

ICON

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Adria Tennor

Born in Michigan and raised in Columbia, MD (*where she attended high school with Ed Norton*), Adria began her career as an actress, and her first professional job was playing a twelve-year old boy looking at porn in Tompkins Square park in Hal Hartley's **Amateur**, which premiered in the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes. She works regularly in television and film and is most known for her recurring roles on **Mad Men** and **Mad Dogs** as well as in the Academy Award winning film, **The Artist**. Most recently, Adria stars opposite the late, great Danny Aiello in his final feature, **One Moment**, a heartbreaking comedy about a single mother trying to harness her already hectic life while her aging father slips into dementia. The film will release via VOD on July 26th, 2022.

Dissatisfied with the amount of work available to women in entertainment, Adria began writing her own material, performing stand up early in her career, then spinning her material into a rave-reviewed one-woman show, **StripSearch**, about finding love and happiness with the help of a 12-foot pole. Another monologue she wrote and performed, **Pie in the Sky**, was published in the anthology about lust gone wrong – **Worst Laid Plans: When Bad Sex Happens to Good People** alongside works by Whitney Cummings, Mary Lynn Rajskub, Allison Brie and Laraine Newman. Adria made her directorial debut on self-penned childhood drama, **Cracked**, which stars Marguerite Moreau, and garnered awards and laurels around the country. Her second film, **Pie**, starring fellow Mad Men alum Jessica Paré, was a favorite on the festival circuit in 2018, also garnering awards and laurels internationally.

Adria won the CineStory fellowship for her first feature script **Never Been Born**. While attending the retreat, she met accomplished YA novelist and Emily Dickinson First Book Award recipient Kristen Tracy, and the two co-conspired to conceive, collaborate and produce the short-format series **FETISH** which aired digitally in 2020.

Presently, Adria is collaborating with longtime friend Thomas Sadoski on her next solo show in tandem with a subscription-only serialized novella. Sadoski will direct and produce. Her ambition is to create and tell more stories for and about women and to foster opportunities for a diverse point of view in theater, film and television.

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CA Website



From 'The Artist' to 'Mad Men': Get to know actress Adria Tennor

Can you tell us a little bit about your history as an actress?

Yes! I earned my BFA in stage directing and acting at New York University and Playwrights Horizons Theater School before beginning my career as an actress.

My first professional acting job was playing a twelve-year old boy looking at porn with an amnesiac (Martin Donovan) in Tompkins Square park in Hal Hartley's *Amateur*, which premiered in the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes. I think I'm probably most known for my recurring roles on *Mad Men* and *Greek* as well as in the Academy Award winning film, *The Artist*.

Dissatisfied with the amount of work available to women, I began writing my own material, performing stand up early in my career and then spinning my act into a rave-reviewed one-woman show called *Strip Search* about being single in LA and finding pole dancing.

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NewFilmmakers Los Angeles Reveals 8th Annual Best of NFMLA Awards



The winners are below. A full roster, including nominees can be found [here](#).

Best Feature: *The Turn Out*, directed and produced by Pearl Gluck

Best Documentary Feature: *The Condor & The Eagle*, directed by Sophie Guerra and Clement Guerra, produced by Janet MacGillivray

Best Short Film, Comedy: *Pie*, directed by Adria Tennor, produced by Cindi Knapton and Adria Tennor

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Inspirational Women In Hollywood: How Actress Adria Tennor Is Helping To Shake Up The Entertainment Industry

Can you share a story with us about what brought you to this specific career path?

When I was eleven, my mother went back to school full time to get a second degree in Industrial Design. When I say full time, I mean she pulled all nighters 3–4 times a week to complete all her homework. One day I was off from school and she took me to class with her. At a break, her teacher came over and asked me what I wanted to be when I grow up. I told him I wanted to be an actress. My mother shook her head, but her teacher sized me up, then said to my mother, “She’ll probably do it.” That vote of confidence from a teacher my mom respected stuck with me.





Adria Tennor: “Rejection is protection”

Can you tell us the most interesting story that happened to you since you began your career?

A casting director I'd always wanted to meet, Heidi Levitt (*Parasite*, *Natural Born Killers*), developed a really useful smartphone app called Actor Genie which provides a constantly updated list of casting directors and agents in LA & NY. Since this information is ever changing and vital to an actor's career, I downloaded the app. It was extremely helpful, so I wrote a glowing review. The next day, I got an email from Heidi, thanking me for the positive feedback and an invitation to come meet her at her office! A few months later she cast me in an independent movie that I thought would most likely play at obscure film festivals in parts unknown because film was going to be shot in black and white without sound, an experimental homage to old-time black and white Hollywood flicks. On my way to set, Heidi texted me and said, “I'm so excited you're working with John Goodman!” I didn't know John Goodman was also doing what I thought was an obscure indie. As it turns out, that project was called *The Artist* and went on to win five Academy awards and three Golden Globes, etc, etc...!

