

## Web Series, Part 3



### 'Behind the Scenes @ Chicago'

Part three of our Web series, "Behind the Scenes @ Chicago" has been posted to our Web site and our YouTube channel.

In "Choreography with Velma," Jessica Francis, who plays Velma, introduces us to some choreography.

Follow the ongoing series only online at [www.thedailynews.com/chicago](http://www.thedailynews.com/chicago) or [www.youtube.com/thedailynews.com](http://www.youtube.com/thedailynews.com).

## COMMUNITY READS

# Epilogue

5 more 'Tales' of Enzo

By Ben Beagle  
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The cover of "The Art of Racing in the Rain," with its golden-coated dog looking out from the bottom of the cover, it's head cutely cocked, quickly won over readers.

"When you look in those eyes," said Carol Smith of Batavia, "you think he's like a member of the family."

Nancy Edwards of Perry picked up the book because she found the cover appealing. "And the title sounded like it would be a fun read," she said.

Garth Stein's novel, the story of a dying dog yearning to come back in human form as he looks back at the challenges and sacrifices of his human family, was the featured selection in this year's just-completed "A Tale for Three Counties" community reading project.

To call "The Art of Racing in the Rain" simply a dog book, or a racing book, is to shortchange the richness of its characters and the obstacles they must overcome in pursuit of dreams.

Last weekend's four author talks and book signings were attended by about 600 people — a record for the eight-year-old program. At each talk, March 11 to 13, Stein shared often funny stories about the path his novel took to finding a publisher, how his early filmmaking career influenced his writing career, and what his recent success has brought.

"A lot of people discovered Tale for the first time," said Leslie DeLooze, the Richmond Memorial librarian who started the program.

The librarians behind Tale already started to consider books for next year's program. An announcement is still months away; in the meantime, here are more stories from Stein:

### Finding his muse

Like many married writers, Stein called his wife as his muse.

"But she's not one of these Grecian muses with flowing robes that sprinkles pixie dust on the keyboard. Think darker ... like a dominatrix," he said.

Stein likes to joke, a lot. And its often often of a self-deprecating nature. Yes, he acknowledges, his wife knows he talks about her in this way at his programs. But just as quickly, he shares that she is :the

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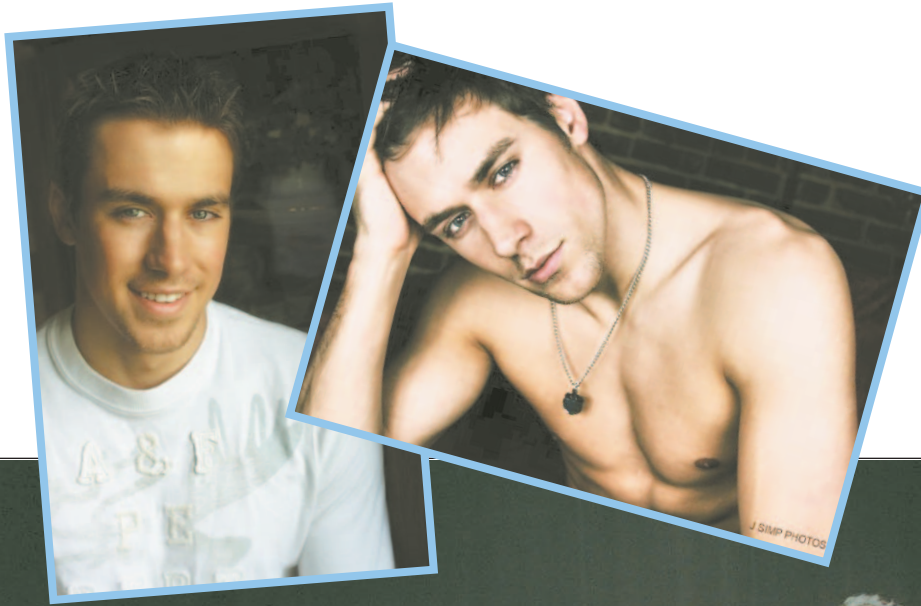


Mark Gutman/Daily News

**HIS TALE:** Author Garth Stein reacts to an audience member's comment during a talk at Richmond Memorial Library, Batavia, on March 11 as part of the "A Tale for Three Counties" community reading project.

## GAVIN'S PURSUIT

Mark Gutman/Daily News File Photo (play). Photosat right courtesy of Gavin Eastlack.



**NOW AND THEN:** Gavin Eastlack of Albion is shown in two images from his modeling portfolio, left. Below, Eastlack is shown, far right, in a scene — with Ruth Strzelewicz and Shunichi Kamiyama — from the 2006 production of "The Nightingale" at Genesee Community College, Batavia.



