

SWEEPING TOWARDS GREATNESS

Heather Doerksen has graced the small screen in Fringe, Stargate: Atlantis, and Battlestar Galactica, but has no plans on stopping there. Posing at 5'10", this actress was born to stand taller than the rest without looking down on others. While she may end up playing strong, tough females now and again, she remains down to Earth and kind. It is clear that she is destined for greatness. BY BRITTANY HUSKEY, PHOTOGRAPHED BY GRANT MALO

FROM PRACTICING ALCHEMY TO WORKING IN THE REALM OF FRINGE SCIENCE, HEATHER DOERKSEN HAS SHOWN HERSELF TO BE ONE POWERFUL ACTRESS.

Cliché: You tend to play strong females. Are those the types of roles you enjoy playing?

Heather Doerksen: I seem to fall into those characters fairly easily and get cast in those. I like to play those kinds of roles, but I also really like doing comedy. Last year, I was in *Anything But Christmas* with Christopher Lloyd. I play this naive, clueless ex-girlfriend that was always tripping over herself and persistently trying to get back together with her ex. It was a long way from the normal strong roles I am normally cast in, but I really do like comedy.

Do you like doing more action or comedy roles?

I like both. You can't just eat sweets all your life. You kind of have to have some saltiness and chips now and then along with the desserts. Action and comedy satisfies both my needs. Just like I need theatre as well as film. I try to do a stage play at least once a year along with the

film and TV roles I typically do.

What was one of the most challenging roles that you've done?

One of the most challenging roles that I did was on an independent film called *Ambrosia*. I played the CEO of a fashion firm and I had eyes for this female employ that I hired. I was trying to seduce her and trying to kill her marriage a little bit. Another role I found so satisfying was the film *Alchemy and Other Imperfections*. I think it was one of the most fun and complex characters I have ever played. I played a wife overcome with grief and stricken with a tragedy that has happened. She tried to find a way to remedy that by making her magic potions which maybe could help to forget the memories that haunt their marriage.

You've worked with a bunch of famous actors and actresses. What was one of your favorite experiences?

I had so many fun times. I would say that the one that was really poignant for me was when I was on the *Day the Earth Stood Still* with Kathy Bates. I had just started exploring acting in films. It was one of my first roles in that media and it was a really small role. I didn't have much to say in the film. I ended up riding back to the trailers with Kathy in her car and we started talking. She asked about my training and what theater I had done. She asked if I had any projects coming up and I told her no. I didn't have anything coming up. She told me "Don't worry about it, honey. You're good. You'll be fine." I don't know why but that one line has carried through all these years. She didn't have to say that to me and she did. It meant a lot to me and stuck with me.

***Pacific Rim* seems to be a tribute to childhood shows like *Voltron*. Was that one of the reasons that you agreed to do the project?**