

MEET JENNIFER ANN GALVEZ

BY KRISTIN BAUER-GROSS | PHOTOS BY DAN DOYLE, ALEXANDRA ELISE PHOTOGRAPHY, BRANDON VICK & ADAM EATON



As an actor, on camera talent and business coach to models and actors, my column here often shares auditioning tips, acting advice, confidence building strategies, and projects related to my “Courage to Dream” mission which is to empower women and girls to go after their dreams.

This month, I am thrilled to share an interview with Jennifer Ann Galvez. Jennifer is both an incredibly talented Rochester based actor, event planner (www.jennifergcatonevents.com) and former tv news associate producer.

How did you first get started or interested in acting?

When I was 5 years old my mother enrolled me in dance class. I continued to thrive in ballet, tap and jazz for the next 10 years. That’s when I fell in love with the theater. One of the first plays that I ever saw was the musical *The Fantasticks* by Tom Jones. I wanted to make people feel what I was feeling in the audience that day. It felt like magic! That’s when I caught the Acting Bug. Later on, I began taking acting classes at William Esper’s Meisner Technique, Stella Adler’s Conservatory in New York City and the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

You recently produced “Love Letters” and I attended this amazing performance; can you share how this production was a labor of love?

I first read the play, *Love Letters* by A.R. Gurney while working at Madison Square Garden as a suite attendant in the luxury skyboxes. I was reading it in the hall on my serving tray while working a NY Knicks game. I was acting and

living in Manhattan at the time. I was so drawn to the script and it moved me in such a way I couldn’t breath after the last line. That is what great art in theater does. It makes you stop and feel all these beautiful emotions, both good and bad. So much has happened since then. Decades of a life well lived. I am so fortunate in that way. June 27th, 2021 was another one of those special



moments in my life, a day that I will always treasure. It is wonderful when we allow ourselves to be moved by art through theater.

A Labor of Love is the perfect description of me producing *Love Letters*, which I am happy to announce will continue at the Bristol Valley Theater on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 7 pm and at 2 pm on Sunday, May 1, 2022. For tickets

go to: Please go to <https://bvtnaples.org>

What was most memorable about producing and performing “Love Letters”?

I have to say it was the audience feedback. I was taken aback by the overwhelming positive responses from our show. Here is one letter that almost moved me to tears...

“I saw *Love Letters* at Canalside Stage on 6/27. I wouldn’t have imagined that a story of upper crust, white, northeasterners could be such a powerful display of diversity and inclusion, but this *Love Letters* was just that. Through the beautiful and natural performances of Jennifer Ann Galvez and J. Simmons, I watched two actors of color become simply, two actors, who became simply, two people, with all the joys, humor, and heartache we all recognize in our own lives. Art does not lecture, it reveals, which makes art like this unique, multi-racial production of *Love Letters* the ideal medium to convey a message of hope and healing through the commonality of love. I have so many friends and relatives I’d like to share this experience with, and it should be seen by people from every corner of Rochester to work its magic, so here’s to many repeat performances. Galvez Caton, Esther Winter, and the JCC have given our community a real gift, and we are all better for having it.” - Mike S.

As an Asian woman based in Rochester, NY, what changes would you like to see in the tv/film and advertising industry?

I would like to see more people of

"I would like to see more people of color, especially Asian Americans appear more frequently across the board – on all forms of media, television, film and print."

especially Asian Americans appear more frequently across the board – on all forms of media, television, film and print. Unfortunately, Asian Americans often are seen as just Asian. They're not understood as being American, and that contributes to this perception that Americans would not be able to identify with Asian Americans — and unfortunately that's the assumption by many of those who invest in theater, film and advertising. That being said, I am seeing a slow change lately but not enough in the mainstream of movies and tv.

How has the pandemic affected pursuing acting positively, negatively, or both?

The pandemic has allowed many people, including myself, to really give serious thought to what is important to them. The positive affect is that I made a conscious decision to pursue my dream of acting. The negative aspect would have to be that I am not alone in my thinking. So many other people have pivoted their careers just as I have and that makes the selection of actors in the audition pool much more competitive. Now that actors are primarily auditioning for film and casting directors via video, it has become anyone's game.

What would you say to women who feel like something is holding them back from pursuing modeling or acting or any dream that feels a little bit impossible?

There is only one YOU, which it really is true. Life is NOT a dress rehearsal. You get one chance in this life and then unfortunately, life ends. Wouldn't you like to look back when you are 100 years old and see all of the glorious moments that you made happen in your life?! Remembering all of the kind and loving people you had the opportunity to meet

and form intimate relationships with. Such as your family and close friends who truly make you who you are today. Maybe some of them are in your life briefly but they were there for you at some point, supporting, guiding, and nurturing all of your dreams.

Perhaps, they feel they are not tall enough, slim enough, talented enough, connected enough, young enough, smart enough or any other type of feeling "not enough"?



I would say to them this piece of advice that I recently read on social media. In the words of the actor, Frances McDormand: I was often told that I wasn't a thing. "She's not pretty enough, she's not tall enough, she's not thin enough, she's not fat enough" I thought ok. Someday you're going to be looking for someone not, not, not, not and I'll be there.

What has been your favorite photoshoot and a notable moment in your acting career?

Ironically, after years of not chasing

the print modeling roles, one day out of the blue, I was asked to model for a medical equipment print ad. This was my favorite photoshoot because it re-opened my world again. I felt so ALIVE for a few hours that day and oddly enough, then I went back to my desk job. Regarding my acting career, I honestly believe my most notable acting job has not even happened yet! It will happen ... I promise.

What role has Kristin Bauer-Gross played in your own life or have you witnessed her helping others pursue their talent goals?

I was so fortunate that the stars aligned, and I was able to meet Kristin Bauer-Gross. She has been my frequent mentor, guide, and I am proud to say has become a dear friend. She is so self-less and generous in helping other models, actors and casting agents make those connections to themselves and one another. I only wish everyone had a Kristin in their lives. Her presence has been a tremendous gift that I am fortunate enough to have in my world.

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Jennifer Ann Galvez Actor

For more information go to: www.jenniferanngalvez.com

Catch Kristin's free IGTV series "Talent Toolbox" on Instagram @KristinBCoaching Get Kristin's FREE Printable Checklist to make Packing and Preparing for Photoshoots a breeze at: www.KristinB.com/checklist



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