

# Fock Yourself

"This is what I want to do for the rest of my life," said **ALANNA UBACH** to her mom, after acting in the film *Los Alvarez*. It's no surprise for an actress to make such a bold statement after her first movie role, but what if that actress is a 4-year-old? Brought up in a family of movie buffs, Ubach has spent the near-quarter-century since her childhood epiphany filling her résumé with over 40 film roles. From a Marcia Brady-obsessed classmate in *The Brady Bunch Movie* to a shopping-obsessed sorority girl in both *Legally Blonde* films to a Gaylord Focker-obsessed Guatemalan housekeeper in this month's *Meet The Fockers*, Ubach is starting to build a buzz for her impeccable comedic timing and diverse character choice. Okay, so you might have a hard time recognizing her in *Fockers* due to the fact that she's 29 playing 40—and Guatemalan, but never fear. Ubach makes an impression without saying a word.

**STORY: MARI FONG PHOTO: JOAQUIN PALTING**  
**HAIR AND MAKE-UP: STEPHANIE PASAKARNIS**

**In *Meet The Fockers*, you're cast opposite Barbra Streisand, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman and other comedic icons. Was there one actor in particular that made you so nervous you felt like peeing your pants?**

They all made me pee in my pants before I got to the set. But then I sat down [for a reading and saw] Dustin Hoffman walk in with a little baseball cap, and the tag was still on it. He had gone to Rite Aid because he just loves buying little knick-knacks. Teri Polo looked at him and said, "Do you realize that the tag is still on the baseball cap?" and he's like, "Oh, my gosh, how embarrassing!" I just thought, "Wow, he's just like a normal guy."

***Fockers* is sure to be a blockbuster, but you've also tried your hand at art-house films, like *Clockwatchers* with Lisa Kudrow and Parker Posey. As an actress, do you think there's some jaw that you have to do an indie film to gain credibility in the film industry?**

That's a really good question, but usually what actors respond to is the storyline. If the storyline isn't so formulaic and you think it will get the attention of a real smart audience, you've got to do it. The insecurity of not having gone to college, I'm always trying to do smart things. I'll be like, "This seems like a smart movie, and it'll surround me with smart people. And smart actors are in it. Oooh!" [Laughs.]

You want to give a very authentic performance, but overall, you want to sketch something new every single time. That's something that I'm looking for in every role I do. I get interested in really crazy, abstract storylines—things that are really different.

**So what's been the most "different" role you've played?**

I would say playing Isabel, the maid in *Meet The Fockers*. I was in my '40s, had gray hair, [wore] a fat suit and did an accent. She's the maid of Barbra Streisand and Dustin Hoffman, and has been their maid forever—in fact, Ben Stiller lost his virginity to her when he was a little boy. So now [my character has] a 15-year-old son, and the 15-year-old son looks just like Ben Stiller, which really, really aggravates and totally disturbs Robert De Niro. That was really fun and challenging.

**You've got a one-woman show called *Patriotic Birch*. That'll debut soon in New York, right?**

I wrote it a couple years ago and debuted it out in Los Angeles, and it did well. Hopefully, it'll be opening up [in late December or January] at the Zipper or the Belt; we'll see. I tried to think of a funny, catchy one-woman show. Basically, I do six women who have lost their jobs after Sept. 11, so they're doing whatever they can to make ends meet. A lot of [the vignettes] are job interviews, and a lot of them are people out on the streets just selling American T-shirts and American flags. It's basically how Sept. 11 affected these women who live in New York City and what happens to them at the end. It's interesting, it's dramatic, it's funny. It's a big political salad.

**Besides acting, I heard you also play the piano and guitar. Any big rock-star dreams?**

You know what? I probably said that to impress everyone. I think I was dating a musician at that time so I figured if I said that, I would impress him and he would call me back. Never happened!

**So, there'll be no singer/actor prefix attached to your name?**

I think that when actors try to sing and record albums, it's the dorkiest thing in the world. I mean, when Eddie Murphy came out with "Party All The Time," I was frightened for him. I remember running into him at the Beverly Center [in Los Angeles] when I was a little kid and seeing him in these tiny little Spandex [shorts] that just showed his bulging crotch. I was so embarrassed for him! I was in the second grade and thought, "Oh, my God, what is he doing?"

**If you weren't rocking "Party All The Time" when you were younger, then what were you spinning?**

I've got a really hip sister. She's 11 years older than I am, and she had the Pretenders playing when I was 4 years old, and I remember playing the song "Precious" on her 8-track, over and over again.

**Well, retro is making a comeback. Even Duran Duran has a new album out.**

Isn't that amazing—that they don't have osteoporosis by now and they can pick up their guitars? It's phenomenal. **AM**



**SEXY MOTHERFOCKER:** Ubach in *Meet The Fockers*.

## Alanna Ubach

**AGE:** 29

**HEADQUARTERS:** West Hollywood, CA

**RÉSUMÉ:** *The Brady Bunch Movie*, as Noreen, a gal pal of Marcia who wanted to be more than a pal (hint, hint, wink, wink); *Clockwatchers*, as Jane, a soon-to-be-married office temp who, er, watched the clock; *Legally Blonde* and *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde*, as Serena, Reese Witherspoon's BFF sorority sister; *Meet The Fockers*, as Isabel, a not-so-lean cooking and cleaning machine; the upcoming *Herbie: Fully Loaded*, alongside Lindsay Lohan and a romantically scheming love bug.

**RAISE THOSE DEVIL HORNS:** "I grew up listening to Iron Maiden, Quiet Riot and Haircut One Hundred. I felt I had to listen to heavy metal so I could be a cool 6th-grader and popular with the boys."

**THREE IS A MAGIC NUMBER:** Ben Stiller is married to Christine Taylor, who also played Ubach's lesbian love interest, Marcia, in *The Brady Bunch Movie*. Ubach says of Taylor, "Yes, she played a girl I was in love with. And in [*Meet The Fockers*], I'm in love with Ben Stiller. So, I guess I want to fuck both of them."