

PROFILE

SECOND CHANCES

The incredible lightness of being Erin Karpluk.

The new CBC dramedy *Being Erica* is about a woman revisiting past regrets—something its star Erin Karpluk doesn't know much about. The tenacious 30-year-old actress has always gone after what she wants. When she told her parents that she was leaving her hometown of Jasper, Alta., to attend theatre school, at first they were shocked. Karpluk enrolled in the University of Victoria's theatre program, and four challenging years later she was one of a graduating class of five.

With the help of her parents—who by then had happily but nervously accepted their daughter's determination to be an actress—Karpluk moved to Vancouver, where she quickly landed guest roles on shows like *Dark Angel* and *Jeremiah*. Then she got her first big break: a starring role in the racy TV series *Godiva's*. Karpluk played a Type-A restaurant manager who learned to let her hair down. "Co-starring in a TV show was a master class," says Karpluk. "It's the best education you can get. Acting is such a worthwhile job. It's a form of escapism that lets you get outside yourself, whether it's making people laugh or causing them to say 'Hey, that happened to me.'"

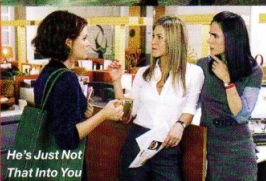
The show was cancelled after only two seasons, and Karpluk returned to doing guest-star turns on *Men in Trees* and recurring roles on *Bionic Woman* and *The L Word*. Then the role came that she'd been working toward her whole life: her very own series. In *Being Erica*, which airs in January, Karpluk plays a sassy underachiever who meets a mysterious therapist who can send her back in time to relive and revise her past mistakes—like her decision to lose her virginity in a canoe.

"There are also plenty of fashion flashbacks," says Karpluk, laughing. "I channel horrific *Beverly Hills, 90210* clothes." With all its meaty life lessons, the role echoes Karpluk's own path: "The show's not wrapped up in a little bow—it's never that simple. Like in life, nothing rewarding is easy!" BRIONY SMITH

Confessions of a Shopaholic



The International



He's Just Not That Into You

TOP 3 MOVIES

- Purist fans of Sophie Kinsella's bestselling novels might be miffed that the setting of the film version of *Confessions of a Shopaholic* has been relocated from London to New York. But really, darling, Harrods and Barneys are both fab places for a gal to max out her credit cards. **Isla Fisher** gets to channel her inner Lucille Ball as the goofily lovable Rebecca Bloomwood. ● Imagine a spy thriller about bringing down corruption at the world's largest bank. There was a time when that might have seemed the stuff of Bond-like fantasy. But with the real-life financial crash wreaking havoc, the plot of *The International* doesn't seem so outlandish anymore. **Clive Owen** and **Naomi Watts** play, respectively, an Interpol agent and Manhattan's assistant DA, both of whom put their lives at risk to expose the conspiracy. ● *He's Just Not That Into You*—based on the self-help book that picks up somewhere between Venus and Mars—delves into relationship backfires on the dating scene in Baltimore. Facing off are Team XX (**Jennifer Aniston**, **Fred Barrymore**, **Jennifer Connelly**, **Ginnifer Goodwin** and **Scarlett Johansson**) and Team XY (**Ben Affleck**, **Kevin Connolly**, **Bradley Cooper** and **Justin Long**). EGLE PROCUTA

movies