

**durance**

**#01**

2010 april  
durancemagazine.org

**#EDFOR22 TREND IT!**

**Louis Febre**

exclusive interview with the heart behind Smallville's song

**SEASON 10 IS A GO**

A NUMBER HAS NEVER BEEN SO ANTICIPATED...  
AND NEVER SO CELEBRATED

# 10

S M A L L V I L L E

SEASON 10! THANK YOU CW!



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# durance

#01

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# Editor's Note

Welcome, dear readers.

I have spent many years running blogs, websites and communities, and I must confess, I love everything that leads me to new challenges. This magazine, is a new and beautiful adventure and I invite you to take part of it with me.

As a long time Erica Durance/Smallville fan, I find myself spending a lot of my time digging through fan sites, news sites, and communities, and honestly, there is a lot of great stuff out there. At

first, my intention was to develop a fan site to promote Erica Durance (who I admire so much and believe to be the best Lois Lane of my generation), but it just led me to a new perspective on what I should really do. The Smallville fandom is awesome, and has many 'sources' to find exclusive scoop here and there. I didn't want to start another new community or blog, instead, I wanted to publish an online magazine that would fill this need. That's when the "Durance Magazine" was born. A non-profit digital magazine made by fans, for fans.

The name is "Durance," as simple as that. It's a homage to our dear Erica Durance. We believe in her, and although she's our motivation and first and foremost subject, the magazine is going to cover all things related to the entertainment business on a monthly basis. You're going to read a lot of Smallville, Comics, and Superman related items; also Movies, Reviews and Interviews, like the one we did with the incredible TV scorer Louis Febre for this first edition.

I know what you're thinking, how crazy is it to design and create a content of an entire magazine? Well, the answer is - it's insane! It has been a very long and hard road. It's true (and sad) that sometimes people don't give you the props and support, just because it's a fan project, but I refuse to think that fan projects can't be of high quality too! You know what? We have nothing to lose. If we get a "No" today, maybe a "Yes" is waiting for us tomorrow. That's our motto.

I can't take full credit. I owe a huge thanks to Louis Febre and all the designers, writers and friends who have graciously contributed their time to be involved in this first issue. I could not have done it without them.

This is only the beginning. It is my hope that "Durance Magazine" will become a resource the fans can benefit from. I hope you are as inspired and passionate as I am about building this new community together.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm proud to introduce you Durance Magazine.

*Nádia Costa*

We really do like hearing from you, so drop us a line and let us know your ideas and suggestions. Also if you want to be one of our contributors: [info@durancemagazine.org](mailto:info@durancemagazine.org)

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DURANCE COMICS

# NEXT time call me NIKE

by Pericles Junior [www.pjarts.net](http://www.pjarts.net)



# Who's Durance?

by Nádia Costa @nadiacosta

Who is this person that we adore so much to the point of creating a magazine after her name? To answer this question we need to point out a few facts about Erica Durance's life and personality for everyone to understand why this Canadian absolutely rocks our world.

## A TYPICAL ALBERTA GIRL

Her down to earth personality says it all. She's professional, amicable, warm and very welcoming. Erica Durance was born in Calgary (Alberta) on June 21, 1978 as the younger daughter of three kids of the Durance family and she's very proud of her roots. Everything she does, everything she says is a result of what she was taught at early age by her parents, Joel and Gail, whom she's extremely proud of for teaching her the importance of strong family bonds. "They have a very strong work ethic. I've never seen two people work harder in my life and also have a strict code of honor and integrity. When it comes down to it, your most important asset in life is your family. I've been blessed." she once said. In a world where family values are becoming practically non-existent, the family oriented posture of Erica is to be praised.

## PURSUING A DREAM

After graduating from high school, Durance moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, to pursue her interest in acting professionally, as she wanted to "get her feet wet in a smaller area than L.A.". During this period, Erica continued to study acting, starting out with background work, before moving to commercials and then guest-starring roles, which opened doors to more substantial roles.

Erica made her onscreen acting debut in the 2002 horror movie "The Untold" and subsequently landed roles in House of the Dead (2003) and the made for TV movie Devil Winds (2003). In 2004 she guest-starred on various shows including, "The Chris Isaak Show" (playing 'Ashley'); "Tru Calling" (opposite Eliza Dushku, as a contestant in a beauty pageant) as well as the Canadian show "The

Collector" and the unsold pilot "111 Gramercy Park". On the Sci-Fi Channel, Erica also landed guest spots on popular shows such as "Andromeda" and "Stargate SG-1".

## MRS. SUPERMAN

Durance joined the Superman legacy as the iconic intrepid Daily Planet reporter Lois Lane on "Smallville" opposite Tom Welling's Clark Kent. On the series, she plays the future Mrs. Superman as a street-smart, tough young woman who bonds with the Kent family. Over the years, Erica has garnered praises for her spot-on portrayal. Although she was originally brought on for four guest appearances at the start of season four, the producers were so thrilled with her character that they brought her back for nine more episodes, before making her a series regular in the following season(s) (With a 13 episodes contract). At the San Diego comic con in July 2009, executive producer, Kelly Souders, announced that Erica's episode count will be increased to 18 episodes for the series' 9th year.

Erica Durance portrayal of Lois Lane has been described by many as one of the best live action interpretation of the character. It is easy to see why as she embodies her perfectly and has truly made the role her own. Her dedication towards her craft is to be commended.

