



Erica Hubbard

More than Meets the Eye...

By Alexandria Bland

of the role she played alongside actor Keith Robinson. "I bet you I'm going to get a lot of Facebook and twitter comments because she's a little villain." The role is a stretch for the humble, kind-hearted actress.

Hubbard is a hard worker, but she still makes time for family. Balancing her time between Los Angeles and Chicago throughout the year, she shows that home is where her heart is. In fact, if she had to pick one place on the planet to live forever she'd pick her hometown. "I just love the people there, the hospitality, and the strength," she justifies her decision. "There's nothing like Chicagoans."

When she's not working or spending time at home, Hubbard enjoys her favorite pastime. "I like to travel a lot, to crazy places. One time I stayed on an island in Tahiti and stayed in one of those over-water bungalows. The island was so remote that I had to take a 30-minute fairy to get there," she tells of one of her adventures.

She also enjoys researching other actors and actresses. Will Smith and Angela Bassett are among those that she hopes to work with in the future.

Have one conversation with the actress and it's easy to see that she's in control of her own destiny and feels confident that she "can do it all." This is evident in her multitude of endeavors. In addition to acting, Hubbard has a lot going on. She not only founded a youth based nonprofit organization, The Erica Hubbard Foundation, but she released a collection of children's books entitled "You, She, Her, Him, and I."

Erica Hubbard is a multifaceted and consistent individual that has paired her love for the craft with a bubbly personality to help gain success as an actress. "You have to be focused, you have to be driven, be responsible, on time and be personable," she advises those aspiring to begin careers in the industry. "But just be passionate about what you're doing. If you love what you're doing then it'll show in your work." Hubbard's passion definitely shows in her body of work and we look forward to seeing what lies ahead.

You may know her as the self-assured Kita Whitmore from the BET sitcom, *Let's Stay Together* or as the artistic teenager, Cassie Sutton from ABC Family's *Lincoln Heights*. What you may not know is that Erica Hubbard has been working in the entertainment industry for over 20 years. Her acting career started when she was 9-years-old and up until recently had been filled mainly with tons of supporting roles.

The Chicago native is grateful for the success of her recent projects and how they are playing a part in making her a household name. "It feels good because before, I was that person who was in the films and people would be like 'What were you in?' and I'd be like Akeelah and the Bee then they'd be like 'Really?'," she tells of previous experiences. "But now that I've had roles where people can really see my work like *Let's Stay Together* and *Lincoln Heights* I feel so good." These roles have also helped her gain more recognition amongst others in the industry and led to other opportunities.

Now fans can expect to see Hubbard in a much different light in 2013. In an upcoming film she plays a character that she describes as crazy. "It's something totally different from what people have seen me do," she says