

Actress Interview

*This Raven Says a Lot More than Nevermore:
Talking With Kimberly Amato by Owen Keehnen*

Kimberly Amato turned a lot of heads in the horror world with her chilling, riveting, and no-holds-barred portrayal of Raven in Susan Adriensen's 'Under the Raven's Wing'. As a result of her attention getting turn she was promptly named *Scream Queen of the Month* in March 2009 by the popular website as well as *Scream Queen of the Week* by Cinemafantastique.net. Her path to get to this point was an interesting one. Originally her career sights were a bit different. Kimberly graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, completing her degree with a stint working at the Bellevue Prison Ward, and even interviewed for a job at the notorious Riker's Island. Yikes!

Then the Hicksville NY native's career path diverged and she turned to entertainment. Currently actress/writer/director Kimberly Amato is living her dream. Kimberly is currently shopping around the television pilot 'Party Girl' which she stars as Jenna Bradley. Kimberly (along with collaborator Amanda Ramirez) produced, directed, edited, and co-wrote. The pilot has received a good amount of attention and recognition. Some of Kimberly's other film credits include the short thriller 'The Interrogation of Clark Grant', 'Recoil'e', 'Amity', 'Deception', 'Weekend Rental', and 'David's Apartment'. She is also proud to be one of the interviewees in Reyna Young's women in horror documentary 'Welcome to My Darkside!' Ms. Amato is also half of the webseries dynamic duo 'The Mis-Adventures of McT & A' playing A to Michelle Tomlinson's McT. This woman has a career with seemingly new developments every week, so for more about Kimberly and the most current info check out kimberlyamato.com.

Kimberly was kind enough to take time from her busy career and life to answer a few questions in this exclusive racksandrators.com interview.

[Kimberly, congrats on the rave reviews you are receiving as Raven in director Susan Adriensen's 'Under the Raven's Wing'. How did the role come about?](#)

I found the casting listed on NYCastings.com and submitted. It's actually funny, I was emailed the audition sides for the role of Raven, but when I showed up they thought I was there for Angel. Obviously it all worked out for the best.

[Give us a 'Under the Raven's Wing' teaser that will make the movie irresistible to all the racksandrators.com readers?](#)

A teaser? Wow, that's not an easy task since the film is so multi-dimensional. The film revolves around loss, delusion, misguided love and finding solace in a cultish religion.

[What did you find was the best thing and worst thing about playing character like Raven?](#)

The best thing was bringing the character to life. Susan allowed me to take Raven to the extreme and back again. She listened to my suggestions and incorporated as many as possible. It was a very symbiotic relationship working with her and the result is something I am extraordinarily proud of. As far as the worst thing, there were actually two things that were horrible. The first was the cold, wet weather. We were outside shooting and the



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ground was frozen late at night. During Raven's dance scene in the woods, I actually sunk into a pile of mud. The photographer, Alisa Lawson, had to help pull me out since I was stuck. The second thing was the blood in my hair during Raven's final scene. The blood stained my blond highlights pink. I had to cut my hair short after the film.

I see that you were also interviewed in Reyna Young's Women in Horror documentary 'Welcome to My Darkside'. What were the main things you wanted to convey during your interview?

I just wanted to express my admiration for women who paved the way before me and hope that women continue to forge their path. Hopefully this documentary will showcase that women are not just bombshells in these films, but also smart, amazing filmmakers.

Amen. So was the oddest but of sudden notoriety that came with the double-whammy titles of 'Scream Queen of the Month' (March 2009) combined with Scream Queen of the Week that same month by Cinemafantastique.com?

They actually coincided with the release of "Under the raven's Wing" on DVD so it was a triple whammy of attention. Truly the only odd thing was the attention itself. I get a large number of emails requesting autographs, and now one is actually for sale on ebay.

That's a sign that you have arrived. I also see you are the driving force behind the TV pilot 'Party Girl' starring as Jenna Bradley as well as writing, directing, editing, and even being the cinematographer. That's so ambitious. How has that gone? Have you had any luck with distribution or having it picked up?

The driving force behind the project is actually collaboration between Amanda Ramirez and myself. I could not have finished the project without her. We've been honored and blessed that the pilot has been received as well as it has. The Honolulu International Film Festival honored us with the Aloha Accolade for Excellence in Filmmaking and the Las Vegas International Film Festival honored us with the Golden Ace Award. As for distribution, we are actively pursuing various opportunities so we can keep this project moving forward. The response is there, we just need someone to pick it up.



Do you have any other projects lined up you would like to let the racksandrators.com readers know about?

Oh yes! "The Mis-Adventures of McT & A" is a webseries Michelle Tomlinson, my partner in crime, and I have been working on. We have our fans suggest skits and we perform them to the best of our ability. The pilot is actually online now for viewing on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/kkat76> . We are also working on 'Touch' and 'Dreaming Reality' , both of which are in various stages of pre-production. In addition, we are working on a benefit for a women's shelter in Los Angeles. I'm also working on another webseries called "Be Nice" with Alexis Adkins and a Spanish novella series with Bridge and Tunnel Media, LLC. Finally, I've completed writing my first novel. It's currently going through various edits and I hope to be able to submit it for publication soon.

You've been in a lot of movies, TV shows, the stage, etc. What is the most frightening thing that has ever happened to you while performing?

I was in a play and in the middle of the scene, I totally lost every word my character says. I had the other actors looking at me, before one motioned to a prop I was supposed to talk about. I remembered the rest of my lines for the scene and thanks to the wonderful other actors, no one had a clue. That never happened to me before and it hasn't happened since.

Vampires, werewolves, zombies, witches, creatures, aliens, telemarketers...what does it for you horrorwise Kimberly and why?

I'd say telemarketers are just annoying in a scary way. They used to call my cell phone a lot and eat up my minutes, thank the government for the "do not call registry". Truthfully, I am not really scared of the list. For me it is always about the story. Zombies, vampires, werewolves, creatures, aliens and witches can be written rather tame, but if they are in a story that is really good they can be terrifying.

What was the first movie to scare the shit out of you?

'Nightmare on Elm Street'! I was terrified to go to sleep without the lights on but then I remember that Johnny Depp's character dies with the lights on and I dreaded sleep after that.


And what was the last horror movie you saw that really annoyed you?

'Paranormal Activity' annoyed me. I went in there with such hype and all the great things everyone said about it and I left feeling let down.

Okay, we're pulling into the Kimberly Amato Drive In. What three horror flicks are on the triple bill for tonight and what goodies are they going to be serving up at the concession stand?

'A Nightmare on Elm Street', 'Saw' and finally 'Silence of the Lambs'. The concessions would be basic for all the humans attending: popcorn, soda and candy. Anyone else that might be members of the undead, we'll have a special concession stand of grotesque foods and body parts.

And your favorite horror flick death scene?

I'd have to say Johnny Depp's death scene in the first  'Nightmare on Elm Street'. He's trying everything to stay awake and he gets pulled into the bed with all of the electronics following him down to his demise. Then once you think it's over, the blood comes out like a flood covering the ceiling and subsequently the room. It was grotesque, freaky and rather effective.

What's the best Halloween costume you ever had?

I basically went as a demon with a face painted black with red cracks in it along with an upside down cross from my chin to my trachea. Between that and the complete black outfit and contacts - it was awesome. I couldn't see anything but it was cool.

What scares you in real life?

Ironically enough, death.