

THE CHOSEN ONE: 2008 Woman of the Year
by Noelle Hancock
December 2007

Forget Lara Croft; When it comes to feisty female action stars, there's no one we'd rather take a roundhouse kick to the face from than Sarah Michelle Gellar. In her six years on the cultily delicious *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, she created the strong, sexy ass-kicker paving the way for shows like *Alias* and the new *Bionic Woman*. On the big screen, Sarah's done it all, whether being terrorized by a creepy kid in *The Grudge*, helping Scooby-Doo track gh-gh-gh-ghosts, or screaming her head off in *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. Best of all, as a rich, duplicitous vamp in *Cruel Intentions*, she set the prototype for the Gossip Girl gang – and she made out with Selma Blair.

This year Sarah invades the multiplexes with three flicks: *The Air I Breathe*, *Possession*, and *Southland Tales*, in which she plays a pop star, a lawyer, and (God bless her) a porn star, respectively. Finally, after years of beginning (on our part), she sits down with *Maxim* and tells us her secrets. Spoiler: She fights dirty.

Our readers have been asking us to get you on the cover for years, why now?

Lots of things. I'm 30, and I'm promoting a bunch of different kinds of movies. I like to shake things up every once in awhile. It's good to leave people wanting more, but I don't want to leave them waiting too long or they'll lose interest. Besides, how could I not do a *Maxim* shoot when I have a movie coming out in which I play a porn star?

Exactly. In *Southland Tales*, you're a porn star who is trying to get her own reality show. It's quiet a departure from *Buffy*.

I ran the gamut in the films I made this year. When you think about who should play a porn star, don't I just pop into your mind? The character I play is sort of Arianna Huffington meets Jenna Jameson.

Now there's an image. So, what kind of research did you do for that part?

I watched a lot of porn. I'm kidding. Actually, once I was filming *Buffy* outside and it was freezing and they were shooting a porn nearby. I remember thinking, "Really? They can just film out in the cold like that?"

How were the sex scenes?

For a porn star, I didn't get much action. I filmed a love scene on Thanksgiving, and I had eaten all this turkey and mashed potatoes and was like, I seriously have to film a sex scene right now? I was so tired from all the tryptophan that I just wanted to sleep.

Did you keep any X-rated props from the *Southland* set?

I did try to take home the case for my character's porn video. To make the cover look authentic, they put my face on someone else's body. Normally if I see those pictures on the Internet, I'm calling my lawyer and suing someone! But because of my contract they had to destroy all the pictures. They let me pick the body of the girl they put my head on. I picked one with a curvy body and butt.'

So you're an ass woman?

No one wants to see a girl with a flat ass.

Will any real Sarah Michelle Gellar sex tapes be surfacing?

I doubt it. I think that character was it for now. I got that side of me out. I'd come to the set every day and the Rock, who plays my boyfriend, would laugh at me. I'd be wearing six-inch Lucite heels and lots of spray tan. I was beyond orange, and I couldn't handle the fake nails at all. I couldn't do anything while I was wearing them – I had to ask other people to unbutton my jeans so I could go to the bathroom.

What are you like in real life? The stay-at-home type or do you rage?

When I'm in New York, my wild side comes out. That's when I go dancing until five in the morning. The other night I saw Naughty by Nature perform and stayed out till all hours even though I had an early magazine photo shoot the next morning. That wasn't a great idea. But sometimes you can't help it.

Are you, in fact, naughty by nature?

I am if the mood strikes.

You've been married for five years. How do you keep it fresh?

Freddie likes to say that I'm so crazy, it's like being married to five different women. As an actor every three months you have a new haircut or hair color, so it's like being with a different person. And a lot of high heels! We just had one of those double showers and a custom bathtub built for two put in. It has colored lights.

Any thoughts on kids?

You can't be selfish and have a child. Right now I want to live my life and have fun. I wanted to go sit in my Jacuzzi and drink wine all night.

Let's talk *Buffy*. Could you tell that it was a groundbreaking show while you were filming it?

I had a feeling because it was the first of its kind. There wasn't anything else at the time that said women could be flawed and sexy and kick ass. A vampire is the ultimate sexual metaphor: You love someone so much that you want to suck their blood. You want to drain them, you want all of them. Not to mention leather pants and high heels and kicking butt.

Ever got into a fight in real life?

No good ones. I'm glad, too, because chicks are dirty – hair pulling, scratching. Guys have guy codes. They don't sucker-punch. They don't punch in certain areas. Anything goes in chick fights. But if anything ever goes down, I think I'll be OK. I'm pretty scrappy.

Have you ever seen any of the porn versions of *Buffy*?

Yeah, I think there was *Muffy the Vampire Layer*... We had a cast viewing in one of the trailers. You know you've made it when they make a porn version of you.

Are crazed fans like us still coming up to you to talk about the show?

At least once a day, but at least they say nice things. When I was on *All My Children*, people would get so mad they'd yell at me. A woman came up to my mom in a bank and yelled, "I don't think it's right of your daughter to lie on the witness stand about being raped!" People take it very seriously.

Your movie *Cruel Intentions* is another cult classic. Having been a hero for so long, did you hesitate to play the bad girl?

I like to try things that are different, but when I first wanted to do the movie, a lot of people tried to talk me out of it. They were like, "Your fans don't want to see you in that role."

Tara Reid once told us that she still has fans coming up to her and saying, "I'll suck your cock for a thousand dollars," her infamous line from *The Big Lebowski*. Does anybody ever come up to you and say, "You can put it anywhere," from *Cruel Intentions*?

Oh, all the time. You just sort of go, "Really? Anywhere?"