

Glass meets British actor and Hollywood A-lister FELICITY JONES whose latest role was inspired by the dying art of letter-writing

NOTE TO SELF

Writer
CHARLIE NEWMAN
Photographer
GAVIN BOND
Fashion Director
KATIE FELSTEAD

In 2011, British author Jojo Moyes’ *The Last Letter From Your Lover* was published. That same year Felicity Jones won the special jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival for her performance in *Like Crazy*. Now the two meet for the film adaptation of Moyes’ best-selling novel.

Having previously enjoyed screenwriter Nick Payne’s *Constellations* (showing at London’s Vaudeville theatre this summer), the opportunity to play gutsy London journalist Ellie in the eponymous movie was too good to resist for Jones, whose father was also a journalist. Just like her character, Jones went one step further, working as an executive producer

with fellow co-star Shailene Woodley of *Big Little Lies* fame. Jones says this was not another “vanity credit” often found in Hollywood but an opportunity to give a “very hands-on approach”, sharing her “thoughts on Ellie’s storyline”, giving notes to Payne and director Augustine Frizzell, and working on “the later development of the script”.

Jones’ repertoire of roles always packs a punch — whether it’s as Jane Hawking in *The Theory Of Everything*, Ruth Bader Ginsburg in *On The Basis Of Sex*, Amelia Wren in *The Aeronauts* or as Jyn Erso in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. Jones is paving the way for nuanced female leads, challenging Hollywood’s

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B.zero1 Design Legend necklace with pendant, both in 18K rose gold and B.zero1 Design Legend four-band ring in 18K rose gold, both BULGARI Fourth finger — Felicity’s wedding ring, Suit SPORTMAX



Left hand, little finger — Bee My Love ring in rose gold CHAUMET
Left hand, fourth finger — Trinity ring in 18K white gold, 18K rose gold and 18K yellow gold, *Juste un Clou bracelet*, both CARTIER
Right hand — Felicity's wedding ring, Dress MOLLY GODDARD



“ Balance is the holy grail but it’s a twisty path to get there, although I feel like I’m starting to accept more that life fluctuates”



B.zero1 Design Legend four-band ring in 18K rose gold BULGARI
All clothing LOUIS VUITTON

outdated perception of women: “I think the industry is in a period of great transition, which is wonderful. I think it had been stuck in the 1950s for far too long.” With the dawn of social media came a newfound democracy, she adds, “I think the greatest thing we now have is accountability. I think people got away with things because the power structures were such that people were able to dominate others through fear.”

These very power structures have been shaken in the face of the MeToo movement, Black Lives Matter and, of course, the pandemic. While the internet can at times feel like a daunting and unsafe space, Jones celebrates “the technological revolution”, seeing it as somewhere “people have much more of a voice. There’s still far to go but at least we are seeing cracks.”

Jones’ wise words can be taken more literally, too. With lockdowns easing, we are seeing cracks of light shine through, and with that a lightness of mood. While holidays may be off the cards, *The Last Letter From Your Lover*

and letters. I wish I had more time to write long ones but I love it when I do.”

Indeed, Jones is probably a bit stretched for time having had her first child in April last year, she is refreshingly honest about trying to find balance in her busy life. “Balance is the holy grail but it’s a twisty path to get there, although I feel like I’m starting to accept more that life fluctuates,” she declares. “Ups and downs are part of being a human and there are periods of no balance, like when you’re making a film. Really creative times are often quite intense [followed by] periods of calm. I guess the balance comes from accepting what life throws at you.”

Accepting the good with the bad is not something that feels familiar in the world of celebrity, which always exudes an impression of perfection. In Jones’ easy-going company it’s easy to forget that she is very much a part of Hollywood royalty, having been directed by Ralph Fiennes in *The Invisible Woman* and George Clooney in *The Midnight Sky* (while

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will gladly whisk you away to the glamorous and glittering shores of the Mediterranean in the 1960s, where the love letters between Jane Stirling (played by Woodley) and Anthony O’Hare (played by Callum Turner) come to life. “Augustine created a very familial atmosphere on set and kept it light and energetic, which was perfect for our scenes,” she says. In fact, Moyes’ novel couldn’t be in safer hands. A former English literature student at Wadham College, Oxford, Jones carried the book around with her during filming “like a magical charm”, referring to it constantly.

The idea for Moyes’ novel came after she discovered that her younger cousin had never received a love letter. Regarding it as a dying art form, Moyes breathed new life into letter-writing, arguably writing a love letter to the very form itself. Jones cherishes the integrity found in letter writing: “It feels as though it means something more when it’s written down on paper – the fact that someone has bothered to find a pen is a big deal. I love writing notes

pregnant), starred next to Tom Hanks in *Inferno* and scored beauty contracts with Dolce and Gabbana and Clé De Peau. She is quick to praise others, too, citing Thomas Vinterberg’s *Another Round* as her favourite film of the year.

Most women can relate to Jones’ character Ellie at some point in their lives, somebody who is lost and searching for their identity. As someone who has now passed this searching stage, Jones reflects on her journey: “I think you get better at working out what really makes your heart sing and letting go of the other stuff. I’ve always felt you’ve got to experience a little bit of everything so that when you’re old and infirm you’ve got a bank of wonderful memories to think back on.”

What of 2020, the year when everything paused? Jones is ever hopeful, reassuring us that “post-pandemic I think connection and romance will be more intensified because we’ve collectively gone through an experience which shows us how fragile life is”.

***The Last Letter From Your Lover* is in UK cinemas from August 6**

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