

ERICA TAZEL



Hailing from Dallas, Texas, **Erica Tazel** has made an impression on her Hollywood peers establishing herself as a notable and versatile actress. In 2015, Tazel wrapped six years on the critically acclaimed series “Justified” on FX. She currently stars on the event series “Roots” for the History channel.

She has an engaging list of television credits with guest-starring roles on Emmy® and Golden Globe® Award-winning shows such as *The Office*, *ER*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Sex and The City*, *Life*, *Heartland*, *Bones* and *Firefly*; recurring roles on *Jericho* and *Third Watch*, and she took a guest leading position on *Without A Trace*.

Erica has made quite a few appearances Off-Broadway in Playwrights Horizons’ *Juvenilia*, Royal Shakespeare Company’s *Cymbeline*, and New York Shakespeare Festival’s *A Winter’s Tale* where she made her professional debut.

Her extensive list of regional theatre projects in which she has performed took her to Laguna Playhouse, The Colony Theatre, Hartford Theater Works, The Old Globe, Dallas Theatre Center, Arizona Theater Company and Williamstown Theatre Festival.

In 2007, she earned the prestigious NAACP Theatre Award for Best Lead Female and a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Nomination for Lead Performance for her portrayal of “Juliette” in *I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given To Me by a Young Lady from Rwanda*.

Most recently, Erica was bus coordinator for *Get on the Bus*, an organization that reunites children with their incarcerated parent for Mother’s and Father’s Day, a construction laborer in a rebuilding project in Haiti, and a recreational entertainer at Sparrow Rainbow Village, an AIDS hospice and orphanage in Johannesburg, South Africa, all – considered her most important and transformational roles yet.

Erica received her B.A in Theater from Spelman College and M.F.A. from NYU’s Graduate Acting Program.

VARIETY

TV Review: 'Roots'



"The various reunions, homecomings, and tragedies are given shading and vitality by Emayatzy Corinealdi (Belle), Forest Whitaker (Fiddler), [Erica Tazel](#) (Matilda), and Noni Rose, who should be remembered during awards season for their terrific performances. Regé-Jean Page, who may have the biggest shoes to fill as Chicken George, a character Ben Vereen unforgettably portrayed in the original, delivers a quite creditable performance."

"Near the close of the fourth episode, Tazel's Matilda speaks about the end of slavery and what its cruel persistence in America cost her family. What it has not cost them, "Roots" takes pains to point out, is their individuality or their love for each other, and the tears in her eyes reflect the depth of those enduring connections even as they remind viewers of her unspeakable losses. Kunta, Kizzy, George, and their descendants were slaves, but in "Roots," they are never victims. Rather, they are folk heroes — and American originals."

<http://variety.com/2016/tv/reviews/roots-review-chicken-george-kizzy-1201776209/>

CONVERSATIONS

Roots' Cast and Creators on Slavery Narratives, Brutality on TV, and Nina Simone

By Stacey Wilson Hunt

May 27, 2016
10:52 a.m.

29

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Print



Erica Tazel, Malachi Kirby, Regé-Jean Page Photo: Cait Oppermann



The 2016 Emmy race has begun, and Vulture will take a close look at the contenders until voting closes on June 27.

In today's too-much-TV universe, it's almost impossible to fathom [what *Roots* achieved when it aired in 1977](#). The ABC mini-series, based on Alex Haley's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, saw half the U.S. population (about

Vulture
May 2016

<http://www.vulture.com/2016/05/roots-cast-and-creators-on-brutality-on-tv.html>



Roots

TV Mini Series Drama





TV

***Roots* producers and cast on why the iconic miniseries needed a remake**



Roots

Posted May 25 2016 — 2:36 PM EDT

The 1977 miniseries *Roots* is considered a seminal piece of pop culture. It was such a groundbreaking and revered feat in storytelling, that many were curious why History would feel the need to [remake it](#). The reboot's star, Malachi Kirby, echoed these sentiments: "My first response was, 'Why are they doing it again? That one was amazing,'" the actor told EW. But after talking with producer Mark Wolper, he came around to the idea.

"It really wasn't until I sat my 16-year-old boy down and forced him to

Entertainment Weekly

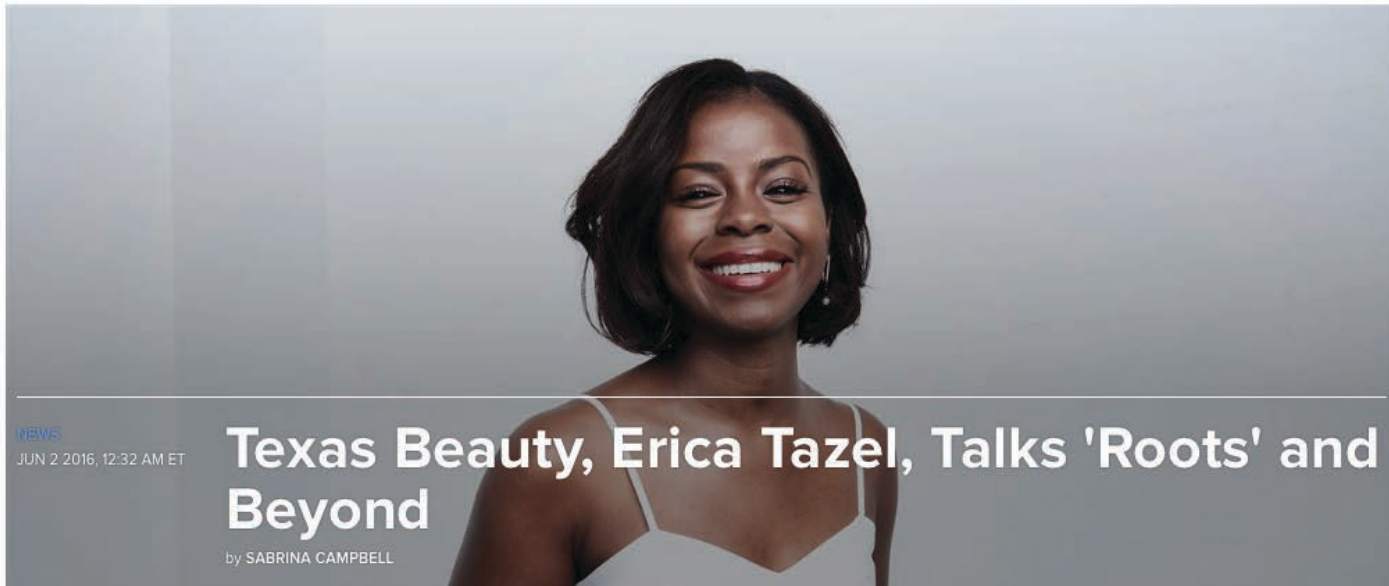
May 2016

<http://www.ew.com/article/2016/05/25/roots-producers-cast-why-remake?iid=sr-link2>



