



Ali Liebert – Smooth Operator

By ROBERT WALDMAN

Rare is it for an actor wanting to actually “promote” work they are connected with. Most stars seem content just to do the job, take the paycheck, and move onto the next project. Not so for Vancouver’s own Ali Liebert. Wise beyond her years, this upcoming star has seen fit to take hold of her own career. Aided and abetted by smart agents and wise publicists Ms. Liebert has clearly taken her craft seriously and the results are equally impressive.

Being born in Surrey, British Columbia, I promise there are no Surrey jokes here. The family relocated at an early age to the small Vancouver Island community of Duncan a perfect place to raise kids. During these formative years Ali went from Duncan to Campbell River (the salmon capital of the world, to Bowen Island. Through every step of the way were loving parents. This thespian in the making got great support from her parents, particularly her mom, at an early age. Locals at Frances Kelsey Secondary School may well remember Ali who starred in a number of stage productions. Way back then the girl was interested in entertaining and had a particular knack for musical theatre doing stints in school productions of *Pirates of the Penzance* and *Oliver*, where she earned the role of Nancy. Why she was even included in an adaptation of Neil Simon’s hit play *Lost in Yonkers* where Ali played a 40 year old Bella. Not bad for a 14 year old girl! How those early years and that experience/practice shaped this future star’s life is now in evidence as her career is taking off big time. Singing being big on her agenda, Ali was taken under the wing of Roger Carr, the respected director of the Victoria Opera Society for four years which gave her the encouragement she so coveted. Those formative years proved highly productive as today this shining light is brightening television screens the world over as her burgeoning film career begins to take off. A person with a social conscience, Ali learned a lot from her two uncles who were gay. Like her mom she adores music and considers the likes of Barbra Streisand and Liza Minnelli to be among her idols. Not bad company, wouldn’t you agree? There’s no doubt that her family’s love of theatre and the arts helped shape her career which continues to blossom.

To complicate matters a touch at school was the fact that Ali’s mom was the school secretary. Delicious comical moments materialized that embarrassed the poor girl, such as when “motherly” messages were broadcast over the school’s P.A. system – all done in good jest. Ah, but you can’t fool Ali! Scholastically, speaking, Ali got good grades and received all the encouragement in the world from her loving parents.

First stop on the lower mainland for Ali was Vancouver. Thanks to an appearance at an agency showcase she was “awarded” with an agent and the rest, as they say, is history. Today two agents look after this actor, with one in L.A., still the capitol of the entertainment world, the other in Vancouver, now the third largest film centre in North America, only behind California and New York.

Being busy is what this lady loves! No rest for the wicked as Ali jaunts around the West End doing all sorts of activities in between shoots in Toronto, L.A. or good old Vancouver. Rare time outs away from all those bright lights include two hour walks along Vancouver’s famous sea wall – and no, she doesn’t run into famed Canuck goalie Robert Luongo, another stroller. But being busy is our subject’s specialty, something she’s enjoyed since childhood school days. Those days were also largely shaped by a family that moved around a lot as her dad was employed at the time in the pulp and paper industry which then was the biggest industry in the province. From an employment standpoint, today the film industry has largely leaped ahead of natural resources which has obviously benefitted Ali. Ah, yes, the camera truly loves this local

wonder who's putting a fresh face on British Columbia for the world to see. Lucky for us we get to see her in her natural environment as she still loves the west coast and its winning ways.

No challenge is too big or small for this gutsy lady. Now on the horizon is a desire to be a dog walker. Unlike the men and women that have groups of dogs on leashes swirling around various neighbourhoods, the dog walker type Ali favours is one on one approach with a particular canine, typically those who have some problems. Walks with such dogs are normally two hours in length which is just fine for this young lady.

Not too many people have a job for life. Acting has clearly been in this girl's' genes for a long, long time. When starting out on a career path Ali was a waitress like so many other young adults and also was a bartender. People skills learnt on those jobs clearly have helped her ever since – just witness her work slinging drinks on the popular CBS horror series, Harper's Island, another locally shot production out of Bowen Island and Vancouver's Point Grey UBC campus.

Diversity runs in this lady's blood. Multi-talented, she can do comedy, romance and even horror. Recent conquests have included appearances in the Apollo 18 shocker and now Ali is currently filming Bomb Girls, In The Hive and Foxfire. And in 2011 she's appeared in 10 films and television shows. Talk about a workaholic!

Expect more great things to come from Ali Liebert, a lady whose time has come and we're all the better for one of British Columbia's finest ambassadors to the world.