

# the Red Cedar Bridge

GALA AND AUCTION

## JOELY COLLINS – BIOGRAPHY

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Joely Collins began her acting career with dramatic studies at the Vancouver Youth Theatre and then at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, England. She started working in the entertainment field right out of school and went on to win a Gemini Award for her work as Rachael Langston on the critically acclaimed television series *Madison* in her early twenties. She recently returned to the theatre where she made her Toronto stage debut as "Karen" in David Mamet's biting satire *Speed The Plow*.



Collins has numerous feature film and television movies to her credit. She is currently on screen in the recurring starring role of "Christine Wren" in the long-running CTV drama series *Cold Squad*. Joely was recently nominated for a Leo Award for her work as Christine. This summer Joely was also busy working on *The Final Cut*, a feature film starring Robin Williams. Other recent lead and co-starring roles include that of a hilarious small-town gossip in *Dinosaur Hunter*, as the centre of a romantic triangle in *Diamond Girl*, shot on location in South Africa, and as a mysterious force in Corey Lee's debut Canadian Independent digital feature film, *Defining Edward*, a dark psychological thriller. Notable television roles include guest appearances as a heroin addict on *Da Vinci's Inquest*, and as the Egyptian Goddess Isis in *Mythquest*.

Collins formed Wunderkind Productions Inc. in 1997 and the company's first production was *Summer Love*, which she produced, directed, wrote, and starred in. The one-hour feature length documentary debuted on Much Music and earned two Leo Award nominations. This ABC-guide to rave culture also screened at the Chicago Underground Film Festival, won the "Audience Choice Pick" at the Oshawa Durham Film Festival and played to a "turn away" audience at Vancouver's Celluloid Social Club. Collins also recently realized her ambition to explore dramatic direction when she shadowed *Cold Squad* producer/director Gary Harvey on the final two episodes of the 2002/2003 season.

Collins is based in Vancouver where she continues to develop Independent film and documentary projects, while also pursuing her vibrant acting career. Her various and diverse passions include music, particularly "House; fashion and design; film and fitness (through Pilates and snowboarding). She is an advocate for gay and human rights and for the ethical treatment of animals. Collins, a devout Buddhist, is a young women's leader for the Soka Gakkai International of Canada.