



## STARBURST

Kristin Booth comes to the emotional rescue in her latest indie-beat roles. TEXT: BRIONY SMITH

**K**ristin Booth is Canada's blond-haired Tina Fey. Known for her quirky, bright and funny sensibility, she has played a number of characters who bring a joyful lightness to rather dark and dire circumstances. Case in point: *Crackie*, the Newfoundland-based drama by director Sherry White. In the film, which debuted at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Booth plays a cheerful hairdresser who mentors a troubled young woman who's finding her way in the world while trying to cope with her wildly dysfunctional family. The 35-year-old actress plays another mentor of sorts in *Defendor*, which also debuted at TIFF. For this offbeat superhero flick, Booth plays a woman who befriends a man >

(Woody Harrelson) who is intent on ridding the world of crime and evil. "Woody plays a sweet, noble character who creates a superhero alter ego named Defendor," explains Booth. "My character's family kind of adopts him after his vigilante antics get him into trouble."

In her other film out later this year, it's Booth's character who requires a little onscreen TLC from her co-star. In *At Home By Myself...With You*, which debuted at the Vancouver International Film Festival last fall, Booth plays a woman who is too afraid to leave her apartment until she falls for a world traveller (Aaron Abrams) who moves in next door. "It's sort of like *Amélie* crossed with *When Harry Met Sally*," she explains.

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Defendor

While Booth is in demand now, it wasn't always that way for the Kinkora, Ont., native. After graduating from Toronto's Ryerson Theatre School in 1997, she appeared in numerous stage productions, TV series and movies of the week before landing her first feature-film role, opposite Ryan Reynolds, in the 2003 crime caper *Foolproof*. In 2005, she received a Gemini for a guest-starring role on the TV series *ReGenesis*, and in 2009 she took home a Genie for her performance in the Canadian indie smash *Young People Fucking*. While Booth is often dubbed Canada's indie-film darling, she says it's not because she's exceedingly patriotic. "There are so many talented people in Canada. I want to be in their films!" Away from the acting world, Booth volunteers with Shelternet.ca, Canada's first and only national online resource and support network for abused women and their children. "This group really struck a chord with me. All these women trying to help other women—it's amazing!" □

➔ Watch a video of our photo shoot with Kristin Booth at [ellecanada.com/January](http://ellecanada.com/January).



PROFILE

Kim Shaw

## GAME ON!

Kim Shaw knew that Hugh Grant was after her. She sensed it in the cafeteria when their eyes locked. He then ambled over to her and casually asked, "Kim, darling, could we go over our lines?" But just as he clumsily reached into his pocket, Shaw whipped out a clothespin and "pinned" him. The pair were playing *Murder*—a game that involves "killing" others by fastening a clothespin on them—between takes on the set of their film *Did You Hear About the Morgans?* Shaw had won this round, but Grant promised he would get his revenge. Meanwhile, he returned to the set to film a scene with his co-star Sarah Jessica Parker. The two play an estranged couple who witness a murder in New York and are relocated to Ray, Wyo., as part of a witness-protection program. Shaw, who hails from Windsor, Ont., plays the sweet, tell-it-like-it-is nurse, waitress and assistant fire marshal in Ray, population 100. Filming in the teeny town of Roy, N.M., offered the cast and crew plenty of time to bond, which they did over rousing games of *Murder* and *Running Charades*. "SJ [Sarah Jessica] is a fierce competitor and the best charades player, and Hugh is definitely the worst!" jokes Shaw. While she found Roy charming, Shaw says that it wouldn't be her destination of choice if she had to enter a witness-relocation program. "I'd want it to be somewhere warm with a beach and a grocery store," she says, "and with my mother and boyfriend...although he'd probably hate that!" LINE ABRAHAMIAN