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RESIDENT

She's Back

EXCLUSIVE
Jennie Garth
Returns to
Beverly Hills

PLUS
Gossip Girl's
Matthew Settle
Dishes the Dirt
on the Show's
Second Season

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She's back!

Jennie Garth returns to the small screen on the new *90210* and reprises the role that turned her into a television icon.

By Rachel Bowie

Kelly Taylor has been through a lot. During her time at West Beverly, the fictional high school she attended on the television series *Beverly Hills, 90210*, she saved her mother from a cocaine addiction, slept with her best friend's boyfriend and overdosed on diet pills, all before graduation! But with age comes wisdom and Kelly is all grown up now. In fact, so is Jennie Garth, Kelly's real-life alter ego. This fall, Garth returns to the zip code that made her famous, reprising the role she played for 10 years on the new (and much-buzzed-about)

teen drama *90210*, a spin-off of Aaron Spelling's original series. Although her character is the same, this time, Garth roams the halls of West Beverly with a different purpose, playing a guidance counselor and helping her students through the challenges they will undoubtedly face growing up in L.A.'s wealthiest zip code. As gossip swirls around which cast members will be back from the original series and whether or not *90210*'s second generation will be able to achieve what the first did, Garth makes one thing clear — she can't wait to return to her roots.

Resident: 90210 has to be one of television's favorite zip codes. Did you ever imagine that the day would come where you would get to reprise your role as Kelly Taylor?

Jennie Garth: I never thought that the show would come back from the dead. For me, it was tucked away nice and neat and it had a beginning, a middle and an end. I really didn't foresee this happening. At first, I was in shock and not OK with it, but once I finally warmed up to the idea, I thought, "why not have it come back?" It was such a



great show and so many people loved it so much. If the viewers want to watch it, then why not?

The original series definitely had an impact. It was a show that succeeded when so many other teen dramas of its kind didn't ...

The show meant so much for television history because it paved the way for so many teen dramas, but it didn't always get the credit at the time. In retrospect, people say and think that, but when we were doing the show, it wasn't critically received and there was no mention of it in that respect. I think now maybe the show will have a second chance to make another difference in the history of television.

You play a guidance counselor on the show, a perfect fit for your character's psychology background. Tell me about your role on the show.

So many terrible things happened to Kelly. She has so many dramatic memories from all her story lines that I figured she could put all of her wisdom to good use. As the guidance counselor, I'm right in there with the kids. I'm friends with the new principal at West Beverly and play one of the backbones of the school because I'm an alum there. One of the young girls on the show ends up being my half-sister and I end up getting involved possibly with one of the other faculty members. There is a lot that is going to be happening. For me, I wanted to really pay homage to the first show and keep giving the viewers little bits of things they want to see from the original series.

How has the new show evolved from the first generation? What similarities can we expect to see?

It's about a family — fish out of water, moves to L.A. with two kids — very similar to the Walsh family. They come into this high school where everybody is seemingly more advanced and fancier than they are and they have to sink or swim. The show is also really about the relationship of the kids with their parents. The show jumps right into finding out why these characters are the way that they are, looking at the way they were raised and how that has affected who they are.

When we last left off, Kelly seemed on the path to romance with Dylan,

played by Luke Perry. How does he fit into the picture now — is he mentioned at all?

There is a chance that Brandon [played by Jason Priestley] or Dylan are still in the picture for Kelly. You'll see that in the first episode. I don't want to give it away. It's at the end of the first episode and it will keep the old fans really intrigued and wondering what's going to happen. I myself don't even know how it's going to end up.

Not only are you returning to the show, but a few of your former castmates are as well. Did you discuss this opportunity with any of them before officially signing on?

I spoke with Tori [Spelling]. I think that a few of the other cast members might be a little wary of going back to this. My feeling is that *Beverly Hills, 90210* is the show that made me who I am today. It gave me so

many opportunities in this business so why would I turn my back on it? My career positioning is that I have a family now — I have no aspirations to travel the world and be a movie star. I want to raise my family and work if I can. For me, this just worked out. I have no ego issues with going back to the show or playing the same character — I'm proud of it. I know that Tori shares the same feelings that I do.

Tori Spelling and Shannen Doherty are both returning. What is it like to be back on set with a few familiar faces?

So far I've worked with Ann Gillespie who played my mom [Jackie Taylor] on the original series. It was great to reconnect with her. She left the business and she's now a minister in West Virginia. She came back and did one day of shooting last week and it was wonderful to see her and it felt good. For the most part, *90210* feels like a whole new ►



Dustin Milligan and Anna-Lynne McCord on *90210*

Courtesy: the CW

work experience because it's all new people. I know Shannen's coming on at some point, but I didn't work with her for many, many years so I'm not sure how that's going to go.

