

Paol Rivas GOLJA, Anna 2.

First award nomination for actor for portrayal of relentless gymnast

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Stunned is how Streetsville's Ana Golja says she felt after finding out she had been nominated for her first-ever Canadian Screen Award.

"To be honest, I was in complete shock," said Golja about her nomination in the Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program or Series for her role as persevering gymnast Ariana Berlin in the Family Channel film *Full Out*. "I didn't really expect it at all actually."

Golja, who is familiar to many from her character Zoe Rivas on the *Degrassi: Next Class* television series, will be up against actors Aislinn Paul (*Degrassi*), Jordan Lockhart (*Hi Opie!*), Dalila Bela (*Odd Squad*) and Madison Ferguson (*The Stanley Dynamic*) for the award. The winner will be announced at the gala ceremony on March 13.

Golja said it's the first time she has ever been nominated for an award for her acting. While she was clearly appreciative of the recognition, saying she was "so grateful," "humbled," and "honoured," be-

ing nominated or winning awards aren't why she got into acting. The art is what drives her, she said.

Full Out was also nominated in the Best Children's or Youth Fiction Program or Series category.

It tells the true life story of Berlin, an elite gymnast and Olympic hopeful whose life took a sharp turn after a near-fatal car accident in 2001. After a hard road of rehabilitation, Berlin initially found it difficult to get back into gymnastics so she decided to join a professional dance crew.



Ana Golja

But, the itch to compete in gymnastics was still there. She eventually landed a spot on the UCLA Bruins gymnastics team and won an NCAA championship while there.

Golja and Berlin have become good friends since filming, where Berlin was a regular on set, and Berlin was thrilled for Golja when she found out about the nomination.

"She was freaking out," said Golja, with a laugh.

The Canadian Screen Awards gala will be broadcast live from the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts on CBC. It starts at 8 p.m.