

Caitlin Stasey

By Sharon Green Twitter: @SharonJGreen

It's been a year of change for actress Caitlin Stasey. After finishing filming and tour commitments for her breakthrough movie role in *Tomorrow When the War Began*, Stasey made the move to Los Angeles to pursue her dream career.

Most readers know Stasey from her role as Rachel Kinski in *Neighbours* – a character she played for about four years.

The twenty-year-old was born in Melbourne and spent most of her younger years growing up in the city she still calls home.

Stasey was recently selected to feature as the ambassador and face of Jan Logan for 2011. The team behind the luxury jewellery brand travelled to LA to meet with her to do the photoshoot.

The unique designs from this leading Australian jeweller are worn by international actors like Naomi Watts, Jennifer Lopez, Rose Byrne and Joan Chen.

"I'm honored that they want to feature me," Stasey says.

And she's still humble about the international exposure she's been afforded through her role

in *Tomorrow When the War Began*.

"Any job really is a stepping stone to another one. It's the chance to grow and learn from other people."

She says the opportunity allowed her to meet and work with some inspiring people in the film industry and gave her the chance to deliver new ideas and explore new ways to develop her craft.

It's this encounter with film that has given Stasey a taste for an area she'd like to develop, noting that she'd prefer to engage more in film from here-on. "There's something very permanent about films. Film is a far more romantic concept... film is just more intriguing and you have to pursue it."

From an acting perspective, Stasey says working on a film, where you can focus on completing a major project from start to end, is more rewarding. She says it allows her to get in touch with the storyline on a deeper level and there's more time to perfect your character. "[With film] you're that much more invested in it and dedicated to it."

Stasey is still looking for

the project that will mark the next stage of her career, but is involved in a busy round of meetings and auditions as she chases after "good films, good characters and good stories".

Being removed from her comfort zone and living in an unfamiliar city doesn't seem to bother Stasey though. "You have to keep a positive attitude otherwise you're defeated before you've even begun. I'm only 20. I really have all the time in the world... and eventually things work out."

She doesn't mind being the new girl in town, claiming the anonymity has its benefits. "It's nice to be new to it because they can't have any predetermined ideas about you."

So where to from here for Stasey?

She says she will go wherever she is required, resigned to the fact that following an acting dream means being available where the work is. Aside from auditioning for roles, meeting with people in the industry and thinking about future projects she doesn't have much more on her plate. But she approaches this with a characteristic, laid-back Australian manner and says she's willing to take things as they come and is not worried about making too many plans at the moment. "You can't ever commit to anything too fiercely because tomorrow you could end up somewhere else... you have to be very open to anything."



Photo: Jan Logan Jewellery

Caitlin Stasey is the 2011 "face" for Australian jeweller, Jan Logan



Stasey's a fan of the "effortlessly cool" theatre and bar scenes of Brunswick and Fitzroy

Caitlin's Melbourne

With a recent move to Los Angeles to further pursue a professional acting career Stasey admits that while her new adventure is exciting, she misses Melbourne a lot. Most of her family and friends are still based in Melbourne so the distance, at times, proves challenging.

Her favourite memories are of wandering the streets of Fitzroy and Brunswick and making the most of the eclectic

nightlife in the area. "I love the vibe of Fitzroy and Brunswick. Melbourne's just effortlessly cool with its theatre and bar scene."

As no stranger to travelling the world, Stasey can confidently confirm that the food in Melbourne is something we should be proud of. She misses Australia's access to wholesome, rich foods and says "hard, good food is expensive in LA."



Photo: Paramount Australia

Stasey in her breakthrough role, Ellie Linton in *Tomorrow When the War Began*

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