

Lucy Spain's Blog: 2009 Entries

December 2009: Joining AFTRA – Becoming a Union Actor for 2010

Every year millions of workers in America join trade unions in their line of work. The purpose of these unions is to protect and improve workers pay and circumstances of their employment within their trade. Although many would consider careers in the arts a unique trade in a class of its own, artists need and benefit from these unions immensely. In the field of art there has never been a standard salary as there usually is for other areas of work. At times this can be beneficial and also detrimental. By joining together with other artists we have a louder voice and a stronger influence, which are two things I strive for every day!

For 2010 I have decided to join over 70,000 performers and other artists in the national labor union AFTRA (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists). This union strives to support the well-being of its members through an array of benefits and programs. The main purpose of AFTRA is to negotiate higher wages and working conditions for its employees in television programs, radio and television commercials and industrials etc. A few additional benefits include employer-paid health and retirement plans, medical and hospital benefits, a dental plan, prescription drug programs; along with seminars, casting seminars, member meetings and scholarships for higher education (*which I plan to pursue*)! Many of the television programs shot in New York City are AFTRA and with my new union status I will have the ability to work for these shows under their union contracts.

I cannot begin to express how amazing it feels to be a part of something like AFTRA. As an actor I often feel like a second class worker in the sense that everyone always says, "Oh you're an actor, what's your survival job?" or "That's nice, where do you wait tables?" I am overjoyed to be one of thousands of Americans that strive to make performing a legitimate career for themselves. 2010 is primed to have amazing things in store for me and I look forward to sharing each step of the way with all of you!

Happy New Years from New York City!

December 2009: Heavy Metal Sundays: Filmed 3 Episodes and a Rockin' Photo Shoot

It was a long and successful day in Queens as we shot 3 episodes of the program to be televised in the New Year for **Heavy Metal Sundays** with Billy and Pete. Some highlights of the upcoming episodes include heavy metal trivia and a heavy metal fashion show featuring the Metal Maidens (*including yours truly*), and an interview, guitar lesson, and jam session with Billy and Themis Kyriazis from Metronome Music School. Metronome is also a full-service audio recording studio with music production. Along with the episodes, we also did a photo shoot by Mark H Getman with all of the Metal Maidens. The pictures will be posted soon on my Facebook page so please friend me and check them out. I will let everyone know the air dates and times of the episodes in the New Year. Until then, yassou!

December 2009: Holiday Networking Party

Lisa Gold, head of "Act Outside the Box" and co-founder of "Actors Connection" threw an amazing Holiday networking party at B. Smith's on restaurant row here in Manhattan. This was the second networking party that I've attended in the city and really enjoyed myself. It was very nice to re-connect with existing colleagues and make new connections. I enjoyed seeing a former teacher of mine, Brian O'Neil, and an agent out of Philadelphia I met at the last party, Peter Coe. I appreciate Lisa's effort in keeping us all connected and celebrating our wonderful industry.

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November 2009: Smile Shoe Shine – NYIT Student Film

I played the part of Tracy in the student film Smile Shoe Shine directed by Kevin Fusco, a senior at NYIT (New York Institute of Technology). Kevin also wrote the script to this comedic short film. The role of Tracy appealed to me because she had layers. Tracy came across as a simple girl with a menial job trying to make a buck shining shoes in a sleazy shop. However, Tracy was an intelligent girl with morals she couldn't ignore. We shot the film at the Long Island campus of NYIT in their studios. The equipment and studios were very professional, as they are also used to shoot some of New York's news. I am excited to get some footage from the film and will post it online for you to enjoy!

November 2009: NYU Director's Workshop with Susan Seidelman

I auditioned for NYU film student, Leslie Diaz, in the beginning of the month and was extremely pleased to find out I had the part of Liz in her scene for a workshop in front of instructor Susan Seidelman. Susan Seidelman is an Oscar nominated director and has also directed three episodes of my favorite show, Sex and The City. We rehearsed the scene and performed it in front of the entire class at NYU. I was so exhilarated to be a part of this experience and to be in the same room as Susan and budding brilliant NYU directors.

