move into the studio world, they are such different animals. It's like dealing with the cute, lion cub, and then having to deal with the lion. You can learn so much from how the studio system works, and you realize that this is what the process looks like. I have learned so much, and I have been actively taking as many mental notes as I possibly could. It's been a progression in my career, and I've been very grateful for all of the wonderful, small-budget projects that I had been a part of, as well as the smaller, studio roles that I had taken on—it's almost like having been educated by experience, because every role had built upon the other. And if I had been cast in 'Frost/Nixon' five years ago, I don't think I would have been able to articulate the work that I did in the manner that I did."

Not always the serious actor, Gotzon laughs and shares a behind the scenes moment on the set as First daughter Tricia Nixon "In almost all of my scenes, I would be crying, reenacting President Nixon's farewell during the resignation speech, final helicopter departure leaving the White House, near death hospitalization all required heavy emotion and tearfulness." begins Gotzon, "and I wear contacts. And so every take my eyes would be full of tears, and literally, the last take before lunch, I blinked and my contact was thrown out of my eye and I caught it with my hand, and I'm like, you gotta be kidding me! This is perfect timing! Because if that would have happened earlier, it would have disrupted production, because I would have to be taken off set to put my contact back in, and that could have been a five or ten minute ordeal, and that's a lot of money in the film world!"

Gotzon met her husband, Chris Armstrong (Super Bowl Commercial Director Finalist and working with Jenn on 10 million dollar genetics thriller tentatively called "One Small Life" to shoot later this year in New Orleans), in 2002, when she acted in his writing/directing debut "Scenario for Delirium". The film focuses on the events leading to and after a bank robbery, and the two, troubled lovers behind the crime. For the film, Gotzon incorporated her immense portfolio of dramatic training to take on one of the most difficult roles of her career. "I had to play a very edgy, bad-girl vixen, and every ounce of who that character was, there was nothing of me at all that was like her. She was very manipulative, she was also very seductive, very evil, and it's such a different mindset of who I am. I physically used a technique, an animal technique, where I studied the movements of a Cheetah, and I realized that such an animal is a predator, much like the character I was portraying. I focused on elements of my hands and my mouth filtering every movement and interaction through the animal instincts and behavior of a Cheetah. Unfortunately, that was my husband's parent's first impression of me, seeing me in that film, and that was very funny. Because they were like, 'Oh my! We don't want you marrying that girl!' I remember meeting them all, and they were so, so concerned! And I am not that character—I mean, we're the epitome of opposites! It was really quite fun for them to realize that their first impression was of an actress in a film and not the human being who I am."



Tracy Reese Frock yellow dress
Mahlia green beaded bracelet
Pantera gold hoop earrings with
"fleur de lis" charm



Photographer: Richard Schmidt Stylist: Sasha Gold Designer: Nicole Kristine Jewelry

Producer Brian Grazer & Actress Jenn Gotzon at "Frost/Nixon" World Premiere in London

Having rubbed elbows with not only the artistic elite of the independent film world, but with the hustling and bustling bodies of Hollywood, Gotzon has had her fair share of celebrity interactions. She's worked with director Ron Howard in "Frost/Nixon", and has had recent appearances with Jim Carrey in "Yes Man", as well as Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott in "Role Models". However, Gotzon's propensity for being rendered star-struck does not lie in the hands of any Tinseltown leading man or darling diva of the hour. Who engages the proverbial butterflies in Jenn Gotzon's stomach? Tony Danza.

"I was going to school in New York City," begins Gotzon with a girlish snicker, "and I think I was 19 years old, and my school took us to see 'The Iceman Commeth', and I grew up watching Tony Danza on 'Who's the Boss?' He was the first celebrity that I ever saw, ever, and we went to the theatre and then afterwards we stood outside and watched everyone coming out and saying hello, and Tony came out—Kevin Spacey came out and I wasn't star-struck by him—and the only thing out of my mouth was 'Who's the boss!!' I couldn't say anything else, and then I ran into him at The Russian Tea Room, because I was working there while I was going to school, and he came in to eat, and I wanted to tell him that was me that screamed that at him that night, but I held my tongue and had a 'Hello/How are you/Have a wonderful dinner' type of conversation."

Gotzon finds spiritual fulfillment through work with her new campaign, "My Passion Story: Inspiring Audiences Through the Art of Storytelling on Screen." Storytelling, she shares, is what the art of acting—furthermore, of being human, is all about. "Since I was a little girl, my passion to bring story to screen has been so strong in me, so passionate in me, that it's hard for me to see beyond doing anything else. An actor's

career is never secure—it is always an adventure. There are ups and there are downs, and you never know where your next job is going to come from until you have that contract. And even so, even if you have that contract, that contract might be taken away for reasons that you don't have control of. Not until the film is in the theatre and on the screen is when you see what really makes the cut. So if there is something else that you want to do, that you feel that you could do, I would almost encourage that person to go and do that, because acting is a very challenging career. But if you feel in your heart that this is what you're here to do, and that you have no other choice, then go for it. "Inspiring words from an inspiring woman. The next time you find yourself sitting in the deep and dark comfort of the movie theatre, the trailers serving as a recent afterthought, and the world of the film beginning to unfold ahead of you, make notice of how these men and women transform from mere skin and bone to something eternal, legendary, and fabled. Allow yourself to abandon your own existence for a mere two hours, much like the actors performing before you have done for the majority of their careers. And if you're lucky enough to see Jenn Gotzon onscreen, be sure that she'll be nothing like her last portrayal—if you can even recognize her at all. Stay updated with Jenn at www.JennGotzon.com

Special Thanks:

Jenn got her start at age 15 with Chartreuse Talent Management located in Allentown, PA and would not be anywhere in her career if it wasn't for the loving support of her husband, family, friends and their prayers. Her motto is prayer, perseverance and faith is the key to success. With God, all things are possible. Luke 18:27