



# CAT BERKOWITZ

Filmmaker / Writer / Actress

**CFC: What drew you to acting and filmmaking?**

CB: Initially, I was drawn to acting because I enjoyed performing and I was always doing that in some capacity growing up, whether it was through dance, cheerleading, or theatre. And I've always found it fascinating that people can watch the same film over and over and still be emotionally affected by it. However, where I was once only interested in being in front of the camera, as my film knowledge grew so did my awareness and respect of the movie making elements behind the camera. So now I love them all. I've written and directed several short films and cast several projects for other filmmakers. At the moment, I'm primarily an actress, but I'd also love to explore production design more in the future.

**CFC: What do you feel like are the biggest challenges for female filmmakers in the industry?**

CB: Naysayers and state of mind. There is a lot of talk about how 'females have it harder'; media buzzing about how females have less opportunities, articles that harp on about how females get paid less than men, and while some of these issues may be valid and demand standing up for - to a female breaking in to the industry - that junk is poison to the heart. I would encourage females to

guard themselves from that negativity. If you encounter an injustice during your career, address it and move on, but don't get caught up in hearsay. Decide what you want and go for it!

**CFC: Who would you choose to play Cat Berkowitz if you directed a film about your life?**

CB: This has nothing to do with the fact that we have the same initials, nor that people have told me I look like her, but I would cast Cate Blanchett to portray me. She is masterful at creating beautifully layered characters on screen who are strong yet vulnerable, pensive yet goofy. And I like her off screen as well — she seems very down to earth and I think she'd be fun to direct!

**CFC: Who was your celebrity crush when you were a kid?**

CB: Definitely Devon Sawa... Casper — after he came to life and danced with Christina Ricci?! Super hot ghost boy!

**CFC: Do you have a favorite movie? Why is it your favorite?**

CB: American Beauty is my favorite movie hands down. Jaw dropping cinematography, sensational writing, and outstanding performances from a few of my favorites — Annette Bening, Kevin Spacey, Chris Cooper, and Allison Janney?! Need I say more?

**CFC: Is there anyone specific that has inspired you more than another in regard to filmmaking?**

CB: I'm a huge fan of the Coen Brothers and the way that they manage to create strongly character driven work amid chaotic and often ridiculous storylines. I also enjoy Tarantino's stylistic film choices, of course!

**CFC: What's next for you? Any new projects coming up?**

CB: I'm really looking forward to creating my first documentary for the upcoming Made In Carolinas Film Contest so I'm glad to have this in writing to hold me to it! And I have a few acting projects in the works, including a short project filming in Wilmington in early April

"Decide what you want and go for it!"

