

comm·unity

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Comm Alum Stars in “Those Who Walk Away”



by Christine Nappi

Acting has always been Scarlett Sperduto’s dream, and now she’s on the big screen. Sperduto, who graduated from Manhattan College in 2021 with a concentration in public relations, has been acting all of her life and recently starred in the film “Those Who Walk Away,” in her biggest role to date.

“Those Who Walk Away” is a dramatic, thrilling horror film that stars Sperduto as the character Avery, alongside her co-star Max, who is played by Booboo Stewart. The two meet on a dating app and go to a haunted house together where they both spiral into their worst nightmare. Directed by Robert Ripberger, the film was released on Feb. 11, 2022 and is available for purchase on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Vudu, YouTube and Google Play.

Sperduto began working on this film in August of 2020, as she entered her senior year at Manhattan. She describes not wanting to pass an opportunity like this up.

“‘Those Who Walk Away’ was definitely my biggest role [and] the most exciting for me,” Sperduto said. “I had the most fun filming [it].”

Sperduto auditioned for this role through her acting agency, A3, formerly known as Abrams Artists Agency. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Sperduto only auditioned once over Zoom with the director, where she needed to memorize a 12-page script and explore chemistry with co-star Stewart. Two months later she was offered the role of Avery and began filming.



Sperduto describes the filming of this movie to be unique from most. As she notes, this is a “one-take film,” which means that it was filmed in one continuous shot with no cuts. Sperduto says the film was shot in eight takes of 20 to 40 minutes, depending on what she and Stewart had to perform that day. She describes how a lot of practice and rehearsal was required for the movie, due to the lack of cutscenes.

“One thing about this movie was, because we were filming in such long takes, everything needed to be very rehearsed and very perfect,” Sperduto said.



Although this seems challenging, Sperduto was confident she could play the part of Avery because of all her prior acting experience. Before “Those Who Walk Away” Sperduto acted in the movie “Strive,” played young Angelina Jolie in “Wanted,” and acted in a few episodes of “Law & Order” when she was younger. Sperduto has also done commercials and voice-over work throughout the years.

Sperduto was born into the acting world. Her older sister signed with A3 at 12 years old, and Sperduto and her mom would accompany her sister on auditions. At two years old, Sperduto signed with A3 and has been with them ever

since. However, Sperduto’s involvement and love for acting progressed as she grew up.

“I just kind of fell into [acting],” Sperduto said. “[But] my passion for it developed as I got older and it became something that I wanted to do strongly.”

However, acting throughout her childhood and into her college years was not easy. Sperduto describes having to miss out on clubs and activities because of the sporadic auditioning schedules. As she describes, agents will usually notify actors a day before they need to audition for a piece if they want the role. Although acting is something Sperduto wanted to be doing, she missed out on sports and school plays as a kid.

“As a kid, it was definitely hard not being able to be in clubs and all that,” Sperduto said. “And then in college, it was hard because I couldn’t really have internships because I wouldn’t be able to commit fully.”

Managing a full acting schedule in college certainly was challenging for Sperduto, but she describes how her professors were very understanding of this commitment. For filming “Those Who Walk Away,” Sperduto had to miss the first three weeks of her senior year, however, the communication department was accommodative of her schedule and helped her pursue her dreams while simultaneously helping her graduate on time.

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“Every single teacher was super understanding and was like ‘Do your thing, we’ll catch you up when you get back’ and that was really great because I feel like at a bigger school, they might have not been as understanding,” Sperduto said. “So big shout out to the Comm Department for that one.”

Since graduating, Sperduto has continued to act and is currently working a full-time job as a recruiter at SBH Fashion. She is thankful to have found a job at SBH, because they are also accommodating of her acting schedule. Sperduto works in the office three days a week, and if she needs to run to an audition, SBH lets her work from home.

“Those Who Walk Away” might be Sperduto’s biggest career accomplishment to this date, but she’s not



stopping there. This past fall, Sperduto acted in another horror film called “Float,” which should be released any time between six months and a year.

Aside from movies, Sperduto hopes to star in a television show one day. As she describes, it can be difficult to bounce between jobs as an actor, but when you’re in a TV show there is always a consistent flow of work.

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“I’m so grateful for the Communication Department,” Sperduto said. “All I learned through my classes in the Comm Department really come into play for both acting and what I’m doing now [at SBH] which is recruiting,” Sperduto said. “And even though I’m not working in the communications field, all of the things I learned in those classes definitely had a positive contribution.” ★

“My ideal dream has always kind of been to just be on a TV show because it’s steady and the thing with acting is you’re always kind of waiting for the next job and you don’t really have that much control or when that comes,” Sperduto said. “So, I’ve always wanted to be on a TV show ... and that’s the goal. I mean, I love [acting] so I’ll do anything, but that’s my aspiration.”

No matter where Sperduto lands, she is confident she’ll succeed because of everything the communication department has taught her. Although comm courses don’t directly relate to acting per se, she’s still learned valuable lessons that apply to any job.

