

IEP's REBECCA TAYLOR February 2009

When Rebecca joined up to Work USA last year she was dreaming of working in Public Relations or a similar field over in LA. With a degree under her belt and some industry experience she was ready to tackle Tinsel Town.

Two months into her working holiday Rebecca had not landed her dream job and despite a little homesickness she was not ready to give up. Rebecca gave us some very real advice from her experience at the start of her trip.

"I spent two months living in a dark little studio apartment having no luck finding a job, the economy is bad over here and jobs are scarce. I made friends really quickly and easily because I interned at a record label first, without this I think it would have been hard to meet people. I would suggest doing something similar to at least find a grounding when you arrive."

With a bit of time and a lot of persistence Rebecca landed herself the position she had been dreaming of. While searching on a website called entertainmentcareers.net Rebecca stumbled across an advertisement that seemed right up her alley. She explains what her job involves.

"I work with one other person in a boutique celebrity PR firm so my job is very hands on. I write press releases, put together press junkets, walk the red carpets at premieres and events with clients, work with publications and other media. I basically handle everything to do with the clients public image. There are a lot of parties and events to attend even without clients, my boss takes me to these to network, which is everything in this town."

Now representing the likes of Jada Pinkett-Smith, Mary J Blige, The Wayans and Jim Caviezel, Rebecca is living the dream of many who try to break into Los Angeles. Being offered this incredible experience through the IEP Work USA program has opened impressive career doors for Rebecca and she is more than happy to pass on advice to other IEP members planning on heading to the USA, especially if they have their hearts set on LA.

"It's a cliché' but you have to put yourself out there, it's LA, you have no choice. Just be genuine, you will stand out :)"

Did she ever feel like giving up during those first few difficult months?

"NEVER!"

In jest we asked Rebecca if she had been lucky enough to meet Will Smith (one the IEP girls' favourite celebs) and she replied, "Yes I've met Will and he's one of the nicest guys in the world! He told me "Stay focused in this town baby girl" what more can I say...."