When not working on Smallville, Erica has over the years kept herself busy with other roles "As opportunities arise, if they are interesting, I'll go after them" she once said. In 2006, Erica landed the role of 'Julie Miller' in the movie "The Butterfly Effect 2". She played the beautiful girlfriend of 'Nick' (Eric Lively), a guy who finds a way to travel through time, in a bid to fix the past, leading to tragic consequences in the future. In

2007, Erica starred in the TV comedy movie "I Me Wed" where she plays a thirty-something girl named 'Isabel Darden', who decides to marry herself in protest, to pressure to find a man to marry from friends and family. In 2009, Erica worked on three projects, "Final Verdict", "Beyond Sherwood Forest" and "The Building" expanding her acting portfolio with different acting ranges.

## LOVELY DURANCE

On a professional and personal scale, Erica is beloved by all those who have had the pleasure of working with her. Kathy Cover, a private voice and acting coach, from Alberta (Canada), has fond memories of Erica: "There's no doubt about it, she was a little star the first time I met her. Even in the fourth grade, she lit up a room. She still does that -- totally apart from her industry persona."

Erica is adored by her fans, for countless reasons. Besides her flawless physical attributes, (yes we do love her hair, her eyes, her smile and her athletic figure) what the fans love the most about Erica is her dedication and ambition. We have been blessed with a spectacular Lois Lane, who can be tough as well as funny. Lois Lane dancing in a wedding dress in the episode "Persuasion" will go down as one of the funniest clips, Smallville has ever given us.

From the projects she takes on, to her down to earth personality, charisma, amazing sense of humor and kindness towards her fans, as well as her eloquent interviews, Erica continues to charm and inspire us. In Kathy Covert words, "No matter what she does and doesn't do, people are going to love her regardless. It was like that ever since she was little."

So true Kathy, so true.





smallville season 9

# The Year Of Lois Lane

by Deji Alimi @DeeGal25

From the moment Erica Durance delivered the lines “Lois, Lois Lane” on the series “Smallville”, fans have been waiting patiently for her character to be given the chance to shine as the Intrepid Daily Planet reporter we all know and love. We have all been on a journey with this Iconic character and six years on, fans have been rewarded with a Lois Lane many regard as the best on screen incarnation. The talented Erica Durance captures the essence of this character so effortlessly; it is easy to understand why her fan base has grown so extensively, especially over the last two years.

## LOIS LANE IN THE COMICS

In the comics, Lois Lane is seen by many as a hero in her own right. She is an independent, attractive and intelligent woman. Her insatiable curiosity and willingness to actively seek out truth and justice makes her a great reporter and role model for women.

On the romance front, the relationship between Lois and Clark works so perfectly because they complement each other’s personalities perfectly, whilst giving each other the love, comfort and support they both need. “Smallville” has given us glimpses of their dynamic with wonderful banter over the years, constantly leaving fans wanting more.

From the beginning of Season 8, the writers started to push Lois Lane to the forefront with more screen time. We witnessed Lois Lane come to the realization she has feelings for Clark, whilst Clark subconsciously also started to fall for her. The season ended with Lois transporting to the future and Clark declaring himself ‘dead’. The disappearance of Lois definitely awakened the feelings Clark did not realize he had and her sudden reappearance in the Season 9 premiere changed everything for the pair.

This season, Clark became more aware of his feelings for Lois. For example, after seeing her for the first time in weeks in “Savior” he found it impossible to stay away from Lois Lane despite swearing off his humanity. He spent hours on the phone with her as the Blur and the events that occurred in “Metallo” made Clark come to the realization he needed to return to the Daily Planet working beside Lois.

Lois did not come without baggage from the future, not only was a ninja woman named ‘Alia’ after her blood but she had to deal with constant unexplained visions of her time there. From the moment we saw flashes of Lois’ ‘dreams’ with her and Clark having some adult fun, we knew we were in store for an epic season.

In current continuity, Lois and Clark continued to grow even closer and after battling zombies in “Rabid” with a visually powerful ‘rain scene’ it was clear there was no turning back on the road to love for these two.

Their ‘almost date’ to a monster truck rally left fans craving a first real kiss between the pair, needless to say we got just this in the episode “Crossfire”. The promos for the episode rightly focused on the ‘legendary’ milestone for this duo. We were certainly not disappointed with the kiss; a determined Clark walks into the Daily Planet with a confident smile that told us he knew exactly what he wanted. Not even Lois’ rambling could deter him.

“Idol” touched on Lois’ struggle with her visions as well as her feelings for Clark and the Blur. A phone glitch convinced Lois, Clark Kent and the Blur were in fact the same person. She showed us just how awesome she is by speaking up for the Blur and after been thrown off a building, proved just how incredibly loyal she is by showing Clark she was prepared to die to protect him.

Although, the episode didn’t end with Lois being let in on Clark’s secret, a kiss with Clark in the Daily Planet copy room ended with her in a comatose state. In “Pandora”, we finally got to see what she experienced in the future. Clark also got to witness what became of him in a world without Lois Lane, realizing he is “stronger when she’s around”. He wasted no time entering into a relationship with her.

## CLARK AND LOIS’ FIRST ‘REAL’ KISS



## THE NOW INFAMOUS HAND HOLD IN PANDORA

In Disciple, we saw Clark and Lois’ first public outing as a couple with Lois intent on getting things right with Clark by taking things slow and counting PDAs. Warrior showed us, we are in for a bumpy ride with regards to their budding romance. Lois and Clark have a few insecurities to deal with and it is so refreshing to see them talk about their problems. Dr Fate’s comment in the two hour special “Absolute Justice” about Lois been ‘the key’ has left us curious about what the future holds.

Season nine has definitely been the year for Lois Lane. She is in more episodes and has more screen time than ever. Now that Clark and Lois have officially become a couple, the writers are now exploring Lois’ continual growth into the Daily Planet’s star reporter. She is been contacted by Amanda Waller (Pam Grier) which makes her very much involved in the current Checkmate storyline. Lois’ investigative fire has been ignited and there’s no stopping her. The return of Perry White (Michael McKean) later this season has definitely got us excited to see the interaction between the iconic duo.

