



BEAUTY AND MOXIE

Tanna Federick first starred in a film in 2003. Since then, she has starred in *First Impressions*, *Hollywood Dreams*, *Rising Shore*, *Irene*

In Time, and the list goes on for days. *Hollywood Dreams* was her first feature film with Jaglom and it earned Tanna the Best Actress award at WorldFest, Montana International Film Festival, Fargo Film Festival, and Wild Rose Film Festival. As a fitness guru off screen, Federick ranked 52nd out of 1,031 women in her division in the L.A. Marathon. She also loves surfing and has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Federick agreed to give *Cliché* the inside scoop on not one, but a couple of her recent films. **BY JASMINE MOUSTAFA**

Cliché: You have been very busy with your career as an actress, and you recently just finished working on Henry Jaglom's romantic mystery *Ovation*. Can you tell us how that went?

Tanna Federick: The experience was remarkable. I think Henry's concept for the movie was very on the nose, showing the actors backstage while a show is going on, watching the actors run in and out and showing what goes on behind the scenes, which often has

more drama than what's onstage. The cast is exceptional. Henry used the cast from *The Rainmaker* which was L.A. Critic's hit pick and extended to a year-long run. So we took a couple weeks off of performing and shot the movie. The icing on the cake was working with the talented James Denton from *Desperate Housewives*.

You also starred in a film that was released on April 9th. Can you give those of us who haven't had a chance to see it yet a quick scoop about *The M Word*?

It is getting a fantastic response from all of our previews. It's powerful, funny, and about men, menstruation, and menopause. It tackles a taboo subject that people are hesitant to speak about. Frances Fischer plays my mother going through menopause and moves in with my character, Moxie, who is trying to save an independent TV station. The CEO who comes out to fire people in the station is played by one of my favorite people in the world, Michael Imperioli, and Corey Feldman plays my character's boyfriend, who's a little shady but remains brilliantly funny in this role.

You also have another movie set to release this year. Can you tell us a little about that one as well?

It is a project very near and dear to my heart. It is a film called *Garner, IA*, the first movie that my production company Project Cornlight has produced. Project Cornlight is a program that I hope will encourage more filming and bring more filmmakers

to Iowa to take advantage of the amazing talent, local stories, and beautiful scenery.

The movie is about a bipolar woman who is released from jail and tries to reconcile with her 13-year-old daughter as well as help her grandfather save the family farm, which is falling into disrepair. It was incredible working with director Ron Vignone, who did come out to Iowa as an L.A. hire along with veteran actor Tom Bower, director of photography Christopher Pearson, and Iowa native Joel West, who is both a Calvin Klein model and a talented actor. Filming in Iowa was the most amazing experience. I received so much support, love, and help from everyone in the entire North Iowa area and I hope when one sees the film that they can see that this is the product of love and community.

Was there anyone who inspired you while you were growing up?

I watched a lot of Vincent Price growing up; he was my favorite actor. My family inspired me because they were involved in a chain of movie theaters in Iowa and owned one of the first video stores in my hometown, Mason City, IA. My mom dropped me off with my aunt Cindy, who ran River City Video Store, and I would watch as many movies as I possibly could while staying there.

Did you have the chance to focus on your acting while growing up?

I started in children's theatre when I was 8 years old with four to five shows a year. I was lucky enough to be so horrible at ballet class that the teacher suggested to my mother to try something else. As a result, I delved into a world at 8 years old in which I could follow my instincts and have freedom to create. I continued at the University of Iowa with the theatre programs and was luckily given scholarships so that I could graduate with honors in International Relations and Theatre.

When you are not busy acting, what are some things you like doing?

Surfing and running my nonprofit, Project Save Our Surf, which distributes water filters to countries in need of fresh water. Check out www.projectsaveoursurf.org and get involved! Come play with me!

FAKING IT



Is Amy faking it? I don't think so. In a recent interview with *Cliché*, Rita Volk, playing the role of Amy in the latest MTV hit, *Faking It*, is the real thing. The 23-year-old actress, born in Uzbekistan before immigrating to USA at age 6, learned English and about American culture by watching movies. Acting came naturally to her, which led to parts in TV commercials and theatrical plays while in middle school. After graduating from Duke University, she decided to forego a more conventional career, and instead, pursued her love of acting. In 2012, she packed her bags and headed to L.A. like so many want-to-be actresses auditioning again and again until luck/persistence/talent prevailed. During the casting call for *Faking It*, Rita read for the role of Karma, not once, but three times. The casting director, Carter Covington, who also happens to be the series' creator and executive producer, gave Karma's part to Katie Stevens, and asked Rita to read the part of Amy. Magically, Rita truly bonded with the part of Amy... and she wasn't faking it. Stay tuned for the show's second season this fall, or visit mtv.com to watch past episodes. **BY TERRY CHECK**

ON ACTING:

"I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE SO HORRIBLE AT BALLET CLASS THAT THE TEACHER SUGGESTED TO MY MOTHER TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE."

—TANNA FEDERICK