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Thursday, December 14, 2006

10 QUESTIONS WITH...Kimberly Amato!

10 QUESTIONS WITH...

The Back-Story:

Here's the deal...I'm looking to evolve my MySpace page into a fun and exciting place to visit. One of the ideas I had was to occasionally feature on my blog and on a group page, a "10 Questions With..." spotlight on different creators from my "Friends" list...everyone ranging from artists, writers, filmmakers, actors, musicians, comedians, radio on-air personalities, or just folks who have led some pretty interesting lives. I would send out the list of questions and it would be up to the individual to answer all ten, since for many folks time is valuable, and I would post the finished questions with responses on my blog/group! Questions would mainly focus on career and projects and give those a chance to talk about or plug away at anything they want. I would just like to eventually make this a big enough thing in hopes of exposing folks to comics, films, books, or music, etc., that they might have never considered before, and create some new audiences and exposure for all, plus I think it would be fun!

Welcome back to our second installment of "10 Questions With..."! I'm proud to shine the spotlight on an emerging talent in the film and entertainment world!

After receiving a BA from Hofstra University and an MA from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and working as a Forensic Psychotherapist alongside alleged criminals at Bellevue Hospital's prison ward, it seemed as if Kimberly Amato's path was set. But a true calling came forth, sending her on a path that would lend her considerable talents to the world of entertainment, including film, television, theater/stage, commercials, voice-overs and improvisation. This born and raised Long Island native is also an avid writer with several screenplays to her credit and editorials published in Newsday news publication. Today, we ask....

10 QUESTIONS WITH.....Kimberly Amato!



1.) How were you bitten by the writing/acting bug?

I'll never forget it. I was cast as a cuckoo clock in the Christmas play at my grammar school. When any other character said "Time" I had my big stage moment with my one and only line: "Time? The time at the tone is, cuckoo, cuckoo." That was it, I was hooked. Besides when your mother was a four star thespian and your dad wrote music, poetry and horror; it's in your genetics.

2.) What or whom inspires you, creatively?

When it comes to my creative success and the ability to push harder it would be my family. However, when referring to ideas and performance it's simple – People. When I am in Manhattan on the subway train I just watch people. I see how they interact and their behaviors. There might be one little thing someone does that inspires me to write an entire story around it.

3.) Does any of your written work share a common theme?

I always write with strong female characters in the lead of a story involving some forensic aspect whether scientific or psychological. In every story a character comes to life for me and takes over. They begin to plot out a murder, they feel they have gotten away with it and usually my lead always figures it out. Not all of my films have happy endings. I like to reflect reality and life isn't always grand.

4.) Have any of your experiences in life or revolving around your educational background shaped the way that you approach a project, a role, or a characters motivation?

My job on a prison ward helped out significantly. I was actively working on understanding behavior in the patients around me. I wish I could single out one example but there were so many that effected me.

There were "finding" reports I had to write up after working with a patient. This is what I now do with every character to understand every aspect of their mental status. The reports are what I call a background story to the fictional character with a bit of medical jargon thrown in. It was probably the best thing I got out of my masters degree.

As far as personal life, everything that happens is something I can use. I just have to figure out how and why – then implement it. It's not as easy as it sounds.

5.) What kind of preparation do you undergo when taking on a role, if any?

When I am cast in a film I go through four stages. The first is reading through the script like it was a short story. The second stage is highlighting my dialogue and focusing on the words without reading the action. The third stage is then breaking down the character by psychological traits and behaviors. Then I use that information to begin the fourth stage, reading the script in full character.

Before a days shoot, I always have an mp3 player with a playlist of songs the character would listen to. It always helps get me zoned out and mentally ready for filming.

6.) You are currently playing the lead in the upcoming film, "Under The Raven's Wing". Can you shed a little bit of light on the plot and how different a character Raven is, compared to previous roles?

We actually wrapped filming recently. I can do better than shed some light. I can hand you the short synopsis.

"A young filmmaker documents the murder confessions of 3 young women who seduce him into their strange world of spiritual "dimensions" and "transcendence." The ring leader, Raven, holds everyone in her psychological grip, until her secret is exposed and a power struggle ensues."