With season 10 confirmed, I cannot wait to witness the final stages in Lois Lane’s journey. Smallville is pulling out all the stops. Erica Durance has truly given us the best incarnation to date and she thoroughly deserves all the recognition she has garnered this season.

# Wonder Lane: Secret Origin

by Eddy @edinacsanyi

Many thoughts ran through our heads when we first saw glimpse of Lois Lane in 'that costume' from the Smallville episode "Warrior". It stimulated various speculations about who she was supposed to be dressed up as. Some thought the costume resembled that of Wonder Woman, whilst others saw Xena. I have to admit these speculations lead me to seek out answers to the origin of an outfit many immediately dubbed 'Wonder Lane'.

The origin of Wonder Lane begins with the copyright whys and wherefores: in an earlier interview Erica Durance said they couldn't use Wonder Woman on the show because of some DC Entertainment copyright issues. I think it's obviously that The WB have not allowed for a Wonder Woman appearance as well as other DC superheroes like Batman on Smallville because of conflicts with movie franchises and other plans they might have for these iconic characters.

After the idea of Lois Lane dressing up as Wonder Woman was brought up at last year's San Diego Comic con, the producers on Smallville saw a window of opportunity to fulfill fan boys' dreams. The costume department came up with a clever way of having Lois dress up as Wonder Woman without actually dressing up as Wonder Woman by putting a Xena twist on the outfit. One of the differences between Wonder Lane and Xena is their weapon of choice: Xena has chakram and Wonder Lane had a whip similar to that worn by Wonder Woman. Another noticeable difference is that Wonder Lane's outfit is claret and blue while the Xena outfit is black. These differences make the Wonder Woman comparisons a more legitimate angle. I admire the creativity of the costume department because they found a 'wonderful' solution.

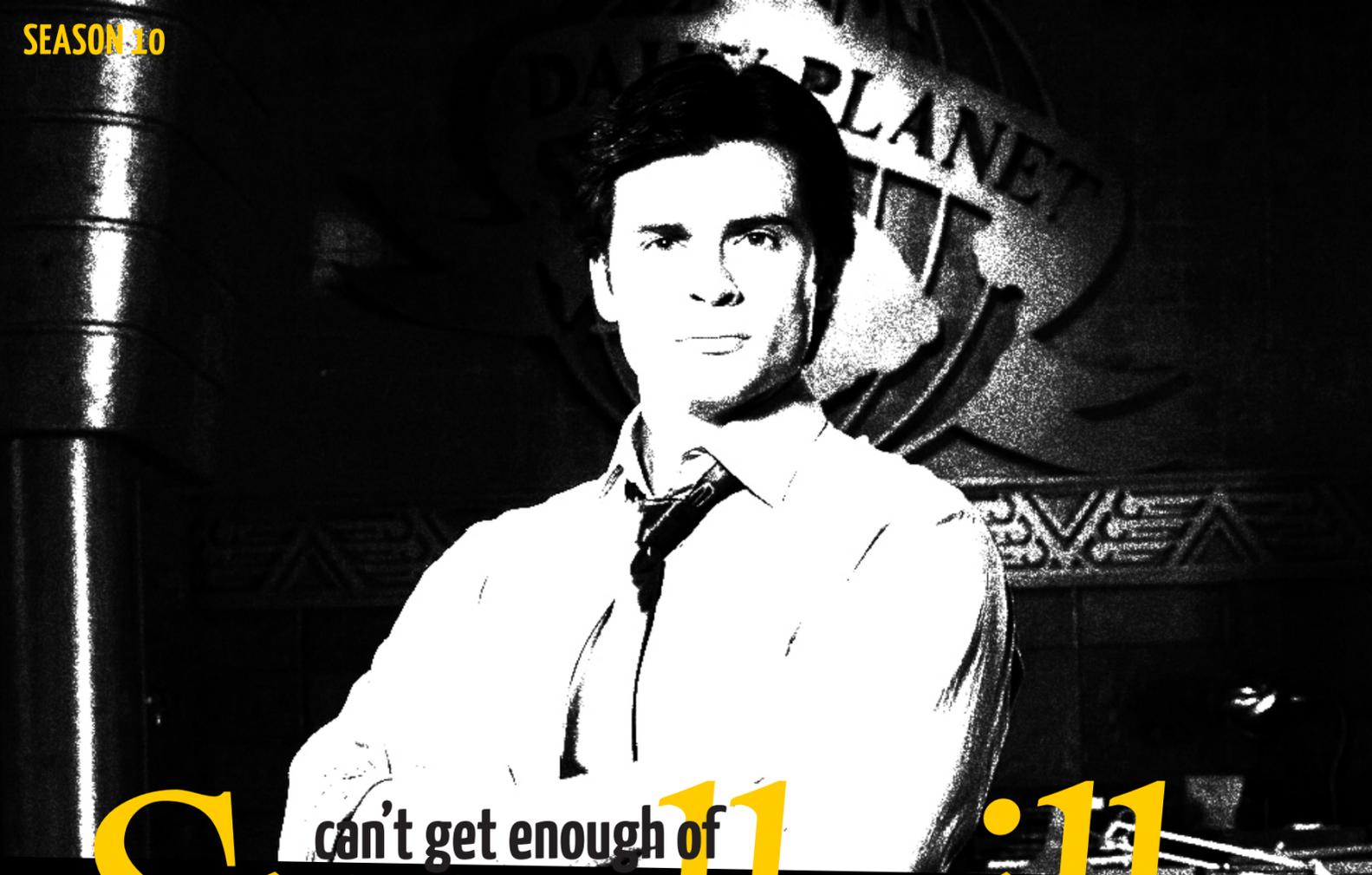
They chose to model Wonder Lane's costume on Wonder Woman's Amazonian outfit instead. Originally Wonder Woman was a member of an all-female tribe of Amazons (based on the Amazons of Greek mythology) and was created by William Moulton Marston as a distinctly feminist role model whose mission was to bring the Amazon ideals of love, peace, and sexual equality to 'a world torn by the hatred of men. So basically there are in fact two Wonder Woman outfits: the original star-spangled red and blue costume and the Amazonian outfit. The Amazonian outfit as you can see in the picture is very similar to Wonder Lane's outfit, but because of the copyright issues I mentioned previously, the two outfits aren't exactly the same. The stars and the golden eagle symbol were removed but the main features are almost the alike. These differences leaves Wonder Lane's costume open to interpretation, allowing Smallville the chance to side step copyright debates.