NEWS > NBCBLK

U.S. WORLD INVESTIGATIONS CRIME & COURTS ASIAN AMERICA LATINO



NEWS

JUN 2 2016, 12:32 AM ET

Texas Beauty, Erica Tazel, Talks 'Roots' and Beyond

by SABRINA CAMPBELL

Actress Erica Tazel from "Roots" poses at the Tribeca Film Festival Getty Images Studio on April 21, 2016 in New York City. © Larry Busacca / Getty Images for the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/texas-beauty-erica-tazel-talks-roots-beyond-n582676>

The PEOPLE Review: *Roots* Gets an Impressive, Powerful Remake

640
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BY TOM GLIATTO @gliattoT 05/27/2016 AT 04:00 PM EDT

Was there any need for History to remake ABC's famous miniseries *Roots*? Well, yes.

If you watch the opening episode of [that 1977 production](#), which aired not much more than a decade after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, you'll notice that after 10 minutes or so the camera has left behind the saga of young Kunta Kinte (LeVar Burton) in Gambia and jumped to Annapolis, Maryland.



People
May 2016

[http://www.people.com/
article/roots-history-channel-
review](http://www.people.com/article/roots-history-channel-review)

SPOTLIGHT ON... ERICA TAZEL

By Rachel Weiss

ERICA TAZEL is featured among a starry ensemble on History's adaptation of "Roots." She portrays several decades of life as Matilda, the mother to Kunta Kinte's eight great-grandchildren.



On source material.

"Anika [Noni Rose] and I went to the Whitney Plantation, which is the only museum in the country that is from the perspective of the enslaved person.... I picked up a book of slave narratives of women from the part of the country we were in. I started every day with one of these tales, just to get me into the time and the mentality and the extraordinary circumstances that these women were able to live under."

On the importance of women in 'Roots.'

"We are literally the physical carriers of this lineage that begins with Kunta Kinte and Alex Haley—from giving birth to these incredible people to also passing down what I've called the ancestral torch, which can be anything from familial traditions, cultural customs, religious faith, whatever we got from our mothers and our dads."

On audience takeaways.

"The one thing is reminding [audiences] that as African-American people in this country, our history does not begin with slavery. That we were people that predated [slavery]. Our time in Africa, whichever part of the coast, we came from a wonderfully deep civilization. If we have done our job well, there is potentially a child unborn who will see this and be excited about who he or she is and where they come from, and will be inspired to connect to his or her own roots, despite race, gender, and socioeconomic background."

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FOR THE FULL Q&A,
visit backstage.com.

ILLUSTRATION: SPENCER ALEXANDER; TAZEL: NATE TAYLOR

Backstage Magazine

June 2016

Online Feature

<http://www.backstage.com/interview/roots-star-erica-tazel-how-shakespeare-informs-screen-acting/>

Interview: Erica Tazel goes from 'Justified' to starring in History's 'Roots'

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May 16, 2016

9:01 AM MST



Erica Tazel stars in History Channel's miniseries 'Roots,' premiering Memorial Day.

Examiner
May 2016

[http://www.examiner.com/article/
interview-erica-tazel-goes-from-
justified-to-starring-history-s-roots](http://www.examiner.com/article/interview-erica-tazel-goes-from-justified-to-starring-history-s-roots)

ESSENCE

Friday, May 27, 2016 | 11:02 AM

'Roots' Star Erica Tazel On the Dynamic Power of Matriarchy in the Black Community

Lauren Porter

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HIST

Single Black Mothers-- they are a testament to the strength and resilience of the Black community.

But imagine what life was like for Black mothers hundreds of years ago, when families were torn apart in the midst of slavery. When fathers were sold or worse at the hands of the masters. When the fate of children was perhaps the same thing, and the darkest fears of mothers were realized.

That's what life was like for Matilda, a

character in Alex Haley's 1977 slave narrative, *Roots*. That's what life became for actress Erica Tazel when she stepped into the character for the upcoming remake of the iconic TV production.

Essence
May 2016

<http://www.essence.com/2016/05/24/roots-star-erica-tazel-tells-dynamic-power-matriarchy-black-community%E2%80%8B>



Regard Magazine

April 2016

Erica Tazel

Flying in Rare Air

Photography: Dina F. F. F.

Hair & Makeup: V. & W. Hair & Makeup
Styling: The Styling of A. & B. Hair & Makeup


Madison James Eggplant Green with High Slit and Beaded Collar. Price Upon Request. MadisonJames.com
Laura Keane Aqua Purple Satin with Black Rhinestone Anklet Straps. Price Upon Request. LauraKeane.com
Fernando Rodriguez Smoking Silver Ring. Price Upon Request. FernandoRodriguezDesign.com



Style2Runway, Vegas Dress in White, Price Upon
Request, Style2Runway.com
Alejandra G. Gianni White Heels, Price Upon Request,
AlejandraG.com
Fernando Rodriguez, Gold with Coral and Pearl Drop
Earrings, \$200 FernandoRodriguez.Design



MacDuggal, Sheer Pink Top with Horizontal
Pink & Black Striped Skirt, Price Upon Request,
MacDuggal.com
Aispet, Fit Black Boots, Price Upon Request,
Aispet.com