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Personal connections: Get to know actor/director Adria Tennor

One Moment is the last film appearance from the late Danny Aiello. What was it like working alongside him?

Danny was a prince. He loved acting and performing. He was also incredibly warm, kind and respectful of everyone in the cast and crew.

I was really touched by his reverence for Deirdre, our writer/director. He was obviously a very seasoned actor, but he had no ego about his past success and stature. He came to set every day with humility and a yearning to please Deirdre and tell her story the way she envisioned it and in the very best way he could.

He also loved his fans and was incredibly sweet to the starstruck locals. I really can't gush about him enough. He was a gift and a treasure. I'm really grateful I got to work with him, and I miss him a lot.

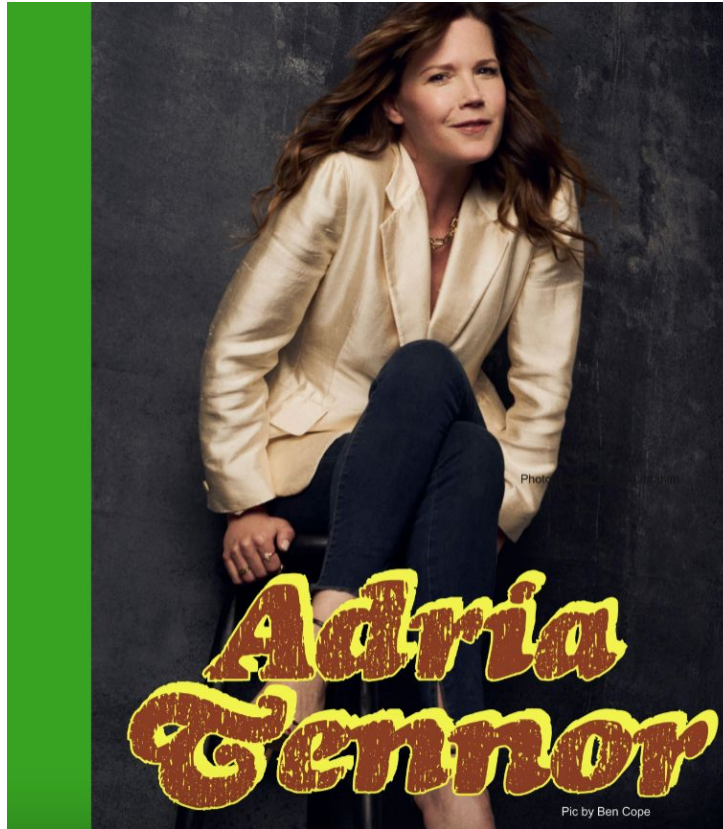
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Adria Tennor: my ambition is to create more stories for and about women



Just look at her smile, and start hearing her speaking to understand that Adria Tennor is a unique personality. She is not only an actress but also a producer and handyman, a true lover of cinema in all its creative or organizational nuances. Best known for her role in “Mad Men” and Oscar-winning film “The Artist”, we are delighted to now see Adria in the Indican Pictures’ newly released *One Moment*. We talked to her about her ambitions and so many interesting memories from behind the scenes!

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Pic by Ben Cope

We're happy to be speaking today with talented actress and accomplished director Adria Tennor, greetings and salutations, Adria! Before we begin asking the proverbial tin can down the dusty road, how was the first half of 2022 for you?

It's been really good! I bought a little townhouse at the end of last year, so I've been decorating and nesting. I also started teaching acting at Sarah Gaboury's studio, Real Actor's Lab and that has been amazing. I love teaching and I love collaborating with Sarah on growing her online acting school.

Congratulations on your upcoming work in the new film *One Moment* which is set to premiere this July 20! For those not in the know, can you talk a little about the story for this special film and how your character of Caroline figures into the proceedings?

One Moment is about a family of middle-aged siblings trying to navigate their father's not-so-slow slip into senility. My character, Caroline is a single mom who has continuously put her own career on hold to raise her family and now that her daughters are finally both about to be out of the house, she might actually have time to focus on her own aspirations. However, her father's decline might further derail that plan. She loves her father (played by Danny Aiello) and she has a great sense of humor about her life and his, but sometimes it gets to be too much for her.

Did you know as soon as you saw the script for *One Moment* that this was a production you wanted to be a part of?

