

**MCpr**



**Alyssa Jirrels**

# ALYSSA JIRRELS BIOGRAPHY

Alyssa Jirrels is an actress on the rise showcasing her star quality in the Selena Gomez produced film ‘This Is The Year’ (August 2020). She plays ‘Zoey,’ the popular girl and main point of attraction for a nerdy high school senior ‘Josh’ (Lorenzo Henrie). In a last-ditch effort to win Zoey over, Josh, Zoey, and his best friends embark on a road trip to see their favorite band at a music festival. Along the way Zoey’s personal journey takes her on a mission of self-discovery for her true self; to break out of the mold that she has been defined by her whole life.

Alyssa began performing at six years old, quickly becoming a familiar face in the Bay Area theater scene, taking on the challenge of dramatic roles, playing principle characters in award-winning original productions. Her television debut was on Disney’s “Girl Meets World,” which was followed quickly by her first series regular role on Disney XD’s “Mech-X4.” In addition, Alyssa has appeared in the fan favorite Netflix comedy “Alexa and Katie,” ABC’s “Schooled,” “The Good Doctor,” “Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D,” and FOX’s “The Mick.” She can also be seen in the short film “Under the Lights” with Greg Grunberg (Star Wars) sponsored by the National Epilepsy Foundation, a cause that is extremely important to her. Desperate to feel normal, a boy with epilepsy goes to prom knowing the lights will make him have a seizure. She will soon be seen in NBC/Peacock’s “Saved by the Bell,” a follow-up series to the iconic 1990’s sitcom starring Mario Lopez and Mark-Paul Gosselaar in the recurring role of ‘Yasmine.’ Yasmine represents Bayside High’s original nature before the new kids shake it up.

In her free time, Alyssa is an avid reader and writer and has been immersing herself into all aspects of filmmaking, including directing, with plans to start her own production company. Quarantine has been a huge moment of growth and learning. She has been hard at work finishing a new medium anthology series with a group of fellow thespians. She has been enjoying cooking, with a love for Mediterranean and breakfast foods. Alyssa has also spent her time educating herself on the Black Lives Matter movement. She is a huge proponent of wearing a mask in public as the world battles the coronavirus pandemic and has been a long-time passionate supporter of HeforShe.org, a global campaign for gender equality, initiated by UNWomen.org.

# ClichéMag

[www.clichemag.com](http://www.clichemag.com) - issue 0121

**ALYSSA JIRRELS**  
KEANA MARIE - MIYA CECH



ClicheMag

ClicheMag



74 ClicheMag

ClicheMag

75

# Beyond the GLITZ & GLAMOUR

Interview by: MADHURA KAR



**"Sometimes you're not as easy to box into a type as they want you to be."**



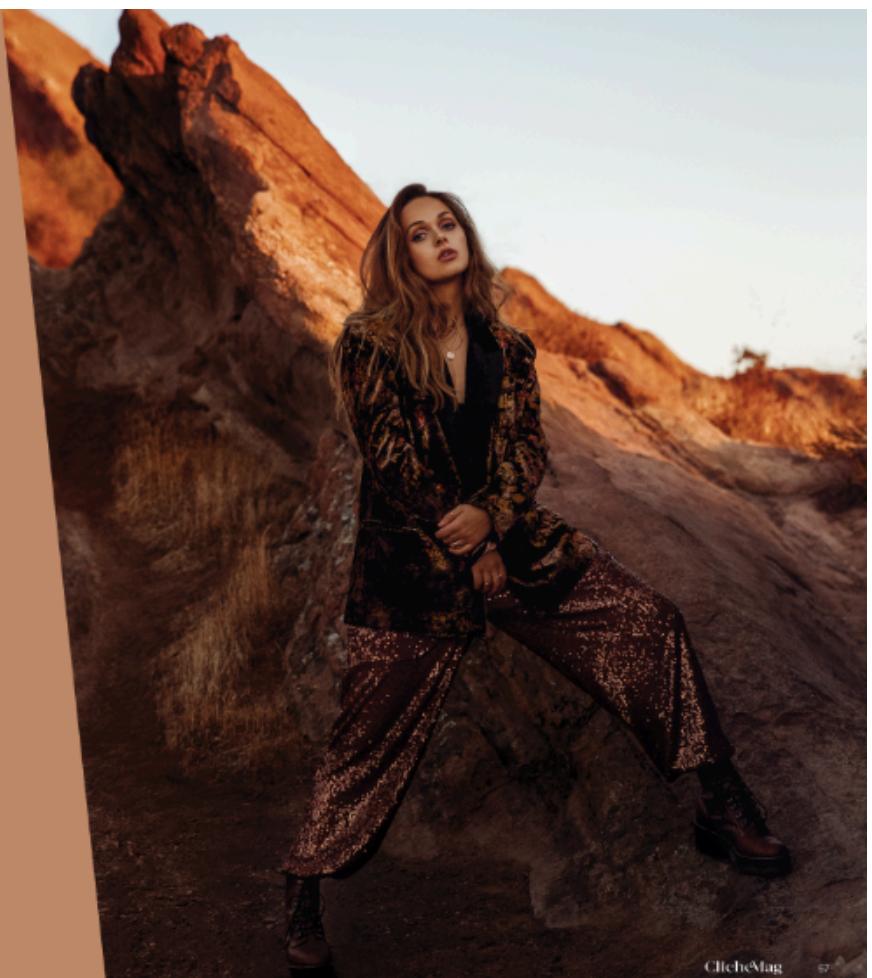
**W**ith 2020 drawing to a close, we had the pleasure of sitting down with Alyssa Jirrels- actor, professional playlist maker, and an altogether affable soul.

While the ongoing pandemic prevented us from meeting in person, her bubbly voice wove itself through the entirety of our virtual conversation and more than made up for it. "It's been a blessing and a curse, in a lot of ways", Alyssa said, referring to the pandemic. She was quick to point out and thank her position of privilege when talking about how the lockdowns had allowed her to pick up new skills and enjoy moments of peace.

Despite things slowing down for the last few months, Alyssa remains busy, juggling auditions and classes, all while setting time aside for meditation and keeping in touch with friends. "I have been taking a screenwriting class and a directing class", she explains. "I spend a lot of time writing and that's sort of one of the hobbies that I've picked up. I tend to do that for a lot of the day when I am not doing auditions".

We moved on to charting about the difficulties of having to navigate one's career and teenage years simultaneously. Referring to Zoey, her character in *This is the Year*, she says, "I feel like I was very similar to her at the time. Recognizing what other people think of her and then, finding it within herself to differentiate from that, even though, it might not get her the same kind of validation she seeks... I certainly understand that".

