



The Actress

Kristin Davis became a household name for her portrayal of Charlotte York, the naïve, idealistic art dealer learning about life in HBO's *Sex and the City*.



winning series at its peak, feeling that quantity had reached the point of threatening quality. Davis was nonetheless hopeful that Charlotte might live on in feature films, and in the spring of 2008, after much anticipation, *Sex and the City* was released on the silver screen. The film, which resumed following the characters' lives four years later, found Charlotte as Charlotte York Goldenblatt, who had finally discovered happiness on the Upper East Side with her unlikely prince of a husband, Harry, and their adopted daughter, Lily. The success of the film, which earned \$579 million worldwide, has paved the way for a sequel in 2010 and a role for Davis in *Couples Retreat*, a film due out in October.

Her induction into the the Hall of Distinguished Alumni is "an honor I never expected," she says. "It means a lot to be included with this impressive group." Davis is proud of *Sex and the City* because it broke ground for women in many ways. "Our show did wonderful things for HBO, which didn't have much programming for women," Davis told *Rutgers Magazine* in 2003. "And it also sent an important message that sex plays a vital role in the

At the risk of being typecast, some actors are so good at playing a certain kind of character that it's hard to imagine them as anyone else. In 1998, Kristin Davis MGSA'87 won the role of Charlotte York in HBO's *Sex and the City*, a sitcom about four single women in their mid-30s confronting hard-won truths about romance and sexuality while juggling careers and friendship. Davis used her comedic skills to play Charlotte, a naïve art dealer who was infinitely more prim and proper—and optimistic—than her three pals. The series became one of the highest rated in HBO's history, and Davis, the dark-haired beauty in the ensemble, became synonymous with Charlotte.

In 2004, the creators of *Sex and the City* ended the award-

hearts and minds of women, that friendship counts for an awful lot, and that you don't have to follow anyone else's lead. That's pretty much my mantra as well." Her advice to aspiring actors? Never give up. She certainly didn't. After studying under legendary acting coach and professor of theater arts William Esper at Rutgers, Davis attended as many as 12 auditions a day while working as a waitress and hostess in New York City and as a yoga instructor in Los Angeles. She found small parts on *The Larry Sanders Show*, *General Hospital*, and *ER*. But it wasn't until 1995 that she got her big break, the role of neurotic rich girl Brooke Armstrong on *Melrose Place*, where she made a splash before being knocked off in the show's second season. The rest, as they say, is history.

— Bill Glavin