

Hollywood Fairy Tale

At a professional high point—playing Snow White on ABC’s *Once Upon a Time*—Ginnifer Goodwin lives happily ever after in L.A. BY JESSICA RADLOFF

Ever since she moved to Hollywood from Memphis, Tenn., Ginnifer Goodwin has lived a storybook existence. She’s charmed audiences for over a decade with her multilayered performances in such films and TV series as *Mona Lisa Smile*, *Walk the Line*, *He’s Just Not That Into You* and *Big Love*. On the ABC Sunday-night sensation *Once Upon a Time*, the 34-year-old plays Mary Margaret Blanchard, aka Snow White. The Whitley Heights resident may be naturally sweet with impeccable manners, but she also possesses a drive that has maintained her presence on the big and small screens. Goodwin tells us about her biggest fear, her obsession with Disneyland and her charming L.A. life.

You were born Jennifer Michelle Goodwin, but you go by Ginny. When I was in college in Boston, I was perplexed by my being called Jennifer, in that phonetically pronounced way. I was raised in the South where it was pronounced Ginnifer or Ginny, and so, when my professors would call my name, I honest to God thought they were talking to someone else and wouldn’t respond. My mom always

said, “It’s Ginny, not Jenny. You’re a Southern lady.” In sort of a rebellion, but also with my Mom’s approval, I changed the spelling of my name.

You’ve come so far in your acting career. What still scares you? Right now, I’m definitely nervous about aging in Hollywood. In general, as the new crop rolls in, as the parts that I look at [are] of more mature women, I’m faced with the fact that going through life without children is not an option for me. That is something I need to start thinking about. It’s also because I’m playing a character that is younger than I am, and ironically the effect on me is that it makes me aware of how old I am. I think a lot more about age, about my place in Hollywood and what I want to achieve.

You cut off your hair recently. That might scare some people! It actually didn’t scare me because I’m lazy. [Laughs.] I just can’t seem to find the time to do my hair. My hair is unruly, and it took teams of people [to do it] when it was long. Chopping it off was truly in the name of time management. I’d been wearing wigs in movies for years.

Viewers love *Once Upon a Time*. Did you know it would be a hit? I knew it was going to be special because I fell head over heels in love with the script. When I first read it, I was bouncing off the walls. I knew if I wasn’t a part of it, I would be incredibly jealous of whoever was. As my agent put it, it’s my *Harry Potter*. It’s something that I am consciously making for my future children. There’s something really magical about a show that is as creative as this one is and isn’t relying on the crutches of cable that include overt sexuality. It’s such a pure and beautiful love story ... [and] I’ve always had a girl crush on Snow White.

Do you get a lifetime pass to Disneyland and Disney World now? I tried to negotiate that into my contract, but apparently it is not a negotiable point. But I recently became a member of Club 33, and therefore do actually get a lifetime supply of tickets to Disneyland, because it is my preferred weekend getaway. I’ve gone six times in the past four months.

You’re close with your co-stars on *Once Upon A Time*. What would they tell us about you?

[Some say I’m a] bit clumsy, while others say that I am a crazy cat lady. Also, apparently whenever I hit anyone during a fight sequence, I yell, “Hi-ya,” kung fu-movie-style. [Laughs.]

Let’s talk L.A. Where do you like to shop? Nickey/Kehoe is great, [and] I love ... the Pasadena Rose Bowl flea market.

What are your favorite restaurants for a special date night? Le Petit Restaurant is No. 1, followed by Bouchon and Figaro Bistrot. I’m told that I always go French. I guess I do!

Where do you go to indulge in your favorite foods? 101 Coffee Shop for macaroni and cheese, Bottega Louie for French macarons and Wurstküche for hot dogs!

When you have a day off, where do you like to spend it? I love scouring the vinyl at Amoeba [Music], taking ballet lessons from Andie Hecker of Ballet Bodies, playing with friends at the Magic Castle and taking in films at El Capitan Theatre or the Silent Movie Theatre.