

NOW CASTING - Film Festival

Members Log In
Username

Password
 Log In

[FORGOT PASSWORD?](#)

[NOW CASTING HOME](#)

[Check LA Freeways](#)

[Actors Ink](#)
[SEARCH ACTORS INK](#)

- [Act As If](#)
- [Box Office List](#)
- [Nielsen Ratings](#)
- [an INDEPENDENT reVIEW](#)
- [Great Acting Coaches](#)
- [Hitting Your Mark](#)
- [Movie Reviews](#)
- [Tax Talk](#)
- [The Players Directory](#)
- [Words That Define Our Business](#)

Archives

- [Act As If](#)
- [Actor Interview](#)
- [Actors and Money](#)
- [Actors' Rx](#)
- [AFTRA-SAG FCU News](#)
- [Ahead Of The Edge](#)
- [an INDEPENDENT reVIEW](#)
- [An Inside Look](#)
- [Ask The Voice Cat](#)
- [Between The Lines](#)
- [Book Review](#)
- [CD Interview](#)
- [Connected With Nick Granada](#)
- [Director Interview](#)
- [Editorial Thoughts](#)
- [Entertainment Law and Advice](#)
- [Festival Report](#)
- [For Kids In The Biz](#)
- [From the CEO](#)
- [From The Experts](#)
- [Great Acting Coaches](#)
- [Hitting Your Mark](#)
- [In The Mix](#)
- [Money Matters](#)
- [Movie Reviews](#)
- [News To Know](#)
- [Now Casting Presents: P.O.V.](#)
- [Peter's Corner](#)
- [Public Service Announcement](#)
- [Short \(Film\) Stories](#)
- [Shrink Rap](#)
- [Success Stories!!](#)
- [Tax Talk](#)
- [Tech Talk](#)
- [The Credit Lady](#)
- [The Now Casting Film](#)

Dixie Sedgwick, Part One

Today's News:

[MSNBC dumps L](#)

Act As If

Dixie Sedgwick, Part One

[Back to Actors Ink](#)

By Petrea Burchard (03-28-2007) [Click for Bio](#)



It's time to let go and laugh at ourselves as Petrea takes us on a journey through her career that may seem only too familiar to the rest of us.

Just the Beginning

If you send me a link about your work, I check it out. I don't remember why Dixie Sedgwick first wrote to me; maybe she agreed (or didn't) with something I said. One of her links took me to reviews of her one-person play about Bonnie Parker. I wrote back. We've stayed in touch.

Last fall, Dixie came to L.A. to make her play into a short film. It's already finished. Having made a film myself...let me rephrase that: having attempted to produce a film I never finished, the fact that Dixie actually completed the process in so short a time amazed me. "Bonnie and Clyde, End of the Line" www.bonnieandclydeendoftheline.com is a reality.

Dixie Sedgwick has worked in features, television, commercials, industrials, radio, and even casting. She studied acting and screenwriting at the University of Washington, and acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Pasadena. Her award-winning, critically acclaimed, one-woman play "Bonnie Parker" toured through north Texas, Louisiana and New York, ran in New York at the Blue Heron Arts Center, then Off Broadway at The John Houseman Theatre Center.

Advertisement

Film Acting Coach
David Lehman



Phone 818-845-1549

Currently, Dixie's a resident artist in the Dallas Independent School District, teaching a program she created called "Write, Camera, Action." She's working on a feature-length screenplay about Bonnie and Clyde, based on interviews with the Barrow and Parker families, and depression era experts. She's fast becoming a Barrow/Parker expert herself.

They say, "Don't wait to be discovered, create your own big break." Okay, but how? Well, Dixie has done it, so I picked the brain of this ambitious, inspiring actor/writer/producer, and in this two-part interview, she shares her insights.

How long have you been with this project, and what keeps you passionate about it?

It's going on seven years now. It's fascinating to learn about why [Bonnie

LA Theater & Events

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Box Office (04/08)

1. Blades of Glory
 2. Meet the Robinsons
 3. Are We Done Yet?
 4. Grindhouse
 5. The Reaping
- [View Complete List Nielsen \(04/08\)](#)
1. AMERICAN IDOL-TUESDAY
 2. AMERICAN IDOL-WEDNESDAY
 3. CSI
 4. CBS NCAA BSKBL CHAMPSHIPS(S)
 5. DANCING W/THE STARS-MON
- [View Complete List](#)

Festival!!
The Photographer's Eye
The Players Directory
The SAG Foundation
The Show Biz Brain
Theatre Reviews
To Your Health!
Using Now Casting
Words Of Wisdom
Words That Define Our
Business

and Clyde] made the choices they did. The classic film was never meant to be a historical account. Though I respect and admire that film, it's not who the real Bonnie and Clyde were. My desire is to enhance our knowledge and set the record straight. The facts are more interesting than the fiction.

