



STANA KATIC by Caroline Palmer

Stana Katic has recently taken up archery. The Canadian actress, whose family hails from the Dalmatian Coast, Croatia, has never been one to pursue the uncomplicated things in life. In fact, a list of her favorite activities includes astrophysics, clothing design, flamenco dancing, and archaeology—not the typical Hollywood star-on-the-rise fare.

“When I was growing up, my parents encouraged me to pick a path that was safe and sane,” Katic says. “I had graduated in the top 10 of a class of 700, so I figured I had some options.” Saddled with her mandate, Katic...went exploring. She tried out biology, international relations, law, and modeling while at the University of Toronto before a chance meeting inspired her to follow her heart—no matter how impractical pursuing a career in acting might have

sounded to her family. “I randomly ran into an acquaintance on the street in Toronto who asked me if I would work on this miniature indie film they were putting together. Just like that, I was back on this path.”

It has served Katic well. After attending Chicago’s Goodman School of Drama, she landed several high profile roles on television including Collette Senger, the European information broker on *24*, and Hana Gitelman, the woman with the wireless mental abilities on the blockbuster show *Heroes*, as well as several recurring roles on *The Closer*, *Alias*, and *ER*, among others. She has also made the leap to the big screen and will appear in Robert Benton’s romantic comedy, *Feast of Love*, slated for release later this year.

For all her success, Katic admits she

has also endured her share of rejections, some painful, some enlightening. She recalls being one of two candidates for a role she really wanted, only to have it go to the other actress. “I had such an amazing time developing the character that it was the one of those times when the end result really didn’t really matter,” she says.

Now living in California, Katic (whose first name is pronounced Stah-nah, and is intended to ward off bad luck in her family’s homeland) has no regrets about homing in on a career in the arts—a career that, like archery, takes a tremendous amount of work to stay on target. “That is the most fantastic thing about it,” Katic says of archery. “It is an ancient sport and it takes focus, but it looks so graceful.” It’s a good rule for a burgeoning big talent to live by.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY RJ SHAUGHNESSY

stylist: maude at magnetla.com. hair: creighton for exclusive artists using kusco murphy haircare. makeup: mai ouyhn at the wall group. dress by katy rodriguez, hair bow from what comes around goes around.