# 'Super good and getting better'

Albion actor chasing his dream in New York City

By Joanne Beck  
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**I**t seemed evident early on that Gavin Eastlack had the look, Marianne Arena says.

She couldn't help but notice that his obvious "very commercial" appearance was apparent to more than the director of fine and performing arts at Genesee Community College.

"I remember when coaching him, the line of girls waiting for him outside my office door," Arena said. "I think all of us at GCC that knew Gavin knew he is destined for stardom."

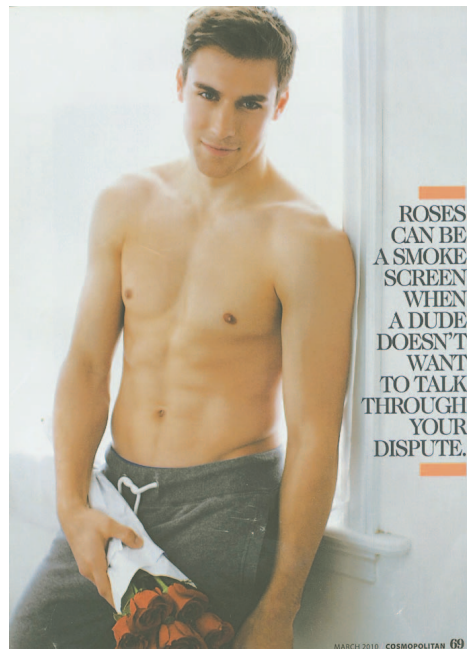
### Destiny's path

Although the 23-year-old is living out what his dad describes as the stereotypical poor, struggling actor's life, Eastlack has achieved success in measurable increments. He appeared in two episodes of "The Beautiful Life" before it was canceled by The CW television network. He has been an extra in several movies and TV shows, including "Gossip Girl" and "Law & Order." He recently got accepted into the Screen Actors Guild.

His modeling is paving the way for him right now, with good-paying gigs, including a spread featuring his ripped physique on three pages of the March issue of Cosmopolitan. His photos illustrate the article "Decode How He Acts After a Fight." He appears in a contemplative sitting pose and giving a shy smile while holding a dozen roses.

His trip doesn't seem to be slowing down any time soon. The former GCC theater student had to postpone his interview with The Daily News on Thursday to attend a casting call for Lacoste, a high-end apparel company. He has already parlayed his brown-haired, blue-eyed good looks for a Play-boy fragrance commercial and runway shows for an Italian motorcycle company, a show featuring Pamela Anderson and Terrell Owens and a charity event sponsored by Armani.

He is also to be featured in the May



Cosmopolitan/Photograph by Chris Clinton

**COSMO GUY:** Photographs of Albion's Gavin Eastlack are used to illustrate a story in the March issue of Cosmopolitan.

issue of Cosmopolitan, but he has no idea what his photo will be used for. That's how it goes with these shoots, he said. They ask the model to pose and look a certain way and that's it. The model doesn't know what it will be used for until the finished product is out.

He hopes to survive on his pay for those modeling jobs while pursuing his true passion: "I would love to, and hopefully will, be in TV and movies."

When asked how Eastlack himself would describe his life, he reflected on vacation Bible school in the sixth grade. Every time his group went into class at Barre Center Presbyterian Church, the teacher would use the same phrase for how he was doing that day. It's a phrase Eastlack has embraced.

"I'm super good and getting better," he said by phone from New York City. "A teacher said to us that 'if you know how to do something else you should go do it,' because your chances of making it as an actor are so small. It's the only thing I know how to do. I love it."

### Life on the move

It's difficult to say exactly where Eastlack grew up, since his family moved along the East Coast while he went to various schools. His mom Nancy is a native of Orleans County and his dad, the Rev. Larry Eastlack, was

from New Jersey. Home was wherever the church officials deemed necessary, which required many moves. Gavin went to school partially in Orleans County and finished up high school in Virginia. He went from Roberts Wesleyan College, where he had received a soccer scholarship, to GCC. He left GCC in 2007 to study at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC for 1 1/2 years.

While Eastlack remained in the Big Apple, his parents have settled into "the Barre Center homestead," which is where Mrs. Eastlack grew up. His dad, while content to be pastor at Oakfield First Presbyterian Church, can't help but wonder if he's living vicariously through his son. It's the perfect life for a twenty-something single guy, dad and son agreed.

"I can't think of a more exciting place for him to live. What a great time to live in New York City," Mr. Eastlack said. "We support Gavin's choices. It is quite a risk taking the step he took. He is appreciative of how luck has treated him. His desire and love is acting ... and he's loving it. We're proud of him."

Gavin garnered much attention from friends, family and business contacts after his feature in Cosmopolitan hit the shelves.

Not a frequent consumer of the upscale woman's magazine, his father picked up a copy at Wal-mart. He told the cashier he didn't normally buy it, but his son was in that issue. She and another co-worker giggled. They apparently didn't believe him as they continued to laugh when he hit the exit door, he said.