November 2009: Agent Meetings

This month I have participated in meetings with Peter Coe of The Peter Coe Talent Agency; Stephanie Artuso, head of the commercial department for TalentWorks; and Josh Pultz from the legit agency DGRW. These meetings have positioned me with new connections, valuable feedback, and hopefully a stepping stone for my journey into the door of the industry here in New York City.

November 2009: Meeting with Paul Michael, Founder of The Network

I set up a meeting with Paul Michael, the founder of The Network in New York City. The Network's motto is "We get actors networking". The Network is a resource center for actors, offering some of the smallest class sizes in Manhattan. I met with Paul to discuss getting in front of Agents and Casting Directors in the city that would be best fitted to my needs. Paul is such an amazing guy full of helpful information. I am looking forward to getting started with The Network in the New Year and I highly recommend this resource for other actors in the area!

October 2009: Port City

** Port City, a feature film I am so proud to play Patty in, is selected to air this year at the **Cucalorus Film Festival** in Wilmington, NC (<http://www.cucalorus.org/filmlist.asp>). The film will be shown Sunday November 15th from 7 – 9 pm at City Stage Theatre, Level 5. Please go and see the film if you are in the area, it has already won second place for feature films at The Secret City Festival in Oakridge, TN. For festival information please visit: <http://www.cucalorus.org>.

October 2009: *Who is Killing The Great Actresses?* – The Looking Glass Theatre

I will be playing the role of Actress # 1 in the upcoming production *Who is Killing The Great Actresses?* at The Looking Glass Theatre in New York City. The play is written by Ann Firestone Ungar, whom I had the

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pleasure of meeting at the audition and directed by Maureen Stanley. It is part of the Winter Writer / Director Forum 2009, a festival of workshop productions featuring new writers and directors. My show will be performed the third week of the forum (December 17th – 20th) along with *Ampersand: Romeo & Juliet*, and *Breakfast*. The evening will consist of the three short plays back to back. Performances are December 17, 18, and 19th at 6:30 p.m. and December 20th at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are available for \$18 through the website <http://thelookingglasstheatre.homestead.com/> and at the door. I hope you can come out and support the theatre that I love and work hard for, and see my New York City stage debut!

October 2009: VJ/DJ job with Nexus Productions, Heavy Metal Sundays with Billy and Pete & Big Apple Comic Con

I am the newest addition to the radio show Heavy Metal Sundays with Billy and Pete. The show Heavy Metal Sundays airs via the internet from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. Sunday evenings. Check it out on Myspace / Facebook or the website at www.nexusproductionsradio.com. I worked my first event for the radio Saturday, October 17th attending The Big Apple Comic Con as an interviewer. This is one amazing event and was a marvelous experience. I, along with Billy and Pete, interviewed some of the many legendary guests. Some of my interview highlights included:

- Joe "Mad" Maduriera – Artist for Marvel comics and creator of the new game DarkSider
- Brimstone – Pro-wrestler/comic book hero
- Aaron Douglas – "Chief" from "Battlestar Galactica"
- Camden Toy – "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"

Some guest's I also have the pleasure of meeting included:

- Linda Hamilton – Terminator
- Ric Flair – Pro-wrestler
- Lou Ferrigno – "The Hulk"
- Adam West – "Batman"
- William Shatner – Captain James Kirk, "Star Trek"
- Brent Spiner – Star Trek films

Needless to say this convention was an absolute blast! I also got to sit in the Delorian from Back to The Future! Please stay tuned as I will keep you updated as to when these interviews will air!

October 2009: "How to Make it in America" – New HBO television series

For all of you "Entourage" fans out there (I know most of us in this business are!), the executive producers of the show, Mark Wahlberg and Stephen Levinson have created another masterpiece for us to fall in love with. "How to Make it in America" is a new television series set to air on HBO that follows two friends in their 20's striving for the American dream in New York City. Hmm, I can relate to this story! Eddie Kaye Thomas (American Pie) and Bryan Greenberg (October Road) are two of the stars. I have worked on this show since I've been in the city and from what I have seen thus far, it is going to be hilarious! You can check it out on www.imdb.com for more information. Stay tuned and I believe the show is set to air Spring 2010!