Madison James, Eggplant Gown with Thigh
High slit and Beaded Collar, Price Upon
Request, Madison-James.com
Fernando Rodriguez, Sterling Silver Ring,
Price Upon Request
Fernando Rodriguez Design



MacDuggal, Olive Low Cut Lace Dress with Sequin Waistband, Price Upon Request, MacDuggal.com
Mami Jinks, Lantakan Soutache Bolero in Black, Price Upon Request, MamiJinks.com
Ampel, Fit Black Booties, Price Upon Request, Ampel.com
Femi Models, Dimples Earrings with Clear Crystal, Price Upon Request, FemiModels.com



MacDuggal, Navy Long Sleeve High Neck Crop Top with Beaded Neck and Long Skirt with Thigh High Slit, Price Upon Request, MacDuggal.com
Aepel, Fit Black Booties, Price Upon Request, Aepel.com
Charles Albert, Sterling Silver Platinum Druse Earrings, Sterling Silver Onyx and Platinum Druse Bracelet, Price Upon Request, CharlesAlbert.com

There are undoubtedly many Erica Tazel fans in the business. I am so grateful to them, because I know when the opportunities come, they will call me. 2015 allowed me the chance to portray a female Deputy U.S. Marshal. From there, I played a First Lady of a church who suffers the devastating loss of her baby, which results in a crisis of faith. I played a Ugandan shopkeeper who is "correctively raped" because the men of her village assume she is a lesbian, because she is not married. I had to learn to speak Luganda for that. Very cool. I played a resident of the Ninth Ward who goes undercover as a Haitian Voodoo Priestess to exact revenge for the death of family member. Then, I ended the year with *Roots*, where I play a woman from the age of 17 to 57. The combination of these roles is what I pray will change the conversation about my range and abilities as an actor. I also hope it changes the quality of opportunities presented to me.

The film, *Roots*, was a classic film portraying blacks in the days of slavery. You're now starring in the mini series for the History Channel. How were you first introduced to the project and besides the history behind it, what made you want to take this on?

I had huge reservations going into it. How could you not, when the original included the great talents of Cicely Tyson, Madge Sinclair, Olivia Cole, Maya Angelou, Leslie Uggams, Louis Gossett, Jr. Ben Vereen and so many others? Talk about big shoes. However, Charles Murray wrote a stunning script that made me reconsider this as a possibility for me, along with an encounter with a group of teenagers who stunningly, had very little knowledge of many parts of our collective history as African Americans in this country. After that, I felt a responsibility to put my reservations aside.

What can viewers expect to see from your character, Matilda?

Matilda is the daughter of Rev. Benjamin Lyons who goes on to marry Chicken George and gives birth to Kunta Kinte's 8 great grandchildren. She will be introduced in Night 3. We see her from age 17 to 57. Without giving away plot points, Matilda is one of the three extraordinary matriarchs of the family we will follow over the course of this four night, eight hour event. She is a reflection of the many black women of that era, who exhibited unbelievable faith and strength to keep her sanity and family together under some pretty extraordinary circumstances. The ending of her story, along with her children and husband is something I am very proud of and hope will be moving to the audience. More importantly, I hope it gives our young people an example of the broad shoulders on which they stand and that they can be very proud of that. I also hope it inspires them to seek out more examples of who we are.

It is clearly not being taught in the schools.

We love what you've been showcasing on the red carpet. Who are some of your favorite fashion designers and styles that we would find in your closet?

I had a chance to wear a piece by Sergio Hudson to the Critics Choice Awards last year that I absolutely loved. He's been on my radar ever since. Atelier Versace, Vivian Westwood, Lavin, Elie Saab, Prada, Ralph Lauren and Zuhair Marad have all had stunning pieces on the carpet that have caught my eye. I'm a fan and look to wearing pieces from those collections. My closet, however, is really simple. I'm a girl who does not like to shop. Spring and Summer, my bohemian comes out. I love a loose flow in a sundress, head wraps and sandals. Fall and Winter, I revert to East Coast chic. I love a nice coat, a sharp boot, scarves and hats. I'm really low maintenance when it comes to clothes.


What other projects do you have coming up in the near future?

As we discussed, *Roots* will premiere on the History Channel, A & E, and Lifetime on Memorial Day. I cannot reveal the name of this project, but I will show up in a much anticipated project in the gaming world some time this summer. *Gubagude Ko* directed by Philiane Phang, where I play the Ugandan shopkeeper, will premiere April 12th as a part of the AFI Directing Workshop for Women.

Twitter: @EricaTazel
Instagram: @Erica_Tazel
Facebook: Erica Tazel



MacDuggal, Two-Piece Set Blue Skirt with Bow Detail & Multi Color Crop Top, Price Upon Request, MacDuggal.com
Charles Albert, Alchemia Matte Short Cuff, Price Upon Request, CharlesAlbert.com
Fernando Rodriguez, Gold with Blue Pearl Earrings, Price Upon Request, FernandoRodriguezDesign.com
Alexandra G. Rita Red Heels, Price Upon Request, AlejandraG.com



MacDuggal, Olive Low Cut Lace Dress with Sequin Waistband, Price Upon Request, MacDuggal.com
Moms Janks, Lambkin Soutache Bolero in Black, Price Upon Request, MomsJanks.com
Few Moda, Dropped Earrings with Clear Crystal, Price Upon Request, FewModa.com

You're well known as Rachel Brooks on *Justified*. What were some of your most memorable moments from that series?

Nothing could possibly be more memorable than my first and last days on set. The first scene I shot was the aftermath of Boyd, blowing up a church which included Rachel, the entire Marshal team and Doug E. Doug. I wanted to get to set so badly. Although, I had a signed contract and had been flown to Pittsburgh, it was not going to be real for me until I walked onto set in costume with a mic attached. My thoughts were, "Pinch me! Is THIS really happening for me?" There were so many career challenges that preceded that moment. The last scene I shot of the series, was once again with the entire Marshal team, this time in our office, a place where we spent so much time together over the course of 8 seasons. It was Raylan's last day in the Lexington office. Jacob Pitts, Nick Searcy and I wrapped that day. There were many laughs, but so many tears, mixed with sadness and gratitude. The ugly cry was on full display. That last day, my thoughts were the complete opposite of my first. "Pinch me. Did THAT really happen to me? Wow! THANK YOU!!!"

