

Actress Annabelle Gurwitch parlayed her firing by Woody Allen into an experience-sharing multimedia blitz.



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TRIAL BY FIRED: The L.A.-based Gurwitch has a stage show, a book and now a documentary, all linked to her 2003 dismissal.

Who knew that the end was only the beginning?

By MARY McNAMARA
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ANNABELLE GURWITCH is finally done being fired. Four years after Woody Allen abruptly dismissed the L.A.-based actress from a play he was directing — telling her, among other things, that her reading of the part made her seem “retarded” — Gurwitch has come to the end of her multifaceted, multimedia journey of self-discovery.

Like all good baby boomers, Gurwitch took the personal and made it political. And professional. First was the stage work — “Fired: Tales of Jobs Gone Bad,” which began at Comedy Central Los Angeles,

‘Fired’ tales



Photographs from Shout Factory

there was downsizing.”

In the film, this is at times an uneasy marriage, with strange albeit interesting connections — Gurwitch interviews a former White House chef because he is, she says, the only person in Washington to admit to being fired. Fortunately, Gurwitch never pretends to be more than she is — an actress who got fired, had a sort of epiphany and is interested in following its ripples. She intentionally, and wisely, left the analyses to professional economists (although one of these is Ben Stein, as well known for his movie and television roles as any Greenspan gravitas).

“There are so many nights when I lay awake and wonder if I put the right things in the movie,” she says. “Jeff Garlin asked me what percent of the movie that I