To the teen star, growing up as an actor presents its unique set of hurdles to overcome. "I am still figuring things out, for sure. I guess growing up in the industry is difficult because it isn't very kind to transitions and growing up is inherently filled with transitions and awkward phases. Sometimes you're not as easy to box into a type as they want you to be," she mentions.



She thanks her parents for grounding her and putting her needs as a human first. "I started working when I was 14. I think I was old enough to recognize that all of this was a really privileged and different experience than what many kids were going through at the time".

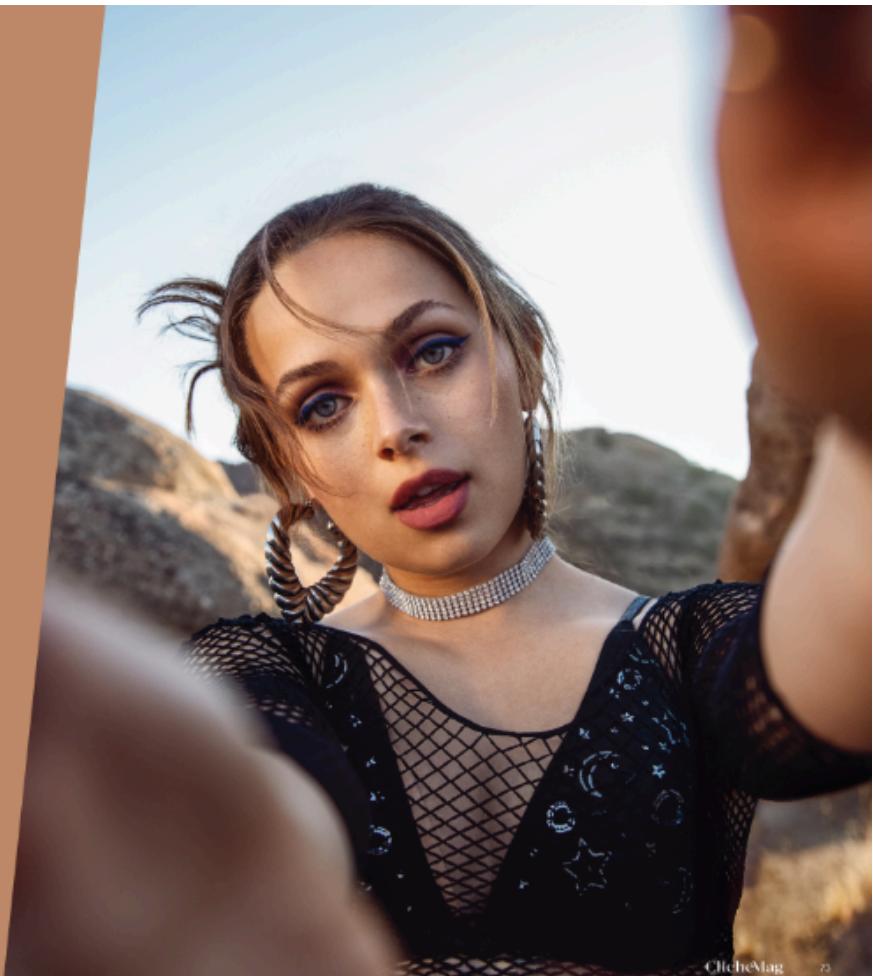
Talking about staying authentic, she comments, "We all ideally got into this because we love it. I think a way to stay grounded is to keep coming back to the actual, no-frills, reason behind why you got into this... because it is something you love." She mentions how easy it is to get lost in the business side of things and how that might ultimately inhibit the creative spirit. "You love it whether you're doing it on a set, you love it whether you are doing it in a theatre or your living room. I guess finding the actual art beneath all of the glitz and glam of it and staying rooted to that is what has helped me", she states.



When asked about the aspect of her work she loves the most, she laughs as she says, "Everything, really!" She highlights that, when not working, she is all about trying to be "intentional" with her downtime.

For the young actor, epilepsy awareness is a cause dear to her heart. "I act in a short film about it. It is something that I really got educated on this year. It has quite a stigma around it still", she states.

Above all, from the pandemic to BLM, she mentions that this year has been a time for her to scrutinize her privilege. "I have been trying to learn about all the ways I am extremely fortunate and all the ways that I can do better. I have been trying to look at all the things I have the privilege of not having to experience and examine how to best be an ally and a listener", she states.



Being a writer herself, she passionately mentions that it is all about the kind of stories one is willing to tell and push for. "It's really about having people familiar with specific experiences writing their own stories." She then comments on how there needs to be an emphasis on the specificity of portrayals, especially those concerning historically misrepresented groups.

With a markedly enthusiastic tone, she highlights the need for the youth to be involved in such conversations. She adds, "This sounds so cliché, but young people are so powerful! They are the future!" ♦



## EXCLUSIVE: CHAZ CARDIGAN TALKS NEW MUSIC!

FALL 2020 – ISSUE #001

ISSN 2693-7085 (print)  
ISSN 2693-7093 (online)

# StarShine

The cover features the cast of the CW's *The Outpost*. From left to right: David Henrie, Lorenzo Henrie, Alyssa Jirrels, Gregg Sulkin, and Bobby Holland Hanton. They are standing in front of a vintage-style bus. The title "StarShine" is at the top, and the subtitle "This is the Year" is on the left. Text on the right includes "SUPER HERO STUNTMAN: BOBBY HOLLAND HANTON", "THE CAST OF THE CW'S THE OUTPOST DISHES ON SEASON 3!", and "POP STAR HAVEN". A sidebar on the left lists "CAST INTERVIEWS!" with bullet points for David Henrie, Lorenzo Henrie, and Alyssa Jirrels.



## ALYSSA JIRRELS

Written by Sandy Lo

Photos by Adam Hendershot

With one of those faces you know you have seen somewhere before, actress Alyssa Jirrels has an impressive list of credits to her blossoming career. At only 20-years-old, Alyssa has guest starred on series like *Disney Channel's Girl Meets World*, ABC's *The Good Doctor* and *Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* Fans of Netflix's *Alexa & Katie* will recognize her as Vanessa and she also starred on Disney XD's original series, *Mech-X4*.

Earlier this year, Alyssa hit the big screen – well, sort of – with *This Is The Year*, directed by David Henrie and executive produced by Selena Gomez. The film was set to hit theatres this summer, but due to COVID-19 it was released digitally via a live virtual movie premiere where fans could watch the movie and participate in a Q+A with the cast. On top of Alyssa's starring role as Zoey in *This Is The Year* opposite Lorenzo Henrie and Gregg Sulkin, she is part of the cast of the *Saved By The Bell* reboot coming soon to NBC's Peacock streaming service. Alyssa also has a passion for writing and filmmaking, which the quarantine has helped give her time to explore both of those avenues more. Keep reading to find out more about Alyssa and her recent roles.

