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Traci Dinwiddie

by [Rachael Scott](#)
17 February 2011

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In *Elena Undone*, Traci Dinwiddie plays Peyton, a self-help author who falls hopelessly in love with a married woman with a husband who thinks homosexuality is a sin. It's not all bad though because she gets to kiss Necar Zadegan in the longest snog in cinematic history. Lucky girl.

Traci will also be feeling very pleased about her next film *To get her*, winning the Best of NEXT Audience Award at Sundance this year.

It looks like things are on the up for the beautiful *Supernatural* actress who was born in Anchorage, Alaska and is of Syrian and Cherokee Indian descent.

Rachael Scott chatted to her about *Elena Undone*.

What was it that first attracted you to the script and your character?

I loved that it was loosely based on the true love story of director Nicole Conn and Marina Bader. When I auditioned for them, I could feel the love in the room. They have an incomparable passion for each other and the art of story telling.

How close did you feel to the material and the characters?

Like Peyton, I could certainly relate to loving someone that was seemingly unattainable. I do not, by any means, share her style. I'm much more bohemian and generally lively in the way I approach people.

She, Peyton, was struggling to find her way out of a deep depression and was understandably very repressed in her sexual expression. I did relate to her shy essence though. I love to flirt, but when it comes to really being vulnerable, I'm just as timid.

Was there any one person in particular you looked at or thought about when you were playing Peyton?

If you mean in terms of creating nuance for Peyton, I went straight to the source – Ms. Nicole Conn. I was speaking her words. Much of the dialogue is filled with love letters and conversations that Nicole personally shared with Marina. I was quite lucky to have my 'study' for my director.

What unexpected challenges were presented whilst you were shooting?

Our shoot was full of little surprises, but the one that sticks out in my mind the most is when we had our close-ups for the final scene of the film. Jane Clark, our producer said, "We're out of time. You've got one take each! Then we HAVE to move on".

Talk about pressure! In the middle of that "one take", I'm emotional and quietly speaking to Elena (Necar Zadegan) when suddenly we hear the neighbour screaming out for her animal – "Chewwww! Cheeeeeewwww?!" On and on it went. She would cut me off in the middle of my line every time I would start. That was the longest "one take" I've ever experienced!

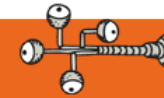
"I bet it would help if we start telling stories that are less involved with coming out and dealing with being gay and focus more on the complete human experience of characters that happen to be gay."

The kiss you shared with Necar Zadegan has reportedly broken the record for longest movie kiss. How many takes did you have to do?
We had two takes. This was Nicole's dream. Personally, I would rather the hottest kiss.

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My idea of such would be that sweet moment before - how one's lips linger just before contact. I love that feeling.

Is it a different process for an actor developing a romantic relationship with a woman as opposed to one with a man?

No. Love is love.



There aren't many movies made with gay female characters and even fewer released despite a high demand for them. What do you think would make it easier to get more lesbian themed films out there?

It's time we integrate. I bet it would help if we start telling stories that are less involved with coming out and dealing with being gay and focus more on the complete human experience of characters that happen to be gay.

There is so much more to be told. It's going to take our LGBT community really stepping forward and supporting these films financially and showing up to screenings and renting DVDs. Show business requires an active, supportive audience. Bottom line - it means putting our money into the system.

You've played the part of a psychic in TV series *Supernatural*. Do you have any psychic powers?

I've experienced some powerful ESP with certain people and have had visions of what was going to happen only for it to manifest directly afterward. I'm betting we all have these types of power. In this ever-increasing technological world we rely on outside sources to direct our attention instead of our intuition.

"Personally, I would rather the hottest kiss. My idea of such would be that sweet moment before - how one's lips linger just before contact. I love that feeling."

You played Patsy Cline on stage in 2009. What was it like playing the country singing legend?

This was one of the dreamiest roles I've played to date. I've had the honour and pleasure of "becoming" Patsy twice for the stage. I'm really tempted to produce the show in West Hollywood. It's a sweet, celebratory sing-songy styled show that anyone could enjoy.

You're planning to audition for the role of Warner Bros' *Wonder Woman* and on your website you've asked fans to define the qualities the super heroine needs. What sort of feedback have you had?

One of my faves was that the new *Wonder Woman* should carry a handbag hovercraft. I don't know about you, but I'm a big fan of triple functional art. *[Winks]*.



What's the worst thing that's happened to you at an audition?

I had a casting director stop me in the middle of my audition and say, "I don't know what the hell you are doing, but it's just not working for ME!" She turned off the camera and kicked me out. I didn't know it at the time, but she has a reputation for being quite 'off kilter'. Still, that was a nightmare for me.

Have you ever picked up a script and thought, 'Oh my God, I can't believe I have to do that?'

Yes and, nowadays, I usually cancel. I am not going to throw myself under the bus anymore!

"It's going to take our LGBT community really stepping forward and supporting these films financially and showing up to screenings and renting DVDs. Show business requires an active, supportive audience."

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You have an acting career that spans film, television and theatre. Do you have a preference? Is there one thing about acting on stage that fulfills you in a way acting on camera doesn't, and vice versa?

Sounds cheesy, but I love each medium. There is something so sweet about the reciprocal energy in theatre. It becomes its own entity when you add an audience.

With film, the beauty, for me, lies in the stillness and usually having much more time to prepare. I love the process of preparing. Television is a blast with its quick pace and always getting to work with myriad personalities. It keeps me on my toes!

You play drums in a band. Is drumming your favourite way to release tension?

West African drumming keeps me sane. It's all about healing, communication and pure groovin' entertainment!



Please finish the following sentences: Five years from now I'll be...?

Producing, directing and acting in MY films and series!

An actor should never...?

Give up.

If you could play any role in movie or television history, what would it be?

Besides the new *Wonder Woman*? Assuming they would be adapted screenplays, I'd love to take a stab at Kudra in *Jitterbug Perfume* or Dagny Taggart in *Atlas Shugged*. I've also had this growing fantasy of playing Alice B. Toklas in a series about the incredible times of the Parisian avant garde Salon in the early 1900s. Any fabulous producers out there want to help me make this happen?

Please tell me about your next film *To.get.her...*

It's a story of five troubled young women coming together for one hedonistic evening. I play a woman quite comfortable in her own skin that may or may not give hope to one of the lead characters in this film. It's a very 'pink' film made with strong, bold strokes to appeal, most especially, to teenage girls. We just premiered at Sundance 2011.

[Read Our Review Of *Elena Undone* »](#)

Click to find out what we thought of this lesbian film including verdict, plot, trailer and queer ratings.

[Elena Undone](#) [2010]

Studio: Peccadillo Pictures

Released: 7 February 2011

ASIN: B003YCOIDQ

Order **[Elena Undone](#)** online now and save!