

Romance, typical teen stuff, side effects of fame part of 'Jonas' show; Shiri Appleby wasting no time movin

by Marilyn Beck & Stacy Jenel Smi

The Jonas Bros. will be seen poking fun at some of the not-so-funny side effects of fame when their "Jonas" Disney Channel series debuts May 2.

"We touch on those subjects â€” friends who only want to be friends because you're famous, not being sure if you can trust someone," reports the pop stars' series costar Chelsea Staub. But with 21 episodes of the show now in the can, it's safe to say "Jonas" is heavier on the teen than on the idol aspects of lives of Kevin, Joe and Nick, who play exaggerated versions of themselves on the show.

"Getting in trouble by parents, stressing out at school â€” anything that teenagers go through, they go through, and then they go play a concert," says Chelsea, who plays the boys' life-long neighbor and pal-cum-stylist. "We definitely have some physical comedy â€” it's a Disney Channel show, so they want us to keep it high energy," she adds.

And romance? "Yeah, actually my character does have a romance. She has grown up with these boys, so I think the fact they're starting to have feelings for each other â€” it's uncomfortable and complicated. Also the whole element of 'What will this do to the band? To the brothers? What will happen if they take it to the next level?'"

Which brother? "You'll have to wait to see," she says.

"Jonas" was shot over some six months and wound in March. Once it's launched, says Chelsea, she's looking forward to "a little break over the summer, getting some traveling in, rekindling friendships. There's so little time when you're spending 12 hours a day, five days a week on set. Our show is all single camera, and the call times were like, 5 or 6 every morning, and by the end of the day we were all usually exhausted," she says.

She may see the brothers in concert in Europe. "It would be fun to hook up with them somewhere along the way. Doing the world tour thing is new even for them," she points out. "They probably wouldn't have any time to hang out; their schedule is unbelievable. It's like a different country every day."

THE VIDEOLAND VIEW: Shiri Appleby didn't join the cast of "ER" until the final season, but she tells us being a part of the series' historic TV legacy will remain one of her career highlights. "I was actually in the pilot when I was 14, so to be in the very first episode and then join the cast in the last season, it felt like being a part of showbiz history," says Appleby, who admits many of the cast and crew were not ready for the show to end. "People weren't wanting to deal with the fact that it was the end, because a lot of the crew had been there like 13 years. But I think everyone was just grateful to be a part of something that meant so much and

had such a long run."

Appleby certainly wasted no time finding other work as she recently wrapped the CW pilot "Light Years." She's also starring alongside Kathy Baker in the Lifetime movie "Unstable" airing Saturday (4/25).

"The character goes on a crazy journey, so I thought it would be a chance to stretch and try things that I wouldn't normally have the opportunity to do," she says of playing a wealthy young woman, who after recovering from a nervous breakdown, falls in love with a man she believes to be Mr. Right. However, she soon starts to question whether he is trying to push her to the brink of insanity in order to get her inheritance. "Obviously it's a movie you should have a good time watching because it's fun and far out there. The character ends up really trusting herself when everyone else isn't sure of her, and she ends up saving her own life. It just goes to show it's important we all follow our own intuition."

ON THE PROWL: Move over, Ashton and Demi! There's a new cougar in town, and her search for a younger man is going to be seen by all of America when TV Land premieres its newest show, "The Cougar," (4/15). Creator Mike Fleiss a.k.a. he who brings us "The Bachelor" says it will be like nothing anyone has seen. "You might have heard about it and read about it, but until you've seen a 40-year-old woman make out with a 21-year-old boy who looks like your son, you haven't experienced the full cougariness," claims Fleiss about the program being hosted by Vivica A. Fox. "The show is just incredibly explosive. I think it's going to be pretty big because the idea of it is something that's resonating with the culture. The timing is perfect," he adds. "Everybody knows what a cougar is now. They might not have three years ago, but they're everywhere these days."

CELEB SCENE: Stars will be out en force for the Hollywood opening of the off-Broadway hit "Back to Bacharach and David," a tribute to the brilliant songs of Burt Bacharach and Hal David. Among those expected at the Sunday night (4/19) event at the Music Box Theatre at Fonda on Hollywood Blvd. are Meg Ryan, Teri Hatcher, Christina Applegate, Matthew Perry, Nia Vardalos, Helen Hunt, Anthony LaPaglia, Lily Tomlin, Jennie Garth, Kirstie Alley, Camryn Manheim, Jack Jones, Marilu Henner, Craig Zadan, Neil Meron, Ricki Lake and the show's director and co-creator (with Steve Gunderson), Kathy Najimy.

With reports by Emily Feimster.

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