

# amber stevens west



*Words by* NICOLE MOOREFIELD *Photos by* CATHERINE POWELL *Glam by* AMBER ROSE

BORN AND RAISED IN LOS ANGELES, Amber Stevens West was no stranger to the entertainment industry growing up. From a “showbiz kind of family,” Amber’s parents encouraged her to pursue a career in the arts. “I think they saw at a young age that I was fit for this,” she says.

Amber was introduced to music at a young age. As a teenager, she

encouraged her to try acting and she fell in love with the craft. “It’s all just a wave that I kept riding and it hasn’t crashed yet,” she remarks.

When she got her first series regular job on Freeform’s *Greek*, Amber dropped out of college to join the cast. “All of a sudden I was a full-time actor,” Amber recalls.

Like all good things, Amber’s time

doing,” she poses. During the lulls, Amber has learned to live frugally. “I just try to stay focused and save my money,” she laughs. “This is an industry where you’re an independent contractor. You never know where your next job is coming from.”

Landing *Ghosted* was the crest of Amber’s wave. “*Ghosted* kind

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wrote and recorded her own music, but soon realized the lifestyle of a pop artist wasn’t for her. “It’s a very specific personality that can handle life on tour and being very vulnerable,” she explains.

Instead, Amber joined a modeling agency and began booking commercials, where she met the agent who is her manager today. He

on *Greek* came to an end after four years, and transitioning back into the world of networking and auditions was intimidating. “You’re begging for jobs all day long,” Amber shares, “And I had to jump right into that.”

Her journey has been bumpy, “but I think everyone feels that in their career no matter what they’re

of happened serendipitously,” she remarks. An hour after learning her current project, *The Carmichael Show*, had been canceled, Amber received a phone call. *Ghosted* was reshooting its pilot with a new character, and they wanted her to test for the role. “I read with Adam Scott and then a couple days later found out that I got the job. It was a

very crazy turn of events where all of a sudden I was pushed into this new show,” Amber comments.

*Ghosted* follows paranormal skeptic Leroy (Craig Robinson) and believer Max (Adam Scott), who are recruited by the Bureau Underground, a secret government agency, to protect the world from an array of unusual creatures. Amber plays Annie, the Bureau’s weapons and technology specialist and “a really smart girl who doesn’t have to apologize for being smart,” Amber states. She designs different weapons for the Bureau “to take down aliens and monsters and all this crazy fun stuff. She’s also a hacker and she’s great with computers, so she’s a highly intelligent girl, but also cool and hip and not your typical nerd character.”

Working with Craig and Adam, well-known for their work on *The Office* and *Parks and Recreation*, respectively, was intimidating at first. “Coming into a job like [*Ghosted*], it’s kind of scary, because you’re very familiar with their body of work. You know how funny they are and how talented they are,” Amber notes. However, her initial fears were quelled when she stepped on set. “They’re just the coolest, and so grateful for the careers that they have, and don’t take any moment of it for granted,” she gushes. “They come up with great improv on the fly, so it’s really fun to collaborate with them.” Though familiar with improvisation from *22 Jump Street*, Amber prefers to let the writers do their job, adding, “I’m just here to perform the words.” However, Amber has tried to stretch herself with *Ghosted*. “It’s not something I’m super comfortable with,” she confesses, “but I like knowing that

it’s an option.”

Although *Ghosted* has quickly grown a large fanbase, Season 2 has yet to be confirmed. If *Ghosted* is renewed, the cast will have a few free months before they return. “My husband (*Once Upon A Time*’s Andrew J. West) and I are desperate to spend some time in Paris, so hopefully we’ll both have some time off,” Amber mentions. Their long-distance relationship, with Andrew filming in Vancouver and *Ghosted* set in L.A., has proved easier than expected. “It’s like we have this little affair, but with each other,” Amber laughs. “I don’t know how long it’ll be fun for,” she qualifies, but “right now it’s actually been pretty great.” The couple recently moved into a new home and are in the process of remodeling, which “will be probably half of my summer, too,” Amber admits. “I would like to take a little bit of time off of work to just do some real life stuff, but who knows. If I hear that *Ghosted* doesn’t continue, then I don’t get that luxury. I’ve got to get back on the grind and hopefully get another job,” she acknowledges.

If *Ghosted* is not renewed, Amber would like to return to her roots in music. “I am desperate to do something musical,” like a FOX or NBC live production, she mentions. She would also love to star in a holiday movie. “It’s not highbrow or anything, but I don’t care. Christmas movies are the best, and then you get to sing holiday songs,” she explains.

However, Amber is hopeful for Season 2. “I’m excited to create more of the storylines and the relationships,” Amber shares. “I find that the most interesting television shows to watch are the ones where

you’re really invested in the characters and their relationships with one another,” she discloses. She is particularly curious to see if a romance will bloom between Annie and Max. Amber also hopes to expand Annie’s talents with creating weaponry in a second season. “Hopefully she gets to show more of that and be more of a badass,” Amber adds.

Playing a “badass” on television isn’t quite as cool in real life, Amber reveals. In one episode, Annie carries a dead body as bait for a bat-like creature. “Shooting the whole thing was hilarious,” Amber recalls, as she had to run down stairs with a prop cadaver on her back while a costumed man flew above her on wires. The show’s creative range, featuring creatures even more outlandish than the bat man, is something Amber loves about *Ghosted*. “The sky’s the limit with what kind of creature we get to encounter,” she grins.

The departure from reality is a change from Amber’s previous work. “It’s so different from *The Carmichael Show* because we’re not making any sort of commentary on what’s happening in our world right now,” Amber shares. She misses discussing real issues with her cast mates, which “made me reflect on my place in this world,” but sees *Ghosted* as an equally important project. “This last year has been very overwhelming, and it’s a rollercoaster you can’t get off of,” she states. *Ghosted* is a break for exhausted viewers, who “get to watch this show and not think about the hard things that are happening in the world. They can just have a lot of fun with these characters and the absurd situations they get into,” she asserts. <sup>NO</sup>



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