

Pioneer Hall of Fame: Juliet Pritner, class of 1981



It was off to New York City following graduation from U-High for Juliet, who studied drama at The Juilliard School at Lincoln Center, earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting in 1985. She has lived in New York City since that time, but returns frequently to Bloomington-Normal to visit her brother Chris Printer, (U-High class of 1979), and her mother Jacqui Adair, (former U-High English teacher), along with other family and friends. Juliet's father is Cal Pritner, former ISU Theatre Department Chair and Founder of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

Juliet's acting career includes a number of highlights and venues, among them television, film, voice-overs, and theatre. On television, she maintains a recurring role as "Officer Karen Gongola", on the show *Law and Order-Special Victims Unit*. She has been a contract player, "Suzanne Devereaux" (A.K.A. Wendy Sinclair) on *The Guiding Light*, and held a six-year recurring role as "Monica Lawrence Eldridge" on *As the World Turns*. She has also appeared as "Maria Webster" on *The Guiding Light*, as a "Pediatric Nurse" on *Loving*, as the "First Witch-Macbeth" on *Shakespeare on Stage* for PBS, and as "Lynda Myers" on *All My Children*.

She has completed various national television commercials and voice-overs, including parts for Coca-Cola, Lean Cuisine, and MCI. In film, Juliet held the principal role as the "Female FBI Agent" in *Kiss of Death*, produced by 20th Century Fox Films.

Her theatre experience is broad, with roles in New York City theatre as well as national regional theatre. In New York, Juliet has held the following roles: "Miss Pross" in *A Tale of Two Cities*, produced by The Culture Project; "Vari" in *When I was a girl, I used to scream and shout...*, by John Montgomery Theatre; "Mother" in *Mother Love*, produced by Naked Angels, New Georges; "Desdemona" in *Othello* (with Oscar-winner F. Murray Abraham as "Iago", by Riverside Shakespeare Festival; "Roberta" in *Gardenias 'n' Blum*, by the Theatre of the Open Eye; "Sarah" in *The Lover*, for the Horace Mann Theatre; "Rosaline" in *The Red Rose*, by the Lincoln Center Institute; and in an "ensemble" role in *Paradise Negative*, produced by The Kitchen.

In addition, Juliet has performed nationally in the following roles and theatre productions: "Teresa" in *How the Other Half Loves*, for the Arizona Theatre Company; "Mae" in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, for the Studio Arena Theatre; "Helen Hobart" in *Once in a Lifetime*, for the Helen Hayes Theatre; "Hecuba" in *Trojan Women* for Otterbein as a Guest Artist; "Patricia" in *Sight Unseen*, for the Portland Stage Company; "Thea" in *Hedda Gabler*, for the Studio Arena Theatre; "Miranda" in *The Tempest*, for Theatre Virginia; "Elizabeth" in *Frankenstein* for the Fulton Opera House; and three roles for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival: "Hero" in *Much Ado About Nothing*, "First Witch" in *Macbeth*, and "Julia" in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

Juliet is also an Ordained Elder and current Member of Session of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City, where she has served 6 years on the Board of Trustees. She is a Founding Board Member and Artistic Advisor for the Rutgers Youth Theatre Arts Program, which was created to serve at-risk youth (ages 13-18) in the New York City area by utilizing theatre arts to teach communication skills, life skills, and written/spoken language skills. She is a freelance copy/editor and proofreader for several agencies and New York law firms. Her teaching experience includes Babyfingers, through which she teaches pre-verbal hearing babies and their mothers to communicate using American Sign Language, and teaching voice, speech and acting to gifted high school students at the California State Summer School for the Arts.

Juliet is married to Peter Gonzales and they are the proud parents of a son, 3 year old Christian Gonzalez, whom she describes as the "light of our lives and all around great guy—cute too!"