



Spotlight

Amy Bruckner, 14, *'Phil of the Future'*

Years acting: 4

Hometown: Atlanta

Why she's an actor: "Being able to take on different personas has always fascinated me. When I read a role, I like to make up an entire story about what



happened before what's happening to the character in the script."

First acting job: "I danced and sang on 'Ally McBeal.' I don't think I actually had a line."

Most important lesson learned on the "Phil" set: "Learn from those around you. My comic timing is so much better now that I've watched all these talented adult actors work."

Why she likes her character: "Pim has so many layers. She gets to say what everyone else is thinking. There aren't many maniacal geniuses to play when you're 14, so I consider myself lucky."

Most embarrassing moment on the "Phil" set: "We were filming a New Year's Eve promo. We were supposed to count down to midnight, jump up, have confetti rain down, and everyone would shake noisemakers and scream. My skirt was a little too big, and when I jumped up, it fell down. I pulled it up before anyone saw, but when everyone watched the replay, they saw it fall. They're still teasing me about it."

Hobbies: Reading, kickboxing, making collages, hanging out with friends

In 20 years: "I'd like to have my own production company. I know so many talented actors and writers I'd love to employ. No matter what I do, I want to stay within this industry."

HBO

Rome

Max Pirkis, 16 (*Octavian*)

Nickelodeon

Drake & Josh

Miranda Cosgrove, 12 (*Megan Parker*)

Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide

Daniel Curtis Lee, 14 (*Simon Nelson "Cookie" Cook*)Lindsey Shaw, 16 (*Jennifer "Moze" Mosely*)Devon Werkheiser, 14 (*Ned Bigby*)

Zoey 101

Paul Butcher, 11, (*Dustin Brooks*)Sean Flynn, 16, (*Chase Matthews*)Victoria Justice, 12, (*Lola*)Christopher Massey, 15, (*Michael Barret*)Alexa Nickolas, 13, (*Nicole Bristow*)Jamie Lynn Spears, 14, (*Zoey Brooks*)Matthew Underwood, 15, (*Logan Reese*)

Unfabulous

Jordan Calloway, 15,

(*Zach Carter-Schwartz*)Malese Jow, 14, (*Geena Fabiano*)Tadhg Kelly, 17, (*Ben Singer*)Emma Roberts, 14, (*Addie Singer*)

Romeo!

Noel Callahan, 16,

(*Louis Testaverde*)Romeo Miller, 16, (*Lil' Romeo*)Zachary Isaiah Williams, 11, (*Gary Miller*)Brittney Wilson, 14, (*Myra Salinger*)

Showtime

Huff

Anton Yelchin, 16 (*Byrd*)

Weeds

Alexander Gould, 11 (*Shane Botwin*)Allie Grant, 11 (*Isabel Hodes*)Victoria Justice, 12, *'Zoey 101'*

Years acting: 4½

Hometown: Hollywood, Fla.

Why she's an actor: "It's great to get a script of a character and make it come alive."

First acting job: Playing a hobbit at a costume party on WB Network's "Gilmore Girls." "I had one line. I was

dressed in a heavy robe, and it was 103 degrees, but I didn't care. I was so thrilled to be on a set."

Why she likes her character: "Lola is cool, confident, with a strong but likable personality — and she has great fashion sense."

Strangest moment on the "Zoey" set: "I had a flipper (a false tooth) that I wore almost all of the second season. I was eating lunch, put it on my tray, forgot it was there and then threw it away. (When) we were called back to the set, I realized what happened. We frantically searched through the garbage but couldn't find it, so my dentist made an emergency dental visit to the set with a new one he just made."

Next project: A guest-starring role on WB's "Everwood"

Hobbies: Reading, singing karaoke, dancing, watching all kinds of movies, from musicals to indies

On juggling work and school: "Sometimes, it's very difficult. I get homework every night, and when you have an audition the next day, you need to work on that, too. I'm such a perfectionist that I'm always going for those straight A's, and I also want to feel that I gave the audition my all. I try to do my best at both."



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Sara Paxton, 17, *'Darcy's Wild Life'*

Years acting: 11

Hometown: Woodland Hills

When she first realized she wanted to be an actor: "My first memory of loving the limelight was when I was 5 years old. I used

to model for my aunt's children's clothing store, and I loved the applause from the audience."



First acting job: A Coca-Cola commercial at the age of 6½. "I booked it on my first audition."

Most important lesson learned on the "Wild Life" set: "Discipline is the key to success in show business and any business. You must always be prepared and on time."

Why she likes her character: "Darcy is an optimist who makes things work no matter where she is."

Up next: Playing a mermaid in Fox's upcoming feature "Aquamarine." "I've also recorded an album, which is being released by Epic Records early next year."

Funniest moment on the "Aquamarine" set: "When I first appeared on the set in full tail costume, I had to be carried out on a stretcher and dumped into the water like a fish."

Hobbies: Reading, watching old movies, shopping

On juggling work and school: "I had to switch from public to private school because I couldn't get the help and cooperation I needed. But it has always been very important to me to stay in regular school and not be home-schooled."

In 20 years: "I hope to be in the film industry, perhaps as an actress, but also as a producer and/or director. I hope to have a family of my own that is happy and healthy."