

WRITING

Showing Some Skin



MORE THAN WORDS: Jackson (right) with Kamens, word No. 1

SARAH KAMENS FEELS a connection to Shelley Jackson's new short story "Skin." Specifically, she feels it midback and a little to the right, where the story's first word, IF, is tattooed. "I like my word," says Kamens,

23. "It's like there's more to the story than what's there."

There is. Kamens was the first to answer last month's call in Cabinet magazine to participate in a unique project. Jackson wanted to publish her newest short story one word at

a time—on human volunteers. Since then she's had 64 people sign up for the 2,301-word story. From couples wanting to be linked not just romantically but syntactically, too, to those who just aspire to become human magnetic poetry, volunteers are slowly (and painfully) publishing the work. Want to read it? Too bad. Jackson's not releasing the text—only her "words" get the whole story. But she may publish a book of photos of her volunteers (tattoos not showing). "I like the idea of the story encrypted as people," she says. "Maybe they will meet. Sentences will form that I never wrote." —ELISE SOUKUP

SIGHTSEEING

Can't Talk. On a Tour.

CHECKING E-MAIL, taking pictures—there isn't much you can't do with a cell phone these days. And starting this week you can add something else to the list: a cell-phone walking tour of New York City's Lower East Side. Narrated by Jerry Stiller, the expedition focuses on the neighborhood's Jewish roots. There's music from composer



STREETWISE: N.Y.C., Stiller style

Irving Berlin, a former resident, and interviews with historians.

By calling a toll-free number (with the exception of individual phone charges, the tours are free), visitors dial up audio segments cued to 13 stops that are mapped out at talkingstreet.com; including walking time, the trip takes a little more than an hour. Next spring you'll be able to explore other Manhattan neighborhoods, including the financial district and Times Square. Creator Miles Kronby is working on plans for Boston; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; London, and Paris. "It would be a dream to have a cell-phone tour of something like Route 66," says Kronby. But "walking and listening can be dangerous enough."

—HOLLY BAILEY

FAST CHAT What It's Like to Be the Adorkable One

People are calling "The O.C.," a Fox soap set in Orange County, Calif., a "90210" on steroids. But since it debuted early, after this week new episodes won't air until Oct. 30. (Not to worry: there's a rerun marathon starting Oct. 14 ... but where have you been?) NEWSWEEK's B. J. Sigesmund spoke with star Adam Brody about everyone's new addiction. **You're probably too young to remember "90210."**

No, I grew up on "90210"! It came out when I was 10. It was 1990. I was most into it in the sixth grade.

Why does "The O.C." work so well?

It blends different-aged characters, comedy, drama, reality and heightened reality.

Was debuting in August an advantage?

Definitely. Right now there's two shows premiering every night. We had an open playing field.

Your character has been called "one of the most endearing nerds ever to stumble through a series."

That feels great. Someone called me "adorkable." Anyone who says they don't care about reviews or feedback is either lying or an idiot.

Are you a lot like your character?

Yes, and there's more of me being put into him all the time. The show's so loose: if I don't

like something, I say so. I never thought one of the most collaborative things I would work on would be a one-hour drama for Fox.

Last week's episode was so juicy! Marissa lost her virginity to her ex just to spite Ryan.

I was watching, too, oohing and aahing.

Folks in the real O.C. have criticized the show for its poor portrayals of teens and the county.

Was "90210" an honest mirror image of kids going to Beverly Hills High? I don't know that I cared. I wanted good television.



MUST-SEE 'O.C.': Adam Brody