

LEADING LADY

Melville resident Jo Galloway is pretty hot property! Moving from the hugely successful *Hairspray* to the sure-to-be-a-hit *The Full Monty*, we just had to get to know her a little better.

As a child, Jo sat in her baby chair and watched her mother teaching classes at the Waterfront Theatre School in Cape Town. Years later, she would do her own training at the school under the strict tutelage of her mother, Delia Sainsbury and her father, Keith Galloway. These theatre legends produced two extremely talented daughters. Jo's sister Genna is touring with the musical *We Will Rock You* and Jo began her career as a raw, terrified 19-year-old in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats*.

Her role as Demeter didn't go unnoticed and she received a Vita Award nomination. She followed this success with roles in Richard Loring's *That'll Be The Day - The Buddy Holly Story*, *Umoja*, *African Footprint* and the hilariously funny *Hairspray*. Her latest role is in the musical production of *The Full Monty*. She plays Estelle, leading man Jerry's part-time, gum-chewing, morally ambiguous girlfriend ... and she loves it!

As it's saturated with talent, the theatre industry in South Africa can be very demanding. 'To be taken seriously, you need to be a triple threat ... an actor, singer and dancer'. Jo has been honing her acting skills since her early days, started dancing at the age of three and is now an internationally accredited Tap and Modern Dance instructor. She's also got a pretty good voice! She says with a laugh that she never had much choice in what she was going to be when she grew up. She loves what she does, but if she had to choose something else, she'd be a forensic entomologist, of all things!

A favourite part of Jo's job is the

chance to work with, and learn from, some great performers. She loves being able to learn new skills, as she did for *African Footprint*, and to constantly reinvent herself. 'It's challenging, interesting and exhilarating.'

Jo first worked in Cape Town, then spent a year in the UK as a cabaret dancer. The experience was great, but the lack of an easy standard of living and sunshine made her come home! She adores living in such a beautiful country and takes full advantage of it. Her move to Joburg a little more than three years ago came with an unexpected bonus.

At first, she didn't want to come up to Joburg, but she'd been offered a part in Richard Loring's *That'll Be The Day - The Buddy Holly Story*. It was a chance she just couldn't pass up, and it turned out

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to be one of the best decisions of her life! It was on this show that she met her husband, fellow performer Murray Todd.

He proposed to her while they were shopping in Cape Town for a wedding anniversary gift for her parents. On their way home Murray took her to Camps Bay beach and presented her with the most perfect ring inside an oyster shell. They were married in March this year at The Westcliff in Joburg. 'It was beautiful, romantic and all it should have been for a dream wedding.'

Apart from her husband, the theatre and performing, Jo's passions in life are her family, her home and garden and her beautiful dogs, Tequila the sausage

dog and Diesel the Staffie! She loves indulging in chocolate, especially a Tex bar dipped in tea, shopping and spending a night out with the gals. Jo's fave spots in Melville are Statement ... it's become quite the theatre industry hang out, Soi for the amazing food and the theatre bar after a show is also a favourite! To relax, she pops on a Michael Bubl  CD, runs a bath with loads of bubbles, pours a glass of red wine and pampers herself a little. She and Murray also take the dogs for soul-reviving walks in Emmarentia.

As she spends most of her life in rehearsal gear, Jo's personal style is pretty casual. She's a sucker for jeans and heels though, she loves dressing up when she goes out, and she likes to look feminine and classy without being too frilly. Jo likes to wear Dinamit jeans (they fit her tiny shape perfectly) with a cute top and gorgeous heels from Aldo or Nine West (she recently bought a pair of Jessica Simpson

heels in Washington DC and she loves them). Of course, no outfit is complete without a pair of seriously bling earrings!

Jo keeps her fresh-faced beauty with Clinique products, exercise, lots of water and trying to squeeze as much sleep into her hectic schedule as she can! A long massage from her mate Darren, dance captain of the Saturday Night Fever team and a professional masseuse, doesn't go amiss after a strenuous dance show either. 'Other than that,' she says, 'I'll wait till plastic surgery's needed!'

Next on her busy agenda is auditioning for some of the great new musicals coming out next year, so watch out for Jo on a stage near you!