



IMTA ALUM JESSICA BIEL FACES *THE TALL MAN*

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The Tall Man opens in limited release on Friday, August 31

“I was completely surprised by the script. Every page I got further into it, I had no idea what was going on. Then, after the first twist, then the second twist, I just said, my God, I have to do this movie.” – Jessica Biel

IMTA alum Jessica Biel (LA94) has three very different films opening in 2012: the action/adventure remake of *Total Recall*, which opened August 3, the romantic comedy *Playing for Keeps*, scheduled for a December 7 opening, and the horror/thriller *The Tall Man*, which comes to theatres tomorrow in a limited release following a premiere earlier this year at the South by Southwest Film Festival.



In *The Tall Man*, Biel runs a clinic in a small town where children have been mysteriously disappearing, supposed victims of a local legend known as The Tall Man. When her own child is taken, she tries to track down the kidnapper but begins to find out there is more to what’s happening in the town than she knew. The film also stars Jodelle Ferland, Stephen McHattie, William B. Davis and Eve Harlow.

“It was incredibly challenging to get through this performance,” said Biel. “I had to surrender to my own performance and transcend it so we could get something that was so – I don’t know even know the word for it – ‘magic.’ The real emotion comes out. Obviously, I don’t know anyone who has had this experience and we just tried to capture it the best we could. It’s about the human need to protect, even if it’s in a messed up way.”



December’s *Playing for Keeps* has Biel starring as the ex-wife of Gerard Butler, a former sports star who’s fallen on hard times and who starts coaching his son’s soccer team in an attempt to get his life together. Uma Thurman, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Dennis Quaid also star.



Biel recently wrapped filming of her scenes on *Hitchcock*, the feature based on Stephen Rebello’s 1990 non-fiction book “Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of *Psycho*,” in which she plays Vera Miles, one of the stars of *Psycho*. “It was incredible, the detail that went into that production. The sets that were built are immaculately detailed,” explained Biel. “My dressing room, for example, had magazines and books that had recently come out at that time. The lipsticks and the make-up and the things sitting on the dressing table were all very, very specifically chosen to fit in that time period.” She added, “It takes you to another time, another place and really informs your performance.” *Hitchcock* is set to open in February of next year.