

Jamie Lee Curtis

BY BEKAH WRIGHT

Wallace University is back in session under the discerning eye of dean Cathy Munsch, a.k.a. Jamie Lee Curtis. "I'm all dark colors and serious demeanor, in contrast to the sherbet-colored, blood-coated youth," Curtis says of her character on the new Fox series *Scream Queens* (debuting September 22, Tuesdays). Casting Curtis was a natural for the show's producers. "*Scream Queens* is an homage to the horror classics, and who else should they call but little old me." Indeed, Curtis made a blood-splattered splash with the *Halloween* film series and followed that up with stellar performances in the blockbusters *True Lies*, *Trading Places*, and *A Fish Called Wanda*. The daughter of silver screen legends Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, Curtis has always called the City of Angels home. And as much as she loves being an actress, there's another role she identifies with: "I'm a driver."

You recently tweeted about loving station wagons. Have you ever owned one?

A Ford Country Squire station wagon with wood panels. My stepfather, Robert Brandt, taught me how to drive in both that and a nonsynchromesh VW, going uphill on Loma Vista Drive in Beverly Hills.

Why do you like driving? It's one of my "best" things. I'm a natural driver, the marital driver, and an amazing backer-upper—I can back up really fast in a dead-straight line. I was fond of pulling cookies on wet intersections in the San Fernando Valley. Stunt people like me. I avoid making a left whenever possible and can spot a traffic snarl way ahead of the pack.

What do you drive these days? A Tesla Model S.

What was your first car? A royal blue 1975 Mercury Capri with a personalized license plate that said DIMMY. Dimmy was the name that the dead Italian

mother in *The Exorcist* called her son, Damien, the priest.

What music do you listen to while driving? I keep my radio tuned to KCRW for the current events, analysis of issues, new music, and live performances. It's the greatest radio station in the world.

What are your favorite memories of growing up in L.A.? There's a flow to driving in the city: taking Sunset Boulevard from the shore to the deep city, driving the canyons of my childhood, and now adulthood, knowing every shortcut and being in rhythm with the city. I'm a human Mapquest and Waze. I often get calls from folks asking for my ideas to circumnavigate traffic.

Any favorite road trips? My best friend calls road trips *tumbleweeding*. We recently drove up to Santa Barbara for her birthday. I also love a good Palm Springs trip with the destination being Hadley's Fruit Orchards for a date shake. **W**



For more of Curtis's SoCal recommendations, visit AAA.com/conversations.