Lastly, I would like to spec on another reason the producers chose to have Lois in this outfit in Warrior. I believe it's a prominent cross-reference to the relationship between Lois Lane, Superman and Wonder Woman. In the comic book series "Lois Lane, Superman's Girl Friend", which ran from 1958 to 1974 and focused on Lois' romantic interest in Superman and her attempts to maneuver him into marriage, Wonder Woman was one of Lois' rivals. There have also been instances in recent comics where Lois has shown jealousy towards Wonder Woman. I think Wonder Lane shows us that Lois Lane has nothing to worry about, as she is able to pull off any outfit herself, thanks to her awe-inspiring athletic body.



Erica Durance as the Amazonian:  
A mix of Wonder Woman and Xena?

artwork by Jamie Fay



can't get enough of

# Smallville

the CW renews *Smallville* for a 10th season



by NaShantá Robinson @NashNovaCosplay

Earlier this year, Smallville fans were quite anxious to find out whether season 9 would indeed be the last of their beloved show. In February, The CW Network announced that they would be renewing some of their most popular shows, but the renewal of Smallville was still yet to be decided. When the show was moved from the Thursday night time slot, that it held for 4-years, to a Friday night slot, there were some doubts that “Smallville” would last much longer.

On March 4, 2010, The CW Network announced that Smallville would be returning in its 10th season this fall. There are some mixed feelings among the fans about this announcement. Some people feel that the show hasn't been the same since the departure of Michael Rosenbaum as Lex Luthor. Having one season of Doomsday and now Zod is great; but I personally believe the show is missing a villain with some longev-

pletely destroyed in the finale of season 9. With his new powers, Zod is an excellent opponent to Clark, and it would be a shame to lose the character after just one season.

Perhaps we will see more of the Checkmate origination or the Suicide Squad that was introduced in season 9. During the “Absolute Justice” episode, Amanda Waller, played by Pam Grier, mentions “the coming apocalypse.” A fan on twitter asked writer Geoff Johns if “apocalypse” was spelled “Apokolips” in the script. Johns relied, “With a capital A.” Apokolips is the planet ruled by Superman villain Darkseid. Assuming Johns' response meant the fan was correct, this could mean that Darkseid may make an appearance on the show.

I personally believe that one of the best storylines of Smallville's 9th season is the budding relationship between Lois and Clark, played by actors Erica Durance and Tom Well-

the Lois and Clark relationship we all really want.

When the audience got a glimpse of the future Earth that Lois visited when she put on the Legion Ring, we see an intimate relationship with Lois and Clark. We also see a Resistance that formed to fight of the Kandorians. This team seems to be lead by Chloe and Oliver Queen, played by Justin Hartley. I'm interested to see how this relationship between Green Arrow and Watchtower plays out. In their present day world, Chloe and Oliver have started a romantic affair. Seeing them fight the superhuman forces in the future can only mean this duo will be getting closer, very soon.

Then there's Tess Mercer, played by Cassidy Freeman, the CEO of LuthorCorp. Tess has called herself an ally of Clark's but she's betrayed him more than once. Her relationship with Zod puts her in the villain category, but just like Lex, she seems to have

ity. Smallville has brought such a strong story and connection with Clark and Lex, that it would be great to see them confront each other one last time. There have been some rumors that producers are trying to get Rosenbaum to return to the show for at least 9 or 10 episodes of the upcoming season, but there has yet to be an official statement at this time.

For the most part however, fans are thrilled to hear about season 10. At this point it's hard to guess where this next season will take us. I think it's safe to assume that Zod, played by Callum Blue, will not be com-

ing. Now that Lana is beaming with Kryptonite and gone for good, the love connection everyone's been waiting for is finally starting to heat up. In the upcoming season I'm hoping to see Clark trust Lois enough to tell her that he's the Blur. We all know that Lois can handle the truth. When she figured it out on her own, Lois protected Clark from the scrutiny of the District Attorney and the entire city. That would have been the perfect time for Clark to come clean, but alas Chloe, played by Allison Mack, managed to save Clark's secret. Maybe the new season will give the fans

the interest of mankind's wellbeing. She knows Clark's secret, but she's been protecting it all this time. We also find out that Tess is a member of the Checkmate organization. I'm very interested to see where Tess' allegiance lies.

I don't think we'll be seeing Clark in any spandex, but I do think he'll be wearing red and blue very soon. I think his Blur persona is awesome, and it's very cool to finally see him with the iconic “S” on his chest, but I'm hoping the Smallville powers that be put him in more primary colors in the future.

