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Rachel
Weisz
On Life In
New York
With Daniel
Craig

EROTIC ADVENTURE

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IN A BERLIN
FETISH CLUB'

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OF AN
ALPHA BOSS

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Believe What
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Thinking

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Rachel Weisz is trying to draw attention to herself in the sushi restaurant where we meet for dinner in New York. She tosses back her hair and attempts to catch the eye of diners at the tables around us. There's not so much as a single sideways glance.

'See?' she declares triumphantly. 'No one recognises me. Ever.'

At 42, she is strikingly beautiful, although simply dressed in a striped shirt, skinny jeans and wedge sandals, with no jewellery except for the gold band on her wedding finger, marking her marriage last year to the actor Daniel Craig. When she is out on the town with him, they are the centre of attention. But on her own, despite appearing in a cluster of big movies in recent years, she is less recognised, though not as anonymous as she insists.

'A producer once said to me, "You have a good range because you can look glamorous but you can also look..." He didn't know what to say and eventually he went, "...organic.'" Weisz roars with laughter. 'I think he meant if I have no make-up on, I look ordinary. I've just done a photo shoot so I probably look a bit glamorous today but when I played Tessa in *The Constant Gardener* [the movie that garnered her a Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 2006], I didn't wear make-up and I don't think she was glamorous.'

I tell her that Tessa, the beautiful, impulsive activist who captures the heart of a diplomat played by Ralph Fiennes, seemed pretty glamorous to me. 'Maybe to you,' says Weisz, 'because you're...' Now it's her turn to cast around for a word that doesn't sound too insulting: '...an intellectual. But I don't think she was glamorous. She just waddled around with a big belly.'

Weisz and Craig became close on the movie set of Jim Sheridan's thriller *Dream House*, in which they play a married couple who find their home is haunted. Last summer they married secretly in New York, with only four

people in attendance, including Craig's adult daughter, Ella, and Weisz's six-year-old son, Henry.

Henry's father is the filmmaker Darren Aronofsky, with whom Weisz had a nine-year relationship. She separated from him a few months after wrapping *Dream House*. 'I wasn't actually married before,' Weisz feels

for the sake of it. But I like to question people who say they're in charge.'

Even directors? 'Especially directors. And I love working with directors who don't take that personally.'

Recently she's been working on *The Bourne Legacy*, an action spy film due to open later this year. 'It's a mainstream blockbuster. But an intelligent one. It's

“I became well behaved, which was kind of a drag. But I still like to question authority”

bound to explain, as she works her way through a plate of sashimi accompanied by a glass of sake. 'We were engaged.'

Now Weisz and Craig share a home in New York's East Village. 'I still think of myself as a British woman, whatever that means,' says Weisz, who is a naturalised American citizen but still sounds very English. 'In fact, I've got no English blood at all, as my parents are immigrants [her father is an inventor from Hungary and her mother is an Austrian psychotherapist], but I was born in England. I'm not an English rose though,' she adds. 'I've got a lot of thorns.'

SOW DO THE THORNS MANIFEST themselves, I ask. 'Oh, I'm very thorny,' she says enthusiastically. 'I have countless flaws - have you got a year? Hopefully, as one gets older, one learns to deal with the flaws that really affect other people.'

A notoriously rebellious teenager, she was expelled from private school in London. 'I became well behaved later, which was kind of a drag. But I still think it's important to question authority. I don't want to smash things up just

all a secret, I can't tell you anything!' And she's been filming *360*, by the director of *The Constant Gardener*. 'I'm married to Jude Law and I have an affair with a young Brazilian boy. It's fun.' Next year sees her join a stellar cast - including James Franco and Michelle Williams - playing the Wicked Witch of the East in the eagerly anticipated *Oz: The Great and Powerful*, the prequel to *The Wizard of Oz*.

She's busy, but mindful of keeping a balance between her work and home life. 'Like any job, there are days when you're just pulling your hair out,' she says. 'The same as anyone who wants to be with their kid or their husband. Every working mother feels that don't they? Of course, sometimes it's great to get away and feel, "Hooray, I'm not changing nappies today." I mean, I love my son, but it's not without conflict.'

A woman walks past our table, exclaiming in delight when she sees Weisz, who leaps up to hug her. Sitting down she explains, 'That was Darren's sister, Patti. Her daughter is coming to my son's birthday party.' So everything {continued}

is amicable with Aronofsky? 'Yes, it is. We're bringing Henry up together.'

