

POINT NORTH TIDINGS

A Publication Dedicated To Christian Film and TV Stars and Their Many Fans

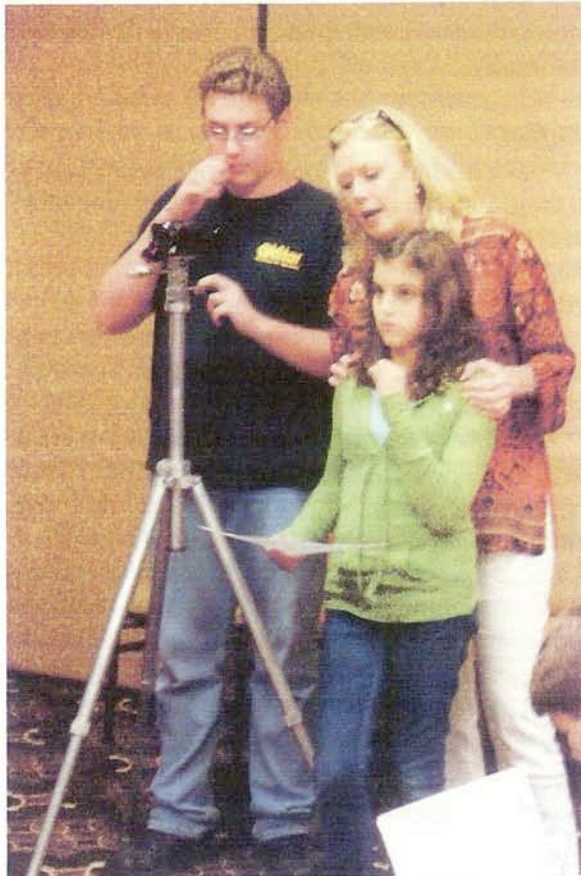
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This publication is going out to those who have expressed an interest in the great influence film and TV can have on Christianity. Published by Point North Outreach, Inc., a not for profit organization.

Exciting program for young Christians going into film

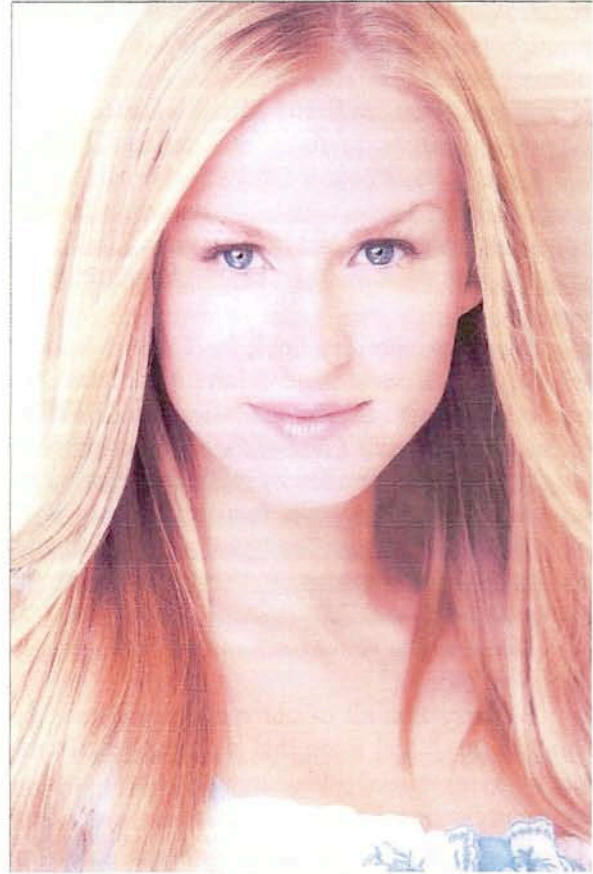


Kim Stryker (center) working with participants in *S.T.A.R.S* which stands for *Spirit-led Teen Artists Reaching for Success*.



Actress Nancy Stafford assisting with *S.T.A.R.S.*, Story on Page 7.

Jenn Gotzon, a young Christian star making a mark in the entertainment world



Story on page 9



Producer/Co-Director/ writer actor Michael Sewell of a film we want to tell you about on Page 4, *Wheel of Knowing-A film of Hope*.

FIVE FILM REVIEWS IN THIS ISSUE

Jenn Gotzon has to be one of the busiest young Christian actresses we know. She is helping promote a new film you will read about here, *Doonby*, and recently finished work on *Alone Yet Not Alone*.



Jenn Gotzon and John Schneider in *Doonby*.



Scene from *Doonby*

Ed.: We were pleased to be put in contact with you through mutual friends. We find a favorite subject of yours is a film you have coming out Spring of 2011, *Doonby*. It has a very intriguing title. What is that about and what is your role?

