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J. Steven Manolis
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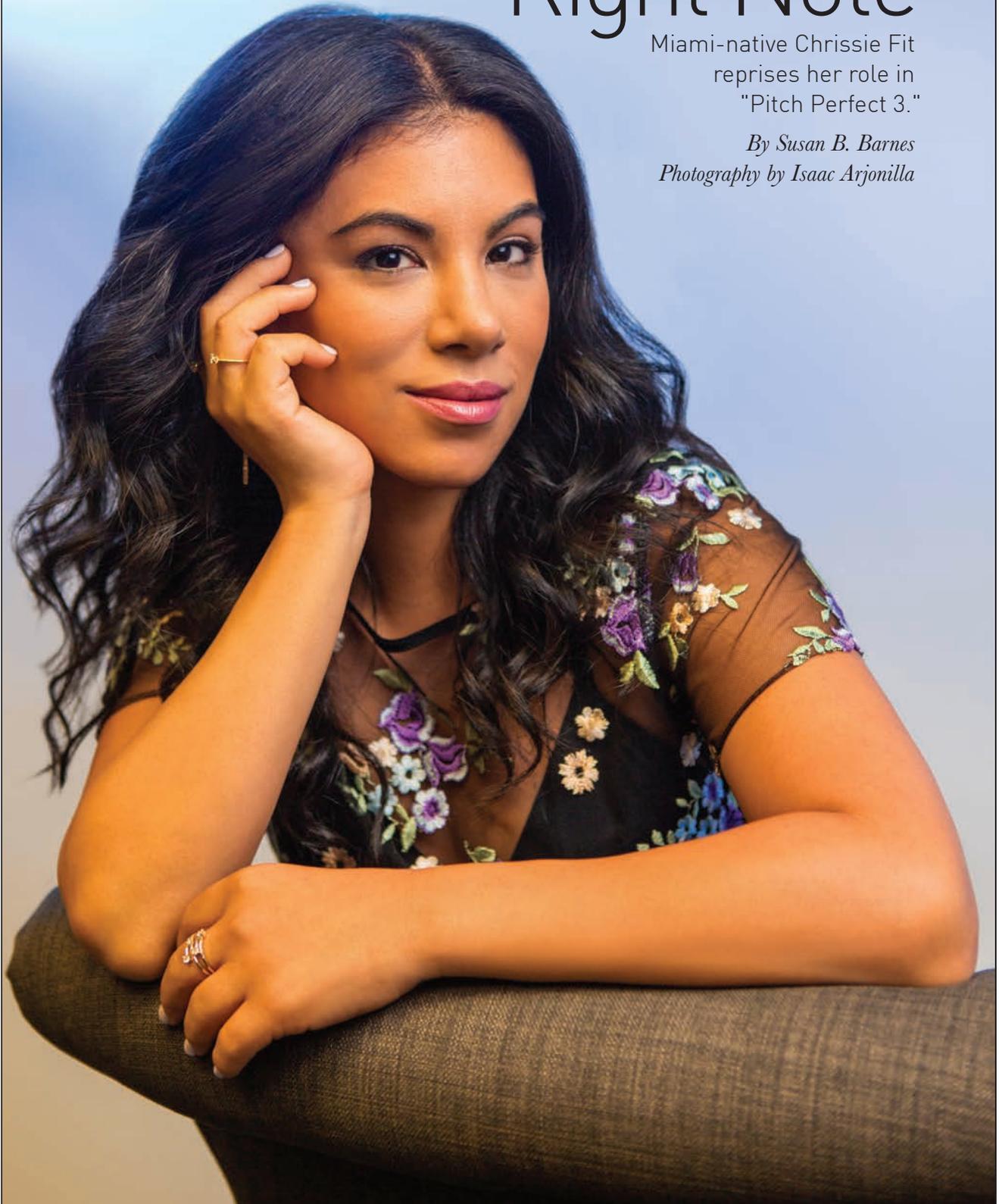
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Hitting the Right Note

Miami-native Chrissie Fit reprises her role in "Pitch Perfect 3."

By Susan B. Barnes

Photography by Isaac Arjonilla



CHRISSIE FIT, who reprises her role on-screen as Florencia “Flo” Fuentes in “Pitch Perfect 3” when it hits theaters Dec. 22, has described her character as brave and hard-working, characteristics that certainly apply to the Miami native.

As a little girl growing up in Hialeah, Chrissie watched her mom and aunts sing harmonies at family gatherings and parties with her grandfather, a guitarist who played in different bands and clubs in Cuba before emigrating to the United States. “I would see them and want to be a part of the group, too—pre-Destiny’s Child,” Chrissie says with a laugh.

In the fifth grade, she yearned to try out for a play, “La Gitana” (the Gypsy) but when asked to be included, she was denied. Rather than taking “no” for an answer, she went home and read the script.

“I realized there wasn’t a bad girl (in the script). Watching all those *telenovelas* (soap operas) with my mom, I knew there had to be a bad girl,” Chrissie recalls. “I went to Mrs. Sanchez (the teacher), and said, ‘There isn’t a bad girl; can I be the bad girl?’

“She put me in the show! I basically created and wrote this character, and that was my first taste of acting,” she adds. “I thought, ‘Oh my God! This is great.’ And I was hooked.”

Chrissie, who describes Miami as a city with “a culture that is so rich with people from all over the world,” says that her family was very supportive from the beginning, and that she had a very good environment in which to grow and learn.

“I think that being in Miami where the population is mostly Latino, I got to play so many roles I may not have been able to in other places—Juliet in ‘Romeo and Juliet,’ Serena in ‘Fame.’ Maybe I wouldn’t have been able to (play these roles) if I was someplace else. I thought that’s how it was—whoever was best for the job got it.

“I’m grateful that I got to learn and explore this craft in a place that didn’t look at your exterior, but gave you an opportunity [to] play any role, regardless of the way you look,” she adds.

Now based in Los Angeles, Calif., Chrissie comes home to Miami as often as she can.



Her entire family lives in Miami. “I have two nephews there—they’re at that age where everything they do is hilarious. I need to go to Miami to get my Cuban food fix every so often,” she explains.

Though she has yet to show her “Pitch Perfect 3” cast mates around her hometown, she relishes the thought of her friends experiencing the city “the way that I do it.”

“We would of course, do all the fun South Beach stuff, but I would like to take them beyond the beach. Hang out in Hialeah with my family, bar hop at The Grove, get some *pastelitos* (Cuban pastries) at Vicky’s Bakery, play some dominos at Maximo Gomez Park in Little Havana. Oh man, I would love to see Rebel Wilson in Little Havana,” she says.

So what’s next for Chrissie Fit? She says she’s taking a break to develop some of the projects she’s been writing and wants to produce.

“The best way to influence this industry is to get behind the scenes and create more stories that resonate with women, and Latinas specifically.”

MAKING IT BIG

Along with the Pitch Perfect franchise, Chrissie is also known for her role as CheeChee in Disney Channel’s Original Movie franchise “Teen Beach Movie” and has appeared in such television series as “General Hospital,” “Southland,” “House M.D.,” “The Middleman” and MTV’s “Mary + Jane.” Make-up provided by Chechel Joson.