I ask her if it was love at first sight when she worked with Craig. She hesitates, then shakes her head, smiling. 'I'm going to change the subject.' But she feels bound to add: 'It wasn't really like that. We'd been friends for ages.' She claims the increased interest in her private life doesn't really bother her. 'As far as downsides go, I don't think it's a big one. It's something we deal with together.'

'I'm not really an important person,' she continues. 'I'm a storyteller; I make movies. What I do doesn't really affect anything, it's just mildly entertaining. Sometimes you trip up and you fall in a minor way, but you can't choose to be noticed just in the good times. Anyway, everyone is just trying to earn a living, even the paparazzi.' She catches herself: 'Do I sound like Mother Teresa?'

A S A CHILD GROWING UP IN Hampstead Garden Suburb, Weisz joined a drama group and at 14 was offered the role of Richard Gere's daughter in the movie *King David* – but her father refused it on her behalf. Instead she took A-levels and went on to read English Literature at Cambridge, which left her with a tendency to overanalyse her lines. 'When you say words [as an actress], you mustn't think about them. You have to send them through the heart. Does that sound very pretentious? It's hard to talk about acting without sounding like a wanker... You learn by turning in a few crap performances and then hopefully getting better.'

She first worked in TV, appearing in *Inspector Morse*. Later she was cast in Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty*, but it wasn't until 1999, when she appeared as Evy the librarian-adventurer in blockbuster *The Mummy* that she became well known. A sequel followed and then roles in a cluster of unmemorable movies.

The Constant Gardener was a turning point. 'I really wanted that role. I hounded

Fernando [Meirelles, the director]. Now she doesn't need to hound anyone. 'Winning an Oscar opens doors – you get offered better jobs with better directors. I'm taken more seriously than when I was just in *The Mummy*.'

She says she picks roles instinctively. 'I don't think I make canny choices. With hindsight, one can go, "That was a good choice," but there is no crystal ball guaranteeing success. I like to keep my feet in both worlds – the commercially viable world and the art-house world.'

Somehow she has avoided being pigeonholed. 'It's just a sign of how completely lost I am,' she says in jest (I think). 'The older I get, the more I like to play very challenging roles that are outside my comfort zone; people that don't come from my culture, my class.'

Living with another actor, she says, is helpful. 'We don't sit around talking about acting but you both understand you've got to be flexible. Every few months you start a new job.' Do they mind when the other is having an on-screen

she takes a call from a girlfriend. 'I'll be there in a few minutes. I just need to pee first. Can you solve that problem for me?' Again the chortle. Her 'trademark description' on the Internet Movie Database is 'hearty laughter'. 'It's true,' she says, 'I laugh like a man.'

In 2010, she directed a short movie, *The Thief*. It is deftly executed but is not an experience she's keen to repeat. 'I loved working with the actors but not much else,' she says drily. I ask if she feels female directors are overlooked. 'Yes!' she replies vehemently. 'It's a major, major problem. I don't know if it's an old boys' club but it's frustrating.'

Now she is running late so she downs the rest of her sake, which the waitress has refilled a couple of times. 'Do I look drunk?' she asks, laughing.

Outside in the taxi, she strikes a more reflective note. 'I do feel that things get better as you grow older in terms of gaining a real confidence. I'm less desperate. It's just wisdom. You've tried out a lot of things and you've failed a lot

“I'm pretty content. I'm not planning on having more children, but never say never”

romance? 'It's just make-believe. It's a strange job in that way for sure.'

I ask if they are competitive with each other. 'Luckily we're not going up for the same roles,' she replies adroitly. 'Actually I wouldn't mind some men's roles.'

IN THE PAST, SHE HAS TALKED MORE openly about her relationships – she went out with the actor Neil Morrissey, then the director Sam Mendes. These days, she's less forthcoming, although she does bat away my enquiries with admirable charm. In another setting, uninhibited by any personally imposed gagging orders, I can imagine Weisz giving her social circle the full benefit of her wicked sense of humour. At one point

of times – you just get better at choosing things that are going to suit you better. Everything is a gamble, you've no idea where the journey is going to take you.'

She pauses, seeing how this might be interpreted: 'I'm not talking about failed relationships. I have a beautiful son with Darren so there's no way I can view our relationship as a mistake.'

Risking a final foray into personal territory, I ask if she'd like another child: 'I'm pretty content. I'm not planning on having more, but never say never.' ■
360 is out on 10 August and *The Bourne Legacy* is out on 13 August

Check out Rachel's red-carpet style at marieclaire.co.uk/rachelweisz