

# Visiting voice of Velma pleased with reactions

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Stevens said she never realized how big the series was until she met a student who wrote his dissertation based around the show.

"The show was absolutely not a metaphor for anything," she said. "It was just us kids riding around in a mystery van and doing our thing."

"At the time I never even paid attention," she added. "It was just another job, one that I was thrilled to get because it was so steady. The voice I have is the voice I used."

In fact, the major reason Stevens landed the job was because her natural voice bore such a resemblance to the previous actress's intentional inflection.

She immediately blended into the ongoing series, at a time when it was entering a rocky period in production.

In the latter half of the show's run, when Stevens was part of the cast, the cartoon went through some changes.

The creators added Scrappy-Doo, the annoying miniature counterpart of Scooby, and eventually got rid of Velma, Daphne and Fred altogether.

"For a while, they even tried Scooby-Dumb. He was an uncle or something," she said. "I think they felt it was getting tired, so they decided to kill everyone off. I was out of work, so I wasn't happy."

Stevens said many people ask her what it was like to be the voice of the "nerdier" of the two female characters on the show, her competitor being the sexy, redheaded ditz, Daphne.

"I always tried to beat them to it by saying I was the smart one," she said. "I always valued brains."

Stevens said that, appropriately enough, the actress who voiced Daphne, Heather North, was "blond and very pretty" in real life.

Stevens said she came to Nebraska when her husband got a job offer in Lincoln. She added she was ready to move somewhere that she could raise her children, and also to a place where "we didn't have to have a Mercedes."

After her stint on "Scooby-Doo," Stevens said she did some work on commercials and other TV programs.

"As I got older, there was less work and so I got into teaching. I've really enjoyed it," she said.

Stevens said, as far as she knows, the rumors about a "Scooby Doo" feature film are true, but she said all she knew was that comedian Mike Myers is involved with the project. In fact, the mastermind behind "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery" is writing a script for the film, which is rumored to be live action instead of animation.

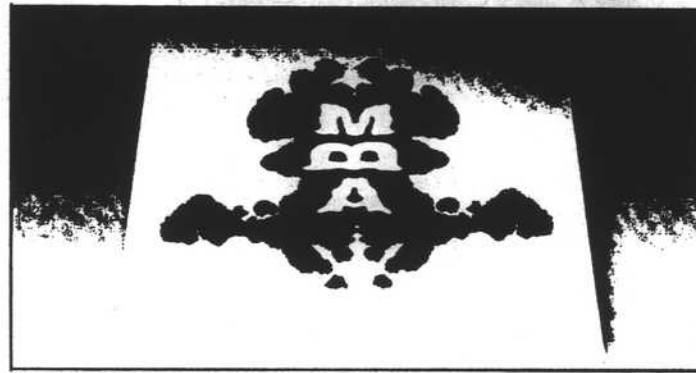
"I'm way past being in it," she said. "But I think it would be a fun thing."

Stevens said she usually doesn't tell her students about her interesting past, but they often find out one way or another.

"It was 20 years ago, but it still trails around," she said. "When they do hear about it, they usually say 'But you don't understand how important it is to us!'"

"It's great to be a part of that."

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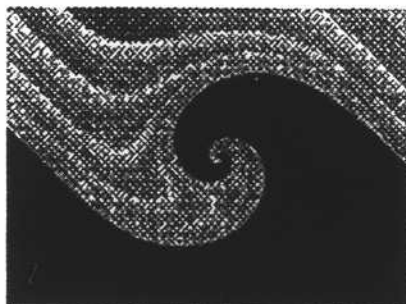
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