

Speak with **Mary Bonney '05** for even ten minutes and you will glean she does not have an ounce of fear. With her bubbly nature, enthusiastic drive and non-stop energy, Mary exudes solid confidence. And, gauging from her busy schedule and varied accomplishments in Los Angeles, her personality and philosophy on life are serving her well.

After receiving a BA from The College of William & Mary in 2010, Mary moved to LA in 2011 to pursue a career in doing what she loves most – entertaining others. From the get-go she dove right into the business. She has performed on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, acted in national television spots, become a production coordinator for various independent television shows and movies, is a tour guide at Universal Studios, writes music reviews for the LA Music Blog, and performs improv and stand-up comedy throughout LA.

When asked if it's hard to juggle her commitments, she says no and believes her days at Stone Ridge prepped her for this busy life. "I remember my Stone Ridge days as being packed filled with different activities. From theater to social outreach on Wednesdays, there was always something going on." And, she felt supported in whatever activity she wished to partake in. "If there were a group or activity that wasn't already at the school, Stone Ridge encouraged us to start them up ourselves."

Last year, Mary booked two national commercials – one with GNC and one with Toys R Us. She said that she could have lived off of the earnings from those commercials for a year, but instead decided to invest in herself and her career by creating her own musical short called *Break: The Musical*. Mary wrote, produced and starred in the musical, which is currently in post production and will be released on-line in June. What she learned from the project is that she might prefer working behind the camera and directing but she hasn't exactly



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Head shot photo by Joanna DeGeneres; photo of *Break: The Musical* by Candace Lauren Ostler

decided yet. "I'm at the state in my life where I can really figure out what I want and then narrow my focus."

Mary has boosted her stand-up and improv skills by training at both iO West and ComedySportz, well known improv theaters in LA. The stand-up and improv business is mostly men, but that doesn't deter Mary. "When I was at Stone Ridge I never once thought that women weren't as capable as men, it never crossed my mind. When I work in stand-up and improv with mostly men, it doesn't hinder me at all because I have confidence and assuredness in myself and my talents."

She loves her life today and owes much of it to Stone Ridge. "I look back so fondly at my days at Stone Ridge and I feel very lucky to have had such a good schooling. Stone Ridge produces strong, confident, educated women. The day I was accepted into the school was the best day for my family. At Stone Ridge, I was taught that I could do anything."

Break: The Musical can be viewed online this summer at breakthemusical.com. For Mary's contributions to the LA Music Blog visit lamusicblog.com/tag/Mary-Bonney/