# an absolute joy

by Josue Sanchez @josue\_can

What an absolute joy it was to witness the amazing two-hour event, “Absolute Justice” (aired on February 5th). All of our “Smallville” regulars really stepped up their game for this one. All of the attention to detail on everyone’s part was outstanding. From the music to the costumes and from the acting to the direction, everyone put their hearts into it dearly.

Let’s begin with the music. Louis Febre, the music composer for Smallville, has always, always brought an extraordinary sound and feel to the show. His music compliments all of the characters and different scenes. He truly awakens in us a sense of awe week after week. For “Absolute Justice,” it was no different. His music truly enriched it. We were treated to more, yes, something even greater than regular television usually grants to its viewers.

We would like to commend and congratulate Geoff Johns for his truly wondrous work on “Absolute Justice.” His writing is well known from comic books to movies.

Yet, I’m sure writing a two-part episode for a television show is no simple task. Here, he presented us with new and exciting characters to Smallville. He caught us all up with their histories, and then gave them purpose. Also, he brought continuity to our already known characters like Clark, Lois, Tess, and Chloe. He was able to indulge himself as well in one of his own favorite characters - The Green Arrow.

Erica Durance showed up just in time! Her presence is always captivating and enticing. She is so good at what she does, and her love for “Smallville” is obvious. When she arrived on the scene, it was like a breath of fresh air. It made an already spectacular movie even more so. She demonstrated that her character, Lois Lane, is more than just a reporter; she is a natural investigator. She unraveled in moments the mystery that Clark and Chloe couldn’t figure out for the greater part of the first half of the movie.

Tom Welling has been playing the part of Clark Kent longer than any one actor.

He has the role more than figured out. But in this ninth season of playing the part, he has finally split his identity. He has now started playing another alias which is you may say; more super. With his alter ego “The Blur,” (name soon to change) he (Tom) has had the opportunity to demonstrate to the world that he carry this second heroic role just as well. He has practiced bringing this ultimate superhero to life for many years now, and his posture, speech and attitude have almost peaked Superman perfection. Not to mention his incredible talent behind the scenes as a director. In his fourth directorial attempt, he really showed his growth and talent for his new found love behind the camera.

Justin Hartley was also able to raise the stakes for his character with “Absolute Justice.” His acting was just like his character - on a mission. He hit the target of being

Green Arrow so completely, it was a true pleasure to watch. Although he is a very human hero among a host of super-powered beings, this Green Arrow can hold his own and shine.

Glen Winter, the director of the first half of the film, also did the great, and not to mention, difficult job of setting up the first half of the movie. Although the fans ranted about the second half (directed by Tom Welling himself), Winter’s work must in no way be ignored. He really captured the essence of what a Super-hero movie should be.

Melanie Williams had perhaps one of the greatest challenges for “Absolute Justice,” that of making the costumes. What she created really resembled the comic book visions. Yes, her artistic eye aided the characters that have been trapped in the animated world, and really made them come to life.

Who would have imagined when

it all started more than nine years ago that the world of “Smallville” could have so many surprises? The “Smallville” that began in its small town scale, has now evolved and aligned itself with a much larger universe, a universe of endless characters, worlds, and heroes. Smallville is now a much deeper, unfathomed abyss of surprises than its fans, as well as its critics, could have ever imagined. All of the rich, comic book characters that you’ve never seen, all of the absent heroes that perhaps, at times due to legal issues or what not, couldn’t even be mentioned, are now there. They do, in fact, live in the “Smallville” universe whether they are portrayed onscreen or not.

Make no mistake, just because you’ve never seen Batman or Wonder Woman, don’t think they are not a part of the show. In the blink of an eye, situations can change, legal boundaries may crumble, and lo and behold, Bruce Wayne could wander into the meteor capital of the world, Smallville. It’s as easy as that.

I say this because, with “Absolute Justice,” it is revealed to us that there are other superheroes out there, crime fighters in a world that knows nothing of their existence. Some of them have super powers that could actually settle the biggest questions our Clark has ever faced. These heroes also share an unwavering loyalty to each other that Clark knows not of with his own friends. Where have they been? Why haven’t we ever heard of them?

With the surfacing of the Justice Society of America on “Smallville,” we were introduced to very special characters with various special cameos. These are new to “Smallville,” yet they are very well known to the “DC” fandom community. We got to see characters like Hawkman, Dr. Fate, Sandman, Stargirl and The Star Spangled kid. There were also a few glimpses of the Golden Age Green Lantern, Flash, Wildcat and Atom. It was impressive how all of their stories were laid out for us within such a short amount of time, but it worked.



by Nádia Costa [@nadiacosta](#)  
 illustration by Pericles Junior [www.pjarts.net](#)

It's pretty safe to say that tools like Facebook and Twitter has become part of the life of millions of people worldwide. Therefore, Twitter has evolved far beyond people updating their status messages with what they are doing, to more conversations. They started to share links, pictures, hashtags and retweeting what they think is relevant not only for themselves but for their followers that ended up being their audience.

Then Twitter has become a real time tool where one can get first hand information on how to help a cause such as #Haiti, to connect your followers by using live streams via video chat or to promote people's articles, giveaways, events, etc.

The Hashtags are now the best way to make your cause noticed by using them to trend a specific topic and to keep track of your conversations, especially if you talk to a lot of people on Twitter. For example, if you're having a conversation with another person about #Smallville, you mark each tweet with that hashtag so that other people interested in #Smallville can jump in. Now you get Twitter's power?

Smallville's fans are aware of Twitter's "super powers" and how making it a trending topic can help the show improve its audience number and become more noticed worldwide. The fans efforts on trending #Smallville on Friday nights has gained strength when the writers of the show @SV\_Writers and the @CW\_Smallville joined us, not to mention the unconditional support of columnists such as Fancast's editor @MattMtvgy and TV Guides' @NatalieAbrams, among other fan sites twitter accounts. Together we've been able to trend the show in special occasions like the celebration of its new episodes and recently celebrating its renewal.

