

# WHS grad stars in new sci-fi thriller

Jenny Zhang plays a killer role in new low-budget film

By Eleni Himaras  
Staff Writer

While 2008 Westlake High School graduate Jenny Zhang was named "Most

Likely to Write the Next Harry Potter Series," in her graduating class's annual, her actual first post high school job was even more far out: "Killer Schoolgirl from Outer Space."

She recently played one of the leads in the movie of the same name – the first feature film from Austin-based Angry Nun Productions.

"It was really a spur of the moment thing," said Zhang, who is an undecided sophomore leaning towards English at the University of Texas.

She saw the posting on an online audition Web site and decided to apply, even though her acting career had previously peaked with a few productions in middle school.

"She came to the audition and just knocked it out," said director and UT film school senior Alexander Schumake. "She is great at conveying emotion with just her body language and face."

There was a steep learning curve for Zhang, who quickly shook her nerves to become comfortable working with everything from prop laser guns to green screen scenes where the only thing on set

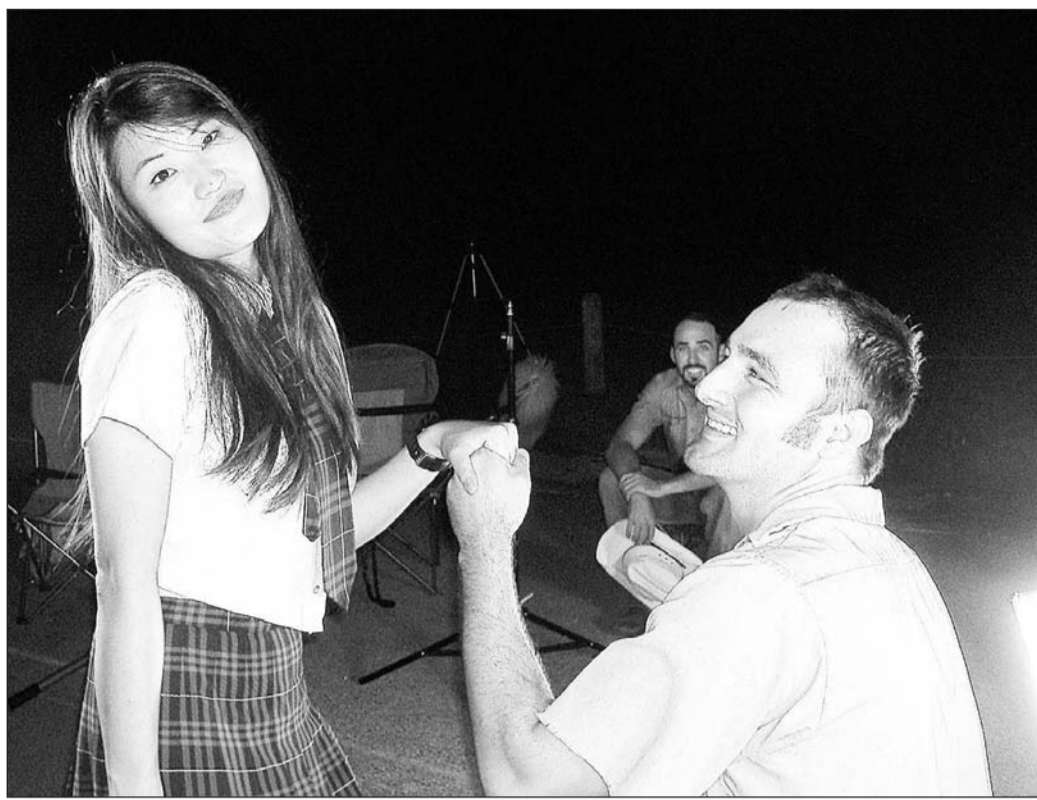


that was real besides her was a table.

"I took two of my friends to the auditions because I was so nervous," she said. "I didn't know how much stop-and-start there would be, and I didn't

know how much went on behind the scenes. It was kind of intimidating."

But now, a year later, she fondly remembers scenes chasing her on-screen victims through a field or working with a par-



ABOVE: Zhang hams it up while taking a break from filming the movie along with one of her costars, Chris Chamberlain. LEFT: Recent Westlake High graduate Jenny Zhang nabbed her first acting part in a feature film with "Killer Schoolgirls from Outer Space."

tially inflated air mattress when shooting her final, fatal scene.

"The air mattress had a leak, so they had to pump it up as I was falling," she recalled, laughing.

Getting into the mindset of a killer schoolgirl, she said, also took some work.

"My character kills people and has a lot of fun doing it – she enjoys doing it and thrives off their fear," she said.

Schumake said he told the actresses to think of the title of "schoolgirl" more as a high military rank than its earthly incarnation.

"Lots of people have asked if it's a spoof, and it's not. I pretended I was in 1962 working to make the

next big thriller for people to see at the drive-in," Schumake said.

His biggest influences for the movie were horror flicks such as "The Blob" with Steve McQueen, "The Giant Gila Monster" and "Teenagers from Outer Space." While produced with modern technology, his aim is to make it look like an older film, which he expects to be completed in early 2010.

The goal of his young production company is as unique as the movie it made and Austin itself.

"We want to keep making low-budget movies throughout the future, hiring local talent and shooting in Austin," Schumake said.

The movie has a total budget of about \$125,000 after contacting everyone they knew to invest.

Another unique feature of the film will be the two-disc release. One will hold the movie while the second will involve an in-depth examination of how the movie was made.

And to answer the question that Schumake and Zhang both say they have fielded quite frequently when people hear the title of the movie – no, it is not for the adult film industry.

For more information on Angry Nun Productions, visit [angrynunproductions.com](http://angrynunproductions.com).

Questions? Comments? Contact Eleni Himaras at [ehimaras@westlakepicayune.com](mailto:ehimaras@westlakepicayune.com)

## Our statement of strength

Dear customers and friends,

American Bank is strong and continues to provide a safe place for your deposits. We have money to lend, insight to share and plenty of optimism. Our strength ultimately comes from the way we choose to operate – a way entirely different from the banks and financial services companies you are hearing about in the news.

American Bank is proud to be a traditional community bank. We have grown steadily to \$860 million as of June 30, and our strength is the result of staying true to conservative banking principles and meeting the needs of our local communities. American Bank did not get involved in exotic investment vehicles developed by Wall Street and we didn't need a bailout.

Our investments are primarily the loans we have made. Since we take the time to know our loan customers, we know the integrity of these investments. Our personal and commercial loan portfolios are strong, stable and conservative. We have ample stable deposits. The strong relationships we have developed with our customers over the years – whether in deposits or loans – are the foundation of our financial strength.

So, at American Bank it's business as usual. We are proud of our nearly 40 years as an independent community bank. We especially value our reputation in the communities we serve and will continue to do business in a way that shows we are here for you and your personal or business financial needs.

If you have any questions or concerns about the safety and stability of American Bank, please call me or any banking officer.

Sincerely,

AJ Jones

CEO and Chairman of the Board

### Westlake

3520 Bee Caves Road • 328-9900

### Lakeway

1008 RR 620 South, Suite 100 • 263-1776

[www.americanbank.com](http://www.americanbank.com)



Member FDIC • Member Independent Bankers Association of Texas • © 2009 American Bank, NA

Corpus Christi • Rockport • Port Aransas • Goliad • Victoria • Austin



We're here for you. AmericanBank