I'm sure you realize that you were flying in rare air, being a woman of color surrounded by cowboys. Do you think this has changed the minds of casting directors when it comes to your range and abilities as an actress?

I certainly was flying in rare air and I knew I would be, if that door opened to me after reading the Pilot script of *Justified*. It is one of the things that attracted me to the opportunity. Rachel was a wonderful character to play, however, there was still so much we did not learn about her over the years. Her emotional and personal transformation over the series was not as big as so many of the other characters we got to meet and know. Therefore, I like to think of Rachel as a teaser for things to come for and from Erica Tazel. How 'bout that? After the second season of *Justified*, one of my Executive Producers asked me if the show was doing anything positively for my career. At the time, I was honestly not sure and expressed as much. In terms of that and how casting directors regard my work and range as an actor now that the show is complete, I believe the jury is still out on that.

VANITY FAIR

Justified's Erica Tazel on Being a Woman of Color in a Cowboy World



Vanity Fair
Jan 2016

<http://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2015/01/justified-final-season-erica-tazel-interview>

Justified kicks off strong tonight. The modern-day Western, from the twisty mind of novelist Elmore Leonard and veteran TV showrunner Graham Yost shakes off the cloud of criticism that hung around it in Season 5 with a vengeance. The show's final season (of which I've seen the first three episodes) is maybe its strongest yet, with the promised showdown between the lawman Raylan Givens (Timothy Olyphant) and the outlaw Boyd Crowder (Walton Goggins) finally coming to pass. But as the clock strikes high noon in Kentucky's Harlan County, it becomes clear that the show is about more than just pistols at dawn or cops and robbers.

Justified has always been a show about history, roots, and family. The family you grew up with, and the family you make. As we head into the final season Erica Tazel, who has played Deputy U.S. Marshal Rachel Brooks for five seasons, steps into the role of interim chief, a.k.a., Raylan's boss, a.k.a., the materfamilias. We spoke with Tazel about her time on Justified and her theory about who, if anyone, will leave Harlan alive.

VF Hollywood: We spoke with creator Graham Yost last year about the backlash around Season 5. The show was a critical darling for most of its run, what do you think went wrong last season?

Erica Tazel: I think what the writers do is incredibly difficult, you know, spinning so many plates. What's great about Elmore's work, I mean true Elmore, is that you get to spend so much time with the bad guys. The writers on the show love that. I think that we all agree that we spun too many plates last year, but the beautiful thing about this season is that it gets reined in and we get back to what we're good at. Five seasons in, I don't think that's such a bad thing. You try some things, maybe they don't work, and that's why it's called a creative process. I think what they are doing this season is more in line with what we started in Season 2.

Justified actor

ERICA TAZEL

On working towards truth and honesty, going through a dark period, and the importance of quiet time

INTERVIEW: ROBERT PIPER

Robert Piper: What inspires you?

Erica Tazel: I am inspired by great food, theater, books, the beach, black-and-white photography, and great vocalists, like Dianne Reeves, Alice Smith, and Shirley Horn. I am inspired by my mentor Diana Castle, who is guiding me towards a truth and honesty in my life and work that I have always longed for. I am inspired by my mother's faith and the teaching I receive under the leadership of Bishop Kenneth C. Ulmer. I am also inspired by hard work and powerful people who have maintained a sense of integrity, decency, and kindness. Love really inspires me.

RP: What is the hardest obstacle you've had to overcome in your life?

ET: There was a period of time between 2005 and 2008 that was pretty challenging. I had taken a leap of faith and moved to Los Angeles from New York, which had been incredible to me professionally. I couldn't get arrested in this town. There was a lot of doubt and fear that crept in, and boy, did insecurity stick her foot up in it. There were many obstacles that were overcome during that very dark period—creative, financial, emotional, and spiritual—and I'm here, standing, stronger than ever.

RP: How do you stay healthy?

ET: For mental and emotional health, quiet time is very important to me. I need a point in every day that I disconnect from all electronics and reconnect to my center. I pray and meditate. I drink a ton of water and believe in a good night's sleep. Because of old sports injuries, yoga has become a physical lifesaver. I also have an honest, loving, and caring circle of friends. A little bit of laughter and an occasional adult beverage never hurt nobody.

RP: How do you deal with overcoming failure?

ET: In recent years, I have begun to regard everything as more of a process so that the sense of right and wrong diminishes in my psyche. That's been healthy for me and makes everything so much more fun. If something does not quite work out as expected or planned, I simply look for what did work, what I learned from the situation, and really try to keep it moving forward.



RP: What projects are you working on?

ET: I am finishing up the final two episodes of *Justified* on FX. I have a movie hopefully coming out this year called *Mr. Right* [in which I have a role] opposite Columbus Short. I also have been reading scripts and taking meetings around town. So we will see.

Erica Tazel is an actor whose credits include Mr. Right, Justified, House of D, The Office, and ER.

"I have begun to regard everything as more of a process so that the sense of right and wrong diminishes in my psyche."

