

A LEAGUE OF HER OWN

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Image by Scott Rhea

Jessica Lauren, who plays Briana Enright in the short film [Nune](#) (pronounced NOON-nay) by Ji Strangeway, is a total rebel, but not in the traditional sense of the word. She uses her strength, determination, and individuality to change the face of the entertainment industry. Jessica is more of a spiritual badass.

The 21-year-old model and actress' life has been anything but boring since day one. Jessica lived in Dallas, Texas, until she was six, then Colorado and West Virginia until she moved to Los Angeles just before her eighteenth birthday.

Arsenic: How has living in these different places influenced your career?

Jessica Lauren: Living in small towns and big cities gave me different perspectives at a young age, and a taste of what the “real world” is like. I wasn't sheltered. I couldn't be more thankful for that. It really helped my journey.

From a young age, I didn't want to conform to society's box. Since eight-years-old I wanted to model, and possibly get into acting, but not for the reason everyone would think. I wanted to change the world and help women. That's why I was put here. That's my journey. I thought that if I could become that famous model or actress, that would be the “in” that helps my voice be heard, and that's why I'm doing what I'm doing.



Image from vimeo.com

A: Now, you're an adult and well on your way to fulfilling your purpose. With your first major project completed, your eyes are more open than ever. What was it like working on Nune?

JL: Nune was the beginning. It's my baby. Getting casted by my amazing director (Strangeway), having one of my good friends as my co-star, our long nights rehearsing and laughing, deep meaningful conversations, the cast and the crew, and

the experience in general was magical.

A: What did you learn from Nune?

JL: I learned so much working on Nune, as a person and an actress. The one thing I took was that love is love. I really had this crazy awakening on set: labels are just labels. Words are just words. Love is more; it's mysterious and magical. I knew it was going to be a "lesbian" film, but I realized that we are all human beings—screw the labels. Love is an energy thing. When you know, you know.



From Instagram user nunethemovie

A: Who are your biggest influences, dead or alive?

JL: Caitlyn Jenner has influenced my being so much over the last couple months. Her story has touched me in every way possible. Nowadays, it's hard to be who you really are. The media makes it hard to be yourself in a world where you are programmed to fit in. We have all tried to be someone or something while neglecting who we really are. At the end of the day, everyone wants to be loved for who they are, not who they're pretending to be. We all want to be free. Caitlyn is free now—how can anyone look down on that or be angry about it? I'll never know. Caitlyn has courage, and I can respect that any day.

A: Clearly, you're an anomaly among the notoriously superficial L.A. men and women; but, your killer sense of style definitely doesn't lessen your appeal. How would you describe your personal style?

JL: I would describe my personal style as one thing: simple. I love cool vintage t-shirts, and I'm a pant whore! I love pants. I gotta have my leather Converse or high-top Vans at all times, and I can't leave the house without my bowler hat or beanie. Those are my go-to's. I like to be casual.

A: Your understated, less-is-more philosophy only allows your natural charm to shine through. How has your style changed since as you've grown up?

JL: Three years ago, I was very girly; I did my hair every day and never left the house without

makeup. Now, I feel so free. I really let go of how I thought I should dress, and I stopped trying to fit into a mold. I don't like to wear makeup ever. It's a weird thing I have now. I can't stand wearing it. I woke up one day and said, "You know what? I'm going to be Jess." It's fun dressing up once in a while, though.

A: You also have 11 tattoos, and although most of them are smaller, none of them lack meaning. What are the stories behind some of them?

JL: The World War II airplane I have on the side of my left hip is very dear to my heart. I got it for my best friend's father who passed away when I was eight years old. He was the only dad I've ever known; he is my guardian angel and one of my first loves. He loved WWII airplanes, and I wanted to do something that represented him and what he loved.

There is also a little girl holding balloons on my right arm. I read a book that inspired me. It said that every day you should do something that nourishes your inner child. Take 30 minutes a day to indulge in something you loved doing as a kid, and you will be happier. I thought that was so brilliant! That tattoo is an everyday reminder to nourish that inner little girl.

A: A spirit like you has got to be equally as headstrong as she is ambitious. What are your words to live by?

JL: *Dream, but don't sleep.* I want to always remain a dreamer, but never forget to be proactive. Anything can be yours if you have the courage to stand up and fight for it. Always keep working towards your life's purpose; don't give up. I have found that just when I'm about to give up and turn the other cheek, a miracle happens. When one door closes another door always opens. Persistence is key.

Nune will premiere at film festivals this upcoming year, according to its [Facebook page](#).