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FORWARD TO IN THE
NEW YEAR

Jaimie
Alexander

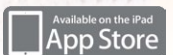
CRACKING THE CODE
OF ONE OF TV'S
FASTEST-RISING STARS

Time
TO
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RELAX & MAKE THE MOST OF THE HOLIDAYS



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The
GIRL
Who Has
EVERYTHING

JAIMIE ALEXANDER HAS
KILLER LOOKS, KILLER
INSTINCT AND A KNACK
FOR MAKING THINGS
HAPPEN FOR HERSELF.
REMEMBER HER NAME.

By Robert Piper

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: Alexander as Jane Doe in *Blindspot*; as Sif in *Thor: The Dark World*; with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Rodrigo in *The Last Stand*; with fiancé Peter Facinelli at the premiere of *The Loosies*, in which they co-starred, in New York.



Jaimie Alexander

has an infectious personality—in fact, she’s downright fun. But it’s not her jovial nature or even her supermodel-esque good looks that landed Alexander the lead role in NBC’s *Blindspot*, a drama-thriller whose premiere episode drew 10 million viewers. Alexander’s got acting chops. She first showcased her talents at the age of 25, in the Marvel Comic blockbuster *Thor*, playing the warrior Sif alongside Chris Hemsworth and Natalie Portman. The film grossed over \$449 million.

Even though she had played the lead role on the ABC Family TV series *Kyle XY* and had the occasional movie role, it was her turn as Sif that introduced her to a broader audience. Right now, though, it’s all about Jane Doe, her character in *Blindspot*, that’s capturing the imagination of millions of viewers who perch on the edge of their seats every Monday watching the twists and turns of the plot unfold.

The season opener of *Blindspot* started with Jane Doe being found in the middle of Times Square by the FBI, in a bag, naked and covered with tattoos. To film the opening scene, they shut down Times Square—one of the busiest intersections in the world. “I went through about eight hours of hair and makeup for the tattoos,” Alexander says. “I went in at about 4 pm, we went through all of that, and we didn’t shoot really till 3 am, when Times Square was completely vacant.”

This was in March, in the bitter cold, and there wasn’t a whole lot of time because Time Square had to be reopened. “I climbed in the bag and did that for a couple of hours, and we were done. They were very efficient—the crew—with getting it done as fast as they

could because it was cold, and, of course, we were pressed for time. The sun was gonna come up soon and they would have to reopen Times Square, you know, because everybody’s gotta get to work,” she says.

It’s no accident Alexander is in this role—she’s earned it. But she didn’t graduate from an Ivy League school for actors; rather, she’s an alum of the school of hard knocks. “In seventh and eighth grade, I was in drama class, and I used to love it! It was like my favorite class to take,” she recalls. “Then when I got into high school, I went into drama, and I actually got kicked out because all they did was musicals. And I couldn’t sing; I didn’t know how to sing, I’ve never sung in my life. There was no way I was going to get a part in any of the extracurricular plays. At one point, there were college credits that we could get for doing certain things and I couldn’t do them. The teacher would not put me in any of these musicals. So I got kicked out, and I went into sports.”

Alexander became a wrestler, but since the sport was dominated by males at her school, she started an all-women’s wrestling team. Growing up in a family of five in Grapevine, Texas, she was the only girl, and her younger brother was also a wrestler. Still, Alexander never gave up on acting. When in high school a friend of hers had to get her wisdom teeth pulled and fell ill from the medication, Alexander was asked by the friend’s mom to fill in. She went to the audition and was spotted by a famous talent manager who saw something

special in her; after graduation, she packed her bags and moved to Los Angeles.

“I’ve never really had a big break; I think it’s been lots of little breaks that have led up to, you know, a pretty decent resumé,” she says today. “I’ve taken every baby step there is.” To wit: she got her foot in the door by starting out in student films, followed by commercial work, then went on to TV. “I got on *Kyle XY* in their second season, and then that was really fun.” But during the writers’ strike in 2007, when finding roles was more of a challenge than ever, instead of tapping into her savings, Alexander bartended on the side so she could continue to pursue acting. “I got *Thor* about three weeks after I started bartending,” she says, “and then again after *Thor* came out, I almost had to go back to bartending again. I don’t think anybody knows that.” She ended up changing her representation in order to help her find the roles she was looking for, which paid off: her next big break was acting in *The Last Stand* with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In a way, Alexander shares some characteristics of her alter ego: both she and Jane are strong, tenacious, resilient, and they think outside the box. And Alexander has a lot on her plate moving forward: she’s getting married to fellow actor Peter Facinelli, and she has a new movie in the works called *London Fields*. But at the moment, her focus is squarely on *Blindspot*. No doubt, no matter how many balls she’s got in the air at once, Alexander is bound to keep them going—and kick ass while doing it. **A**

PHOTO: Merrick Morton