Now that Smallville is already renewed, the goal is to trend #EDfor22: Erica Durance for 22 episodes! It's not new to anyone that a huge part of the Smallville fandom is pro-Clois. Erica Durance is one of the main reasons why some of them watch the show, fair enough that she would be on 22 episodes right?

At the beginning of March when asked about Erica Durance's next number of episodes for next season, E! columnist Kristin dos Santos said: "Details of Erica Durance's contract for next season are still up in the air, but I have it on good authority that we will 'probably' see Lois 'more than usual' on Smallville next year."

See why we should trend it and show Kelly Souders, Brian Peterson and The CW why we need Erica Durance for 22! Fans are planning to trend it next week, so stay tuned and help the cause.

It tweet #EDfor22 because...

@0syrys True fact about Erica Durance: She's well loved in our fandom.

@RabidforClois I tweet #EDfor22 because Erica Durance is a fabulous actress who brings a wondrous spark to THE LOIS LANE!

@gloriacri Because she is the reason I'm a fan #EDfor22

@Floru\_ Because Erica is the best with her fans... and she's a Cloiser! #EDfor22

@LSarmiento21 because Erica is just awesome! #EDfor22

@xxLoLane87xx I Tweet #EDfor22 cause she's the reason I watch #Smallville < 3

@mewardani Lois is the key #smallville #EDfor22

@xxLoLane87xx Erica is Awesome I Loves her!! She Totally gets Lois Lane Plus she's a Cloiser #Smallville #EDfor22

@loveigniting09 Because Lois Lane will always stand by Clark Kent #EDfor22 #Smallville

@ginnytwin It means so much to me to know Lois Lane is safe with Erica Durance as her guardian. #EDfor22

@lady\_fun\_rock I tweet #EDfor22 because without Erica Durance we would not get to see Lois Lane banter with the sexy Clark Kent!

@ginnytwin I love Erica Durance because she refuses to settle for anything less than the biggest dream for her character's future. #EDfor22

# Louis Febre

## the behind the music

by Josue Sanchez @josue\_can  
in collaboration with Nádia Costa @nadiacosta

You have many admirers, and truly, they are well deserved. Every week, you make this popular show that was created for the small screen, feel and sound like a big screen movie. Where do you find the inspiration to create these weekly masterpieces in such a short time?

In reality, most professional composers, whether writing music for television or film, have an inescapable reality to contend with: a deadline! Those of us who work in television in particular, have, generally speaking, extremely limited time in which to write, perform, record and deliver the finished product. It's not unusual for me to begin work on a given episode on Wednesday morning, and have 5 or 6 days in which to write the "typical" 40-41 minutes of score. The trick, for me, boils down to "panic control"! I'm half joking, but only half. Having said that, *Smallville* has always managed to inspire me. The show is so consistently excellent, that when I first see a new episode (minus the score, naturally), I'm instantly engaged, and can hardly wait to add my part! Inspiration is a rare commodity in my business, but I'm extremely fortunate to score a show that manages to inspire me week after week.

How much freedom are you granted to create the scores for a show like "Smallville" from the way that you feel from watching the episodes yourself?

I'm granted an incredible degree of autonomy. And that is not generally how things are done in episodic television (at least from my own experience), so I consider myself exceptionally lucky to have gained the trust of the wonderful people I work with. It's not something I take lightly, mind you, I consider it an honor.

Were you a fan of Superman before "Smallville"? Did the John Williams score from the movies influence you in any way when you started with "Smallville"?

As a child, I read lots and lots of Superman comic books. I think it was something that children of my generation really enjoyed. I remember the excitement I felt when my parents would give me a few coins and I would run to the store to buy the latest comic book! It wasn't all Superman, of course, but he really was a favorite. A very long time passed before "the movie" (Christopher Reeves) came out. Now that truly revived my interest, and I must say the brilliant score that John Williams wrote had a lot to do with my enthusiasm for the film. I recall thinking how inevitable that theme sounded. It was as if that music had always been there to accompany Superman. In reality, when working on the pilot for *Smallville*, we were not thinking in terms of the John Williams score at all. And throughout the years I have worked hard to impart my own musical signature. Naturally, there are moments during which very large-scale, dramatic symphonic music must be used, but again, I have made it a point to speak in my own voice.



Louis Febre @loufeb is a talented Mexican composer and arranger, born in Saltillo (Mexico) in 1959, where he was taught the piano and basic theory at an early age. Febre has spent most of career in Hollywood working with notable composers such as John Debney and Mark Snow, and writing music for independent movies and episodic television (as on "Smallville").

Febre is well known by the "Smallville" fandom. After every episode is aired on Friday nights on the CW (8/7c PM), his twitter page receives a large amount of praises and comments usually about how much his score has touched them or how well it matched certain scenes. He reads and replies to every single tweet (!).

Let's be honest, this is not common in the entertainment business and the fans recognize it and respond to it. It's no wonder why Louis is adored by the "Smallville" fandom.

Durance Magazine had the honor to speak exclusively with Louis Febre for our first issue and he once again hit the ball out of the park by baring his soul on "Smallville", the earlier years of his career and more.

When the moment arrives for creating your music and you are seated at your writing desk, what do you do next? Tell us about the process.