STARSHINE MAGAZINE • 14



Alyssa Jirrels pictured with Lorenzo Henrie (left) and Gregg Sulkin (right) in *This Is The Year*. Photo courtesy of BOLD Entertainment.

**Can you tell us, in your own words, about your character Zoey in *This Is The Year*?**

She is a girl who has defined herself by other people's image and opinions and relationships to her instead of what really drives her and her own identity and her own values. She's beginning to feel like a lot of young women do around 17 or 18. That's not as fulfilling. And maybe it's gonna cause more harm than good. And we get to see her go through that journey over the film.

**What was it like working with the whole cast?**

It was really great. We were in Mobile, Alabama, which is like this small town. We were there for six weeks in Mobile, and it was just a really cool experience because you're in a hotel together. There's nothing else to do except for hang out with each other and watch Netflix. You just kind of find your little spot to eat in town, and you bond, and you hang out, and it was really fun. We became a family in this little southern town. And it's a special, and kind of a heartbreaking, experience. You just fall in love with each other, and then y'all go home.

**It's like summer vacation where you make friends and then you have to leave.**

Oh, it's literally like summer camp. That's what it feels like. We're all like, 'these are my best friends!' And then you'll go back to your own lives. [Laughs]

**I know that you filmed this a couple of years ago. Ironically, the title is *This Is The Year* and of course 2020 is one of those years where no one is going to be like 'that was such a great year! Why do you think that it's actually really crucial that this film comes out now?**

Oh, man. I mean, it's so funny. When the trailer came out and did the little thing beforehand. When Selena's like, 'This is the year,' Everybody's like, 'Okay, 2020... This is not the year. But if Selena Gomez says it's the year, then it is, in fact, the year.' I think that I really reevaluated what the purpose of art is right now because ugh, nobody wants to watch a horror movie. Nobody wants to have movie-induced panic attacks or sob fests.

We so need escape right now from everything going on. For me at least, I think these are people that I grew up watching in my childhood, and it feels like it's really exciting to get to go through this coming of age experience with them. And I think that most of the people who are going to watch this movie and the audience that it's targeted to also grew up with David Henrie and Selena Gomez, and Gregg Sulkin and

Vanessa Marano, and all these people. It's cool that they're the ones that sort of comfort them in this time. Because I know that's certainly what it did for me.

**You're also in the *Saved By The Bell* reboot. What can fans of the original series expect?**

I think it's cool. You get a kind of reunion of the original cast members, but there's an element of it that's satirical and the writing's really snappy. It's not multi-camera, it's single cam, so there's a different feel to it. It doesn't feel as colorful and it's a little bit quicker and updated. I think that they call attention to a lot of the wonderful parts of the old show and a lot of the parts that are maybe slightly dated. You know, they really deal with that in a good way. **Elizabeth Berkley** and **Mario Lopez** are back and some of the other cast members too. I think it's gonna be a really nice little nostalgia fest with some updates for the newer generations.

**Were you a fan of the original?**

I had seen it. I hadn't watched it religiously or anything. But of course, you know... *Saved By The Bell*, I feel like everybody knows about it. I definitely knew about it and had seen scenes from it and stuff. I was very much aware and found it really funny.

**How do you think new fans who have never watched the original *Saved By The Bell* will react to it?**

I think it will be cool because they're just like the kids on that show. **Alycia Pascual-Peña**, **Haskiri Velazquez**, and **Josie Totah**. All of them are so good and really awesome up and coming actors. The characters have a lot to offer and a lot to say. It is *Saved By The Bell* for a newer generation. They do a lot of things geared towards young people of 2020. There are so many great pop culture references and swearing and stuff. So, it's a little different.

**Tell us about your character, Yasmine.**

I can't say too much because I'm not sure what spoils it or not, but basically, I think that she is a relic of old Bayside – of what it used to be – and perhaps what the original was represented as in the attitudes. She's a bit antagonistic to some of the new kids in school. I dyed my hair brown for it and got a cool little cheerleader uniform with a crop top and stuff. It was really fun.

**I know you can't say too much, but did you have a favorite scene or moment on set that you'd like to share?**

I got to work with Josie Totah, who I've known for a really long time. I think she's such a talented human. There were just fun moments in general.



STARSHINE MAGAZINE • 16

Anna Akana

"Go Back To  
China" Star

Alyssa Jirrels  
"This Is The Year"  
Star

Caitlin Dechert  
"The Hunt"



Issue #08  
August

PHOTO BY ADAM HENDERSON

## ALYSSA JIRRELS



### 1. What is your background and how did you get involved in the entertainment industry?

I started out doing theater in the San Francisco Bay Area when I was really little, and when I was 12, the son of the music director for a play I was in who happened to be a successful actor in LA was in the audience. He was kind enough to offer to introduce me to his manager, who I ended up signing with, and I started auditioning from there on.

### 2. You currently star on "This Is The Year". What can you tell us about your character and her involvement in the story?

I play a girl named Zoey. Zoey is the girl that Josh (the protagonist) thinks that he is "in love with" but throughout the story, we get to see that his adoration of her has much less to do with her and much more to do with the idea of her. And for Zoey, that's something that's happened a lot, and she's getting tired of it. Throughout the film we get to see her find her own path and define herself by her own terms and not just people's ideas of her.

### 3. What was the audition process like? How did you react when you got the role?

It was very cool. At first, I auditioned for Molly, Vanessa Marano's character and it didn't work out, but then a few weeks later, I ended up auditioning for Zoey. It all happened very fast for me because, originally, someone else was supposed to play this role but she had to turn it down due to a scheduling conflict.

I did the tape and I had a callback for it over Skype with David Henrie, the director. We talked about the character and what her story would look like. A week later they told me I got the role, and I hopped on a plane and started shooting.

### 4. What was the most exciting part of filming "This Is The Year"?

It was overall a very exciting experience. There are so many wonderful memories I have that are all flooding back to me through the course of these interviews. The last couple of weeks of shooting were all night shoots and we were supposed to be outside for a music festival, and throughout the course of the shoot, it went from 100% humidity and very hot to literally 30 degrees. It was supposed to be summer in the film, and the like, 400 extras that had volunteered were all required to wear shorts and t shirts. By the end of the night, 350 of them were like "screw this I'm out" and we had to make the remaining troopers look like a whole crowd. We were all huddled in these warming tents in jackets drinking tea. Freezing our butts off and having the time of our lives.

### 5. What are some movies/shows that made you fall in love with acting?

I really loved Harry Potter. Hermione was my idol forever. "Room" was a big inspiration. I think "The Theory of Everything" probably takes the cake though. That was a really special movie for me. I didn't know that an actor could physically transform in the way that he did. It blew my mind.



