

TV Week



AP photo
Melissa Gilbert portrays Wall Street lawyer Kate Dalacroy in the NBC series "Sweet Justice." Gilbert, 30, may be remembered by TV audiences as Laura Ingalls in "Little House on the Prairie."

Will 'Sweet Justice' prevail?

NEW YORK (AP) — "Is Cicely joining us after this interview?" Melissa Gilbert asks her publicist.

Reminded that Cicely Tyson, her "Sweet Justice" co-star, isn't expected for a safe while ... Gilbert lights a cigarette.

"Cicely is very mothering," Gilbert confides. "She lectures me about smoking and eating right."

Even at 30, Gilbert, whose "Little House on the Prairie" premiered 20 years ago, is still being mothered. And not just by a colleague who happens to be twice her age. Many viewers, too, have never quite escaped a certain parental urge. Little Laura Ingalls still lives in their hearts, as does little Melissa Gilbert.

"That's fine," says a very grownup Gilbert, smiling.

But time passes. Time enough not only for nine years of "Little House," but also for Gilbert's made-for-TV movies — 28 of them, by her count. (The latest is "Against Her Will: The Carrie Buck Story," in which Gilbert co-stars with Marlee Matlin. It premieres at 9 p.m. EDT next Wednesday on Lifetime.)

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