



HOLLYWOOD

Hopeful

THEATRE ALUMNA LAUNCHES
ACTING CAREER SHARING SCREEN
WITH GEORGE CLOONEY AND
COURTENEY COX

By Cindy Taren



Facing Page: The Wantage, N.J., native, shown here at High Point Regional High School during a fall visit to her hometown, joined the Screen Actors Guild in February. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW JERSEY HERALD

Left: Trovillion played the lead female, Elmire, in Moliere's *Tartuffe* in her senior year at Wilkes. PHOTO BY DICK GILLESPIE

SINCE GRADUATING FROM WILKES University, Lauren Trovillion '05 has been an FBI agent, an assistant district attorney and a gambler. All are roles she's added to her resume since leaving her New Jersey home for an acting career in Hollywood in January 2006.

Within weeks of her arrival in California, she landed two jobs: one for an independent film and the other for a television commercial. By August, Trovillion was working on the set at Warner Bros. Studios with Al Pacino and George Clooney for the film *Ocean's Thirteen*.

"It was my first major project, and I learned a lot about the industry and where I needed to go from there," Trovillion says of the debut experience.

"The goals and dreams that I've had my whole life are slowly becoming a reality," says the 23-year-old Wantage, N.J., native. The most exciting part is being surrounded by so much talent and creativity every day. "It motivated me and encourages me to succeed."

Her current acting gigs include appearances on the CBS crime drama *Numb3rs*, the ABC series *Boston Legal* and the NBC soap opera *Passions*. In addition to these, Trovillion also has a role in a television show called *Dirt* on FX, starring Courteney Cox, and an ABC television comedy called *Big Day*. She also expects to appear in the upcoming movie *Drillbit Taylor*, starring Owen Wilson.

"It was always so hard to be taken seriously when I told people that I wanted to be an actor," Trovillion remembers. "Now I'm realizing that it actually is possible to make a career of doing what I love to do."

Trovillion joined the Screen Actors Guild in February. "From there my plan is to get an agent and really dive into auditions."

Trovillion says her Wilkes experience has prepared her well for life after college, and professors like Joseph Dawson, chair and associate professor of Visual and Performing Arts, are

part of the reason she has made it so far and will continue to challenge herself in the future.

"(The professors at Wilkes) took whatever talent I had and showed me how to use it. They inspired me and encouraged me each and every day. It is because of them that I now have a theater career as opposed to just a theater degree," Trovillion says.

"It's not uncommon for theater majors to get professional work after graduation," explains Dawson. Wilkes has several alumni who have built upon their college experience to become stage performers or have involvement in other aspects of the institutions of performance and production. Trovillion "has movie star looks and is a very accomplished dancer who had modeling experience before she came to Wilkes. She made connections in the Los Angeles area through Adam Hill, who used to teach here from 1996 to 2005."

"Lauren was a delight in class and terrific onstage because she worked hard at academics, dance, voice and acting classes," explains Bonnie Culver, English professor and director of the master of creative writing program at Wilkes.

While at Wilkes, Trovillion was nominated for an Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, a national award, for her portrayal of Portia in the University's production of *Julius Caesar*.

Though she regrets having to be so far away from family and loved ones at home, Trovillion is grateful for the chance to spend so much time with other talented young actors who also are striving for greatness. "I get to watch some of the greatest actors out there at work and learn from them."

"I think the most important thing is to stay hungry," she adds. "I don't know exactly what the future has in store for me, but I know if I stay focused on what I want and never settle, I will succeed."

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Lauren Trovillion, Los Angeles
B.A., Theatre Arts 2005
Career: Has appeared as an actor in the film *Ocean's Thirteen* and is a regular on TV shows, including *Numb3rs* and *Passions*
Notable: Expects to appear in this summer's movie *Drillbit Taylor*, starring Owen Wilson