**6. Who are some artists you would love to collaborate with?**

Greta Gerwig and Judd Apatow are the top two directors that come to mind. Huge inspirations for me. In terms of actors, I think that Sam Rockwell and Brie Larson are definitely on the bucket list. So many, I could go on forever.

**7. What are some projects you would love to be a part of?**

There is amazing work on television right now. HBO, Hulu, Netflix, A24/Apple, those guys are doing some incredible stuff. Something like Normal People, Big Little Lies, the Morning Show, or Teenage Bounty Hunters would be incredible.

**8. What are some things you hope to cross off your bucket list?**

Lots of traveling, when it's possible to do. Greece, Italy, France. Giving people actual hugs. Stuff like that.

**9. If you weren't an actress, what other profession do you think you would pursue?**

I think, no matter, what I would stay in filmmaking, but if I had to stray away, I'd probably say I'd become a therapist. Or maybe a lawyer, or something in criminal psychology.

**10. What are some causes that are dear to your heart?**

At the moment I'm really trying to educate myself on racial inequality, police brutality, as well as just frankly examining my own privilege. Hopefully that's something we're all doing right now. Epilepsy awareness is something I really care about. I did a short film called "Under The Lights". Its purpose is to raise awareness about the stigma of epilepsy through cinema. It's going through the festival circuit right now and has actually won a few awards!

**11. What do you hope to achieve through your art?**

I have been thinking about this a lot lately. I think that this time has challenged all creatives in general to contemplate why they are doing what they're doing. I know that for me, I went from having a very self-centered way of thinking about my career to really absorbing and understanding how the arts can be beneficial to people around us. Whether that's through escapism, catharsis, or simply allowing people to stop and connect with others and themselves. And while the world is kind of burning around us, I do feel like it's super empowering and makes me feel hopeful that there's a younger generation of people who are recognizing that they have a voice and their voice is needed now more than ever.



SPECIAL EDITION SUMMER ISSUE  
**TREM BLAY**

AUGUST 28, 2020

ZACKTREM BLAY.COM

*This  
is the  
Year*

**ALYSSA JIRRELS**  
PRAISES THE HIGHER PURPOSE OF  
**'THIS IS THE YEAR'**

TREM BLAY | PHOTOGRAPHED BY ADAM HENDERSON





Alyssa Jirels stars as Zoey in the David Henrie-directed film *This Is The Year*. During the audition process, Jirels actually auditioned for Vanessa Marano's role, Molly. "I did a tape; it didn't end up working out and then a couple of weeks later, heard that I needed to get an ASAP self-tape in. I think the same day, I just happened to be in the area of the casting director's office. I just went in and I Skyped with David, the director, and then worked with the casting director for like an hour on it and then sent it in. The day after, found out I got it and then went to Mobile like a week after." When Alyssa read the script for the first time, she noticed the breakdown of her character to be long and specific, which doesn't happen often. Jirels admits, "Everyone felt like they had a pretty fleshed-out journey. You don't really get that in ensemble movies a lot of the times. I think everyone was kind of able to go through their own arc and that was really cool and seemed really apparent in the script to me. We all got a little beginning and an end, which is cool."

I think we can all agree that 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone, but Alyssa believes there is a higher purpose for this film. "It's the year we need something like this. We need to feel happy." Putting this film together was a great experience for the entire cast. The dynamic mixed with the storyline played a huge role in the success of the final product. Alyssa spent six weeks with her cast mates in Mobile, Alabama as they bonded over late nights and fun weekends. "It's such a weird process," Jirels says, "because you are so contained in this small space and you kind of go through everything together and then you leave and you never really see each other ever again." She recalls one memory that she'll never forget from her time in Mobile: "One of my favorite memories was going to McDonald's with [Jake Short] and Bug after a night shoot. It was 4:30 in the morning and we were not going to get sleep, so we're just going to go to McDonald's. We sat there while the sun came up and it was beautiful."

One of the strongest aspects to *This Is The Year* is the music. Alyssa agrees. "It has a really cool soundtrack, too. They sent us a playlist beforehand that had all the music and there was some really cool stuff on there. We have lovely-the-band, which is a great band. There's a lot of elements that just kind of really catapult you into it. It's a cool place to live for a couple of hours and get out of all this." You do not want to miss the virtual premiere of *This Is The Year* on Friday, August 28th. You can purchase your tickets at [ThisIsTheYear.film](#) and each ticket will benefit the PLUSA COVID-19 Relief Fund.

CELEBRITES  
REGRETS  
BIGGEST  
FASHION  
MISTAKES

THE  
HOTTEST  
MEN'S  
FASHION  
TRENDS FOR  
THIS SUMMER

RICK  
RAW & REAL: E

JAMO | INTERVIEW

## "This Is The Year" Star Alyssa Jirrels

This Is The Year star Alyssa Jirrels who plays Zoey, the popular girl. We discuss her character and how she finds her character relatable, Alyssa shares memories from the set, gave us some insight into her characters' journeys, and shared what her meeting with Selena Gomez and David Henrie was like.

Interview By Fami  
Photography By Adam Hendershot

SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 69

JAMOMAG.BLOGSPOT.COM

JAMO | INTERVIEW



SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 69

**FA:** Also, tell us about your character Zoey?

AJ: Zoey is a gal who, I think, has defined herself by other people's opinions of her and sort of lived her life acting the way that she thinks she should based on her status and the way that she looks. Over the course of the film we get to see her wrestle with that and figure out that it's ultimately much more fulfilling to live your life based on what you love and what your soul is drawn to; Something I think a lot of young people can relate to.

**FA:** Do you find yourself relating to "Zoey" somehow?

AJ: 100%. I think it's very common, especially as a young person, to let your identity to something more surface level like a status symbol or the way you look, or even another person before you're really able to find stability within yourself. We're all trying to figure out who we are and I think that's a long journey and you look outwards before you look inwards.

**FA:** What's that one thing you want the viewers to take away after watching this film?

AJ: Hopefully, that happiness, and purpose are found in the little moments with the people that mean the most to you.

**FA:** Tell me about your daily fashion vibe, what do you like wearing, and what's your statement piece?

**Who are your fashion inspirations?**

AJ: I am currently in the process of figuring that out. I'm pretty low maintenance and fashion kind of stresses me out but I love shopping, which is a bad combination. I think I go between California hippie to rocker to a French girl. The most consistent pieces between all three are Levi's and a white shirt. I definitely love denim. I'm going through an overalls phase. I wear my Birkenstocks constantly. And I'm looking into getting a pair of Doc Martens and a nice sum-

mer dress from Realisation Par. In terms of inspiration, Rachel from Friends, and honestly anything Selena Gomez wears is "chef's kiss."

**FA:** What is your favorite look you have ever worn?

AJ: I wore a really beautiful rose-colored jumpsuit with this long French side braid once on a red carpet and ended up getting ZERO pictures. It was so sad.