Jenn: Well *Doonby* is a dramatic thriller about a happy-go-lucky man played by John Schneider who comes to a small Texas town and he ends up touching many people's lives. His name is Sam Doonby and our characters fall in love as he changes my world around. My role is Laura Reaper who is the female protagonist. It is a film of redemption, as no human is perfect, and there are many twists in the film. Jennifer O'Neill is also in the film, as my mother. *Doonby* is produced by Mark Joseph (who was the marketing exec for *The Passion of Christ* and *Chronicles of Narnia*) and Mike Mackenzie (who is the son of the writer-director Peter Mackenzie, who wrote *Doonby* 10 – 15 years ago in England).

Ed.: You were here recently in the Roanoke Valley of Virginia where this publication is put together. What brought you here?

Jenn: I play the true-story character Lydia who sacrifices her life to save the children in the film, *Alone Yet Not Alone*, which takes place during the *French and Indian War* in America. It is produced by Ken Wales who was responsible for the television show *Christie*. It is a true story about two girls who are captured by Native Americans. About how they are rescued and find their parents. The story is based upon a best selling book of the same name. The story is very similar to *The Last of the Mohicans*. It is an epic period piece beautifully filmed in the heart of Roanoke, Virginia's *Explore Park*. It is a beautiful heart-touching film.

Ed.: In our last issue we reviewed the book. It is out of print, but we suspect that with the release of the film the book will be again available. Your role as Lydia is very key in the book and we gather very key in the film. Now before we talk about other films you have a special program, *Inspiring Audiences*, and it relates to working with young people.

Jenn: *Inspiring Audiences* is a mentoring outreach program that came on my heart during the Wildwood By The Sea Film Fest in New Jersey. I prayed about how to reach out in inspiring audiences to find their passion in life, to overcome obstacles and to find their God-given calling in life. I have been speaking to schools, churches and festivals. My goal and my heart is to reach into their lives as a lot of times young people don't think about what their passion in life is. I hope to challenge them to think about what their purpose in life is. To show them you don't need to be held back by money, by fear, by naysayers or by rejection. God has a plan for our journey. Life-mentoring, education and opportunity will help young people rise up and find their purpose in life. That's my goal. I show a film I have been in as an actor and then talk about it and the allegory in it. My passion is doing films and having the ability to impact and inspire people. I use a movie I am a character in, and I talk about my role in relation to the story-to give them a deeper understanding of the

message in the story.

Ed.: You began life and your acting career in Pennsylvania. What brought you into the acting world?

Jenn: It started when I was fifteen years old. I was going to movies with my family. Whenever there was an excellent movie, I would walk out of the movie theater electrified, thrilled from my toes to my head. I had tears in my eyes, riveted by that particular story. I realized walking out of that movie I wanted to be a better person. It was a feeling I wanted to give other people. That's what started my journey. I looked in the phone book to find talent agencies and I found a lady Charlene Mateus (*Chartreuse Talent Agency*) who became my manager and mentor in my life and helped guide me in the early stages of my career. My family and I went to church and I knew how to pray to God for direction. God guided me to what schools to go to and conservatories (*New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, Joanne Baron, DW Brown Studio* and *Clay Banks Film Acting Studio*) where I could learn to act. I felt drawn to go to Walt Disney World and I prayed and moved to that area (Orlando, Florida). I was given a beautiful opportunity to be one of the dancers. Then I went back to school. In the meantime I competed in the Miss America Pageant in Pennsylvania. So my journey was directed by God and what He put in my heart I would pursue. That is what led me out to San Francisco and I started working in the independent market out there. That was where I did my first feature film called *Julie and Jack* blessed to win Best Actress award at a Sacramento based film festival. Then I was in another feature film where I was given another award for my work called *All Heart and Soul*, and playing the lead on Scenario for *Delirium* is where I met my husband Chris Armstrong. He directed me in his senior thesis film; and it was first a wonderful friendship and then we dated six months later. Four years later we got married on April 30, 2006. We journeyed making films together. It has been beautiful to support my husband as a director. And this month, I will be starring in his feature film debut called *Gods Country* distributed by Sony.

Ed.: We can see what an influence your faith has been on your career. You have been a lead of over thirty independent films. Do you have a preference for independent films?

Jenn: I love being in stories that have the ability to entertain and educate. Independent films have been important in my journey. I have worked on over ninety projects now. That includes feature films, short films, television specials, industrials and commercials. My hope and my vision are to do more studio films that reach a wide range of people throughout the world. Such as *Frost/Nixon* which was nominated for five Oscars last year and directed by Ron Howard. I was so honored to have a role in a movie like *Frost/Nixon* that really helped educate everyone to know a little bit more about Richard Nixon and his journey during the Watergate years. I did a great deal of research and learned things not widely known by the public.

Ed.: Talking about Frost/Nixon and your role as Tricia Nixon we have to say that based on having met both you and Tricia there are some lovely similarities.