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October 2009: "Law and Order" - Season 20

When I got a phone call to report for jury duty it made my day! Not the usual jury duty that we all dread, but jury duty on the infamous series "Law and Order". "Law and Order" is a staple in the television community of New York City and is currently in its 20th season which is particularly impressive! I admire the show and the reputation that it has built and I am honored to be a part of it. I was one of the 12 jurors in the court room. It was a remarkable set to be on because it was very intimate. With such a small amount of people on set I was able to see the cast and crew diligently at work up close and personal. What an incredible learning experience and I hope to find myself on the set again!

September 2009: The Looking Glass Theatre – Internship, Classes, and Role

I am extremely proud and delighted to announce that I will be participating as a 2009 Fall/Winter Intern at The Looking Glass Theatre. The Looking Glass Theatre is located in the heart of New York's Theatre District. This theatre prides itself on the exploration of the female vision by producing plays by female playwrights, utilizing female directors, and on occasion all female casts. I am an activist for placing emphasis on the status of women in theatre so I am extremely passionate about the mission of this theatre. Many of my collegiate papers focus on this topic; I have included a link to one if you are interested in any of my theories.

This internship will consist of 8 hours of work in the theatre a week, including office work, sorting props and costumes, house managing, and audition monitoring. I will also receive nine, three hour acting classes, private monologue coaching with twelve directors, and a role in the Winter 2009 show, which will open in December, so if you are in the area please contact me for tickets!

For more information about The Looking Glass Theatre, please visit:

<http://thelookingglasstheatre.homestead.com/index.html>.

August 2009: "Gossip Girl" – CW Television Show

"You know you love me", and I loved working on Season 3 of the ever fabulous show "Gossip Girl". Season 3 is set to premiere on Monday September 7th, moving time slots to 9 p.m. I worked in a scene with Blake Lively and Chase Crawford, and all I can say is it was a "roaring" good time with magnificent costumes. Tune in to Season 3 to catch a glimpse of me! XOXO

August 2009: "The Beautiful Life" – CW Television Show

My debut on a New York City television set happened to be the set of "The Beautiful Life". "The Beautiful Life", created by Ashton Kutcher, is a new television series that follows a group of male and female models living together and trying to make it in the dog eat dog fashion world of New York City. The show stars Mischa Barton, Elle Macpherson, and Corbin Bleu (from the ever popular High School Musical). The show will air at 9 p.m. Wednesdays on the CW network, premiering September 9th.

I am featured as "shot girl" in Episode 4, which should be scheduled to air on September 30th. Tune in to catch yet another CW drama featuring young gorgeous actors, what else would be expect from the CW?

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August 2009: Meeting with top casting director Amy Gossels

On Sunday, August 23rd, I participated in a one on one meeting with casting director, Amy Gossels. I had the chance to give Amy my headshot for her files and get feedback from her from reading commercial copy. I was eager for the meeting as most casting directors give preference and call in actors with whom they have met and enjoyed. Hopefully this very productive meeting will lead to upcoming auditions!

August 2009: My first NY film through NYFA

I have officially acted in my first piece in my new market. I played a Zombie in a film through New York Film Academy. The school is full of film and acting students from across the globe that have access to some amazing film equipment. It was exciting to meet and work with new people. We shot black and white on actual film, and I am looking forward to seeing the finished product which includes me eating a handful of intestines. What can I say – glitz and glamour! =)

August 2009: Actors Connection Classes

August has been a busy first month for me in the Big Apple! As I previously mentioned, I have been taking weekly classes at Actors Connection. I am currently in the midst of Brian O'Neil's Monologue Intensive, which has proved to be a priceless class for me. Not only has Brian provided me with three new monologues to use in my auditions, he has also provided networking and job hunting information. Based on his recommendation, I attended a reading at Abingdon Theatre Company and met the casting director there. Abingdon is a great theatre company that produces work by American playwrights. I hope to work with them during my time in New York.

