

## Alanna Ubach

*Legally Blonde 2's cheerleading Californian on dance routines, directing shorts and dumb decisions...*

➔ "We do a flamboyant dance in the Capitol building," laughs Alanna Ubach of one of her big moments in *Legally Blonde 2*. "There's pom-poms and rap music in the background and a couple of interns are dancing with me." Ex-President Bill Clinton would be so proud...

"We must have rehearsed the dance about 40 times before filming," the 27-year-old Californian actress continues. "It becomes a grilled-cheese sandwich after a while. It becomes, 'C'mon now, gimme a challenge, gimme a backwards flip.' But I think the choreographer was afraid to give us something a little challenging because it was all marble floors. She was probably afraid we'd crack our skulls..."

Yet while she enjoyed reprising the role of cheerleader Serena McGuire ("a very organised, very intelligent brunette who's blonde at heart") in the Reese Witherspoon-starring comedy sequel, Ubach admits she'll be happy to head off to the world of small-budget, indie filmmaking for a while. "Maybe in a couple of years I won't be saying this because I'll be working on more big-budget films," she admits. "But in independent films, you never feel like you're under pressure working for a huge company. You've got to give all your time to a big film – a good six months. Whereas in an indie film, people are just so eager to get it done immediately, to get it into festivals."

And she's looking ahead to her next festival appointment: taking *A Mi Amor, Mi Dulce*, the 20-minute short she wrote and directed, onto the independent circuit. A world away from *Blonde's* perky universe, "it's a film about gay marriage in which I own a bakery and my brother's a transvestite. I fall in love with a girl, who's played by my real-life best friend!"

And though she'll tackle most challenges, Ubach admits that there was one moment in life where the pressure – from her peers, at least – got to her, which explains the half-a-heart tattoo on her back. "I was drunk and 16 and didn't know what the hell I was doing in the parlour. I said, 'Okay, I'm gonna get... A heart.'" But unlike many celeb tattoos with their pretentious slogans, Ubach's has a more off-the-cuff explanation. "I think it was No3 on the tattoo list. It was either that or a skull with a dagger through it..."

**James White**

*Legally Blonde 2* is released on 1 August and will be reviewed in the next issue of *Total Film*.