“*Beverly Hills, 90210* is the show that made me who I am today.”

After Shannen's early exit from the series the first time around, how is it for you knowing that she'll be returning?

I'm really willing to give her the chance to show that she's a different person now. Hopefully her work ethic is what it should be. We'll see ...

90210 follows your role on *Dancing with the Stars* this past season. All of your recent projects seem to have been a lot of fun for you. What's next on the horizon?

Other than *90210*, I'm currently working on a couple of endorsements and charity organizations. I can't take anything more right now. Between juggling my family and working a couple days a week, that's enough.

You are a mother to three girls with husband Peter Facinelli. Your oldest daughter, Luca Bella, is probably getting close to the age where she might start tuning in to the show. How do you feel about that?

Maybe in a few years, I'm not quite there yet. She's 11 and, I will say this, the show is very provocative. If you remember the original series, it dealt with current issues that were sometimes hard to handle and this show jumps right in there. It shows you what teens across America are dealing with,

whether you really want to know or not. You can turn the volume down and pretend that it's not happening or you can embrace it and use the show to open up channels of discussion with your own kids.

If you could offer advice to the cast of the next generation of the show, what would it be?

I would advise them to take it all with a grain of salt and to realize that in the big picture, in the big scheme of life, this is just a little flick. A little blurb on the radar. It doesn't define who you are. You have to keep your sense of self through it all.

It's been eight years since the original series ended. Looking back, how would you say that your life has changed?

I think my life is just fuller now and I'm very content and happy with where I am. For the most part, I'm just older now. That's it. ■

90210 premieres September 2 on the CW.



Shannen Doherty, Tori Spelling and Jennie Garth in *Beverly Hills, 90210*

Courtesy CBS Home Entertainment

Case Study: 90210

The *90210* theme song is already ringing around in our heads, not to mention renewed passion about who was really to blame in the Brenda-Dylan-Kelly love triangle. With so many story lines to reflect back upon (Donna Martin graduate, anyone?), we have to ask, how does the new series compare? There are quite a few similarities that we couldn't help but notice. —R.B.



THEN

1 Jim Walsh (James Eckhouse) Relocated his family from Minnesota, father to Brandon and Brenda, husband to Cindy.

2 Cindy Walsh (Carol Potter) Relocated with her family from Minnesota, mother of Brandon and Brenda, husband of Jim.

3 Brenda Walsh (Shannen Doherty) Aspiring actress, sister (and best friend) of Brandon, her twin brother.

4 Brandon Walsh (Jason Priestley) Not much of an athlete, star scholar, brother (and best friend) of sister Brenda.

5 Andrea Zuckerman (Gabrielle Carteris) Aspiring journalist, editor-in-chief of the *West Beverly Blaze*.

6 David Silver (Brian Austin Green) The “voice of West Beverly,” he DJs his own radio show.

7 Kelly Taylor (Jennie Garth) West Beverly's blond bombshell, she's rich and spoiled on the surface, until you get to know her.

8 Gil Meyers (Mark Kiely) English teacher at West Beverly, the advisor for the *West Beverly Blaze* and the class of '93.

9 Donna Martin (Tori Spelling) Best friend and roommate of Kelly, an aspiring fashion designer, by series-end, she opens her own clothing boutique.

10 Dylan McKay (Luke Perry) West Beverly's James Dean-wannabe, intelligent and well-read, often competes with Brandon for the ladies.



NOW

1 Harry Wilson (Rob Estes) Relocated his family from Kansas, father to Annie and adopted son Dixon, husband to Debbie.

2 Debbie Wilson (Lori Loughlin) Relocated with her family from Kansas, mother of Annie and adopted son Dixon, husband of Harry.

3 Annie Wilson (Shenae Grimes) Aspiring actress, sister (and best friend) of Dixon, her adopted brother.

4 Dixon Wilson (Tristan Wilds) Star athlete and scholar, brother (and best friend) of sister Annie.

5 Navid Shirazi (Michael Steger) Andrea's male-counterpart, he is an aspiring journalist and heads up West Beverly's daily newscast.

6 Silver (Jessica Stroup) David's female counterpart — she produces and stars in a YouTube-type video series.

7 Naomi Clark (AnnaLynne McCord) West Beverly's hot, spoiled, rich girl.

8 Ryan Matthews (Ryan Eggold) Smart and funny, he's West Beverly's favorite teacher.

9 Donna Martin (Tori Spelling) Alum of West Beverly's class of '93, best friend of Kelly, owns a local clothing boutique.

10 Ethan Ward (Dustin Milligan) A popular jock whose abilities rival those of his classmate Dixon.



Feeling nostalgic for the original series? The first five seasons of *Beverly Hills, 90210* are available on DVD, with the sixth season out in November.