



Friday, July the 29th, 2010



She's ready to Crosse the bridge

G.VALENTINO BALL

IF YOU GO

Roxbury International Film Festival

Through Sunday
Various locations
Prices vary, 617-541-3900
www.roxburyfilmfestival.org

Telling Liris Crosse that she can't do something might be a guarantee she will try.

After being told by agencies that she was too curvy to model, she struck out on her own, booking gigs for herself. Soon a favorite in urban "lad mags" like King and Smooth, Crosse's curves earned her the nickname "Black Barbie." She eventually became a staple on hip-hop video sets of stars like Jay-Z, P. Diddy, Jennifer Lopez and 50 Cent.

"Once you tell me 'no,' that's my driving force," she says.

Now as an actress, she begins a new chapter. In "Abidjan," a featured film at Roxbury Film Fest, she has a stellar turn as a mother who takes her young New York-born son on a trip to her African homeland with eye-opening results.

Playing a mom may seem a stretch for a former video vixen, but that's exactly how she likes it.

"That was what drew me to the role, besides the great story," she says. "It wasn't anything that people knew me as. I really want people to respect me as an actor."