



IMTA ALUM HALEY BENNETT SEEKS HELP FROM *THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN*

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The Magnificent Seven opens nationwide on Friday, September 23th

“If there would have been a road map showing me the way to my dreams becoming reality, I might have given it a second thought. All I came to Los Angeles with was a dream.” – Haley Bennett

With the town of Rose Creek under the deadly control of a thieving and corrupt industrialist, the desperate townspeople employ protection from seven outlaws, bounty hunters, gamblers and hired guns. As they prepare the town for the violent showdown that they know is coming, these seven mercenaries find themselves fighting for more than money in Sony Pictures' remake of *The Magnificent Seven*. Based on Akira Kurosawa's classic *The Seven Samurai*, the action-packed Western was directed by Antoine Fuqua.



IMTA alum Haley Bennett is the female lead in the male-dominated cast of *The Magnificent Seven*, acting alongside Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, Ethan Hawke, Vincent D'Onofrio, Byung-Hun Lee, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Martin Sensmeier, Matthew Bomer and Peter Sarsgaard. “On this film, everyone was so respectful; they treated me as an equal,” Bennett told *Interview Magazine*. “I think they recognized my commitment. I wasn't going to shy away. I was expected to do everything the men did, at the same level. I didn't give myself any breaks. I didn't make the excuse that I'm a woman. If anything, that's what drove me to do better, to be stronger, to ride faster, stand taller.”

“When I was doing my research for *Magnificent Seven*, I'd say that in 95 percent of the Westerns I'd identified, the women were either invisible, off in the background, the damsels in distress being objectified, or all of the above,” Bennett said. She added, “I did get excited about the possibility of what this could be and what this could mean for young women out there. ... I had to take on the mindset of my character, Emma. She's assertive, she asks for what she wants. She's a boss lady. She wasn't going to be shuffled along or hide or give up. I think that I found that extra bit of strength through her.”



It should be safe to say that 2016 is going to be a very good year for Bennett, who came to IMTA with Pro Model & Talent in Akron, OH. However, she remains self-aware and does not take her good fortune for granted, telling *Entertainment Weekly*, “I'm just a girl who happens to have filmed a lot in the past two years.” *The Magnificent Seven* is the first of several high-profile, diverse films opening within the next few months in which Bennett stars. In October's *The Girl on a Train*, she is the mysterious Megan Hipwell in the film adaptation of the 2015 best-selling novel. In November, Bennett plays an aspiring actress in Warren Beatty's *Rules Don't Apply*. December brings the thriller *A Kind of Murder*, in which she stars opposite Patrick Wilson and fellow alum Jessica Biel. In 2017, Bennett fans have *Thank You for Your Service*, about the effect of PTSD on members of the American military, and Terence Malick's long-awaited *Weightless*, a romantic drama set in the Austin music scene.

“Look, I don't see myself as successful because I've worked on only a handful of films,” Bennett told *Interview*. “The way I look at it, if you're really, really lucky, if you consistently work hard over the course of ten years, if you refuse to take no for an answer, if you surround yourself with great mentors and are a sponge, willing to learn, then you're bound for something to happen. I don't know *what* is going to happen. It's either these films being great or me falling flat on my face. I guess I'm prepared for anything. I've always been prepared for anything.”