Origin Magazine
April 2015

Next Big Thing Magazine

March 2015



INSIDE
HOLLY
WOOD

MARSHAL

Erica Tazel promises fans that the final season of *Justified* will be full of twists and turns. Tazel, who plays Marshal Rachel Brooks on the critically acclaimed series, couldn't reveal too much (for obvious reasons) but did spill that in the final season viewers will get to witness a lot of action amongst the triangle of Raylan (Timothy Olyphant), Ava (Joelle Carter) and Boyd (Walton Goggins). Tazel promises action and drama in the inevitable showdown that will happen between the main cast. "We're going to see lines drawn, alliances betrayed, and alliances formed." Lucky for her, she gets to know what happens on the show before any of us do. She almost can't contain her excitement over how intense the show is getting in its final season. Speaking to Next Big Thing just after reading the script for the sixth episode she says, "I almost peed my pants, like Oh my god where is the next episode -- what's going to happen!" However, much like us, the viewer, she is still in the dark in regards to how the final season is going to end. You'd think working on scripts would require a down-time to recuperate, but Erica says it's just the opposite. She attributes the surprisingly laid back feeling on set to her co-stars, Timothy Olyphant, Nick Searcy and Jacob Pitts, who she says are pros at keeping it fun on set working on dramatic scenes. "There's always an air of lightness on the set," she says. "Even if we are shooting something that's pretty intense so at the end of the day, for me, it's not hard to shake it off."

In fact, she says it is the night before that brings any stress. "I think my point of tension is usually the night before," she says. "It sort of precedes the work instead of proceeds." Playing Rachel has been a crucial part of Erica's attempt at diversifying the repertoire of mediums she's comfortable with. Hailing originally from the theatres of New York, she left for California in order to gain experience in TV acting. Fans need not be afraid, Erica insists she is still very much in love with the theatre and even tries to fit in plays during her hiatuses from *Justified*. Breaking into TV was just the next logical step as these days actors are expected to be triple threats: TV, theatre, and movie experts. "It's my feeling that with the way the business is constructed now, as many of those mediums that you can be proficient in, the better."

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Gone are the days of working just in TV, film, or theatre. Tazel says she really had to push herself out of her comfort zone for her role on *Justified*. Not only was it a huge foray into TV acting, there was also a lot to learn for her character. Having never held a real gun before, she wanted to get some hands-on experience at the Glyco training centre for US marshals. Unfortunately, due to post 9/11 measures, she was unable to, instead she worked closely with the advisors on set. It wasn't just weapon training she needed, she also needed to fully understand the mentality within a group of marshals -- especially what it takes to be a female in a predominantly male precinct. "You can only prepare so much for a TV role initially," she notes while working on a play you know the full story of your character but when it comes to TV, there is always a lot that's unknown; it is generally an open book.

With her many talents, it's surprising to hear that Erica didn't always realize she wanted to be an actor. Although she went to a High School of performing arts, it wasn't until her sophomore year of college that she realized she needed to act after going to see a production put on at her school. "I ended up going to a show and I realized immediately upon walking into the theatre that this was where I was supposed to be and it was at that point that I changed my life." She changed her major from "Bio and Premedical Studies" to "Theatre" and later went to grad school for theatre at NYU. Originally, her aspirations was to work in the medical field as a physiotherapist. Her interests in helping others never left and thanks to the hiatuses she gets between seasons breaks she often dedicates her time to giving back. She has spent extensive time in places like South Africa helping out at AIDS clinics with 'Habitat for Humanity'. Erica also went to Haiti soon after the earthquake. At home, she is also a supporter of 'Get on the Bus', an organization that helps kids visit their incarcerated parents on Mother's and Father's day. "I'm living the dream and part of that dream is to be able to also serve in some capacity because it's a daily reminder of how fortunate I am and how lucky I am to have a job that I love and to be able to make a living doing what I want to do. I don't ever want to lose the ground under my feet."

Be sure to watch out for Erica and the final season of *Justified*!

- By Kyle Dillon



BELLO Magazine

March 2015

DRESS OLENA DATS
HEELS MARION AYONOTE



DECADENT issue - BELLOmag.com

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Justifiably On Top: Erica Tazel

WORDS BY **BRAD LIBERTI**
PHOTOS BY **ERIC BLACKMON**

NOW IN ITS SIXTH AND FINAL SEASON, FX'S GRITTY DRAMA, *JUSTIFIED*, HAS ENTHRALLED BOTH CRITICS AND FANS ALIKE SINCE IT FIRST PREMIERED ON MARCH 16, 2010. INTRODUCING US TO U.S. MARSHALL RAYLON GIVENS (TIMOTHY OLYPHANT), ALONG WITH A COLORFUL ASSORTMENT OF FOLKS FROM HIS HOMETOWN, HARLAN 'COAL-MINING COUNTRY' KENTUCKY, THE SHOW WAS AN INSTANT HIT FOR THE CABLE NETWORK, GOING ON TO GARNER EIGHT EMMY NOMINATIONS AND TWO WINS.

AND ACTRESS ERICA TAZEL HAS BEEN THERE PRACTICALLY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING (EPISODE TWO, TO BE EXACT). AS FELLOW U.S. MARSHALL AND YOUNGSTER ON THE FORCE, RACHEL BROOKS, SHE EASILY HOLDS HER OWN AMONGST A CAST OF STANDOUTS, PROVING THAT THIS TALENTED STAGE VET IS SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A GIRL WITH A GUN.

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March 2014 - BELLO

DRESS LAMARQUE COLLECTION
COAT ENDLESS ROSE
HEELS MARION AYNOTE



DRESS LAMARQUE COLLECTION



DRESS ENDLESS ROSE
HEELS ALEJANDRA G



JACKET LAMARQUE COLLECTION
TOP NINES
SKIRT MATHIASSEN



Photography **ERIC BLACKMON** www.ericblackmon.com • Styling **FRANZY STAEDTER** www.franzystaedter.com
 Makeup **MECCA DICKERSON** using **Charlotte Tillman** for the "Glow", **Dior** foundation, **OCC** for the lips, and **Anastasia** for contour
 Hair **KARICEAN "KAREN" DICK** Karicean at **THE POSH STUDIO**

THE BEAUTY EXPERT
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Daily **BEAUTYREPORTER**

