



Locally shot Cat's Cradle in the can

Young singer says 3-year project taught persistence

Elizabeth Withey, The Edmonton Journal
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EDMONTON - Edmonton's Cara Albo has been nourishing her "baby" for three long years. And on Monday, at a red-carpet gala, that baby – Albo's debut film, *Cat's Cradle*, starring a certain Cara Albo and Juno-winning R&B singer Keisha Chante – premieres on the silver screen.

"I'm terrified and excited all at the same time," Albo, 21, says. "I hope everybody likes it. This is huge for me."

Cat's Cradle revolves around the life of Cat Adams, a fictional singer at the height of popularity with her tween fans. Cat is ready to drop the wholesome teen image and go head to head with the likes of Gwen Stefani and Christina Aguilera, but her record company doesn't want to let bubblegum Cat go.



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Cara Albo, centre, plays pop singer Cat Adams during the 2007 filming of *Cats Cradle* at Londonderry Mall. Screenings of the movie are set for Monday and July 12.

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"It's everything I would expect for a film of our calibre, and 10 times more," says Albo. "I couldn't have hoped for more."

OK, so it helps that Albo likes what she sees.

"It's amazing to see yourself on a 50-foot screen," she says. "I don't want to be egotistical here, but I look hot. It's great."

Shot in the Edmonton area, and directed by Gil Allan, *Cat's Cradle* is the result of Albo's dream to launch herself into the entertainment world through a movie.

The Edmonton native's performance credits include a wealth of theatrical productions, involvement with the Richard Eaton Singers and the Edmonton Fringe. She's a singer and songwriter, too, and penned the soundtrack for her movie. (She plans on launching her debut CD, *Embrace Me*, including selections from *Cat's Cradle*, in January.)

Albo and production company Skyline Motion Pictures raised \$3 million from private investors in both Canada and the United States to finance the picture, which they hope will get picked up by a worldwide distributor.

Keshia Chante, an Ottawa native, plays a friend of Cat's in the movie, and adds an element of realism to the film, Albo says,

"We wanted someone Canadian, we wanted someone who could identify with the role," she explains. "(Chante) has been there, she's Cat Adams. She can't play the role of bubble gum cutesy anymore, she's grown out of it."

Making a movie, Albo says, has taught her an important lesson in persistence.

"When you want something, no matter how many times you get knocked down, you have to keep knocking on those doors," she said.

Monday's screening of *Cat's Cradle* at Cineplex South Edmonton Common is by invitation only. A public screening is scheduled for July 12 at the Dow Centennial Centre in Fort Saskatchewan.

ewithey@thejournal.canwest.com

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