**FA:** What's the biggest style mistake you have ever made in your life?

AJ: Oh no! Is it bad I don't know? I'm probably still making them. Check back with me in like 6 years when I feel comfortable dressing like a grown-up.

**FA:** When it comes to dressing for a formal occasion, do you have a preference?

AJ: I really love a good jumpsuit. Comfortable and stylish.

**FA:** Do you feel a certain pressure to look good?

AJ: Yes VERY much so. Living in LA coupled with being an actor, the pressure is very high, so high that I think that's why fashion stresses me out!

**FA:** Do you have a style rule that you think everyone should live by? Or do you have one yourself?

AJ: If you don't feel like your best and most beautiful self in it don't wear it!

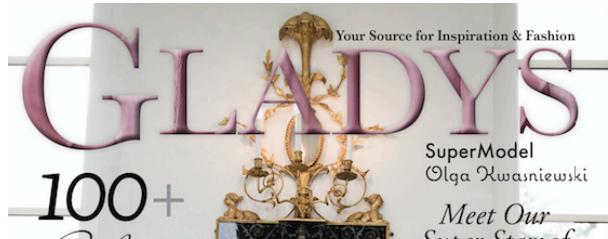
**FA:** Is there anything I missed out that you would like to add?

AJ: I think that's all!

**FA:** and Finally, what's your message for JAMO readers?

AJ: BIG LOVE TO YOU GUYS. STAY SAFE. WEAR A MASK. WASH YOUR HANDS. WATCH THIS THE YEAR!

JAMOMAG.BLOGSPOT.COM



## Alyssa Jirrels

**KNOWN FOR:** *Agents of Shield, The Good Doctor, This is the Year.*

### Q&A

**INSPIRED BY:** Mark Duplass, Reese Witherspoon, Pamela Adlon, Timothee Chalamet, my mom.

**HOLIDAY WISH LIST?**

Wooden bowls for salads, tailored Levis, a nice vintage purse, and a car. If anyone wants to send me a car lmk.

**LATEST PROJECT:** *This Is the Year.*

**THE GREATEST INFLUENCES ON YOUR CAREER ARE?**

My parents, my agents and managers who send me the auditions, and Cornell Womack my acting teacher. In that order.

**THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE WHO YOU ARE?**

Loyal, introspective, hydrated.

**I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND A DAY IN THE SHOES OF?**

John Mulaney. But on the day that he hosts SNL.

**DREAM PROJECT?**

Something like Normal People. Ideally, would shoot in New York.

**WHERE WILL YOU BE SPENDING THE HOLIDAYS?**

Home in Sebastopol I hope!!

**YOUR MANTRA FOR 2020?** Don't die!

**YOUR MANTRA FOR 2021?** Haven't died yet? Amazing!

**PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:**

instagram.com/alyssajirrels/ @alyssajirrels

twitter.com/AlyssaJirrels @AlyssaJirrels





## Exclusive Interview: Pop-Culturalist Chats with This Is The Year's Alyssa Jirrels

---



Alyssa Jirrels is an exciting young actress who's making the transition from the small to silver screen. She's best known for roles in *Alexa & Katie* and *Mech-X4* and will next be seen in her feature film debut, ***This Is the Year***, as well as the *Saved by the Bell* revival. Pop-Culturalist caught up with Alyssa to learn more about her career, her transition from TV to film, ***This Is the Year***, and what fans can expect from *Saved by the Bell*.

READ MORE: <http://pop-culturalist.com/exclusive-interview-pop-culturalist-chats-with-this-is-the-years-alyssa-jirrels/>

## POPULAR GIRL: ALYSSA JIRRELS

PHOTOGRAPHY: ADAM HENDERSHOTT



This is definitely the year for Alyssa Jirrels.

Best known for her roles on ‘Mech-X4’ and Netflix’s ‘Alexa & Katie’, Alyssa Jirrels is having the year of her career. Leading with some smaller roles in hit tv shows like ABC’s **‘The Good Doctor’** and ‘Schooled’, the actress had her feature film debut in the highly anticipated release of **‘This Is the Year’**. Directed by David Henrie and executively produced by **Selena Gomez**, Alyssa shines as Zoey in this coming-of-age film. Premiering worldwide on August 28th, fans fell in love with the journey portrayed on screen and are excited for its next showing (more information below).

Popular TV caught up with Alyssa to talk more about the film, her new role on the **‘Saved by the Bell’** reboot, and life as a ‘professional playlist maker’.

### 1. How does Zoey in “This Is The Year” compare to who you were in high school?

Well, I was a homeschooled jungle freak so I didn’t have the same kind of “popular/unpopular” dynamics with people but I certainly related to identifying yourself with other people’s opinions of you and deciding whether to live your life by what people perceive you to be or to go your own way even if it may get you less immediate validation. I think that’s a very universal story.

READ MORE: <http://www.populartv.com/etc/popular-girl-alyssa-jirrels/>



HOME / ENTERTAINMENT / MOVIES

## EXCLUSIVE | This is the Year's Alyssa Jirrels says playing Zoey was 'cathartic' as it's similar to her life

MEAWW catches up with Jirrels on the brink of her debut film's release and while it was shot two years ago, looking back at it, the actor can still relate to her character.

By Alakananda Bandyopadhyay

Published on : 21:24 PST, Aug 27, 2020



(Aaron Barry)

There's no wrong time for a feel-good coming-of-age story, especially after Netflix keeps sequelizing one awful teen romcom after the other, the mere fact that former Disney siblings, Selena Gomez and David Henrie, are reuniting to offer their own spin on the genre comes as a joyous relief. Titled 'This is the Year', the story of Josh (Lorenzo James Henrie) and his high school buddies going on a road trip adventure to chase after his sweetheart might seem familiar to fan of John Green's 'Paper Town'. Who knows, perhaps this would do the story more justice than the book's film adaptation could. But if you ask Alyssa Jirrels who plays the role of the ultra-cool popular girl Zoey in Henrie and Gomez's film, the whole experience was nothing short of cathartic. Busting the mean popular clout chasing queen bee stereotype, Jirrels's Zoey is multifaceted and a firm reminder that with great popularity doesn't come great bitchiness.

READ MORE: <https://meaww.com/this-is-the-year-alyssa-jirrels-exclusive-interview-reveals-why-playing-zoey-was-cathartic-s>

# TEENPLICITY

## A LOOK AT ALYSSA JIRRELS' YEAR



The sun is shining brightly through the window as Alyssa Jirrels picks up the other end of the phone for her interview. It's fitting, seeing that it's as radiant and dazzling as the actress herself though she answers every question in a cool, relaxed manner while discussing her upcoming film. The ease that finds her as she talks of the film doesn't eliminate the fondness she still holds in her heart for it.

