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# THE GLENVIEW LANTERN™

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## BEATING THE ODDS

Glenview actress to  
star in new Showtime  
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Glenview actress Karin Anglin  
(center) takes a break during  
filming for her new Showtime  
series last month in Chicago to  
pose with star Abby McEnany  
(left) and director Tim Mason  
(right). "Work in Progress" is set  
to debut Dec. 8 on Showtime.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



## COVER STORY

POSTED TO GlenviewLanternDaily.com 2 DAYS AGO

## Glenview actress hits her stride with new Showtime series

CATHERINE ROLFES  
Freelance Reporter

Early in her acting career, Karin Anglin and her husband decided they would take a risk: leave Los Angeles, a city considered to be the hub for all things entertainment, and move to Glenview to raise their family.

With 26 film and television credits under her belt, the risk seems to be paying off as her latest project, "Work in Progress," premiered in the Indie Episodic Section at this year's Sundance Film Festival. It was subsequently picked up by Showtime for eight episodes, the first of which airs Dec. 8 on the premium network.

Created and written by Chicago improv veterans Abby McEnany and Tim Mason, who also directs, the pilot is based on McEnany's one-woman show of the same name. Filmmaker Lilly Wachowski, best known for creating and directing the three "Matrix" movies and the Netflix series "Sense8," joined the project as co-writer and co-producer.

The dramedy started production in Chicago on

Aug. 13 and stars McEnany as Abby, a self-identified "queer dyke" with insecurity about her weight and building depression. Anglin plays Alison Carpenter, Abby's type-A, uber-organized sister.

Anglin calls the show funny, real and "uniquely human" because of how it deals with themes everyone can relate to — struggles with love, family, identity, to name a few — in a comedic way.

"To me, at its basic level, it's just about being human," Anglin said. "Audiences at Sundance loved how relatable the characters were and craved watching more and knowing more about these people's lives."

Anglin was already an established voice-over actor when she moved to Glenview in 2002, so she was confident her career could thrive outside of L.A. Apart from being able to voice scripts in her home studio, she said she had a winning track record with her existing Chicago clients and casting directors.

"I did move to a smaller market when I moved to Chicago, in terms of opportunity, but here I was



"Work in Progress" cast and crew members (left to right) Theo Germaine, Abby McEnany, Lilly Wachowski, Tim Mason, Karin Anglin and Gerard Neugent pose for a photo during filming in Chicago. PHOTO SUBMITTED

one of the few, select talent that always got in the casting room," Anglin said. "I built a reputation here already. Casting directors could count on me, knew I was at the top of my game to deliver, and that was a good feeling."

Still, as with any working mom, time spent on a career means time not spent on household chores and childcare. Anglin manages to balance and nurture a healthy home

life — one she has built with husband Trevor Clements and children Liam, 16, and Fiona, 14 — thanks to her husband's flexible work schedule and through support of neighbors and friends.

"I give so much credit to my husband and kids for rolling with the punches, as well as my friends and neighbors for helping me in those moments when I had gigs," Anglin said.

The Boston native discovered her passion for acting in her teens and was determined to make a living out of it no matter where she settled. In her mind, there was no other way.

"My goal has always been to be a working actor, to make a great living doing what I love," said Anglin, who has been a member of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists since 1993.

"I don't entertain back-up plans or Plan Bs."

A firm believer in having an open heart and an open mind to the challenges life might throw her way, Anglin turned down her first job offers out of college from a TV station and a PR firm to give acting a real go.

"I said no because I knew I could do that," she explained. "But my true passion is acting and I wanted to see if I could make a living doing that."

The first role she landed as an actor was Nurse Ratched, the diabolical psychiatric ward administrator in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," while studying at Boston College, where she later graduated with a double major in English and communications.

"That was a pretty big coup as a freshman," she said. "I caught the bug and just loved it."

Since then, Anglin has appeared in various film and television roles, most notably on Chicago-based dramas produced in the Dick Wolf franchise, including a recurring role in "Chicago P.D." and on episodes of "Chicago Fire" and "Chicago Justice."

She also starred alongside Jeremy Piven in the comedy series "Cupid" and with Patrick Swayze in the drama "The Beast" before his death in 2009.

One of her favorite moments as an actor happened during the week she filmed with Swayze. She had every scene with him and so after several 16-hour days, he was impressed enough to ask her advice outside the shoot, as he tested out his next monologue on her.

"He was like, 'I've watched you. You know your stuff. Can I ask your opinion on something?'" Anglin said. "After his delivery, he asked if I thought it was authentic enough. That was a funny, unexpected moment that I cherish."

Gigs can be scarce in her notoriously tough profession. So when she got a call last summer from Tim Mason to play Alison on "Work in Progress," a role written with her in mind, she jumped at the opportunity.

The 30-minute pilot was filmed last summer and cost \$30,000 to make. Production started earlier this summer on the remaining episodes and will showcase many Chicago neighborhoods, according to Anglin, including Andersonville and Uptown. Shooting will wrap Friday, Sept. 27.

"It's a project I'm thrilled about," Anglin said. "It has some of the best writing I've ever seen, a really heartfelt story."

The supporting cast includes Chicago-trained actor Celeste Pechous, part-time Chicagoan Theo Germaine, and "Saturday Night Live" alum Julia Sweeney, who lived in Wilmette for a decade. Sweeney will appear as herself in the show.

There will be a screening of the pilot at noon this Saturday, Sept. 21, at Chicago's Landmark Century Centre Cinema, located at 2828 N. Clark St. in the city, followed by a panel discussion with Anglin, McEnany, Mason, Germaine and other guests from the series.

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