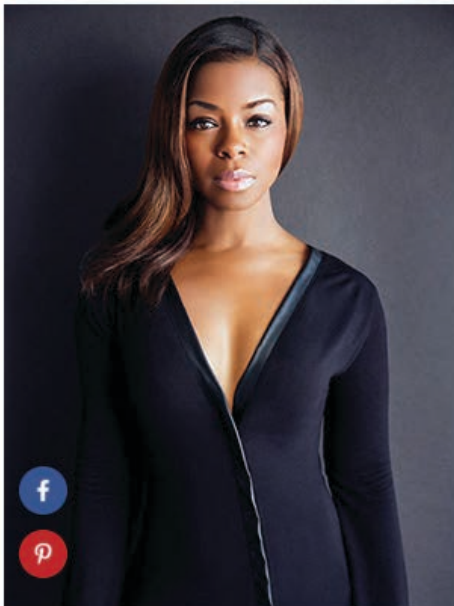
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Justified's Erica Tazel on Her Beauty Routine and What's Up Next

BY STEPHANIE SALTZMAN, ASSOCIATE DIGITAL EDITOR, APRIL 16, 2015, 2:00:00 PM



Allure
April 2015

<http://www.allure.com/beauty-trends/blogs/daily-beauty-reporter/2015/04/erica-tazel-justified.html>



TV

Erica Tazel on 'Justified' and learning hard Hollywood lessons

By Stereo Williams | March 23, 2015 11:32 AM EST



<http://rollingout.com/2015/03/23/erica-tazel-justified-learning-hard-hollywood-lessons/>



WOMEN

THE HOT 10: ERICA TAZEL

TV's sexiest U.S Marshal is ready for a promotion.

SEAN ABRAMS · JAN 20, 2015



[Erica Tazel](#) is more than a girl with a gun. The petite Dallas actress has had a handful of bit-parts on popular shows like *Sex and the City* and *Law and Order: SVU*, but it wasn't until she got down and dirty on [FX's *Justified*](#) that people really started to pay attention. After spending five seasons opposite [actor Timothy Olyphant](#), Erica is ready to find her next big role as the show comes to a close.

Maxim

Jan 2015

<http://www.maxim.com/women/hot-10-erica-tazel>

Justified

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ERICA TAZEL

• Back

Rachel Brooks

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Erica Tazel stars as "Rachel Brooks" - Rachel is the consummate professional and the deputy Art always hoped would succeed him upon his retirement. With Art wounded, Rachel's taken that post a little earlier than expected - albeit in an interim capacity - and she wonders if she will be up to the job.

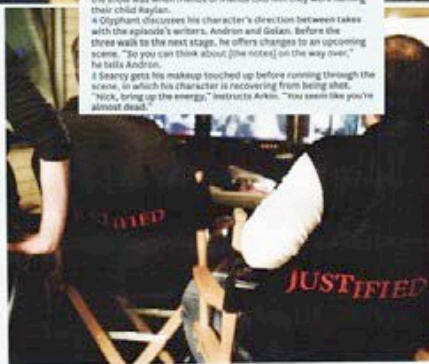
A Dallas native, Erica's career began on the New York stage. After graduating from NYU's Graduate Acting Program, she made her professional debut as "Perdita" in a Shakespeare in the Park production of *A Winter's Tale*. She was a member of the first American company to be invited to perform Shakespeare at the Royal Shakespeare Company. She recently completed an Ovation Award Winning run of Joe Turner's *Come and Gone* at the Mark Taper Forum. Other theater credits include *Macbeth* (The Continuum Company/ Florence, Italy), *Twisted* (Laguna Playhouse), *I Have Before Me A Remarkable Document Given To Me By a Young Lady from Rwanda* (The Colony Theater, NAACP Theater Award, Best Female Lead), *The Exonerated* (Hartford TheaterWorks), *Juvenilia* (Playwrights Horizons), *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Old Globe), *Four* (Hartford TheaterWorks), and *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Dallas Theatre Center, Arizona Theater Company).

Erica also has an engaging list of television credits with guest starring roles on Emmy® and Golden Globe Award® winning shows such as *The Office*, *The Kroll Show*, *Without a Trace*, *Bones*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Firefly* and *Sex & the City*. She also recurred on *Jenico* and *Third Watch*.

Erica is a Bus Coordinator for Get on the Bus, an organization that reunites children with their incarcerated parents for Mother's and Father's Day. She most recently was a construction laborer in Habitat for Humanity's Global Village building project in Cape Town, South Africa. This will be the first integrated community in the city. She played the same role in a rebuilding project in post-earthquake Haiti. She is also a recreational entertainer at Sparrow Rainbow Village, an AIDS hospice and orphanage in Johannesburg, South Africa. These are considered her most important and most transformational roles yet.



1 Olyphant snaps a picture of Golan (center) with Gomez as the crew sets up the next scene.
2 Sitting next to Jacob Pitts (who plays Deputy U.S. Marshal Tim Gutterman), Tazel is aware of the show's sobering end: "I'm already having flashbacks, even though we have 13 more to shoot. But this time next year, it will be a different dance."
3 Andron says the wildest feedback he has received about the show was when friends of friends told him they were naming their child Raylan.
4 Olyphant discusses his character's direction between takes with the episode's writers, Andron and Golan. Before the three walk to the next stage, he offers changes to an upcoming scene. "So you can think about [the notes] on the way over," he tells Andron.
5 Searcy gets his makeup touched up before running through the scene, in which his character is recovering from being shot. "Nick, bring up the energy," instructs Arkin. "You seem like you're almost dead."



1 Olyphant in the U.S. Marshal's office during the day's first scene. "The magic is gone," says Arkin of numerous takes before he leaves "video village" to encourage Olyphant. "Tazel and Gomez to lie 2 before Olyphant returns to the set. He jokes to the 10 people in video village at the time — one of 3 is former U.S. Marshal Charles Almaraz, the series' technical advisor — "Whenever Raylan is then getting laid during all this stuff, Charlie's like, 'Now you're thinking like a cop!'"

