



Albo hopes feature film will Cat-apult her to stardom

Multitalented young Edmontonian aims for February release of Cat's Cradle DVD

Elizabeth Withey, The Edmonton Journal

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EDMONTON - Edmonton's Cara Albo woke up one morning and thought, "Hey, I'm going to make a movie."

Why sit around waiting to get noticed, Albo thought, when she could create something to showcase her talents to the world?

"I'm a singer, dancer, songwriter and actress, so why not throw it all together and see who bites?" Albo, 20, said recently.



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At Londonderry Mall, Skyline Motion Pictures films a fan scene for the feature movie Cat's Cradle, about young pop singer Cat Adams (played by Cara Albo, centre).

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Once the project got rolling, Allan was sold on the production, and Albo's ambition. She's a "wonder girl," he said, and not just because she wrote all the original music for the Cat's Cradle soundtrack.

Albo's performance background includes many theatrical productions, as well as involvement with the Richard Eaton Singers and the Edmonton Fringe.

She sings several musical genres, including jazz, pop and classical.

It's undoubtedly a novel way to kickstart a career, but Albo is convinced Cat's Cradle will take her in the direction she's hoping to go.

"I want to get picked up for my music," Albo said. "I'm not going to say that I don't want the fame, but I want a genuine product. I don't want to sell myself out."

ewithey@thejournal.canwest.com

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Albo felt she wasn't getting the exposure she needed to launch herself, so she did just what she set out to do: make a movie. Cat's Cradle, a feature about the life of a teen pop star, is filming in the Edmonton area until the weekend.

The story revolves around 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 bubble-gum Cat go.

"(It's been a challenge) being Cat, having to be this famous pop star when you don't understand the famous world, because you're not," Albo said. "It's hard to be genuine, but I think I nailed it."

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 is set for DVD release next February. Skyline is aiming for a U.S. market, though preliminary discussions with a Canadian broadcaster are underway.

Edmonton director Gil Allan said he was dubious when Albo approached him.

"Quite frankly, when she first spoke to me, I thought, 'It's not going to happen,'" Allan said recently between takes in Fort Saskatchewan. "Who's going to listen to a 20-year-old? But she's very aggressive, in a good way."

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