It's Friday morning for her, the last of August and just hours before the virtual premiere of *This Is The Year* that night, more than a year since the film was shot. The film, a coming-of-age story by David Henrie in his directorial debut, was Alyssa's first major film.

"It was really cool. It was the first time I'd ever done a movie before," Alyssa says of the experience, which she was cast in about a week before the shooting was scheduled to start. "It all happened really quickly," she agrees, slight amusement hanging in her voice.

READ MORE: <https://teenplicity.com/a-look-at-alyssa-jirrels-year/>

## *'This Is The Year' is Everything You Need Right Now*



Alyssa Jirrels and Lorenzo Henrie in "This Is The Year"

👤 Sandy Lo - 🕒 August 24, 2020 - 📄 Featured / Movies / Reviews

*Wizards of Waverly Place* fans rejoiced when it was announced that they could attend a virtual premiere for the feel-good teen film, *This Is The Year*. Written, produced, and directed by David Henrie (Justin Russo on *WOWP*), *This Is The Year* was also executive produced by Selena Gomez who will be part of a Q&A session for the premiere along with the cast, followed by a performance from lovelytheband, who is also featured in the movie.

READ MORE: <https://starshinemag.net/this-is-the-year-is-everything-you-need-right-now/>

## ALYSSA JIRRELS: INTERVIEW

SEPTEMBER 08, 2020



photo by adam hendershott

Currently seen in the Selena Gomez produced film *This Is The Year* (directed by David Henrie), Alyssa Jirrels can be seen bringing the character "Zoey" to life.

Starting to perform at just the age of six, Jirrels's television debut was marked by Disney's "Girl Meets World," which was then followed by her first ever series regular role on Disney XD's "Mech-X4."

Jirrels's inherent talent has also extended to her roles in Netflix comedy "Alexa and Katie," ABC's "Schooled," "The Good Doctor," "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D," and FOX's "The Mick." She can also be seen in the short film "Under the Lights" with Greg Grunberg, sponsored by the National Epilepsy Foundation.

In our chat with Alyssa, she candidly talks about her acting journey, the experience working with David Henrie and her castmates from *This is The Year*, how it was like playing the role of Zoey in the film, and finally

about her plans on upcoming projects!

# Alyssa Jirrels

Posted on August 31, 2020 in **Featured Artist** by Richie Frieman

PEV has been on somewhat of a roll concerning sitting down (virtually, of course) with quickly up and coming actors and actresses who have thoughts, answers, and seemingly wisdom well beyond their years. Actress Alyssa Jirrels is our latest feature who certainly fits this mold, and there's a bonus - she also has great taste in music (check out "August" from Flipturn)! Jirrels, who began acting at the age of 6, cut her teeth and refined her craft on the Bay Area theater scene, experiences Alyssa still uses to inspire her work today. She has a couple new films we had the pleasure of discussing, including a passion project film that fights the stigma of epilepsy titled *Under the Lights*.

Jirrels is also playing Zoey in the Selena Gomez produced film *This Is The Year*, and we were excited to get the download on the effort from the source. Alyssa told us, "It's a really heartwarming movie that I think will lift people's spirits in a time where we really need it. And the filming process was really fun. We shot it in Mobile, Alabama, which is a tiny little southern town, and it's really cool because you're in a hotel with all of your castmates for six weeks. You get to go out to restaurants and find your spots in town and bond. It's really special. These people become your family after a while and you all go through this huge intense experience together and then you all go home. It's kind of heartbreaking and amazing at the same time." Click to <https://www.instagram.com/alyssajirrels/> to keep up with Jirrels, prepare for both *Under the Lights* and *This is the Year*, and of course, do keep reading. There's still so much more to learn in all the answers to the XXQs below.



READ MORE: <http://www.penseyerviewnew.com/pev/2020/08/31/alyssa-jirrels/>



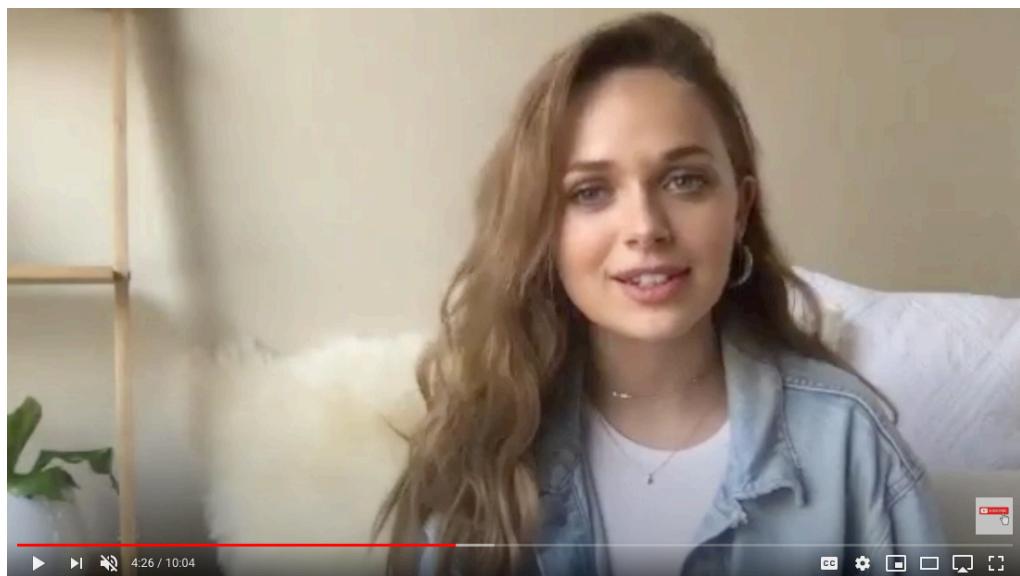
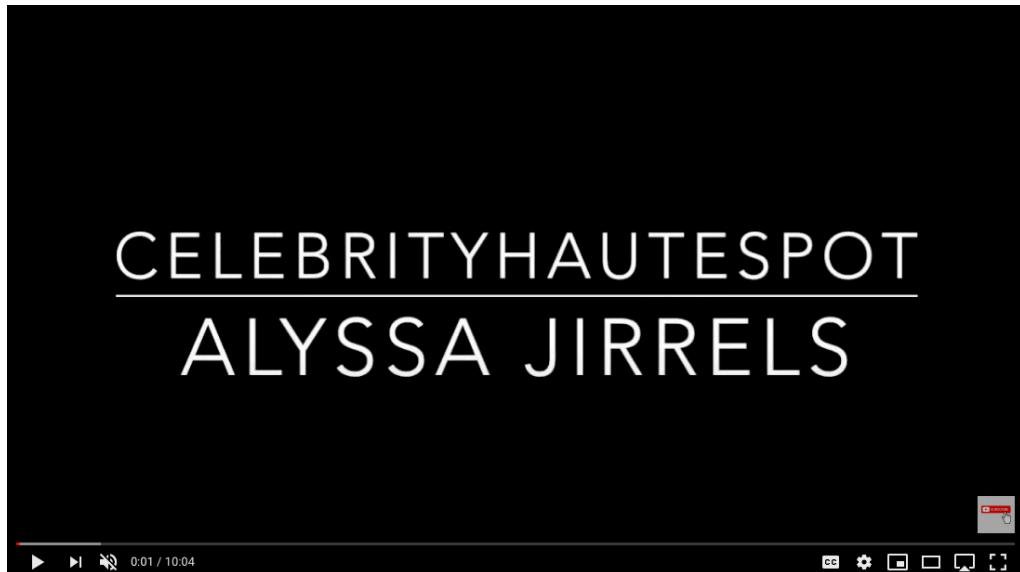
## This Is The Year's Alyssa Jirrels Spills on Meeting Exec Producer Selena Gomez

