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JULIA BENSON
AMONG THE STARS
 by: Lisa Steinberg

Q. What are some of the recent projects that you've been working on?

A. "Stargate" has kept me fairly busy, but I did manage to shoot an MOW called *Earth's Final Hours* on our summer hiatus. Robert Knepper ("Prison Break") and myself starred in it and it was shot for the Syfy Channel. My husband, Peter and I are also working on producing a feature film that we will star in once "Stargate" wraps!

Q. What can you tell us is new this season on "SGU" and with your character 2nd Lt. Vanessa James?

Q. This season James has settled into her role on the ship and is no longer questioning her abilities. She gets involved some action and some stunts, which I love playing!

Q. Where do you continue to draw from for your portrayal?

A. After a while your character really does live in you and you rely a lot on the initial work you did to develop the character. At the beginning of season two, I re-watched the first season to get me back into the world of "SGU." The great part about being on a series is that you get to grow so much with the character. You are constantly trying to flush your character out and make them a full person.

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Q. Is there anything about the role that really challenges you?

A. It's in my nature to want to step up and lead. Often James, due to her rank, has to wait to be told what to do. I would love to see her put in charge of some missions so that she can grow into a better leader.

Q. Has the chemistry with the cast always come naturally or did it take some time to develop?

A. The cast all got along from the beginning. It really has been a great group to work with. Sometimes we get along too well! LOL- When we all have huge scenes together there is typically too much laughter for a drama! We have a good time!

Q. When you first began shooting did you expect such a huge international following that the show would have?

A. I didn't really think about the outcome of the show in the beginning. When I first got cast I didn't know how many episodes I was going to be in, so I just focused on staying alive! LOL. However, I was familiar with the success of the Stargate franchise. So yes, we were hoping to maintain that fan base and also to expand upon that fan base as our show is obviously quite different from its' predecessors. It's pretty cool to know that people all over the world are watching. I am looking forward to doing some conventions and getting to meet some of those people!

Q. What do you think it is about the show that continues to draw in so many viewers?

A. I think that people love the escape that Sci-fi offers. It's a world where anything can happen and that's exciting for everyone involved!

Q. You recently won the 2010 Leo Award in the Best Supporting Performance by a Female in a Dramatic Series, what does this accomplishment mean to you?

A. It meant a lot to me to be supported by my peers in that way. I was honored that the producers put me forward and that I was acknowledged for my work. I love my community in Vancouver so it was great to experience that night with everyone!

Q. What's your latest guilty pleasure? Are you into any particular book, sport, music group, or activity?

A. My husband just bought me a beautiful guitar. I can't play it yet, but I am determined to learn! It could be a painful road for my house as those beginning chords don't quite sound like music yet but lessons will be starting very soon!

Q. What would you like to say to your fans and supporters?

A. Thank you for watching the show and for all of your support! We have nothing without you guys! Keep watching; this season will keep you on the edge of your seat.