

Christine Stephen-Daly plays Senior House Officer Lara Stone



“I first discovered that I was good at speech and drama while at school. The fact that it helped relieve the mundane routine of our school days was an added advantage. *On Our Selection* was the first play I performed at school and pretty soon after that I started to seriously consider drama college.”

Fortunately, Christine got a place at NIDA (National Institute for Dramatic Art) in Sydney where she studied for three years. Because the college is held in high regard, the students’ progress was followed by many of the theatrical agents, and when they auditioned for them towards the end of their time there, Christine was signed up.

“My first professional production was a play in Sydney called *Desire*.” A number of TV roles

followed that and then she landed the regular role of Amber in *Pacific Drive*, a role she played for two and a half years. When that ended some film, theatre and TV work followed including the role of a mobster’s daughter. “That was for a TV drama called *Stingers*; it was a great, meaty part to play.”

Christine then came to a point in her life where she decided it was time to do some travelling and came to London to visit family and friends.

“My strong acting CV helped me gain a London agent quite quickly, with my first TV role as a female entertainer for Steve Owen’s stag party in *EastEnders*. Then I got the call from *Casualty*.”

Age: 29

Home town: Melbourne

Similarities with Lara: “We share a strong work ethic and her passion for life and her profession. I also love her dry sense of humour. But she is more bloody-minded than I am. I’m trying to ease off on that as I was quite career-obsessed when I was young.”

Lara’s best and worst traits: “Morality and strength are big attributes for Lara. But she is equally very single minded and her pride is obvious. However, she always wants to be right and can jump to conclusions without checking the details.”

Christine’s real-life *Casualty*: “Aged nine I suffered a burst appendix which involved a lot of pain. Because of it I developed peritonitis.”

On-screen romance: “Lara’s had a difficult time in the last few months. She’s gone from losing her fiancé to being attacked by someone whose wife she was trying to protect. She now faces a court case which doesn’t end happily. I think finding love is at the back of her mind right now, she’s just looking to get through her legal nightmare first.”

Favourite food and music: “Italian food is a constant favourite with me, especially when it comes with a bottle of Chianti classico. I also like Thai but really you can’t beat a good steak, preferably Australian beef of course. Lately I’ve been listening to Ryan Adams and have his new CD, *Gold*. But his first one, *Heartbreaker*, is still a reliable favourite as I love his folksy rock style. Stevie Wonder is also a constant in my CD collection.”

How do you keep in shape? “Just keeping up with the *Casualty* filming schedule is pretty adequate. I think it’s my genes rather than a meticulous diet that keeps me in shape.”

How do you relax? “Cooking different types of food always works for me and taking long walks is equally relaxing. But reading a good book or going for a long massage are good alternatives.”

Did you know?

- Christine has just bought her first property in Bristol.