But it is a dream come true for Gavin. He's aware of the potential pitfalls, such as not getting that next call or booking, to the other end of getting enveloped in the power of money. His upbringing has so far kept him grounded.

"The hardest part is not knowing where my next pay check is coming from," Gavin said. "I get a nice check from modeling and then I go back to catering. I've seen some pretty crazy stuff. Money is one of the most powerful influences on the planet. I will always have faith, and I'm just glad my parents were so prevalent in my life."

### Humble beginnings

Gavin got his first acting jobs in church plays put on wherever his father

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# Tale

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person who's there when things are tough. And when things are good, she's there to share the joy ... she inspires great things."

She's also the one who helped send him down the road with Enzo. Stein was leaving for a book tour when he shared with his wife his idea for a new story: it's a story narrated by a dog.

"No!" she responded emphatically, recalled Stein, who then begged and pleaded. Finally, he said, she told him to start writing and to have 40 pages ready by the end of his trip.

He turned in 39.

"And she read them and said, 'I think you're on to something. Keep going.'" Stein said.

But there was one problem.

## Naming the dog

In a story about a race car driver it would seem obvious that Denny would name his dog Enzo for the designer of the famous red sports-cars with the prancing horse emblem.

"But it was not that simple," Stein said.

Stein had originally named his dog Juan Pablo, for Juan Pablo Montoya, a famous race car driver. Stein thought Juan Pablo could do many things for his dog, dropping in a Pope John Paul joke that largely fell flat with audiences in Batavia and Perry.

Wisely, he listened to his wife who said the dog needed a better name. She suggested Enzo, a name Stein was saving for a son.

But, he pointed out, if he used the name for a character, especially a dog, he wouldn't then want to use the name for his own child.

Ah-ha, he realized, a finger to his temple. She was pretty smart.

His wife insisted, suggesting that Stein had, in a sense, given birth to the character and therefore should use the name he had been saving.

## Thinking like Enzo

In Perry, a woman asked Stein how he got to think like Enzo? It's a common question, but usually phrased "think like a dog," Stein said.

"And I appreciate the distinction," he said, assuring readers that he did not drop to the floor and begin walking on hands and knees to see a dog's perspective.

"I wasn't trying to write from a dog's point of view," he said, "but from Enzo the character's point of view."

"To me, I wasn't writing a dog. I was writing Enzo," he said, "a character trapped in a nearly human soul and really wants to



Rocco Laurienzo/Daily News

**MEETING THE AUTHOR:** Sharon Audino has her copy of "The Art of Racing in the Rain" signed by its author, Garth Stein, during an "A Tale for Three Counties" program at Genesee Community College, Batavia, on March 11.



Ben Beagle/Daily News, top; Mark Gutman/Daily News, right.

**TOP:** A collection of "Go Enzo" buttons are seen in a dog dish at Perry Elementary/Middle School on March 13.

**RIGHT:** Author Garth Stein speaks at Lee-Weldon Memorial Library, Medina, where a 152 people came for the "A Tale for Three Counties" program. Record attendance was recorded at all four venues where Stein spoke.



come back and do all the things he sees the people around him doing. But he also wants to remain a dog. He loves the family he's with. It's a classic double, and contained in this is the tension that creates the character.

"... I always have to know who my character is and what it does. That informs how I come into a scene."

## The zebra is everywhere

Everywhere he takes Enzo, Stein is asked about the zebra, a stuffed animal that taunts Enzo and makes him do bad things. It's not something Stein likes to discuss in much detail.

"I give a little lecture that writing is a dialogue, not a monologue," he explained. "Writing is a conversation between the writer and the reader ... everyone brings different impressions to the conversation."

Which means, he said, the zebra is whatever you — the reader — want it to be.

"Personally," he said, "I'd never trust a zebra."

"You never see a lion do anything but have the utmost respect for a Barbie doll. But a zebra ..."

Stein couldn't escape the zebra. A small stuffed toy zebra made an appearance at a couple of talks. And a different kind of zebra appeared during several Tale events — the evil kind with lots of sugar and calories.

At Richmond Memorial Library, a librarian had cut out a portion of the Little Debbie snack box Zebra Cakes and taped it to the bookselling table. Then on Friday, Leslie DeLooze stopped at the author luncheon with a full box of the vanilla cakes covered in white chocolate with chocolate stripes. The box also features

a zebra in rainbow colored shades.

Stein took a picture and posted it via his Twitter account: "This is scary! The zebra really IS everywhere! Even in Batavia...."

## What's next?

Stein is working on a couple of other projects, including his next novel. It is not narrated by a dog.

"I don't want to be known as the dog author," Stein said.

But it is narrated by a ghost.