BOLD Entertainment's 'This Is The Year' is the feel-good coming-of-age teen comedy you can't miss this summer and marks the feature film directorial debut of Justin Russo himself, David Henrie! The film also features up-and-coming actress Alyssa Jirrels as the more-complicated-than-you-think Zoey. Alyssa joins Young Hollywood via Zoom to discuss the release of the film a full two years after it was filmed -- which, according to Alyssa, makes it easier to watch herself on-screen with so much distance between them. She tells us how she booked the role after auditioning for a different one and how the character very craftily subverts the age-old Popular Girl stereotype. She also reveals which pairings from the movie she finds most shippable, plus she dishes on what it was like to meet the movie's executive producer, none other than Selena Gomez!

WATCH: <https://younghollywood.com/videos/tvfilm/up-close/this-is-the-years-alyssa-jirrels-spills-on-meeting-exec-producer-selena-gomez.html>

# CelebrityHauteSpot

## Celebrity Interviews



#ThisistheYear #AlyssaJirrels #CelebrityHauteSpot

**Alyssa Jirrels on Playing Zoey in This is the Year Movie**

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-C1wDr5EdE>

# ZACK TREMBLAY



"This Is The Year" Star Alyssa Jirrels On Fashion, Crazy Facts and Food | JAMO

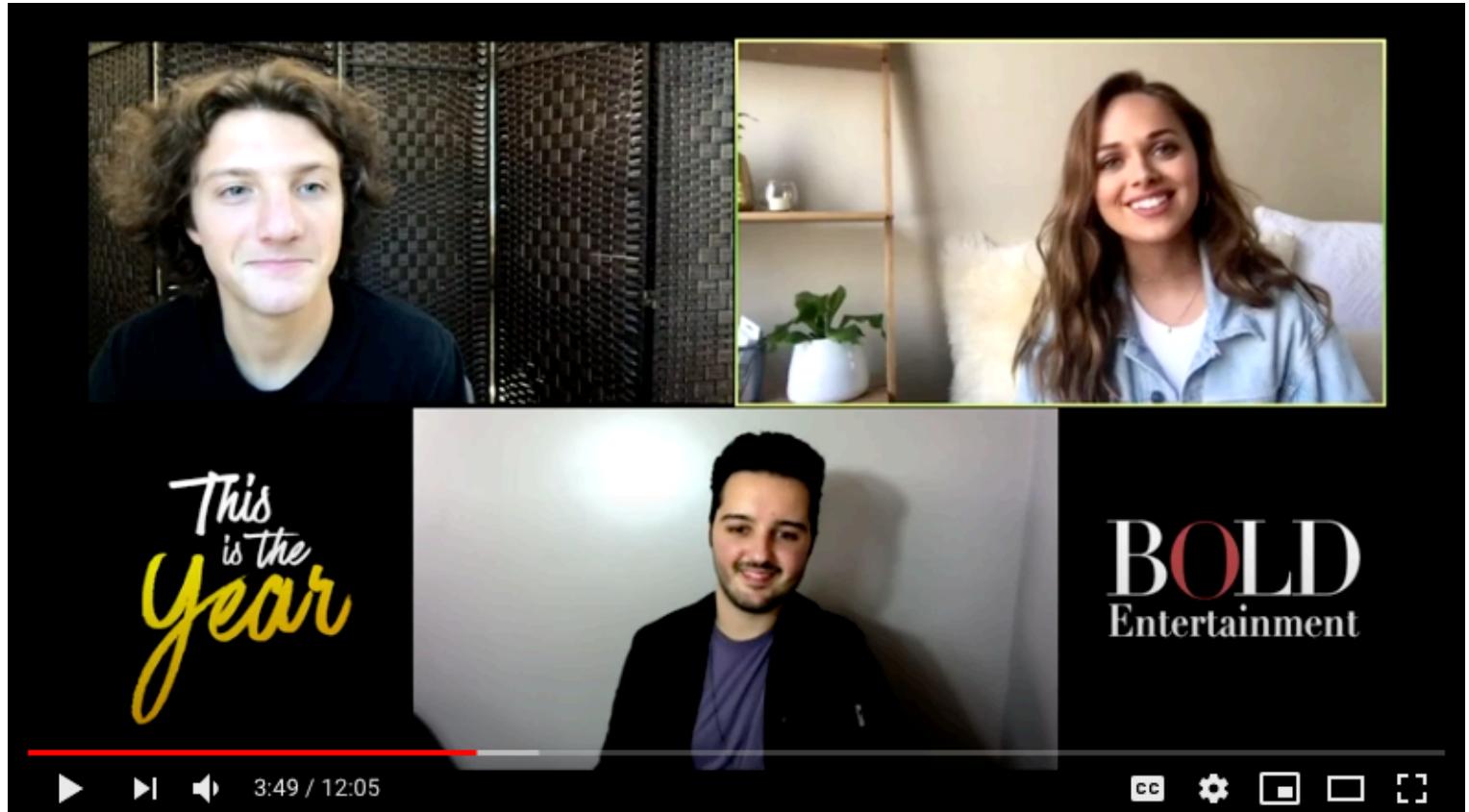


JAMO Magazine

Alyssa Jirrels shares 6 surprising fun facts about herself, and shares a yummy salad recipe along with answering some interesting questions about fashion.

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72zLOHSUtDw>

# ZACK TREMBLAY



Alyssa Jirrels and Jake Short Interview (This Is The Year) | Zack Tremblay



**Zack Tremblay**  
829 subscribers

Subscribe for more content · <http://goo.gl/Szp1Wn>

Zack Tremblay chats with Alyssa Jirrels and Jake Short surrounding the release of their new film 'This Is The Year'. You can get more of Alyssa and Jake inside the special edition summer issue of TREMBLAY.