Yes, in fact, I think it was even before I saw the script. The fact that Danny Aiello was attached, that it was being produced and directed by a fellow female filmmaker, Deirdre O'Connor, and that it was a bittersweet comedy all made me very interested in the project.

One Moment sadly marks the final onscreen performance of the legendary Irishman Danny Aiello. What are your memories of working with Danny on this production?

I cannot push enough about dear Danny Aiello. He was one of the loveliest humans I've ever met. He was a terrifically committed actor. He was mostly supportive of Deirdre and her film, and he was an amazingly present and giving scene partner. I miss him a lot.

One Moment won the Audience Favorite Award at the 2021 Cinequest Film Festival. What does that honor, and distinction mean to you?

Cinequest is near and dear to my heart because my film, *Pie*, had its World Premiere there, so I love the festival. It's very prestigious and hard to get in, and an honor to win the audience award. Shout out to my beloved pal, Michael Rabahl, director of programming for Cinequest, who watched the film at my request and included it in the festival even though it was not a world premiere at that point.

One Moment was directed by the super-talented Deirdre O'Connor. What was your collaboration process like with Deirdre?

Deirdre was extremely warm and gracious and showered me with praise. She just seemed to love everything I did, which really put me at ease. It was an honor to tell her story. She has a terrific sense of humor, which I appreciate in any human. I loved collaborating with her on this bittersweet and poignant story.

What do you hope audiences walk away feeling after watching *One Moment*?

lonely, lumbing, even devastating. I hope that *One Moment* will make caregivers and their families feel a little less hopeless and isolated, that audiences will be able to connect on this topic and try to bring their focus to the bright patches of this difficult experience - hopefully bonding with loved ones and recalling sweet memories along this really difficult road.

Your first credited onscreen work came in the 1994 feature film *Amateur* by Hal Hartley. Any special memories of that freshman production?

Yeah I'm really proud of that first credit. I really think the reason I got that job was because I felt so plucky and confident and badass as a boy - way more than I felt as a young woman. When I walked into the audition I was already in that character. I threw my script on the floor and asked if anyone was on book because I didn't want to have to use my sides. Then I looked at the man who was going to read with me. Usually, the reader in an audition is another actor who's doing the casting office a favor to get in their good graces and to learn from other actors auditioning. Little did I know that it was actually Martin Donovan who was already cast as the leading man in the film. In a commanding tone I instructed him not to start until I nodded at him that I was ready. The casting director said facetiously, "is the lighting ok for you, Adria?" I did the scene. Martin was also off-book and terrific. We really rocked the scene. Hal gave me an adjustment and we did the scene again, and again it felt great. I didn't get the vibe that Hal liked me, but I felt good about my audition because I knew "the reader" thought I was great. I guess Hal actually did like my audition, though.

You have the distinction of being in a wonderful film - *The Artist* - which won the coveted Academy Award for Best Picture. Do you still look back on *The Artist* as being quite a special film (we're big fans of the movie here)?

Yes, it's a gorgeous, loving work of art and a beautiful homage to Hollywood. Michel Hazanavicius has a creative and genius mind for movies.

How did you land upon the path of being an actress, Adria? Is there a *Secret Origin* story you could share with us?

My Grandmother babysat for me and my sister when I was young. She loved to sing and dance, but wasn't very good at either. On Saturday nights, we would watch the Lawrence Welk Show. Then my Grandmother would help us get dressed up in chiffon nightgowns and blonde wigs and we'd reenact the routines. This ritual solidified my yen to perform for sure.

You're also a celebrated writer and director. What captures your imagination about those two major talents and can fans expect to see more directing credits for you in the near future?

I like to write about painful-but-life events and spin them into (hopefully) insightful comedy. I will definitely be writing and directing more and more. I can't stop. Won't stop....

Final - SILLY! - Question: Favorite movie about the making of movies - *Being in Ohio*, *The Player*, *Ed Wood* or *The Big Picture*?

I definitely have to say that my favorite movie about making movies is *The Artist*!

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Interview with Actress and Director Adria Tennor

Hi Adria, please tell us a little about you?

Hi! I was born and raised in Michigan, then moved to Maryland for junior high and high school. I attended college in New York where I studied acting & directing. Now, I live in sunny Los Angeles where I'm an actress, a writer, and a pretty good cook. I also love teaching acting and coaching actors virtually at Real Actors Lab.

Describe yourself in 3 words?

HOprahful. Determined. Leo!

How did you get started into acting?

