



## IMTA ALUM MADISON ISEMAN AND *JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL*

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*Jumanji: The Next Level* opens nationwide Friday, December 13

“*Jumanji* in so many ways really opened up so many opportunities so I will always be so grateful for that project and that family of people. They’ve really done so much for me.” — Madison Iseman

In *Jumanji: The Next Level*, the four friends — Spencer, Martha, Fridge and Bethany — are all excited to reconnect over Christmas break after going their separate ways after high school. However, Spencer is fighting to overcome a new series of anxiety attacks and believes that the only way to regain the confidence he found in *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* is to return to Jumanji. Unfortunately, after re-entering the perilous magical jungle realm, he discovers that the game has changed and Bethany, Martha and Fridge must enter the game to rescue him.

Returning to *Jumanji: The Next Level* is IMTA alum Madison Iseman, starring as Young Bethany in the character she originated in *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*. Alex Wolff, Ser'Darius Blain and Morgan Turner also return, alongside Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan and Jack Black. Added to the cast are Awkwafina, Danny DeVito and Danny Glover.

“I was very excited!” Iseman told *Schön!* Magazine about reprising her role. “I’ve never been a part of a sequel before so I didn’t really know what to expect. It was like a giant family reunion, like coming back to summer camp after a year had passed by. I was really curious as to what they were going to do with the script — if they were going to make sort of the same version of what they already did or go further — and I’m really happy with what they decided to do”

Iseman said it was exciting to be able to take her character in a different direction this time. “It was definitely interesting because that was something that [Director Jake Kasdan] really wanted. We sort of start where we left off from the other movie, and Bethany is sort of this newer version of the Bethany from the beginning of the first movie. She’s still definitely Bethany, but her heart is changed, and she has a new perspective on life and adventure — and it really helps in this movie, you’ll see. She takes on a different role this time. She’s still the same Bethany but definitely has a new perspective.”

Iseman also felt that adding new cast members made the filming of the sequel even more special. “We *did* get to work with Dwayne Johnson and Jack Black [in the first film], but at the same time, we weren’t necessarily engaged with them, because they were playing *us*. This time, getting to work with Danny Glover, Danny DeVito *in the actual* scenes was just so cool. They are the nicest guys in the world, and I think they were just really excited to be with these new, budding young people. They had so much wisdom and were really down to create and play with us. It was definitely a bucket list thing — not many people can say they’ve worked with Danny Glover and Danny DeVito. Also, Awkwafina — she’s amazing in this too! They really topped themselves.” Iseman added, “It’s going to be really cool!”

