



# IMTA ALUM MADISON ISEMAN IN *JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE*

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*Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* in theatres Wednesday, December 20

*“I’m so in love with this business. I’m obsessed and hard-working, almost to the point where I feel like a crazy person. In no way am I where I want to be yet. I still have such a long way to go, there’s so much more that I want to learn.”*  
– Madison Iseman

In the 1995 hit film *Jumanji*, two kids find and play a magical board game, releasing a man trapped for decades in it and a host of dangers that can only be stopped by finishing the game. In 2017’s *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*, a video game turns the tables on four teenagers who discover an old game console and are thrust into the game’s jungle setting...and into the bodies of their avatars. What do both films have in common? You don’t just play *Jumanji* — *Jumanji* plays you.

IMTA alum Madison Iseman stars as Bethany in *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* alongside a cast that includes Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Phys Darby, Nick Jonas, Alex Wolff, Morgan Turner and Ser’Darius Blain. “Bethany is your classic pretty, phone-obsessed, kind of mean, entitled teenage girl,” Iseman said of her character. “But underneath all that, she’s just an insecure girl trying to figure out who she really is.”

When the four teenagers are sucked into the world of *Jumanji*, actor Jack Black takes on the character of Bethany as her avatar in the game. “The entire experience was unreal,” expressed Iseman. “Jack and I had the chance to sit down and do some character work on Bethany. We totally had to be on the same page since we’re sharing this character together. The process was easier than you think. The entire time filming, we were able to watch playback from our avatars to make sure we were all on the same page.” Black added, “When the game starts and we realize that our avatars are totally different, she’s a little bummed that she’s taken the shape of an overweight middle-aged man, but,uh, dem’s the breaks. But she learns some lessons along the way about...superficiality.”



Iseman, who has just come off starring for two seasons in CMT’s “*Still the King*” with Billy Ray Cyrus, said she has learned many lessons since she attended IMTA. “I moved to LA when I was 16, so I still had a lot of growing up to do. The greatest lesson I ever learned was what it actually means to take care of yourself, physically and mentally. Season 1 of “*Still the King*” was a challenge. I was newly 18 and had to move to a city [Nashville, TN] where I knew absolutely nobody, and go to work with a bunch of people in their 40s. I really struggled with anxiety and depression the first few months. ... For the first time in my life, I realized taking care of yourself has to be a priority.”

Iseman’s has two recently filmed features that are currently in post-production with expected release in 2018. *The Hounds of Dixie* follows a Southern family comprised of blue-blood media moguls — prominent in their community but estranged from each other — facing the crossroads of past and present in matters of death, wealth, love and American journalism. In addition to Iseman, Beth Broderick, Brooke Butler and Reece Thompson also star.

In *Riot Girls*, Iseman stars alongside Paloma Kwiatkowski, Alexandre Bourgeois and Jenny Raven in a post-apocalyptic thriller set in an alternate 1995, where a mysterious disease has wiped out all of the adults. In this new age, two gangs are pitted against each other in a brutal war for territory, resources and survival.

As the LA13 Junior Miss Actor of the Year and Most Sought Female Talent’s star continues to rise, Iseman is very determined to keep her feet firmly on the ground. “You can’t not keep it together. When it comes time to work, I take it very seriously... maybe too seriously. I remember being a little girl and watching movies and TV and I would just be in tears because it takes you out of your own world for 30 minutes or an hour or an hour and a half. That’s always been what I’ve wanted to do for other people.”