I went to New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. At the end of the four-year program, we did a showcase for agents. I got a commercial agent who helped me land my first commercial. He then introduced me to the film & tv agents at the agency, and I got my first role in a movie playing a twelve-year old boy looking at porn with an amnesiac (Martin Donovan) in Tompkins Square Park in Hal Hartley's Amateur which premiered in the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes. It was a weird way to begin my career, but I'm forever proud of that experience.

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HOLR CHATS: “MAD MEN” AND “THE ARTIST” ACTRESS ADRIA TENNOR STARS IN “ONE MOMENT” OPPOSITE DANNY AIELLO

This is an exciting time in your career! Talk to us about your journey in the film industry.

I've been doing this for a long time! Auditioning, auditioning, auditioning! In my first film, I actually played a twelve-year-old boy as a twenty-something-year-old woman! That went to the Cannes Film Festival, which felt pretty awesome.

I've just gotten to do some pretty amazing stuff, from summer blockbusters like “Bad Moms” to The academy-Award winning film, “The Artist.” I just had no idea that that movie was going to be such a big hit.

You never know what's going to happen! Now, I'm playing my first big lead in a film opposite a very famous person- Danny Aiello, who is a very celebrated actor. It was so exciting to have this opportunity and play opposite him. Everyone else in the movie was so amazing.

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Adria Tennor | Los Angeles | On My Own Terms!!

What books are you currently reading? And your recommendation for entrepreneurs to read?

I'm currently reading Brianna Wiest's *The Mountain is You* which identifies and reframes self-sabotage, not only to shut it down but to retool it into a compass for growth and expansion. I'm also reading Cheryl Strayed's *Tiny Beautiful Things*. A dear friend gave me this book for my birthday and it's been instrumental in putting life and strife into proper perspective which is especially useful for 2020! I'm also rereading *The Artist's Way*, an essential tool for entrepreneurs who must constantly reinvent and create new paths for their business.

Did you ever deal with contention from your family and friends concerning your entrepreneurial pursuits?

How did you handle it? What would you do differently in hindsight?

My family has periodically tried to talk me out of my career choice. Looking back on these debates, they came precisely at moments when my career was ebbing and I felt insecure, worried and vulnerable. It could also be that this is just when I heard their fears about my choices the loudest. I still managed to stick up for myself and defend my path and prevail. There's not much about my handling of this I would change. I will say this: undermining someone's belief in themselves is a form of abuse.

Don't do it. If it happens to you, say a prayer and walk away, or contact me. I'll give you a pep talk.

What would you say was the single most influential factor in your business success?

My will to create and author my own material and thus my own success on my own terms.

WHAT'S YOUR FETISH?

*Interview With Fetish Star/Creator Adria
Tennor*



You created the show with Kristen Tracy. How did you two meet, and what made you want to work together?

Adria Tennor: I had a screenplay that has won a few screenplay competitions, including CineStory. And they do this screenplay camp in Idyllwild, and Kristen also was a finalist in that competition. So that's where we met. Kristen is a super accomplished young adult novelist, super funny. And I just loved her sensibility, I loved her sense of humor. And I wanted to write something with someone, and I pitched her this idea that I had about this woman who deals porn out of her living room. And so we started to collaborate on it. And we shifted from porn because porn isn't dealt anymore, you stream porn, so it wouldn't work. But Kristen had heard about this woman who'd been abducted by a guy who just wanted her to read to him and then he let her go free.

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Web Series Wednesday – Fetish

WHY SHOULD I WATCH?

Just when newly single suburban mom Paula Wheeler (Adria Tennor) thinks her life can't get any worse the seemingly impossible happens. Already struggling with her confidence after her husband leaves her for another woman, she's utterly embarrassed when her card gets declined during a shopping spree. She still works for her husband, a store owner yelled at her in front of all her friends and she's very clearly mid-emotional crisis. This has to be her rock bottom, doesn't it? There is no way things can get worse. Well, they do. Sort of. In the midst of giving herself a much-needed pep talk, she's abducted by a dog masked literature fan.



For a kidnapper Paula's abductor has strange but fairly tame requests considering he has her read aloud dressed in furs Betty Rubble would envy. Instead of letting this completely destroy her, Paula uses it as inspiration to change her life and decides to fully tap into the world of fetishes. She uses her traumatic event as a catalyst to regain control and uses the experience for her benefit.

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TELEVISION

Adria Tennor Releases Dark Comedy Series 'Fetish' on IGTV

AC: What do you think is your character's ultimate goal?

