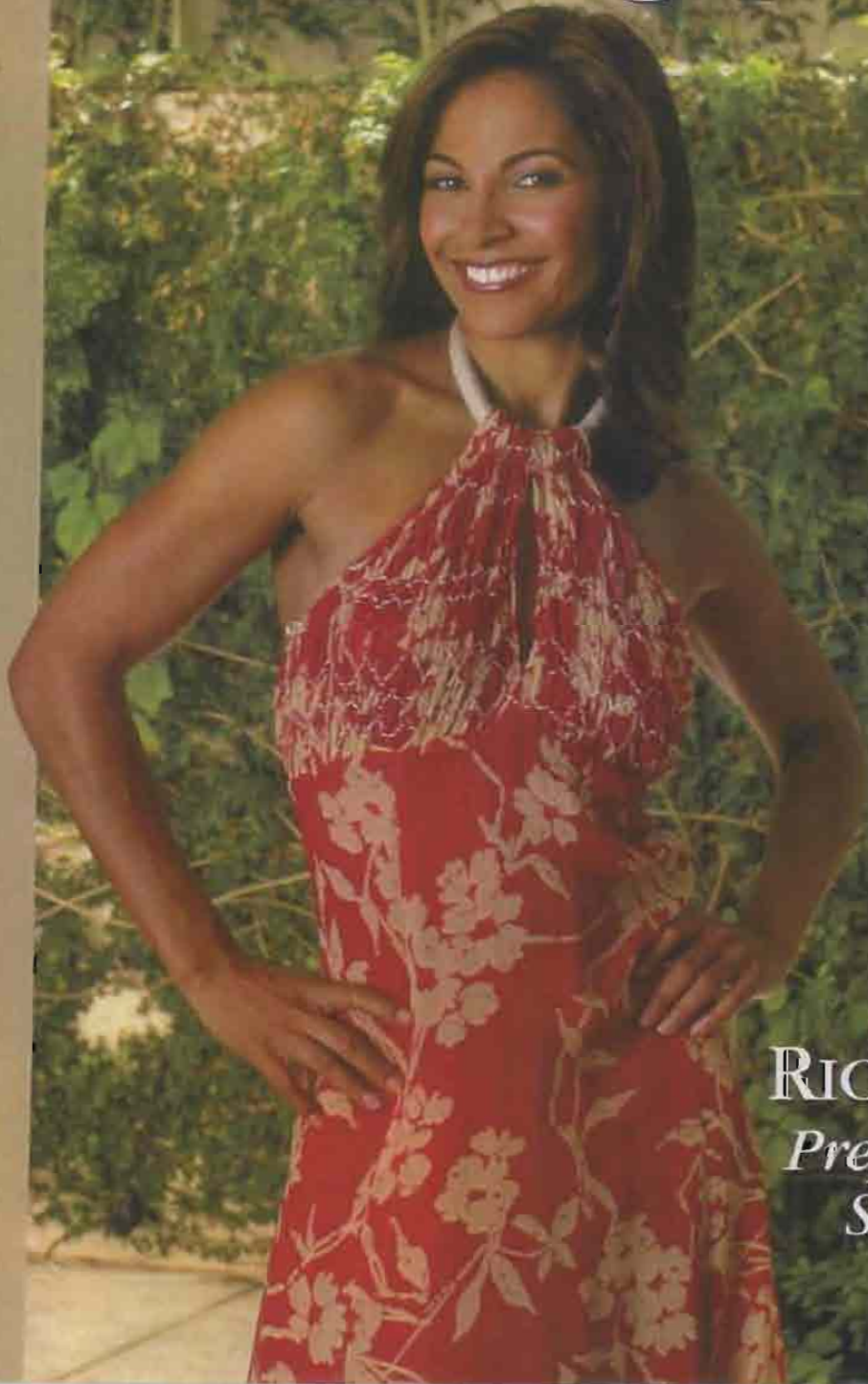


# BEVERLY HILLS

[213]

September 12, 2007  
Volume 25, Number 37

Two Dollars  
Circulation 50,000



SALLI  
RICHARDSON  
*Prepared For  
Stardom*

# Salli Richardson

Salli Richardson is going to be a household name. "She has starred in such feature films as *Antwone Fisher* opposite Denzel Washington, and *Biker Boys* with Laurence Fishburne. Her television credits include *Eureka*, *House*, and *NYPD Blue*, to just name a few.

Richardson grew up in the Chicago neighborhood of Hyde Park. One of the nation's most diverse communities gave Richardson a well-rounded childhood. "My father's white and my mother's black...growing up I never faced any issues with that because there were so many mixed couples and it was common," Richardson says.

Although Richardson excelled at many things as a child, she openly admits that she was not the greatest student. "I always got at least C's...because I had to keep a C average to play sports. I was on the basketball team and the tennis team...somehow, I also got into acting when I was in high school," she remembers. Although Richardson did commercial work and a bit of theater during her teenage years, it was music, not acting, that propelled her into the entertainment industry. Her mother, who was in the music business, worked for Arista Records and ran a recording studio. Richardson grew up around music and musicians. "When I was about 14, I auditioned for a musical and got the lead," Richardson says. Although she had lead roles and did quite-well doing industrial films and commercial work, she still held "regular" jobs. "My grandmother owned a dry cleaners so I would work there. I also worked at a pizza place and a Kinko-esque type of establishment," she says, adding that she finally moved to Los Angeles at the age of 24. "I

saved up enough money to buy a cheap car and have money when I got to L.A. When she arrived, she rented a room out of a house in Santa Monica. About a year after arriving in the city, Richardson landed her first film and has since then worked steadily as an actor without ever having to work a second job to support her first job as an actress.

So what is Richardson's special formula for landing role after role? Richardson's one of those rare individuals that not only have the brains to navigate the entertainment labyrinth, but also the talent to dazzle the masses.

Richardson's secret, she says, is going to class. "I wasn't one of those that didn't take classes because I thought I was cute and could just get jobs...I wanted to be prepared and ready for anything possible," she says. In fact, Richardson's preparation is easily seen if you step foot into her home. She is one of those people that always has the dishes washed and dried. You'll probably never find a used glass sitting out on a counter at any time. The pillows on her couches are always perfectly poofed, and she's rarely, if ever late for an appointment.

However, a certain someone came into her life that helped Richardson realize that sometimes, preparation isn't everything. "With a three-year-old, I've learned to release some of that...I just really don't like clutter," Richardson says. Yet, when it comes to her professional life, clutter is how one might describe Richardson's busy schedule. From television appearances, to magazine interviews, from tapings of T.V. shows, to the filming of her latest film, *I Am Legend* with Will Smith, as well as all the responsibilities that come with being a good mother, Richardson's plate is quite full and she's handling it just fine.

So although Salli Richardson isn't quite a household name yet, her preparation is going to pay off—and soon.

—JENNY Y. WANG