On August 19th I attended two classes. The first was a headshot seminar by photographer Timothy Jane Graham (www.timothiphoto.com). I was extremely impressed with Timothy's work and philosophy, and am happy to say that I will be shooting with her this fall. I am looking forward to my new headshots and will post them on the site as soon as they are completed! The second class I attended was a Legit Agent night with agents from Headline Talent, The Gersh Agency, The Leudtke Agency, and Professional Artists Agency. It was a great chance to perform a scene in front of New York agents and get their personal feedback.

August 2009: Casting Calls

I am sure everyone heard about the **Sex in the City 2** open casting call for the upcoming sequel film shooting in New York City this fall. It was my first open casting call in the city and it was everything I had expected. Immense lines, fabulous fashion, and the occasional miniature dog in a purse. I waited patiently for about 4 hours and I hope it pays off. I have always been a huge fan of the show, and it would be incredible to be a part of the film. I am also attending a casting call for the television series "Ugly Betty" at the end of the month.

July 2009: Navigating New York City

I arrived in NYC during the July 4th weekend and got straight to work unpacking, settling into my new apartment, and mastering key MTA routes. This is an amazing place to practice my craft.

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June 2009: Destination: New York City

The dawn is finally upon me as I am officially settled in New York City. It took a month of preparation that including apartment hunting, agent searching, professional marketing, and last but not least packing and making the journey up I-95. Special thanks to all of my family, friends, professional mentors and colleagues who have made this journey possible for me.

What I hope to accomplish in this city is similar to what I accomplished in Wilmington, NC over the past three years. In my profession I strive for knowledge, growth, and success in the field. I achieve fulfillment by setting the bar higher each day, and the day has come for me to set my sights high in the booming industry that NYC has to offer. I hope to have continued success in this market. I have attending my first class through Actors Connection, a priceless acting center in the city that offers amazing seminars and classes with industry professionals, casting directors, and agents. I am enrolled in a six week class with Brian O'Neil, author of "Acting as a business". Brian has launched the career of many actors including Meg Ryan and Matthew Broderick, I hope to be next! I am also taking a class with ABC primetime casting director Justin Borgstahl, which will be an amazing experience that I hope will open doors for me. I have attended a few open casting calls and hope to start auditioning as much as possible. I will keep everyone updated on the progress and results of my classes.

May 2009: The Last Song – Feature Film

I had a first audition for the new Miley Cyrus film to be shot in Savannah, GA. It is based on a novel by Nicholas Sparks.

May 2009: Cape Fear International Film Festival, CFIFF – Film festival and Commercial

The first weekend of May drew in film fanatics to Wilmington to support the annual Cape Fear Independent Film Festival. This year the festival had some amazing guest speakers including Joe Manganiello from Spiderman and "One Tree Hill", and amazing casting directors Jackie Burch, Cindy Hogan, Rita Manyette, and Marty Siu. A short film I was in, Greed, Gluttony, and Warehouse Shopping, and my newest pilot from Oriana East, "Ghost Girls", were featured during the weekend. I was also featured in the commercial for the festival that Langley McArol wrote, it was funny stuff! As a highlight of the weekend, the premiere of The Jailhouse, a feature film shot in Burgaw, NC was shown at Carmike Cinemas. Billy Lewis and Brandon Luck, whom I have worked with on The Greatest S-Kicker Alive and Port City P.D. wrote the film starring C. Thomas Howell.

April 2009: Provinces of Night – Feature Film

The feature film Provinces of Night, is based on the novel written by William Gay. Tracy Kilpatrick did the casting for this film that is currently being shot in Wilmington, NC. The film is directed by Shane Dax Taylor and features some name actors including Val Kilmer, and Hilary Duff. I worked on the film during the second day of shooting. We shot two scenes that day, one at UNCW and one at Jellybeans, a roller-skating rink in Wilmington. The roller-skating scene was one of the funniest scenes I've worked on thus far. My former figure skating / roller-blading skills came in handy skating with Hilary Duff. This film is still in production, keep up with it on www.imdb.com!