I spent months in the library archives researching, checking out stacks of books. Interviews with historians and families from both sides were eye-opening. It was an enriching time and I came away with an entirely different view of who these people were.

Marie Barrow (Clyde Barrow's youngest sister) came to a preview and brought an entourage of folks all connected with Bonnie and Clyde. She has since passed away, but it was wonderful to meet her. She told me I made a great Bonnie Parker; that was encouraging.

Why did you make the film in Los Angeles instead of Dallas?

Marc and Elaine Zicree invited me to their Hamptons Roundtable in LA--industry professionals who congregate every week. Elaine advised, "If you want to play Bonnie Parker in the film you must show evidence of your work. Come to LA and pitch it to our Roundtable. We have many people who may be interested."

Soon I was working on the script and sending it to Elaine to edit. She became my mentor, advisor and friend. She gave my script to another actor, Dominic Comperatore, and it was a domino effect. Once Dominic committed, Elaine came on as director. She announced to the Roundtable she'd be directing, and put the word out for crew positions.

Kevin King came aboard next as producer. We worked closely and became fast friends. He and I talked and planned and micro-budgeted to the last penny. Working with him was a blessing, like a gift from God, he was everything I wasn't: a perfect match. He's into the details and going over everything with a fine tooth comb.

Once we locked in the budget, I formed an LLC and got an entertainment attorney (from the roundtable) who wrote up The Offering. I'd already been talking to a few of my previous investors from the play, but with The Offering I could approach investors with the correct legal paperwork.

I'll want to get back to that, but first: how did you get industry professionals to work for free? Did you work with any unions?

Yes, this was under the SAG Ultra Low Budget Agreement. Elaine Zicree and the Roundtable were pivotal, [and] a few factors helped push this forward: the script is based on my award-winning, critically acclaimed play, "Bonnie Parker" that ran Off Broadway, so there was the track record; I have substantial knowledge on the subject and my perspective on these fugitives is unique; Bonnie and Clyde are American legends so there's a built-in audience; and another deciding factor was we were shooting on film.

Industry pros worked for us because they responded to the material, and this was a quality film they could be proud of. (And of course they were well fed!)

Our primary method of working with professionals was through referrals from the Roundtable. Kevin would submit folks who were interested, then we'd check out their website or reel. We looked at reels or listened to their work and made the decision based on that.

Everyone worked for free. The only things we paid for were equipment and supplies.

Are you more writer than actor now, or both? (Now we can add producer!)

Acting is above and beyond everything. Nothing charges me the way acting does; to communicate through acting is exhilarating. The theatre gives the actor that sense of power, (theatre is the actor's medium and film is the director's).

My approach to acting is in the preparation, so by the time I get into performance there's a flexibility to work the character any way the director wants. I love every moment--the pressure, and being there, that's very satisfying and rewarding.

Writing is like an out-of-body experience. I get so engrossed with the characters it's like I become a spectator. It's difficult for me to enter the zone, but once I'm there, the outside world fades and I go far away in my mind. Sometimes I'll hear myself chuckling or crying, and it's as if the story is happening directly to me.

I don't hate writing, but I don't love it either. It's simply something I must do to accomplish my goals. Do the research, write the notes, take it all in, digest, then let the voices speak.

As far as producing, it's definitely something I love. Co-producing the play was the training ground for producing the short, which in turn has prepped me for the feature.

I tend to be hard-headed and think my way is best. That sounds egocentric, but as a producer, you've got to know what you want and voice it--but be willing to listen to reason. Get people that round out your team. That means know YOUR weaknesses and use THEIR strengths. The producer must stay with the baby till she's all grown up. You can't take a holiday until it's complete. You are there from the conception, to the delivery, to the presentation. Take ownership, be responsible, and when someone screws up, deal with it (politely). Learn how to get the best out of your people--they have to catch your vision and then add to it, make it better. That's a true collaboration, letting all the artists have input and allowing their creative process to unfold.

In the end you've got something you can be proud of. I loved every phase of producing.

"Bonnie and Clyde, End of the Line" will be screened, and Dixie Sedgwick will give a lecture and Q&A on May 26th at the Bonnie and Clyde Festival in Gibsland, Louisiana. There will surely be more screenings to come.

If you have questions, Dixie might answer them in Part Two. Or you can e-mail her at: dixie@bonnieandclydeendoftheline.com

You can email Petrea at petrea@nowcasting.com

[Increase Font Size](#)

[Sign Up](#) | [Casting Notices](#) | [Actor Resources](#) | [Guides & Labels](#) | [Newbies](#) | [Search](#) | [Sides](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#)

© Copyright 2001-2007 Now Casting, Inc. All rights reserved.

TRADEMARKS Now Casting, Actors Ink, LA Actors Online, LAAO, My8x10, Resume Clips, Quick Links and other names of Now Casting products and services referenced herein are trademarks or registered trademarks of Now Casting, Inc.