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Interview with the sexy Scream Queen Michelle Tomlinson



The recipient of the 2007 Shriekfest Film Festival's "Pretty/Scary One to Watch" award for her work on The Cellar Door and named Scream Queen of the Month (Nov. 2009), Michelle Tomlinson reminds me a lot of Jamie Lee Curtis or Sigourney Weaver. She can play the vulnerable type, but also the strong sexy female lead. Michelle has a huge body of work in the horror genre with films like Brain Dead, George's Intervention and Boston Strangler: The Untold Story just to name a few. Michelle was good enough to talk to us about her career as a Scream Queen and more.

IgorsLab: What made you get into the film business?

Michelle Tomlinson: Theatre. I fell in love with Theatre in College and Film was the next logical step, as was moving to Los Angeles. It's an insane industry. Once it bites you, you can never shake it. It's delicious.

IL: Do you remember the first part you auditioned for?

MT: For Theatre, I think I was a dancing tree in a play when I was about 5. I don't remember much, but I remember being excited about being on stage--even if it was just being a dancing tree! For film, my very first audition was in College at Eastern New Mexico University. They were just opening a Film Dept and on a fluke I auditioned for one of the first Feature Films they produced. I booked it and played a girlfriend to one of the leads. Our characters got into a huge fight in the kitchen while doing dishes. I got so into the argument that I dented the metal sink with a plate. I still wonder if the person who lived in that house got that deducted from their deposit when they moved out...

IL: Do you remember your very first scene?

MT: My first real Theatre Role was in Romeo and Juliet. I barely knew who Shakespeare was, let alone how to speak the language. I was the "Princess" who broke up the fights and such. It was a lot of fun! My first scene in film was the aforementioned scene where I dented the kitchen sink... I definitely remember that one!

IL: Out of all the characters you have played which is your favorite and why?

MT: Every time I book and wrap shooting a film, I always think I loved that character. Then I love the next one. I just love acting, I think. There are definitely some that are more challenging than others. "Rudy" from THE CELLAR DOOR was challenging because I had to break down my own walls and allow myself to be completely vulnerable and freaked out. On the flipside, "Subtitle Girl" from THE PATHETICALLY CHEAP ADVENTURES OF EXTRA MAN was difficult cuz she was such a blip in, blip out character who's a very vapid ex-stripper. They were both difficult in their own rights, but fun nonetheless.



IL: You have done some TV work, which do you prefer film or television?

MT: Film. ALL THE WAY. I love TV, don't get me wrong... But the energy on a film set is a completely different thing and tastes so much better.

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IL: Was there a role you passed on and later thought you should have taken it? If so what was that role and for what film?

MT: Everything I've passed on or not felt right about or couldn't shoot due to schedule conflicts was definitely for the better. Everything happens for a reason; not only in life, but in careers too. I'm at peace with everything that I have chosen to do or not to do.

IL: Is there one director or actor you would love to get a chance to work with?

MT: There's a gaggle of people I'd love to work with. Eli Roth is one of them. I'm a fan of his work and he's an extremely nice guy. I'm also dying to work with Anthony Hopkins, Tom Selleck, Sam Elliott, Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep.



IL: Being a Scream Queen, what qualities in your opinion should a Scream Queen possess?

MT: The ability to scream without losing your voice? Good question. The term Scream Queen is very loosely tossed around these days. I think a true Scream Queen should be like Jamie Lee Curtis. Someone who can be scared, freaked out and kick some ass. My friends Brooke Lewis and Kimberly Amato are great examples.

IL: Do you like being identified as a Scream Queen?

MT: I'm in mostly good company with the title, so I'm cool with it!

IL: What is your opinion on the state of horror today, with all the remakes and such?

MT: We are an industry thirsty for some new blood. (Literally and figuratively) There's some great stuff out there like The Ring (albeit a remake of the Japanese flick), Hostel, Wolf Creek and a few others... I have mixed feelings about the remakes. Nightmare On Elm Street, for example, was a great flick. But I wouldn't say it's an exact remake. They changed a pretty gigantic part of the core story of Freddie. Yet they kept some of the great shots like the fingers in the bath tub and flinging the body through the air above the bed. Some of what are called remakes come across as excellent homages to the originals. If you can separate the original from the remake, you can enjoy the remake. Usually. It's like separating a book from the film inspired by the book. It's never quite the same.

IL: Can you tell us about the The Mis-Adventures of McT & A!?

MT: It's a fun, spoofy and lighthearted silly web series we created. We take suggestions from folks on our facebook page and we shoot them and put them in a webisode. Our friend Theron Neel even wrote a couple fun pieces for us to shoot last time she was out here. Our second and most recent webisode is up on youtube and is a Twilight Spoof.

IL: It is an interesting concept, how was it conceived and where do people send in there request?

MT: The idea came about during one of Amato's (Kimberly Amato) and my marathon skype conversations late at night. We were brainstorming silly stuff and it kind of cropped up. It started as Adventures of McT & A and grew into the Mis-Adventures, etc. I love the play on the concept of T & A... ;)

IL: You have started a production company, are you going to be producing horror films or all types of projects?

MT: I have my own Company called Mighty McT Productions that works a lot in conjunction with my New York Business partner, Kimberly Amato of Little Crown Productions. We've birthed the Mis-Adventures of McT & A together as well as our horror short Itch. More to come on the horizon of our partnership!

My L.A. Business partner (Brad Hodson) and I are creating a new Production Company that will cover several genres,



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but will definitely be producing Horror Films as well. In fact, the majority of the films we have on our roster are indeed horror. We're at the start of creating this entity and it's exciting as hell.

IL: What is next for Michelle Tomlinson?

MT: Thankfully, a lot of good things are going on! Amato and I are in post-production with the horror short Itch. I have three films coming out within two months of each other. In order: THE PATHETICALLY CHEAP ADVENTURES OF XTRA MAN (Comedy), INDELIBLE (Drama) and BRAIN DEAD. (Horror) I'm set to shoot two more Comedies in the same vein of XTRA MAN with the creator, Carl Darchuk in October. The sequel to THE CELLAR DOOR is further along in development, so we'll be shooting that in the near future as well. The script that Christopher Nelson has turned out for the sequel rocks and I can't wait to be on set shooting it.



IL: Any advice for those actors trying to break into the business, especially the horror business?

MT: Stay focused, disciplined and ready for anything to happen. The vast majority of actors tend to be lazy and would rather whine about what's NOT going right in their careers. Build it yourself. Submit yourself on the sites. (Which is how I landed Brain Dead AND Indelible, by the way! Self submissions!) Get yourself on track and do not sway the path for one instant. There's thousands of actors on your tail, more than happy to work harder than you and go further... And that's for any genre of this industry. The amount of sacrifice

and discipline is astounding but well worth it.

Thank you to Michelle for giving us her time for the interview. If you would like to learn more about Michelle follow her on facebook <http://www.facebook.com/mightymct> or go to her website <http://www.michelletomlinson.net>. Below is the first episode of The Mis-Adventures of McT & A. Enjoy.

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ANOTHER great interview with Michelle! Thanks, Igor's Lab!!!!!! I've seen Indelible and The Mis-Adventures of McT & A so far and they're not to be missed.

August 22, 2010 | Albuquerque Annie

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