

# Local girl misses being bold and beautiful

BY ROY GREEN  
Staff Writer

Jilana Stewart is about to play the college girlfriend of Tommy on 3rd Rock From the Sun and just missed — by the slimmest of margins — a regular spot on The Bold and The Beautiful.

"They auditioned 200 people, narrowed it down to 50, then just two of us and they picked the other person. Maybe I had the wrong hair colour," said Stewart, on the phone from her home in Hollywood.

"So I'm still working a regular shift at an Italian restaurant in Burbank."

It's a long way from classes at Aurora High and Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

Stewart, whose family still lives in Aurora, moved to Los Angeles two years ago because "there are so many more acting opportunities."

Stewart says she caught the acting bug a long time ago and one of her first roles was as Lady Macbeth at a Williams production of Macbeth.

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"I went to Aurora High, then switched to Williams and graduated from there. And the only thing I was serious about was acting, so I began working as an actress in Toronto."

Stewart heard a lot of good things about the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Pasadena and spent two years there refining her skills.

Since then, she's been steadily increasing her acting workload, appearing on TV's Party of Five, Flash Forward, Pacific Blue and, most recently, 3rd Rock From the Sun.

*"In Hollywood, you have to know who you are. You can't kid yourself that you're a character actress if all the casting directors have you down as the leading lady type."*

"In my first episode, I played a girl that Tommy hits on. Now that he's going to college, I'm going to be his new girlfriend. I really enjoy working with that cast."

But because Joseph Gordon-Levitt, the actor who is playing Tommy, is going to college in real life, the producers won't be using the Tommy character or his girlfriend all that often, says Stewart.

"So I'm still going to auditions for all sorts of parts. And I also have a part in an industrial video beginning soon. It's not that big a deal but you learn something new on every job."

Stewart says she never misses a chance to audition for character roles, even though she doesn't fit the stereotype.

"In Hollywood, you have to know who you are. You can't kid yourself that you're a character actress if all the casting directors have you down as the leading lady type. As much as I like that, I'd

like to play characters with more subtlety and depth."

Whatever roles she plays, Stewart says she has the support of her family.

"Everyone is extremely supportive. I have a brother who is just doing his exams at Aurora High, a sister who is married and living in Newmarket and another sister out in B.C. When I left Aurora, there were a lot of tears, but they support whatever I do."

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