WATCH: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A\\_DYp8BBEWY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_DYp8BBEWY)

## Exclusive Interview: Alyssa Jirrels and Jake Short Talk 'This Is The Year'

As part of the promotion of the premiere for the new movie *This Is The Year*, Alyssa Jirrels and Jake Short discussed the film with Nerds and Beyond! The two shared funny memories from filming in Alabama, gave us some insight into their characters' journeys, and shared what band they would travel on a road trip to see (as their characters travel to see lovelytheband in the film).

Check out our full conversation below, and for more interviews with the stars of *This Is The Year*, you can head over to our [YouTube channel](#)! To get tickets to the movie's virtual premiere, check out [our article](#) featuring a special discount code for more information.



WATCH: <http://www.nerdsandbeyond.com/2020/08/24/exclusive-interview-alyssa-jirrels-and-jake-short-talk-this-is-the-year/>

**J-14****JAKE SHORT**

MIKEY IN 'THIS IS THE YEAR'

**ALYSSA JIRRELS**

ZOEY IN 'THIS IS THE YEAR'

▶ ▶ 🔍 0:00 / 4:22

CC ⚙️ 🎞

## This Is the Year Cast Reads Texts From Mom

**J-14 Magazine**

207K subscribers

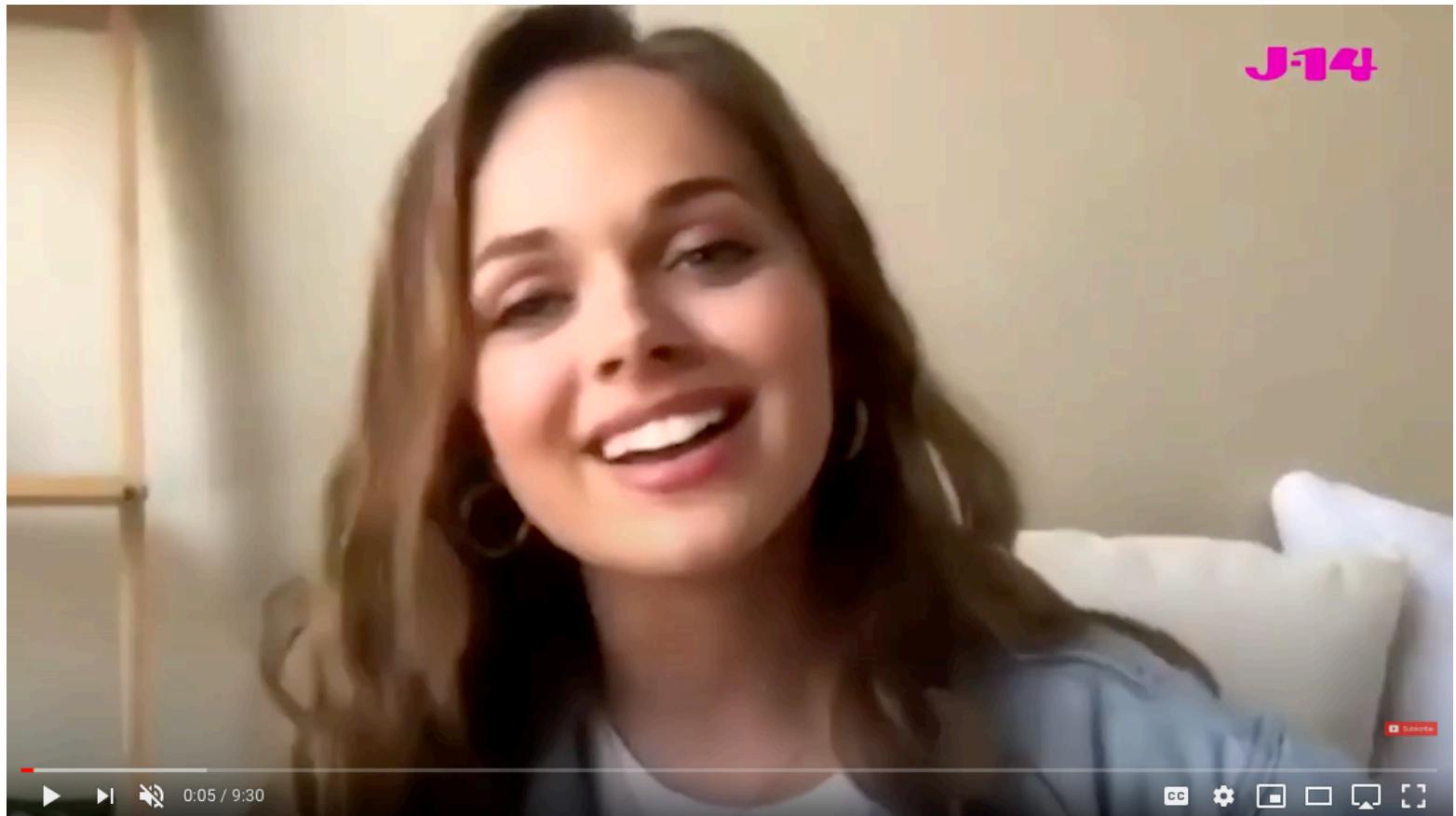
Lorenzo James Henrie (Josh), Vanessa Marano (Molly), Alyssa Jirrels (Zoey), Jake Short (Mikey) and David Henrie from the new movie This Is The Year caught up with J-14 during quarantine and are giving fans an inside look at their text messages... with their moms! Talk about #relatablecontent! Check out the video and let us know in the comments if any of the texts are similar to what you and your parents text about.

Be sure to purchase your tickets for the BOLD Entertainment film [#ThisIsTheYear](#) premiering August 28 at 7:30pm ET/4:30pmPT at <https://www.thisistheyear.film>

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEF0IndY4VQ>



J-14



## This Is The Year Cast Does Impressions



J-14 Magazine 207K subscribers

Lorenzo James Henrie (Josh), Vanessa Marano (Molly), Alyssa Jirrels (Zoey) and Jake Short (Mikey) from David Henrie's new movie *This Is The Year* played a virtual game of Impressions with J-14. The cast impersonated everyone from Hannah Montana to Eleven from *Stranger Things* and more.

Be sure to purchase your tickets for the BOLD Entertainment film [#ThisIsTheYear](#) premiering August 28 at 7:30pm ET/4:30pmPT at <https://www.thisistheyear.film>

Subscribe for more J-14 videos! - <http://bit.ly/2rfijbk>

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIUTxyeeRnA>

# CONTACT



## **Publicity**

MLC PR  
Mona Loring  
Anna Kreynes  
323-313-3445

## **Management**

Brave Artist Management  
Mike Gillespie  
Eric Kind  
424-349-0700

## **Agency**

Osbrink Talent Agency  
Emily Urbani  
818-760-2488