ADRIA TENNOR – Paula just wants to hit the reset button on her life and be transported back in time to when she was married, employed and sane. She's not looking for a change. It just happens on its own without her consent and in a big way. This complete sideswipe has her reeling and contributes to her off-kilter decision to give fetish fulfillment a try. Ultimately, she just wants to provide for herself and her beloved tween daughter Maude, and to pay for her neon orange capri tight casualty at her frenemy's shopping party, but in the process, she uncovers a way to make money that she also finds scintillating.

AC: Can you recall any funny moments from on-set filming?

ADRIA TENNOR – Filming this was a blast, and it's a comedy so most of the time we were having a ball. I have to say, I was blown away by Drew Rausch's portrayal of Ted, Paula's ex-husband. He only has two scenes in the whole show (we will definitely see him more in subsequent seasons) and one of them is off-screen when we hear him in the bathroom dealing with a colon cleanse kit gone wrong but he took every line and every beat and added his own spin on it. There's a moment at the end of his scene in episode 5, he's doing yoga poses after he's fired Paula from her job at his insurance office and Drew added a sound effect – I'll just leave it at that! And we all just died laughing. He's a terrific improviser which can only come when you've really fleshed out your character and prepared.



D

Adria Tennor Opens Up About Creating New Series 'Fetish': 'You Have To Greenlight Yourself'



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Fetish Adria Tennor Interview



Question: What originally inspired the idea of Fetish?

Adria Tennor: I tend to get cast as seemingly normal suburban women who are actually doing something crazy, like dealing porn out of their living rooms or baking their cheating husband's body parts into a cherry pie. So, I wanted to build a show for this character to star in and really develop her, get to know her, watch her peak and arc, flesh her out. I met Kristen Tracy, an accomplished YA novelist and poet, at a screenplay fellowship. Kristen has an excellent sense of humor. I pitched her the idea of writing a short format series about this woman, and she came up with the idea that she could be a fetish fulfiller. We decided the world needed a good show about a down-and-out suburban mom pulling herself up by her boot straps and fulfilling fetishes in order to provide for herself and her tween daughter.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Our Exclusive Chat with Adria Tennor

How did you come up with the idea for your comedy series *Fetish*?

I did a pilot in 2007 written by Michelle and Robert King (*The Good Wife*, *The Good Fight*) in which I played a suburban mom who was dealing porn out of her living room to save for her kids' college fund. Sadly, the pilot didn't get picked up, but I held a place in my heart for that character. In 2016, I won a screenwriting fellowship to CineStory where I met accomplished YA novelist and poet, Kristen Tracy. I pitched her my idea about the porn-dealing mom, and when CineStory was over, we Mapquest-ed a coffee shop halfway between my home and hers that turned out to be on a Christian church campus in Sun Valley. We met there weekly and beat out the first season. We realized that the original idea of a woman dealing porn out of her living room would no longer make sense because these days people stream their porn online digitally, but Kristen, who comes from a very collegiate and literary background, had heard about a woman who had been abducted by a man who simply wanted her to read to him, and then he let her go free, unscathed. So, we used that premise with the suburban mom character and created *Fetish*.

How did you pick the music included in *Fetish*?

We made *Fetish* on a shoestring budget. I didn't want the fact that I didn't have money to prevent me from continuing to make stuff. I think women (as well as all marginalized genders) have to just keep using the power of their voices to create material so we can balance the scales of gender discrepancy in media and show up for our daughters and girls so they can see themselves onscreen and know that they are just as important as men.

An Interview with Adria Tennor

Did you always want to pursue a career in acting?

Since I was six, I really wanted to do this. My Grandma took me to see *Annie* at The Fisher Theatre in Detroit, which is where I grew up. I wanted my Mum to take me downtown and I wanted to go audition and leave home and be an actress. She thought I'd grow up a bit, but I didn't. I think my Mum is a bit sorry that she didn't give me more of a head start, but she was probably good not to do that.

Where did you train?

I took acting in high school. I moved to Maryland and the high school there had a directing program, in addition to the acting and drama classes. Then I moved to another part of Maryland and they didn't have a directing class, so I created one. They had an internship program. There was a woman in the town where I lived who had a dinner theatre, so I interned with her and directed a couple of plays at high school.

I applied to the drama program at NYU. I had to do a monologue, but in the first third they stopped me and said 'why don't you talk to me about your directing?' So, I told them that I really liked Ibsen as we had just read *Hedda Gabler* in English class. They really lit up when I said that. I really think that's why I got to go to NYU, which is such an amazing program. In order to be in the directing track you had to take all the classes that actors had to take in addition to the directing. That's really what I wanted to do.





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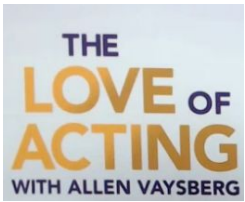
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