Justified

One of the dramas that helped define FX, the Timothy Olyphant modern Western heads into its final season with Elmore Leonard's legacy in mind

By Bryn Elise Sandberg | Photographed by Ryan Young

MORE "AT YOUR WITS' end!" shouts director Adam Arkin from a packed "video village" to *Justified* star Timothy Olyphant, sitting on a couch 20 feet away in the U.S. Marshal's office. In character as Raylan Givens, Olyphant tries his line again, more visibly irritated: "If it doesn't have to do with beaches or sunny skies, there's nothing more for me to see." It's a little past noon on a Thursday in late February when *THR* arrives at

the series' Santa Clarita studio, in time to watch Deputy U.S. Marshal Rachel Brooks (Erica Tazel) and Assistant U.S. Attorney David Vasquez (Rick Gomez) ask their favorite law enforcement agent to kill his longtime nemesis, Boyd Crowder (Walton Goggins). The entire series has led to this critical moment in the season-five finale, which gives rise to a highly anticipated showdown set to play out during the sixth and final season.

At this point in *Justified*'s run, few know their characters as intimately

The Hollywood Reporter

June 2014



Emmy Magazine

June 2014

Entertainment

NEWS | POPWATCH

'Justified' actress Erica Tazel takes aim in EW's TV Star Shootout -- VIDEO



<http://www.ew.com/article/2014/04/28/justified-erica-tazel>

Cliché Magazine

April/May 2014

GIRL POWER | ERICA TAZEL



RAZZLE
TAZEL

Beautiful, strong, and more than a match for any foe, Erica Tazel is a great role model. She works hard, takes chances, and helps children and their families find homes. Taking time from her busy life, she opens up to *Cliché* about her path to becoming an actress, her work on *Justified*, and her plans for the future. BY BRITTANY N. HUSKEY

Cliché: In life, we face many different crossroads. One crossroad that you faced was whether or not to go into medicine or follow your heart and take up acting. How did you decide which path to take and what would you tell someone facing a similar problem in their life?

Erica Tazel: The fork in the road between being a physical therapist vs. an actor was more of a surprise to me than a problem. It really was. Although I had gotten the beginnings of extensive theatre training at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, TX, I sincerely was not aware of or present to a desire to tell stories for a living. I initially auditioned for Booker T. as an option to not have to attend the school in whose district I lived in. I did not think I would fit in at that school and who wants to spend four years like that? I heard about Booker T. at lunch from a friend in 8th grade and it sounded like t, m l/ the movie FAME which was very exciting to me. Would we really have jam sessions in the lunch room and would the dancers really walk around all day in leotards? That sounded like a cool alternative!

So I went for it and it was a glorious time for me creatively. When I entered Spelman College as a Biology Pre-Med major, I honestly had every intention of completing that coursework and going on to medical school with a focus in physical therapy. However, during the first semester of my sophomore year in college, a friend invited me to see a show the Theatre and Dance department was putting on. It may sound crazy, but when I walked into the theater, I unexpectedly began to cry. I felt like I had come home. I knew in that very moment that I had to change courses. If this decision presented a "problem," it was the fact of telling my parents.

I value my life very much and I was sure this decision was not going to go over well. Luckily I was 900 miles away from home! So in many ways, I feel like acting chose me. Although I had no clue how to pursue a career in acting, I had tremendous peace about taking that path. I just "knew," so I jumped and I have yet to regret that leap. I do not take for granted that for other artists it was not, and in some case, still not that clear. So my advice, if I can call it that, is to sit very quietly with your dreams, with what you really want, and be very honest about that. If at the end of the day, you feel like you MUST do such and such, then go for it. There is no rule book for a career in acting, so it is also a faith journey of monumental proportions!

Because you chose to follow your heart, you have been in television shows, movies, and theater productions. Have you found that you enjoy working in one of these areas more than the other?

The mediums give me very different things that I appreciate very much. Theater has offered me the most diverse and challenging opportunities. I enjoy being a part of an ensemble that I get to play with eight shows a week. I love the process of rehearsal and the live audience in the moment aspect of theater. There is usually at least a four-week rehearsal period before a theater run begins. In TV, there may be four minutes of rehearsal especially if there is a last minute rewrite, so the homework is much more condensed. I love this medium because there is no time for me to get in my head about the work. My imagination is exercised in a very different way in television. Unlike theater, in TV I may only get to have that conversation three times! I am looking forward to my first film opportunities to see what I learn and experience there. I aspire to be comfortable and compelling telling story in all three mediums.

With *Justified* in its fifth season, what do you think about the evolution of your character from season one until now? Has she surprised you in anyway?

While I have always imagined Rachel to be an ambitious woman who cares deeply about her work, it has been delightful to see her permit herself to have fun at the same time. That's been a nice point in her evolution. She's very serious and by the book, so I love when she allows herself to cut up a bit. To that point, I was surprised and thrilled, on some level, that in episode five, I believe, of this season, Rachel decides to go down to Harlan with Raylan to look for Danny Crowe, not so much to "babysit," but to get a piece of the action.

Who do you want to work with more before the show reaches its end in season six?

I am very pleased with the work Jacob Pitts and I did towards the end of this season. We work well together and I would love to do more with him. I had my first conversation with Boyd Crowder which seems to potentially set up more interaction for the final season which would be great! I would love to be on camera with Walton more before this ends. Joelle Carter and I have only passed each other on screen so I would also like to spend some time with her as well. Then that would pretty much cover all of the series regulars, at least.

Do you have any ideas on where your character will be at the end of the series?

The great thing about Rachel is there are so many avenues the writers can take her in the final season. So many great opportunities there. My only wish is that the audience has an opportunity to finally see why Art says Rachel is his best Marshal.