I portray "Raven" the leader of the cult. Raven is probably the most complex character I have done. On the surface, she is this tough, take charge woman. Yet, when she lets her guard down she is capable of love, kindness and you can see her deep scars she hides. Angel and Jessie are the two other girls that make up the cult. "The Order", as they call it, is only a way of her to solidify her family before she transcends them to a better place. Even though Raven is a woman stuck in her delusional world, she truly loves her soul-sisters.

7.) Also, you are currently vying for the role of Rebecca in "LiveMansion: The Movie", which is in itself a unique film venture. What can you tell us about it and of your involvement?

Livemansion.com is an online internet community that you sign on to kind of like Myspace. The biggest difference is the community consists of people who work in film, aspire to work in film or just love entertainment. Ckrush, the company behind livemansion.com, are casting for their next feature solely by the popular vote.

I've made it to round 3 with a good friend of mine, Amanda Ramirez. Both of us grew up on Long Island and we've both managed to be in the top ten for our roles. During this round people will have to vote on a video clip that Amanda and I place on our sites. If you feel we're perfect for the role you vote yes. If not, then vote no.

If we end round 3 in the top three – we head to Manhattan to film and audition in front of the producers. Then once again the video clips with producer critiques are posted for internet voting. If cast, Amanda and I would star in a Screen Actor's Guild film and we would both be accepted into the union. That in itself is a huge opportunity for us.

So, basically please sign up for livemansion.com – do a search for Amanda under the characters of Sabrina and Mee-gan THEN Kimiekat76 under Rebecca. Then give us a vote of YES!

You can only vote once so spread the word to your friends. Place Amanda and I in the top three for our characters and let us show New York what we're truly capable of.

8.) Is there a particular type of character or a particular type of subject matter that you have not yet had the chance to explore, but would like to?

I would love to play a character out of a comic book. I would love to do the "Black Widow." My brother and mother always read comics when I was growing up. I recently got into them and I find the stories are fantastic. It would be truly amazing to do the super-human tricks these characters manage to pull off. That would be such an adventure.

9.) And, when you are not working 12 hour days on a set what do you like to do during your leisure time? And does any of it involve the Mets?

If I'm not working, I am usually figuring out ways to be working :) Honestly, I work everyday even if there isn't a paying project I am attached to. I will be writing, updating websites I manage, promotional material designs for films and livemansion.

That being said, every year my friends and I go to at least three Mets games. I have to admit though, I would bypass all the Mets games to spend the day with my nephews playing my XBOX 360. They usually kill me in whatever game we play and you know what?? I'm cool with that.

10.) Thank you so much for sharing your time with us, Kimmie. One last thing, Is there anything that you would like to plug away at, current and upcoming, or other folks work that you'd like to recommend?

The livemansion.com contest is huge. My friend Amanda and I are going to work our best at being in the top three, but all the support from everyone on Myspace would help. So if you go to kimberlyamato.com/livemansion.html for rules and easy links to our pages.

I've shot a short film I wrote called "Fistful of Sand." It was based on an idea by Mike Shands and Matthew Parton. I'll be working on editing that after the holiday. Look for it in film festivals next year!

You can find out all of the information about me on my personal site: <http://www.kimberlyamato.com> & you can find me on Myspace: <http://www.myspace.com/kimberlyamato> It would be nice to hear from people

around the vast stretches of the internet. So drop me an email and a friends request.

Finally, "Under the Raven's Wing" has two sites to check out:

1) The official site: <http://www.undertheraven'swing.com>

2) Their myspace page:

<http://www.myspace.com/underravenswing>

In closing, I have to throw some love to Brian for doing this on his myspace page. It is an excellent opportunity for me to promote myself, but also to get to know people.



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[tom](#)



Wow, bringing in the local factor!

I'm not too sure about the black widow role. Black cat, from Spiderman would be a better fit. the rouge cat burglar thing and all.

Posted by [tom](#) on Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 4:46 PM

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