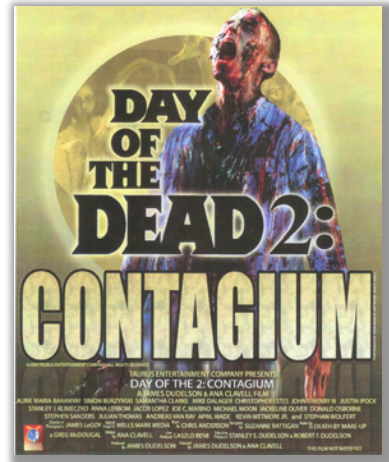


## Interview with Jackeline Olivier

by Kipley Wentz  
(Oct. 15, 2007)

**1. Just in time for Halloween, Taurus Entertainment is releasing *Day of the Dead II: Contagium*. Can you describe how you were involved with this project?**

I met one of the producers a year before the actual casting and we kept in touch. The producer called me in for the audition, the director was a little bit skeptical about the reading because he hadn't heard of me or seen my work. I got the sides for Vicky (the mental patient) and for Ava Flores (the head nurse), and I had 15 minutes to prepare for both characters. I was immediately drawn to Vicky; I just love disturbed characters. I must have nailed it right then and there; because I was offered to play the role of Vicky a few minutes after the reading.



**2. In your opinion, why are zombie movies so popular?**

I think people love to be scared. They like to be affected, imagining these half dead people walking around, eating people, is pretty creepy. Plus, it's great to bring a date; you can have someone to grab onto when you get scared.

**3. Being an actor in Los Angeles means going on many, many auditions. How do you feel about auditioning... do you get frustrated with the process, or is it something you enjoy? Do you have any particular approach to auditioning that makes it easier for you?**

For the most part of it is exciting. It's a learning experience and every audition is a chance to perform and practice. It can be frustrating sometimes, but hey, if it was easy, it wouldn't be as much fun. My approach is to be prepared, make my choices and do the work. Then, I say thank you for your time, and I leave the room and try not think about it or judge myself.

**4. You have studied acting at both the Stella Adler Academy of Acting and the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute. Why did you choose those particular schools, and how are they different?**

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I chose them because of their reputation and their teaching methods. They are great acting schools with theater as a foundation. Their basic teachings are similar, they both developed their own methods from Stanislavsky, but Stella's method focuses on the imagination that is free and not inhibited by self-consciousness. Whereas the Lee Strasberg's method focuses on affective memory, relaxation, concentration, and sense memory exercises.

**5. Do you feel your training at these schools has prepared you to build a career in showbiz? Why or why not?**

Yes and no! It has prepared me for the creative challenges in the acting profession; and provided me with a solid craft that enable myself to continue to grow as a creative artist. Though it did not prepare me for the showbiz aspect of Hollywood; there are a lot of factors involved in getting a part, besides you acting abilities.

**6. Los Angeles is known for it's "sharks" and fierce competition. Do you find that people are supportive of each other, or is it everyone for him/herself out there?**

You are right! There is a fierce competition out there; and people are too busy trying to promote themselves. But I came across some really great people, who helped me out and gave me support. I believe that, just because is a cut throat business, it doesn't mean you can't surround yourself with supportive people.

**7. What are your goals as an actor, and what do you consistently do to achieve those goals?**

My goals are to become a better actress, get involved with good projects that I can grow from and keep working. In order for this to happen, I still take acting classes to keep it fresh, I go to workshops, film festivals, networking events, I submit myself on a daily basis thru every resource available. Every time I do a play or I'm working on something that people can actually see me, I send out e-mails, postcards and let them know about it.

**8. Do you have any role models? If so, what do you admire about those people?**

I have so many, I'll just give you a few names, Meryl Streep, Hilary Swank, Michelle Pfeiffer, Nia Vardalos and Marilyn Monroe. I admire them for different reasons: their acting abilities, perseverance, personal history, charisma, sex appeal...I can go on forever.

**9. Coming from Porto Alegre, Brazil, what have been the most difficult challenges of building an acting career in Los Angeles? Do you feel that being from another country gives you an advantage in Los Angeles, or does it make a career in acting more difficult?**

Certainly, the biggest challenge was to be able to learn and speak English in less than year. Not growing up in the US makes everything a little more difficult. I feel that you need to work harder and be better than most people in all aspects in order to stand out.

**10. Despite being from Brazil, you mention that you've been cast as a variety of ethnicities. How does your appearance work to your advantage in Los Angeles?**

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My looks are not very specific, some people think that I'm from somewhere in South or Central America, others would say, Italy, Spain, Middle East, France (specially because of my name). Very few people can tell that I'm from Brazil and that gives me the opportunity to play different ethnicities.

**11. In addition to acting, you've also worked behinds the scenes as theater producer, you've built sets, and even created your own wardrobe. Why is it important for actors to produce their own work?**

Producing involves a lot of hard work, not enough sleep, and dealing with people's ego and moods. Sometimes it can be nerve wracking, but it is also very rewarding when you see your creation completed. That gives the actor a different perspective of the business and a great sense of commitment and responsibility, besides creating the character, learning the lines and hitting the marks. Nowadays I look at directors, producers, and everybody who's behind the scenes a little differently. I appreciate their hard work and creativity much more.

I've also learned how to be more patient and silent when things are heating up on the set.

**12. You are a member of the Filmmakers Alliance and the Creative Actors Alliance in Los Angeles. What role do groups like these play in advancing your career?**

There is so much you can do and learn when you're a part of groups like that. They've given me the opportunity of meeting and working with great people such as directors, producers, writers and other actors who are active in the business. Through these groups I've gotten involved in projects as an actor and behind the scenes as well.

Many of these people became part of my life, either as friend, or someone I want to work with again.

**13. If I were considering packing up and moving to Los Angeles to become an actor, what are the three most important things I should do to prepare?**

First of all, you need to be 110% sure that's what you want as a profession. There are buses that arrive in LA everyday bringing hundreds of actors, the same buses leave town taking a few hundred back home. Second, unless you're born with a silver spoon in your mouth; you'll have to find a job to support yourself that also allows you to have some free time to pursue acting. It may take awhile before you get your first paid acting gig. Third, make sure you have a reliable vehicle to get from one audition to another. "Because in LA, if you don't have a car, you don't have legs."

**14. In your opinion, what are the biggest misconception aspiring actors have about building a career in showbiz?**

Some actors are in just for fame and fortune, others think that they don't need to be committed or work hard, they think somebody will discover them. Well, that doesn't happen to everybody and it could be very disappointing.

**15. If you had to choose, would you rather be a less-talented international star, or a relatively unknown but brilliant actor? Why?**

I'd rather be less known, but brilliant. I didn't become an actress to be a star, but because I'm passionate about acting.

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