[NOW IN DALLAS]

MY CITY

Superstar

When we spoke with Dallas native **Erica Tazel**, she was wrapping nearly a fortnight of filming in a \$14 million mansion in Altadena, Calif. Just another day for the actress and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts grad, who many know as Deputy U.S. Marshal Rachel Brooks on FX's hit show *Justified*. With her schedule, it's no wonder Tazel never misses a visit back home (her parents live in Oak Cliff). When the Dallas skyline comes into view, "it makes my heart skip a beat," she says. "I'm home." Here's what's on her arrival agenda. —JE



Galleria Dallas ↑

"There's ice skating; it's still a stunning place to go; the shops are amazing; and the layout of the mall makes sense. As a person who does not like to shop, especially for myself, it inspires me." 13350 Dallas Pkwy., 972.702.7100, galleriadallas.com

Milk and Honey Boutique ↓

"The clothing is cute, fun and superaffordable." 1906 Henderson Ave., 214.826.1700, milkandhoneyboutique.com



Blue Bell buttered pecan ice cream

"I didn't know Blue Bell ice cream didn't exist outside of the South," she says. "I was like, 'What's Ben & Jerry's?'" bluebell.com



Mary Kay makeup

"I cannot live without their medium-coverage foundation and eye shadows. I have pretty much every eye shadow and every lip gloss." marykay.com



Perot Museum of Nature and Science

"That's on the list for my next visit." 2201 N. Field St., 214.428.5555, perotmuseum.org

DESIGN

Superlative Settings

By Kelsi Marce Borland

Since discovering under-the-radar dinnerware line **B by Brandie**, setting the table is fun again. Born from the mind of Dallas local Brandie Gehan, the collection is rife with exquisite tableware pieces, vases and candles, all laced with bold colors and patterns.

The collection is aptly named after history's most eminent socialites, and Zelda, Maxwell and Birkin are the newest social set to be immortalized in Gehan's collection. "I wanted to create a whimsical but classy look with bold turquoise and navy patterns," Gehan explains. Done in bone china, the new line is the epitome of timeless elegance, but that doesn't mean it is just for special occasions. Gehan insists these beauties add glamour to the everyday; hence they're dishwasher safe. "I remember hand-washing my mom's china after Christmas and Thanksgiving, and the hours it took," Gehan recalls. "It was extremely important for the entire line to be dishwasher safe."

The Zelda, Maxwell and Birkin collections are just the first newbies on the horizon. Gehan is launching a line of pre-styled tableware sets in April. Beyond that? "I am hoping to expand past tabletop and bring bold patterns to other home-accessory products in the near future," she hints. bbybrandie.com



BOLD PLATED
Brandie Gehan (inset); Harrison gold and black appetizer and salad plate, \$22.95.

Modern Luxury Dallas

April 2014

BRANDIE GEHAN: TONYA B. STEIN/ENLARGED

COM PLEX

"Justified" Star Erica Tazel Loved Putting Walton Goggins in His Place



<http://www.complex.com/pop-culture/2014/04/justified-erica-tazel-discusses-season-five-finale>

'Justified': Erica Tazel's parents thought they were getting a doctor



By [Jacqueline Cutler](#)
Apr 01st, 2014



Zap2it: When did you know you were an actress?

Erica Tazel: I didn't know on a conscious level. I went to college with the intent of being a physical therapist. I went to Spelman [College, in Atlanta] as a biology pre-med major.

Zap2it: When did you develop an interest in acting?

Erica Tazel: I went to a performing arts high school. It was a means to an end. I didn't want to go to the school in my home district. I loved "Fame." Is it like that? Do they really dance on the tables? I can't sing my way out of a paper bag. I had some raw talent for dance. ... The last couple of years I focused on acting. I was off to my freshman year in college, and I had a really hard time with my math and science classes. In sophomore year a girlfriend asked me to come over and take a break, and I walked into the theater and started crying. I didn't feel it coming. I was shocked. Why is there water on my face? And the only way I could describe it is I was home.

Zap2it: Once you knew, did you tell your parents?

Zap2it.com
Aug 2014

<http://zap2it.com/2014/04/justifieds-erica-tazels-parents-thought-they-were-getting-a-doctor/>

POPSUGAR.

POPSUGAR › Celebrity › Celebrity Interviews › Erica Tazel on Justified Season 5 | Video

Justified's Erica Tazel: There Will Be a "Shocking" Death



<http://www.popsugar.com/celebrity/Erica-Tazel-Justified-Season-5-Video-33886424>

INTERVIEW: *Justified*'s Erica Tazel tells us what Timothy Olyphant is really like

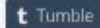
Jan 27, 2014



by Julie Sprankles

Hint: Pretty Amazing

Print



Comment Now

We've been a fan of actress Erica Tazel since we first caught a glimpse of her as Deputy U.S. Marshal Rachel Brooks on FX's gritty hit series *Justified*. Not surprisingly, the Texas beauty totally won us over when she filled us in on life (and death!) on the *Justified* set, what it's really like working with hunky Timothy Olyphant and how she made the leap from biology major to a major role.



SheKnows.com

Jan 2014

<http://www.sheknows.com/entertainment/articles/1028939/interview-with-justifieds-erica-tazel>



On *Justified*, Rachel's Quiet Frustration Boils Over, Creating 'Tension' Between Her and Raylan

By Matt Webb Mitovich / January 21 2013, 4:00 PM PDT



Deputy US Marshall Rachel Brooks' cool, calm and collected act is about to come unraveled FX's *Justified* (Tuesdays, 10/9c), when a simmering frustration boils over and leads her to make a brash move — one that threatens to wreck her working relationship with Raylan.



RELATED | *Justified*: Raylan and Boyd's Falling Out, Winona's Whereabouts and More Scoop

As hinted at last week, "There's trouble in paradise, at home, and that explains a little about how she's been on edge," **Erica Tazel** tells TVLine. "And it further fuels the restlessness that Rachel is starting to feel ever since Raylan came to Lexington."

Because while Rachel surely can appreciate the special "skill set" that her trigger-happy fellow Deputy US Marshal (played by Timothy Olyphant) brings to the table, his tendency to run afoul of process — and with little lasting backlash from the boss — has gotten to be a *bit* much.

"What I'm discovering this year," says Tazel, "is that there's a frustration with [Chief Deputy] Art [Mullen]. He keeps saying Rachel is his 'best Marshall,' and yet we have this great mystery [about Waldo Truth] that could be a game-changing case for her professional ambitions, and she's nowhere near it."

TVLine
Jan 2013

<http://tvline.com/2013/01/21/justified-season-4-spoilers-rachel-raylan-tension/>