Jenn: The role very much influenced my thinking. It allowed me to research and learn and understand the emotional feelings that Tricia might have been feeling and experiencing during that very traumatic period of time for the family. I worked to depict visually and physically ~~depict~~ what Tricia went through. A real effort was made for the film to not be biased and to show the human heart within all the family members.

Ed.: We were very interested in your working with a film project we have talked about before in this publication, the 168 Hour Film Festival which creates short Christian films. You were involved with a film that came out of that project titled Stained, which won all kinds of awards and good reviews.

Jenn: Yes, the 168 Hour Film Festival is very dear to my heart. I am a champion for that program and its leaders John Ware and Paul

Leubbers. It is a beautiful faith-based event for developing the community of people who are on a journey together for making movies. It is speed networking, and in the group you have writers, directors, film editors and actors. For each film, the producer selects a stone from a pile that has a verse from the Bible. That verse sets up a theme for the producer to use for an 11-minute film. Not to be over-preachy or to scare the viewer or be gratuitous but to speak the truth in a story. (Very similar to the description by Eric and Susu Lee and how they made their films as described in our last Summer issue.) The year I did *Stained* I think was the sixth year for the *168 Hour Film Festival*. I prayed to be in a cinematically excellent film that would really touch audiences. I also prayed to do a spiritually-excellent film that year and was cast in Mike Welch and Tim Lowry's *Break These Chains*. *Stained* was an allegory of *The Gospel* made by Joshua Weigel, Jeff Bartsch and Aaron Moore. It was done in such a profound way that it swept the festival with 13 nominations and awards. It went on to touch lives everywhere. I have been so excited to show *Stained* to students because of the allegory and to speak to them in churches and Christian schools. It has been a beautiful way to reach out. I am also in a film made by Mike Welch titled *Break These Chains*. In this film it was a very different journey. There were fifteen of us and we would all pray to see which way God would lead. There was never really a script and each day we would pray to see what God wanted us to capture on film. What ended up happening, through that journey, the lives of many people were changed dramatically. There was a person addicted to drugs and very suicidal, that we did not know about, who became a part of the film group. No one had a clue. At the end of one scene the boy began to cry and confess he wanted to kill himself. The team ministered to his life and prayed for him. He accepted the Lord. From that point on he was able to feel hope and joy. He went through a rehab program and is clean. That was a powerful story of how God heals. The *168 Hour Film Festival* is not just a film festival and not just the opportunity to make a film. It is a time when God moves in the lives of people. There have been multiple testimonies from that program. My husband and I have produced three

168 films and this year we made a film called *Sumo Joe* with producer-writer Geoffrey Black and co-directed by Clay Banks and Chris Armstrong. We had a beautiful journey with people working on that film. It was about hearing God. We had several people on our team who had never worked on a film before. It was a wonderful experience watching people hear God as they went about their various jobs. *168* is not about what we think it is about.-going in to make a film or going in to be an actor. It is something more. This year I went in saying, "God, I don't know where you want me. My desire is acting, but you show me where you want me." It was put on my heart to serve Geoffrey Black on his film. During production, I heard the Lord saying, "Go back to the church (you just filmed at)." I went into the chapel and felt the Lord putting me in a new direction. A month after that is when I got the offer to ~~do~~ my dream-come-true lead role in *Doonby*. A movie that has such value and is going to be a theatrical treasure. I felt my obedience to God is what gave me this divine opportunity. The film is about the significance of life. My character goes through a dramatic emotional transition and something I very much enjoy as an actor.

Ed.: It looks like we have come full circle from when we first asked about *Doonby*. We look forward to hearing more about future projects.

Jenn: Another film coming out is *Dragon Day*. *Dragon Day* is a culturally relevant science-fiction feature film that could be released in 2011 and is about a cyber-attack by China that brings the U.S. to its knees. I am also in touch for a very exciting movie currently in development called *Miracle Underground*, based on the Chilean miners rescue and directed by Boris Acosta. And, from the same director, I'm attached to *Dante's Inferno Documented*, based on Dante's trip to Hell and back from *The Divine Comedy*, and I would have the role of Beatrice. That is scheduled to shoot later in 2011. My husband and I are also working on a film, an action-thriller that might be shooting this coming May. I have been given the honor to play the lead in Don Wahl's musical feature with

a twist of faith called September Skies and in the lighthearted drama with underlying faith based message in John Atteberry's and Cecil Chamber's feature film distributed by Sony called *God's Country*. My husband was hired by Triumphant Pictures to direct this story; and independent of my husband, the producers discovered me and brought me in for the high-powered real estate exec named Meghan Doherty.

Ed.: Certainly God has been opening many doors for you and we appreciate your sharing this with us. We know that you have a real affinity for your fans in the way you use Facebook to stay in contact and providing information about your film work.

Jenn: I feel I have been very blessed in the 16 years I have been in films. We'll stay in touch.



Jenn Gotzon receiving “Best Actress Award”, Pictured with husband Chris Armstrong on the left and John Ware, president/founder of the *168 Film Festival* on the right.