First, I make sure I truly understand the show. I become familiar with it by watching it several times. I then consider, at an intellectual level, what the requirements for a given scene, or even a given moment may be. Is it fear, stress, sadness, joy, love that I think a character is experiencing? I try very, very hard to truly understand. Mind you, I am extremely lucky; the cast of *Smallville* is brilliant, and they make that part of the process not only easy, but incredibly enjoyable for me. Once I become intimately familiar with the show, I develop whatever themes or motives or even musical textures that will be a sonic signature for that given episode. Then the real work begins! I will look at a short part of a scene, maybe a few seconds worth, and \*feel\* it musically. That part of the process is actually indescribable, a mystery even to me! But somehow I hear in my mind what the score is, and simply play it on a keyboard. At times it's more like feeling than hearing, but the "how" of it is something I've never truly understood.

What is easier to compose, comedy or drama? How about action?

They all bring significant challenges. Comedy scoring has a lot to do with timing, John Debney taught me that, and he is a true master. Drama is, to me, about emotional connection. The composer must truly comprehend, feel even, the emotions involved. Action, well, that depends on a great many factors, but it is almost always a lot of work!

What music inspires you? In other words, what's on your iPod or CD player this very moment?

Ha! That's a good question. It is strange how revealing such things are. Well, my iPod (which I listen to while running - that's my only iPod time!) contains mostly what people might consider "classical" music. As a 12 year old, I discovered Mozart. From that moment on, I developed a fascination for that particular genre, speaking very broadly, naturally. My desire to be a good pianist has returned as of late, so my iPod music seems heavily biased towards that instrument. A short list would read like this: Rachmaninoff etudes-tableaux op. 39, Chopin preludes, Chopin 3rd sonata, Ravel Gaspard de la Nuit and Le Tombeau de Couperin, Liszt La Campanella. But I also have other (non-piano) things such as Poulenc Stabat Mater (a favorite), Debussy La Mer, assorted Beethoven/Brahms/Mahler/Mozart/Haydn symphonies, as well as some jazz of the late 1950's.

Tell us of your beginnings, and when you realized you wanted to compose music.

I started writing little pieces for the piano when I was 8 or 9 years old. It's not that I somehow decided to write music or play the piano, mind you. I just did it. All the time! At first we didn't even have a piano at my parent's home, and I would take every opportunity to visit one of my "piano in the house" friends, and sit at their pianos for a while. Of course, my friends wanted to play with trucks and dig tunnels in the back yard, not sit there waiting for me to finish doing whatever I was doing with their boring pianos in the

## FACTS

Co-composed the Emmy-winning music with John Debney for the syndicated drama "The Cape" in 1997

Enjoyed a rare taste of box office success with the thriller "Swimfan" in 2002

Other projects include a number of TV-movies, scores for the recent *Scooby Doo* animated features and writing the score for the hit TV series "Smallville"

Highlight Scores: The Cape (TV), Doctor Who, Tower of Terror, Swimfan, Red Water, Smallville (TV), Unstoppable

Awards: Emmy for "The Cape" (1997), Pixie for "The Revenge of the Red Balloon" (2001)

Nominations: Annie Awards for "Scooby Doo" and "the Alien Invaders" (2000)



living rooms they would otherwise never even enter! Somehow I managed to still go outside and play. My brother bought me a guitar early on, too. Before even the "piano years." He is an excellent musician, and was a key part in my early interest in music, as was my father, who, although an engineer by trade, was a true lover of music and avid listener. I was exposed to some magnificent music by the time I was 3!

Hollywood life is not easy; would you share with us your first success in that world? Do you remember some anecdote you would like to share that brings good/bad memories to you?

Oh! Well, I suppose my desire to achieve my goal of making a living as a composer was so overwhelming, that I didn't notice much of the bad (not to say it isn't there). During my 20s, I was tortured by the thought that music would somehow not be a part of my "earning" life. As obvious as it seems now, to me anyway, writing music for television or film did not even occur to me back then! But I was lucky to meet a wonderful gentleman and fine composer by the name of Bob Drasnin, who then worked for CBS. He made me realize that the answer had been in front of me all along! Soon after that I started working, doing very small jobs at first, of course. Looking back I realize how incredibly fortunate I've been. The right people came into my life at exactly the right time. In 1996 I met composer John Debney, and he really opened doors for me. I consider him a mentor. After that, I started working non-stop, and haven't looked back.

Are you working on any other projects, or secret projects at the moment? Or are you only working on just "Smallville"?

My agent, who is a lovely woman, really doesn't like this, but I told her that, while I'm working on *Smallville*, I want no other distractions! Writing 40+ minutes of music per week is pretty much all I can do, particularly if I want to indulge in such luxuries as occasional sleep.



"Absolute Justice" was spectacular, and the score was spellbinding. Congratulations! I can truly say, without hesitation, that your music contributed in a great extent to the majestic feel of the film. Did you do anything special or different to prepare yourself for "AJ," or did you go into it as if it was just two separate episodes?

We all treated AJ as a movie. It really felt that way to me. As luck would have it, I had more time than usual to work on it. And believe me, I needed it. Writing the JSA theme took a bit of time and developing some of the signature themes was also a bit involved. But I loved every part of it! And I enjoyed myself beyond measure while scoring it. By the way, thank you very much for your kind words!

What has been your favorite Smallville episode? What has been your favorite score?

Generally, I really have no favorites. But this season I must admit that Absolute Justice felt very special to me.

It hurts me to even ask you this, but, with the end approaching (season 10), and Clark about to embark on his ultimate destiny, do you have a special theme already in mind for the Smallville birth of Superman? Or will you wait until the time approaches?

I'm already thinking about this moment. Writing that score will be both the most joyful and saddest experience for me. It will truly be the top of a magnificent mountain that I've been climbing slowly for a decade of my life, and once there, the view will be breathtaking! Then I'll just have to look for another mountain.

What advice would you give to those who are thinking about following in your same profession?

