

Life of Riley

CSI'S NEWEST CAST MEMBER, **LAUREN LEE SMITH**, OPENS UP ON HER MULTIFACETED ACTING CAREER

★ When *CSI* premiered nearly nine years ago, Lauren Lee Smith was already a teenage success in her Canadian homeland. “I had done it kind of backwards,” Smith says. Indeed, she spent part of her youth in the television mecca of L.A., modeling and taking small parts at a local Shakespearean theater. She then went back to Vancouver at age 18 to begin an acting career in earnest.

Soon, Smith landed indie film roles and increasingly high-profile parts on TV, from her first job on MTV's drama *2gether* to lead roles in CBS' miniseries *Christy* and the syndicated sci-fi show *Mutant X*.

Smith later appeared on the popular Canadian TV procedural *Intelligence* as a Russian stripper spying for the FBI. But it was for her role as Lara Perkins on Showtime's series *The L Word* for which Smith was best known—that is, until this past fall when she debuted as forensic investigator Riley Adams. *Watch!* caught up with the busy young actress on the *CSI* set, and asked what it was like to return to L.A. to become the new face on such an iconic series.

Watch!: *It's ironic that you'd spent so much time in Hollywood as a kid, but yet moved to Canada to break into the business. What were you doing living in the states all that time?*

Lauren Lee Smith: My parents were—I guess you could say “hippies.” Their whole philosophy was that a proper education includes meeting different people and seeing the world. And so from the time I was 3, we lived in Costa Rica and France and all over the United States and Canada. It was an interesting upbringing.

W!: *Let's recap: You've played a mutant, a lesbian chef, a Russian stripper spy and a schoolteacher ...*

LLS: [laughs] I like to mix it up. The whole appeal of what I do is getting to delve into these

different lives and characters. I'm pretty sure that my upbringing has something to do with the fact that I am an actress. I get bored very easily.

W!: *How would you describe your CSI character Riley?*

LLS: Riley loves her job. It's her passion 100 percent, but at the same time, she's also one of those work-hard, play-hard types. She came into the group during a time when they were dealing with Warwick having been shot and Sara leaving. They were understaffed and in need of a new *CSI* right away, so there was not a lot of formality. She had to jump in. No one really knows that much about her, and she doesn't really know that much about anyone. But she likes messing with them, with her sarcastic sense of humor that the other CSIs are maybe a little wary of.

W!: *What parts of her are like you?*

LLS: I like to think I am sarcastic. I definitely have a strong sense of playfulness. I tend to look at things and not take them too seriously. Maybe even at times when I should take them a little bit more seriously.

W!: *Do we think that Riley might be secretly Canadian?*

LLS: [laughs] She's not. She's from St. Louis so I have to drop all my “oots” and “aboos.” Our



Lauren Lee Smith joins the cast of *CSI*.



wonderful script supervisor has to remind me at least once an episode.

W!: *The CSI writers use so much forensic research and have a technical advisor on staff. As an actor, what homework did you do before taking the role?*

LLS: I actually had the “pleasure” of spending a couple of weeks at the L.A. County Morgue prior to *CSI* for a film called *Pathology*. It was still fresh in my memory, so I was able to forgo [doing that again]. But *CSI* flew me to Las Vegas, and I got to do a ride-along with actual CSIs. They took me to the crime lab, and I got to see it all firsthand. That was definitely very eye-opening.

W!: *One of the things your fans on the Internet note most is how different you’ve looked from role to role. Are you ready for people to start recognizing you as Riley?*

LLS: For every project I do, I try to change the way I look as much as possible. I’m surprised that I actually have hair on my head right now, because it’s been every color of the rainbow. One of my favorite things I hear from someone is, “That was you?” But we’ll see. I keep hearing that this little show *CSI* might change all that. — *Jim Colucci*

OUR FAVORITE HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER QUOTES

BARNEY STINSON DELIVERS SOME OF TV'S BEST LINES

on the hit CBS comedy *How I Met Your Mother*, a show that somehow manages to combine finding true love and running like hell from it. With a penchant for suits and naughty quips, the commitment-phobic Barney (Neil Patrick Harris) loves the ladies, but only one night at a time. We rounded up a few of our favorite one-liners by “The Barnacle.”

“You dumped a porn star? Friendship over. **FRIENDSHIP OVER.**”

“There are only two reasons to date a girl you’ve already dated. **Breast. Implants.**”

“Meet me at the bar in 15 minutes—**and suit up!**”

“Tonight, we are going to have one last awesome night together as bros. **It’s a bro-ing away party. A special bro-ccasion. A bro-choice rally. Bro time at the Apollo!**”

“Did you sleep with her sister? Sleep with her mom? I’m losing interest in your story.”

Giving advice on breaking up with a woman: “Six words: ‘You look fat in those jeans’ and you’re free to go.”

“It’s going to be **LEGEND ...** wait for it ... and I hope you’re not lactose intolerant because the second part is ... **DAIRY.**”