The as-yet-untitled work is a multigeneration saga of a lumber family in the Pacific Northwest. In different eras the family had become very rich but all the clear cutting of lumber has left them with not much money. And the 12-room mansion is dilapidated and falling down.

"It's a great deal of fun" to write, Stein said. "It deals with a number of issues, and legacy. I like working with family drama."

# Pursuit

— From page B-1

happened to be pastor. He also credits GCC and Arena for her role in nudging his aspirations.

"I think, besides my family and my father, Maryanne was the biggest help to me," he said. "She gave me confidence in training, to step up to the next level."

Arena remembered a shy Eastlack who didn't have much acting experience when he arrived at GCC. He made up for that innocence by learning "faster than any young actor I've ever had before," she said. He even used a technique and scene from her class to audition for the American Musical & Dramatic Academy. He and four other students got in.

Eastlack's daily life includes casting calls, auditions and actual bookings some days and catering jobs, if necessary, to make ends meet. Although his acting jobs have been much about "hurry up and wait" for hours at a time until he's needed, other jobs have been quite fun. The Playboy commercial included beautiful women models who added to the fun of the shoot, he said.

There is also an occasional day off. That was his goal for Friday, he said.

With no appointments in sight, he planned to work out at a gym less than a block away (a real perk) and perhaps go kayaking with a friend. Being physically fit, and especially healthy, is a key to the business, he said.

He admitted to Subway restaurant having "saved my life" for many meals, though he picked up culinary skills from mom. He makes "a mean Hawaiian quesadilla."

He hasn't forgotten one teacher's lesson that actors get rejected more in one week than the average person does in a lifetime. That actually helped to fuel his efforts as a "pick-me-up" to know that rejection is all part of the game. His advice was simple for others wanting to pursue such a life.

"Just go with your dreams. If you love it you'll do it," he said. "Find your niche. The biggest critic is going to be yourself."

## CyberLife

### TECH TEST

# FlipShare TV a basic way to stream video

By Ron Harris

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The company that brought you the popular shoot-and-share Flip camera has added a \$150 companion device that is designed to make it easier to watch your video creations on your TV.

It's a good idea, although other products can do the same thing for less.

The FlipShare TV (for use with Windows and Mac computers) allows you to wirelessly stream video clips recorded with the Flip camera from a computer to a base unit connected to your television. The base has the two main connections you'd need, HDMI and composite, to pipe the video into your display. It can also accommodate videos created without Flip cameras, as long as they're in the same MP4 format.

My main concern about FlipShare TV is that this type of media streaming has been available for a few years. Some devices cost as little as \$100, such as the Netgear EVA2000, which streams various video, audio and photo formats to a TV. Even your everyday Xbox 360 or Sony PlayStation 3 video game consoles can wirelessly connect to your home computer and deliver this type of content to a TV.

FlipShare TV worked fine when I tried it with a computer in the same room as the television. The signal to the base unit comes from a thumb drive-sized transmitter that plugs into the USB port of the computer. After the FlipShare software was installed and the base unit was powered on, I was toggling through a menu of the high-definition videos I had created on a Flip camera.

The on-screen menu was simple enough and the remote control let me manage the viewing through my television rather than

the computer.

The device also let me view videos that other people in other locations made available online. I was able to sign up for a free account to broadcast and receive something called a Flip Channel, which lets other FlipShare TV users see videos I've selected to share from my library.

It functional, but it's hard to see this trumping the simple task of uploading video clips to a blog, Facebook, Vimeo, Flickr or YouTube. The FlipShare TV doesn't address a gap in available technology as

### REPORT CARD FlipshareTV

It's functional, but is basically just another way to share videos.

much as it simply gives you a new way to share and view videos at home.

FlipShare TV excels at ease of use. If you don't currently own any devices that can stream video from your computer, it's a decent solution.

On the Net:

<http://www.theflip.com>



Associated Press

The FlipShare TV, made by Cisco Systems Inc..

## New name for game center

ROCHESTER — The National Center for the History of Electronic Games at Strong National Museum of Play, 1 Manhattan Square, has changed its name and logo to more accurately reflect the global impact of electronic games on society and culture. The center has been renamed the International Center for the History of Electronic Games. Learn more about ICHEG at [www.ICHEG.org](http://www.ICHEG.org).

## GREEN DAY WORKSHOP

Learn How to "Go Green" at Work and Home

Wednesday, March 24

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Genesee Community College / Batavia Campus

Fee \$30 • Lunch is included

Good environmental stewardship benefits everyone! Take one day to develop a specific plan of action for your business, and explore realistic choices for the future. Set organizational goals for your company, and manage your energy systems at home. Heating, water, trash, transportation, metrics and measuring success—this one day workshop will help make your office and home a healthy environment that makes "cents!"

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