Generally my advice is don't! But I only say that because those who truly want it, those who will not take no for an answer, those who will let no one dissuade them, those lucky few don't need my advice. They already have everything they need to get there. I will say this: be prepared. Become the best musician you can be. Study, study and study. Practice, practice and practice. Opportunities are rare in this business, but when one presents itself, make sure you are ready. A second chance may never materialize!

You maintain such a direct, close bonding with the fans like on Facebook and Twitter, have they ever influenced any of your scores or given you any useful ideas?

The only thing that influences my scores is the content of an episode. The show itself already contains everything I need to write the score. However, I adore the people I interact with online, and they bring me so much support and warmth! I consider it a privilege to know them and to have their input.

Thank you so much, Louis. We are so happy that Smallville has been picked up for another season. It will be so special to continue hearing your work, and following your scores and career. We are very excited to see how all of that continues to evolve, just as we will follow what our favorite fictional characters do as well. Please, would you care to send a message to all your fans around the world?

Yes! That message is simply THANK YOU. Thank you for your continued support, and for your insightful commentary. I truly treasure all of you.

## NEWS

### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

### MOVIE REVIEWS



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by James Garcia @sephkane





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# seconds with Erica Durance's BIGGEST FAN

by Deji Alimi @Deegirl24 design by Lara Marx @laramarx

Erica Durance has touched so many hearts and inspired many over the past 6 years through her incarnation as Lois Lane. Every die-hard-fan will argue they are their idol's biggest fan, and to see just how accurate this is, I had the pleasure of interviewing one of Erica Durance's biggest fans...



Kelly. 22. Ireland.

## Kelly O. Mahony

When did you become an Erica Durance fan?  
I first became a fan of Erica about 3 years ago when they were showing repeats of "Smallville" and I instantly fell in love with her portrayal of Lois Lane.

If you could describe Erica in one word, what would it be? **Stunning.**

What would you say is her best attribute?  
**Her Kindness**

How does Erica inspire you?  
She inspires me by always being true to her word & for the kind heart she has!

What do you wish for Erica in the future?  
I wish her all the best and successful in her career for the future.

If you ever met her, what would you say to her? **Oh god just that I truly admire her & she's a great role model & the Best Lois Lane ever!**

Erica has given us the best Lois Lane to date, what is one of your favourite quirks, she has given to the character? **I love how sarcastic & funny she is!**

Have you got a favourite Erica Durance quote?  
"Unless of course I back into him with my car again, that was so awkward. Yeah, it was like, "Uh, sorry Tom, not like we need you next year!" You think, especially with me on the set. I'm quite accident prone. I can't count how many times I've almost run him over. I'm pretty klutzy and I've always been, so I have to own up to it. It's part of my charm! Well, it's charming until I hurt someone!"



It's fitting that Erica Durance stars in "Beyond Sherwood Forest," since the most apt way to describe the movie might be that it is a "Smallville"-esque take on the Robin Hood story.

# under review *Beyond Sherwood Forest*

by Sean Gerski @ItsJustMovies

You don't want to go into either one looking for strict adherence to the legends, but if you can relax, free your mind of pre-conceived expectations and allow yourself to have a good time, you will certainly be entertained.

On the down side for "Beyond Sherwood Forest" — as it also is with "Smallville" — you will see actors of wildly varying degrees of talent and a budget that can't quite match the imagination of the writers.

In "Beyond Sherwood Forest," you will meet many of the old favorites from the story with which you are familiar ... and you also get a dragon. The story itself plays out in ways you might not expect for a Robin Hood tale, for better and for worse.

Maid Marian is portrayed as spunky and beautiful — and perhaps no actress on TV these days is pulling off that combination quite so winningly as Durance does as Lois Lane on "Smallville." As it is on that TV show, the scenes in which she appears are among the best in the movie. In her role as Marian, Durance doesn't take on an English accent, but the voice she uses is probably the much better choice. It fits her character and never proves distracting.

Also excellent is Julian Sands, who brings a lot of menacing charm to his role as Malcolm. In different hands, the role of Malcolm could have been an excuse for an actor to chew some scenery, but Sands plays the character at a perfect pitch.

Not quite as well cast is Robin Dunne in the lead role as Robin Hood. A quick glance at his IMDb page reveals the ac-

tor to be 33 years old, but he looks more like he is in his mid-20s. He doesn't quite have the gravitas of a Robin Hood that would scare the powers that be while giving the people hope. Dunne is a charming actor, and I'm sure he would be perfect for other parts, but he doesn't quite cut it as the prince of thieves.

Making matters worse for Dunne is his beard, which is too perfectly trimmed, and his hair, which is much too styled. For someone who lives in the forest (in the year 1174), a more rugged look would be fitting ... and far less distracting.

However, this is a minor annoyance overall, as the movie's costumes, done by Allisa Swanson, are pitch-perfect. Throughout the movie, I noticed how remarkably well done the costumes were — and this is something I never notice.

The score, by Darren Fung, is up to the job, complementing the acting quite well and never upstaging the actors or the action.

The special effects, especially the work with the dragon, are about what you would expect from a TV movie. Most times, they worked just fine, but there were certainly a few "that looks so fake" moments sprinkled throughout the movie.

On the whole, "Beyond Sherwood Forest" is an entertaining way to spend an hour and a half. I wouldn't suggest going in expecting the world, but if you are game for a new take on some familiar heroes, "Beyond Sherwood Forest" hits the mark. 





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CATCH THE AMAZING  
ERICA DURANCE IN THE MOVIE  
BEYOND SHERWOOD FOREST

THE DVD IS IN STORES NOW WITH THE BLU-RAY AVAILABLE ON MAY 25, 2010