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May
2014

CELEBRITY AVENUE •

Toks Olagundoye: Remember the name

For many actors, coming up with the right screen name is an important career strategy. But for Nigerian-born Toks Olagundoye, of ABC's hit comedy "The Neighbors," it was more important for her to embrace the name she already had.

"I've been told to change my name my whole life," Toks told S2S. "I've had an agent, a manager, and even the last PR firm I interviewed with who wanted me to change it, but I've been doing this professionally for 20 years. I wouldn't want to be attached to anything by any other name. I'm very proud of the one I've got."

Hollywood isn't known for being a hotbed of diversity. Toks said that hard work and surrounding herself with the right people has been the key to her well-rounded career. "Thankfully I've always had representatives that knew I was capable of a wide array of parts," the 36-year-old said. "Knowing what I could do, they weren't scared to submit me for White roles, Asian roles, Latina roles, which actually turned out to be a lot of the roles that I booked. Now, thanks to (The Neighbors'), I'm going in for more comedy."

Regardless of where her path leads, Toks called working on "The Neighbors" a dream come true. "Honestly it's the most fun I've ever had, and they let me do everything," she said.

"The Neighbors" airs on Fridays at 8:30 p.m. ET and also stars Lenny Venito and Jami Gertz.

—Jake Rohn



Photo by Jeff Gattlieb

Toks Olagundoye is remaining true to herself, despite pressure to change her name.