



42<sup>ND</sup>  
YOUNG ARTIST  
ACADEMY AWARDS

**JESSICA PERL Interview**

**Project: *Rip Current***

Director: Lucas D'Angelo



[Project IMDb page](#)

**How would you describe the plot of this project?**

Two girls steal the ashes of their childhood best friend for a day at the beach.

**What was your fondest memory from working on the project?**

Getting to see the sun rise on the beach! The cast had to be on set early, and since our set that day was by the beach, we got to watch the sun rise over the water and it was gorgeous.

**Were there any cool locations or sets that were fun/different/strange?**

Since our set was on a public beach, we occasionally ran into people during filming. We even had a dog accidentally run into one of our shots!

**Do you recall any particular memories with castmates or crew that were impactful?**

Leaving the set, I had a chance to speak to the producer. She informed me that I beat out a plethora of other girls for the part and when I asked why out of curiosity, she told me something that completely shifted my view on how casting operates. She said that while talent was important, clearly caring about the project and putting in effort was equally as necessary. The producer told me that just from my self-tape set up alone and my preparedness during the audition, I had already made a good impression. That has stuck with me ever since and it reminded me just how much goes into booking talent for a role.

**Did the project inspire you to see the world differently? Or did you learn anything new about the production process?**

Yes! I learned more about how casting operates. After hearing about how a person can get passed over just because a producer can sense they didn't take the time to prepare for the part, or how simply showing effort can win a role, it reminded me that one should always make sure they're putting 100% of their time and dedication into their audition because it just might be what wins casting over!

**What stands out to you from working on this project?**

Definitely the professionalism on set. This was one of my first paying roles and I wasn't sure what to expect, as my previous roles had been non-paying and volunteer work. The crew ensured that the cast was well looked after, and we were taken care of which I appreciated as a performer. It definitely made the set more enjoyable to work on and it was a pleasure to work with them!

**If you were to produce a sequel or a continuation of this project, what would that be like?**

I would definitely want more of a backstory into the best friend, Jayne, and how she passed away. Jayne was the role I played and though she had an integral part in the story, it's never really mentioned how she ended up where she did or why it happened, so that is something I'd love to explore more if given the opportunity!

**What do you love most about the Entertainment Industry? What do you wish could be better?**

I love how close knit of a community the Entertainment Industry is! It's like one big family, and I couldn't imagine it being any other way. However, something I would like to see change is the diversity and opportunities given for different performers. Though networks and casting have become more open to seeing actors from all walks of life, I still believe it is something that needs to be improved on and should be worked on to better our industry.

