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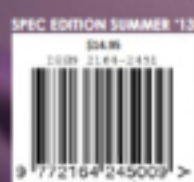
FASHION * ART * BEAUTY * LIFESTYLE * ENTERTAINMENT

+ CREEPS THE SUMMER ISSUE

INTERVIEW WITH 'THE HANGOVER PART III' ACTRESS

SONDRA CURRIE

HOVEY LEE | GOODNIGHT ARGENT



| ENTERTAINMENT



Photo by Michael Helms

CHATTING with SONDRA CURRIE

MEUSE: Most people recognize you from *The Hangover* movies where you play Zach Galifianakis' (Alan) mother Linda Garner. What's the experience been like to be part of such a hugely successful franchise?

Sondra: With the first one, no one had a clue that it would take off the way it did. Everybody kept saying pinch me, pinch me, pinch me as popularity grew. It was like, is this happening for real? It was quite thrilling to be involved in it.

MEUSE: *The Hangover part III* just recently hit theaters, was it quite different filming this time around as opposed to the other two?

Sondra: Oh my goodness yes, but you're going to have to wait and see! (laughs) It's much darker and right off the top you're gonna go, OH MY GOD! There are a couple of moments and even when I was reading the script I thought just that, OH MY GOD! It's a lot different and there are a lot of surprises in it.

MEUSE: What's it like working with Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper & Ed Helms?

Sondra: Bradley's a very serious actor, not to say that Zach and Ed are not but Bradley is an Actors Studio member, as I am and he's studied a lot. He's very conscientious and very focused. He's really into his work which I love. Zach of course is a genius, he can just riff on certain things. He and Todd, our director, have such a relationship where he trusts him and he trusts Todd. Todd will just let him go off on something and it either works or doesn't but most often it works. Ed is just funny, and he's a sweet, sweet guy. They're all genuine and there's not a bad egg in the bunch, they're all just really super guys.

MEUSE: Something so wonderful that you are involved with is being a member of a SHARE, a charity devoted to helping abused, developmentally disabled children and kids with AIDS. Can you tell us a bit about that?

Sondra: SHARE means Sharing Happily and Reaping Endlessly. The site online is www.share4children.org. We visit all the facilities we fund once a year to see how they're coming along. They submit their grant requests and then we evaluate them. This is the 40th year of SHARE. To raise money, we have a Boomtown event every year, which is a big show...we'll have a Headliner and the ladies dance and do absolutely everything else too. We don't have any sort of support staff. We raise a lot of money and everything goes directly to funding the facilities. [The Center For The Partially Sighted, Team Prime Time, ECF, Kayne-Eras, Salvin Special Education Center, Stuart House, Ahead With Horses, I Have a Dream Foundation, Friends of CASA, Share's Child Disability Center at Cedars-Sinai, Friendship Circle of South Bay, and Hathaway Sycamore.] It's really thrilling to see the kids light up and make strides. We have to pay attention to these children who are developmentally disabled, w/Down Syndrome or children with AIDS or who've been abused. It started out just with women in the entertainment business, and now includes others who are involved as business leaders.

MEUSE: Your next project coming up is a recurring role as "Miss Vivian" in the Tyler Perry sitcom "Love Thy Neighbor." Tell us a bit about that?

Sondra: I went from doing *Hangover Part III* right into this, I thought maybe with T.P. (Todd Phillips) & T.P. (Tyler Perry) it might be good luck (laughs.) It was kind of like divine intervention with this audition. My manager called me and told me it was a same day audition, which I don't normally do. It was quite mellow that day so I thought ok, I'll go. I got the material and it was a lot, so I ran to my coach and she worked with me for just a half hour. I went and read and it was just one of those things where I just loved the character. Vivian's a Southern belle, kind of pompous, presumptuous and she's quite fun, always has a glint in her eye. I thought I did a decent job and maybe I'd get a call back. I hadn't even had a chance to call the next day, I was at my doctor's office actually and my agent called and said you know that audition you went on yesterday? Well, you got it! And not only that but you have to be on a plane tomorrow morning for Atlanta. It turned out to be not one episode, but three.

Tyler Perry's absolutely mind boggling. He is such a master, a renaissance man. Fortunately I didn't know all that much about him when I started and I'm glad I didn't or I would have been nervous. He has a huge operation in Atlanta, that's very impressive. He's got top of the line people who work for him across the board. He's built this studio that looks like the Universal back lot, with 5 stages or 7 and he's building more. His wardrobe department looks like the wardrobe department at Universal. It's a full-fledged active Studio. There's quite a buzz! He gathers everyone around in the morning to have a common prayer together to count our blessings about how lucky we are and then set upon the day. It's an interesting way to go about your business without interference. He never raises his voice, and he's very kind of quiet and at ease. If he need to talk to you about something he quietly takes you aside. Everyone who works for him completely loves him. I finally did watch some of his films, and I think that as a director he's quite fabulous, simple...just exquisite. He knows exactly what he wants and he gets it!