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SOAP OPERA IDOL

Heartthrob thrills Days fans

Jensen Ackles provides visual treat for female devotees

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SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL
Edmonton

In some cases their hearts almost stopped, others screamed in delight or just went wild as Jensen Ackles, the young heartthrob from *Days of Our Lives*, took Edmonton by storm on Saturday.

On this day the script differed for the young soap-opera star, for it was not from set to set but at mall to mall where Ackles would take centre stage. Ackles, 20, who plays Eric Brady on the popular daytime soap, was in Edmonton for his first time. His fans, primarily young and female, were out en masse.

"He's yummy, manly, sexy and we just love him," exclaimed Jessica McKee, 18, and Elizabeth Patz, 12, as they waited for Ackles' late morning appearance at Northwood Mall. Mall officials estimated the crowd in the range of 1,500 to 2,000. The fans waited patiently to ask intimate questions about their favourite star.

"Boxers or briefs," was the first burning question. "Boxers," Ackles said, asking if they really wanted to know that. The questions kept coming. "Any tattoos?" "Are you single?" The answers: no tattoos, and "I have a beautiful girlfriend. Her name is Lisa" — it was the only time any disappointment could be heard.

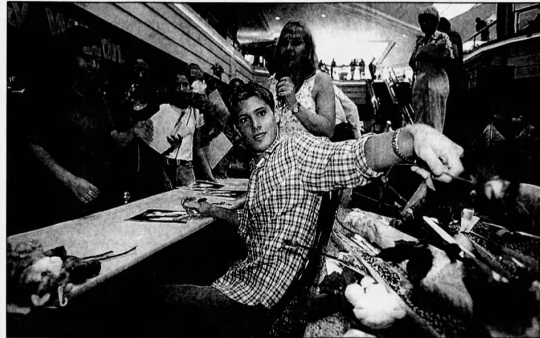
Not all the questions were personal. Eager fans wanted to know what's upcoming in the *Days* storyline for his character Eric. At the moment Eric is beginning to fall in love with Nicole, a young model he has photographed for a fashion magazine.

The lowdown from Ackles: "Nicole's past (his girlfriend on *Days*) will be coming out soon, so I'm going to learn a lot more about her and I think I may have some decision making to make about that. And you know that Taylor and Nicole are sisters right, well that's going to be fun later on, so we'll start doing some stuff with that."

Also, Ackles revealed that the shadowy figure in Nicole's past, the unknown person now in jail, will be released shortly.

And what do the fans think? Forget Nicole, they said. They want Eric to drop her and go for the quiet and soft-spoken Taylor.

Meanwhile, while Ackles was busy signing photos and having pictures



Photos by Rick MacWilliam, The Journal

Jensen Ackles adds another rose to the pile he received from his Northwood Mall fans



Tracy Minard, 8, has the thrill of her young life

taken — \$5 for a picture to be signed and \$7 to have a picture snapped with him, with the proceeds going to the Big Sister and Big Brother Society — even more fans were waiting to meet him at Bonnie Doon Mall.

"He's hot ... he's the babe," echoed fans Christina Dao, 15, Sabrina Diotte, 14, and Cindy Ly, 15, as they waited for Ackles' afternoon appearance. The trio had been waiting since before the

mall opened. These three were joined by about 300 others who — just like Ackles' Northwood fans — inquired as to his underwear preference and whether he has any tattoos. Those two questions left the soap-opera hunk a little bewildered, however; oohs and aaahs from the crowd had him volunteering the information once more.

After another round of questions, it

Jensen Ackles file

Born: March 1, 1978
Hails from: Dallas
Astrological sign: Pisces
First Hollywood audition: Successful. The show, *Sweet Valley High*, syndicated.
Where you can see him now: As Eric Brady on *Days of Our Lives*. ITV at 1 p.m. weekdays or NBC at 3:30 p.m. weekdays
Where you may have seen him: On the NBC series *Mr. Phibes*. He played the role of Malcolm for 13 episodes.
Future Plans: Signed by *Days* for two more years. Wants to do movies.
Will he do a nude scene? "Probably not."
What he would be doing if he wasn't an actor: Be in school in Texas with his friends.
What would he study: Wanted to study sports medicine in order to be a trainer on a professional football team.

was again time to sign more photos and have even more pictures taken as Saturday's *Days of Our Lives* script reached its concluding scene.

What's On

FRINGE HOLDOVERS: Playing today at the Rocky, 10708 124th St.: *The Boy's Own and Handbook*, 4:30 p.m.; *The Gentle Men & The Butterfly*, 6 p.m.; *Silent Words*, 7:30 p.m.; *All in the Timing*, 9 p.m. Tickets \$11.99 cash. Info: 453-2440.

THORHILD SUNFLOWER CONTEST: Today, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Thorhild Community Hall, one hour northeast of Edmonton on Highway 28 and secondary highway 827. Farmers' market, pancake breakfast, entertainment, muffin baking contest and sunflower growing contest. No admission fee. Info: (403) 986-3688.

CORN FEAST: In support of STARS Air Ambulance, today, 12-3 p.m. at the Darwell Farmers' Market. Corn will be served on a donation basis by STARS volunteers, 12-3 p.m. in Darwell Community Hall, west on highway 16 and north on Range Road 50 (watch for signs). STARS will also have hats, pins and T-shirts available.

SNFU: The band's rescheduled concert will take place today at Polish Hall, 10960 104th St., 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 7. All tickets sold for Aug. 7 will be honoured. Tickets at the door are \$13. This is a selection of events. For complete listing, consult Friday's *What's On* section.

St. David's Welsh Male Voice Choir

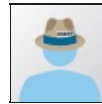
Invitation From
ST. DAVID'S WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR
MEN INTERESTED IN GROUP SINGING are invited to:
JOIN THE CHOIR!!
For information Please:
Gerry Murray 450-0551
(Rehearsals Held Monday Evenings)

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS

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at
Bonnie Doon Bowling Lanes
82 Ave. & 85 St.



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Inquiries are welcome on bumper bowling, neon bowling and birthday parties.



Clipped By:

jhansson

Fri, Oct 14, 2022