

BIOGRAPHY:

Starina Johnson (born February 23, 1979) is an American actress raised in the small Southern Illinois town of Logan. After receiving a full scholarship to SIC for acting and public speaking, she continued her education at SIUC receiving several more acting scholarships completing her degree in 2003. Starina moved to Nashville, TN in 2005 after living briefly in the UK, then transitioned to Los Angeles in 2010.

FILMOGRAPHY:*To A Tee*

Starina first gained notoriety in Matthew Riddlehoover's *To a Tee*, which won the 2006 MySpace Film User's Choice Award.

Extraordinary Film Project

In 2007, Starina became involved in the Extraordinary Film Project. The project successfully completed 12 feature films in 12 months, of which Starina acted in three (*Ought*, *Summer's Morn*, *\$6 Man*), and provided puppet voices in a fourth (*Too*).

Watch Out

Starina was then cast as Andrea alongside B-movie actor Jeff Dylan Graham, Peter Stickles (*Shortbus*), Amy Kelly, Matthew Riddlehoover, and burlesque performer Lady Monster in Steve Balderson's controversial adaptation of *Watch Out* (a best selling novel by Joseph Suglia). The film was shot without permits on location in Kansas. The 1-minute "teaser" trailer for *Watch Out* was launched on June 17, 2008 and within 11 days had more than 23,000 views on YouTube. *Watch Out* premiered at the Raindance Film Festival in London. It was released theatrically in the "Stop Turning Me On" world tour in New York (Coney Island Film Festival), Nashville, Chicago, Washington D.C (Reel Affirmations Festival), Seattle (Lesbian & Gay Film Festival), San Francisco, Asheville, Charlottesville (Virginia Film Festival), Kansas City, Lawrence KS, Austin (Alamo Drafthouse), and Los Angeles. Distribution company Breaking Glass Pictures headed by Richard Wolff and Richard Ross (formerly of TLA Releasing), released the *Watch Out* DVD on 24 November, 2009.

Stuck!

In 2009 Starina and Steve Balderson teamed up again for *Stuck!*, an homage to film noir women-in-prison films. The movie, photographed in black and white, was produced in Macon, Georgia, during April and May of 2009. The film also stars Karen Black, Susan Traylor, Jane Wiedlin, Mink Stole, Stacy Cunningham, and Pleasant Gehman. It's the story of Daisy (played by Starina), an innocent young woman framed for killing her mother. Condemned by the press and the public, Daisy is found guilty of murder and sentenced to die by hanging. The screen play was written by Frankie Krainz. *Stuck!* premiered at the 2009 Raindance Film Festival in London, England. Currently on the festival circuit, the film is an official selection of the following film festivals: Skeive Filmer in Oslo Norway; The Southwest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival; The Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival; 2009's REELING (the Chicago GLBT Film Festival), 2010 Macon Film Festival and the 2010 Boston Underground Film Festival.

The Casserole Club

Filmed in Palm Springs, CA, *The Casserole Club* focuses on a group of couples living the 1960's American dream externally, yet a closeted nightmare behind closed doors. Starina plays Kitty Bloom, the wife of a gay man (Garrett Swann). The film also stars Kevin Richardson (*Backstreet Boys*), Michael Maize (*National Treasure*), Jennifer Grace (*Our Town*), and Daniela Sea (*The L Word*).

TELEVISION:

Recently, Starina can be seen in the Halogen Networks new pilot *The 48-Hour Film Showdown*, which is a competition reality show based on the format of *The 48 Hour Film Project*. Teams of independent filmmakers are given 48 hours to write, shoot and edit a short film based on creative guidelines derived from Halogen's elements of justice, purpose, connection and beauty. The films are then screened before a live theatrical audience, which votes to determine which film is worthy of box office gold.

EDUCATION:

Education

Associate in Arts from Southeastern Illinois College (SIC) December 1999

Bachelor of Arts from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) May 2003

REVIEWS:

DR. JOSEPH SUGLIA-*The Greatest Author in the World* Ms. Johnson has the unnerving ability to fool you into thinking that she is not acting. If Proteus were female, her name would be Starina Johnson.

MARC HARSHBARGER-*Deep Dish* "Johnson, makes Daisy someone we can all identify with and care about as we follow her on her nightmarish journey."

ANDREW SHEARER-*Gonzoriffic Movie Reviews* "the sex-through-bars sequence between Johnson and Pleasant Gehman (in my favorite performance of the entire film) is hot enough to make Doris Wishman proud."

MJ SIMPSON-*The UK's leading genre film journalist*"There's an incredible lesbian love scene between Daisy and Dutch which, against all known conventions, consists of nothing but two clothed women talking and eventually holding hands. Yet it manages to be not just passionate but borderline erotic: an astounding feat achieved through a combination of great dialogue, masterfully restrained direction and two stunningly powerful performances. It could be the best, most moving love scene you'll see all year."

DR. JOSEPH SUGLIA-*The Greatest Author in the World* "Starina Johnson gives off erotic sparks for reasons that have nothing to do with soma, for reasons that have nothing to do with physicality. She represents the perfect synthesis of innocence and sexiness, radiating a light-heartedness and deep sensuality in everything that she does, in her every gesture and delicately nuanced facial expression. Her character only gradually becomes conscious of what we notice from the very beginning: the power of her charm."

MJ SIMPSON-*The UK's leading genre film journalist* "an eclectic cast of remarkable performers including Starina Johnson (who was in Riddlehoover's MySpace sensation film *To a Tee*)."