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April 2009: "One Tree Hill" – Season 6

As season 6 of "One Tree Hill" is drawing to an end I was pleased to join in on one of the last episodes featuring Kate Voegelé and Stephen Coletti. A good friend and colleague of mine, Chris Varner, provided some amazing graphics for the CD release of Mia Catalano, Voegelé's character. Keep an eye out for me in the episode and check out Kate's new CD, A Fine Mess, the episode features her single "99 times".

March 2009: Host – National Speed Anniversary Party at Market Street Saloon

Nina Volaire, a fellow actress and friend, who works with National Speed Inc., invited me to host National Speed's anniversary party held at Market Street Saloon in Wilmington, NC on Saturday March 7th. The event began at National Speed on Gordon Road with a show of cars, dyno-pulls and a Bar-B-Que. After a full day of fun National Speed invited everyone out to party. I enjoyed hosting the event, which included holding contests, giving out prizes, introducing the bands, and showing the crowd National Speed's appreciation for their attendance and participation at the event. Make sure to visit National Speed in Wilmington when you want to pimp your ride!

February 2009: Westwind Drive (UNCW Film)

When I saw the casting notice for an ER-like medical drama at UNCW I was immediately intrigued. After years of being a Grey's Anatomy fan I have often fantasized about the challenge of playing a character placed in the very delicate situations that occur in an Emergency Room. Westwind Drive is a medical drama/thriller that asks the question, "What happens when lives intersect?" The film is written and directed by UNCW student Josef Solc and produced by Jon Cohen. Following auditions and callbacks I landed the lead ER nurse role of Amanda. Amanda creates a very special bond with an 11 year old patient brought in after a serious car wreck. I am very excited to be playing this challenging role. After our first day of shooting I am extremely pleased with the cast and crew. We are lucky enough to be shooting on the innovative Red Camera, which is amazing for a student production. The Red Camera has a 35 mm lens and is capable of recording at resolutions up to 4096 horizontal by 2304 vertical pixels. We are certain to have a professional product we can all be proud of!

February 2009: Headshots with Micah Shane Ballinger

This month I shot new headshots in downtown Wilmington. After changing my hair color slightly I felt it was a good time to try out an altered look. Please visit my headshots page to view some of the new work.

January 2009: Countdown to LA

January has been an amazing month, and a great way to kick off an important year in my career. A feature film I worked on, Live The Difference, premiered at Jengo's Playhouse; we had a great turnout and my scenes were a hit! I was recently at Finncannon & Associates to audition for a major motion picture that is underway and will film in Atlanta, G.A. I am preparing for my move to Los Angeles each and every day and look forward to it immensely. As I prepare I am making new friends and colleges on the west coast, if you have any friends out west I would love to get in touch. Until next time, keep it reel and stay warm!

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January 2009: "Ghost Girls" – Paranormal reality television series

The first episode of "Ghost Girls" is complete and will be pitched to networks as soon as editing is finalized. We shot an enormous amount of diverse footage to include in the pilot. Along with the investigation, the pilot will include interviews with the Ghost Girls, preparations for the investigation, and down time with the girls. I am playing Violet, a lead investigator, and hope to be appearing (and scaring) on a television near you soon!

January 2009: Mustang Psycho – Short Film

I shot my scene for the short film Mustang Psycho on January 17th. It was a cold day; special thanks go to the Reel Café in downtown Wilmington for keeping us warm and cozy! Luckily my scene took place indoors at a coffee shop on Front St. I would also like to thank Chick-Fil-A and Moe's for a delicious lunch. LeAnn Cheri completed her film in a couple of months and is hard at work on post-production with Oriana East. Keep your eyes on this young and talented film maker!

Lucy