

CHICAGO
Sunday ShowJenny from
the block

Jennifer Beals stars as the city's first female chief of police in "The Chicago Code," debuting in February on Fox. Says writer and executive producer Shawn Ryan, "You wanted someone who felt like they came from the city, and in that regard we got very lucky, because Jennifer was born and raised in Chicago and knew the city really well."

TELEVISION After a South Side childhood, Jennifer Beals is back on the hometown beat in new cop drama

BY MIKE THOMAS
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Jennifer Beals strolled into a Gold Coast bistro wearing large eyeglasses with light-colored frames that subtly obscured her famous face. It was late morning and the place had just opened; only one patron, drinking a Bombay Sapphire martini, sat by the windows up front.

Though a public personality who recently served as celebrity grand marshal of Chicago's annual State Street Thanksgiving Day Parade, Beals is an intensely private person who'd rather rap in semi-seclusion than amid a swirl of strangers.

And so she breezed past the host stand, heading straight for a tucked-away table in a far corner. Doffing her specs and stylish winter apparel, she settled in for an hourlong chat shortly after her 47th birthday in mid-December. She'd spend the upcoming Christmas holiday with family in Chicago before heading home to Vancouver, where she lives with her second husband, Canadian entrepreneur/film technician Ken Dixon, and their 5-year-old daughter. Beals has two older stepchildren, as well, from Dixon's previous marriage.

The Chicago-born-and-bred actress — whose profile has risen considerably in recent years thanks to six seasons as well-dressed lesbian art curator Bette Porter on Showtime's hit show "The L Word" — chose the meeting spot because she'd been there once before with an associate of hers on "The Chicago Code." Scripted and executive produced by Rockford native Shawn Ryan ("The Shield"), the political/cop drama premieres Feb. 7 on Fox and features Beals as Chicago's first female chief of police. It shot here for more than 100 days this past spring and summer.

A 'different' kind of girl

About an hour before our scheduled rendezvous, Beals' publicist helpfully texted some interview topics and guidelines. Among them: "Stay away from anything real personal, just not her thing."

For instance, she prefers not to dwell on her spouses: ex-husband and film director Alexandre Rockwell, whom she wed in her early 20s, and Dixon, with whom she exchanged vows roughly 12 years ago in Chicago. She speaks glowingly of motherhood but never names her daughter. Even her pets' names are kept confidential. Queries about Beals' Chicago childhood, however, elicited some colorful memories — albeit several recycled ones.

Before rocketing to international renown as sexy welder/stripser Alex Owens in the 1983 film "Flashdance," Jenny Beals (as she is known more familiarly) was a smart girl from the South Side who liked to read and make daily to-do lists; who was fascinated by horses and dreamed of being a jockey; who was, she has said, "acutely aware that I was different."

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Anthony Hopkins, who plays an exorcist in "The Rite," says: "There are no spinning heads and no pea soup."

Hopkins gives devil his due

MOVIES | 'Dark, weird' exorcist role in 'Rite'

BY CINDY PEARLMAN

LOS ANGELES — The man voted the scariest movie villain of all time is really a softie. Ask Anthony Hopkins about a show business moment that summed it all up for him and the 73-year-old legend tells a story. "I saw Bing Crosby as an old man," he says. "I was on a studio lot and snuck into an auditorium where Bing was alone doing a little warm-up with all these kids around him. The lights were in his eyes and I knew he couldn't see me. So I just sat in the back row and watched a master at work."

"It brought tears to my eyes. I thought, That's Crosby up there. The kids were in awe and I felt the same way. I saw the skill, the ease and the humor. That's how the pros did it. They knew that you didn't need a genius IQ to be an actor," he says. "You just need to know the text and show up."

When young actors ask him for advice, Hopkins offers few comments. "The truth is I never give advice," he says. "I do make jokes on a set and will go up to a younger actor and say, 'Is that the way you're going to play the part? Okay, it's your career.'"

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Jayhawks back in state of harmony



The Jayhawks, circa 1995, the year Mark Olson left the group: Karen Grotberg (from left), Gary Louris, Tim O'Reagan, Marc Perlman and Olson.

MUSIC | Louris, Olson find a way to make it work

BY MARY HOULIHAN
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When Gary Louris and Mark Olson reunited for a duo tour in 2005, hope began to grow among Jayhawks fans that a full band reunion might be in their future.

Well, the future is now, and the tour is a mini version, which launched in Toronto on Tuesday and ends in Minneapolis on Jan. 30. In between, the group hits New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, where it will play a two-night stand this week at the Vic Theatre. Part of the reason for the tour is to

celebrate the re-release of the Jayhawks' two masterpieces — "Hollywood Town Hall" and "Tomorrow the Green Grass." In Chicago, Louris says the band will play one album through each night in addition to other tunes from the band's songbook. Also expect the debut of new songs penned by the duo for a new Jayhawks album due out in the spring, which will be followed by a more city-inclusive tour.

The Jayhawks' current lineup features Louris, Olson, keyboardist Karen Grotberg, drummer Tim O'Reagan and bassist Marc Perlman.

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