

My mother and father got me involved with the inner workings of the stage at a young age, and over the last fifteen years, ever since I was a student in junior high, I have been advancing steadily towards my goal of stardom. My first role was very humble indeed, being a member of the ensemble of a musical production. Of course, I was very upset about it, because I thought I killed the audition and was sure to get the lead; the director called me and said “Sally, you’re great, lovely, talented, and the best actress I have ever seen in all my days of directing junior high drama” – and no, I’m not embellishing even a little bit, I swear – “but I think you would be best suited to more of a behind-the-scenes role.” In my indignation, I wailed at him, wondering what that bitch Linda Marshall had on me. He reiterated how wonderful an actress I am, which in the long run was good enough for me, and it only pushed me harder to succeed. Now, I look back on it as a character-building experience.

I had a few more of those character-building roles throughout the rest of junior high and into high school, but success was just around the corner. You see, my father, the acclaimed thespian who was a bona fide Hollywood actor, and don’t you forget it, taught theater at the community college in my town. He was also the faculty coordinator and director for the collegiate drama club. With my exceptional acting talent, I could have gone anywhere – Columbia, Yale, Harvard – but again, I showed my humility and went to community college and worked with my father as part of a dynamic duo.

We Houghtons always stick together, and it’s gotten us far in life. I knew that in staying and working with my father, a Tony-worthy actor with decades of theatrical experience, by the way, he would help me go further than any of those big-name schools could. In the fall semester of my freshman year, I tried out for the winter one-act play, and since my audition was so

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tremendously good, my father gave me the lead. In fact, my skills had developed so amazingly that I got the lead in every play I tried out for during my first three years at college, whether the part was male or female. It was thrilling to act in front of what I assume were packed houses: the audience was dark and I couldn't see out beyond the stage, but I'm sure there were many people coming to see me work my magic. I heard some audience members whispering and coughing, so obviously they were crowds.