



Photos: © Plagat

Jessica's Time

Behind the scenes

Born on the 24th March 1977 in Sacramento, California, Chastain credits her grandmother for fostering her love for the arts, through gifts of ballet lessons, and taking her to see 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,' when she was just seven years old. She was nine when she fell in love with dance, and by thirteen had joined a dance troupe to progress her talents and skill. It was, however, the screen and stage that beckoned the loudest, and she took the advice of a fellow performer in a Shakespearian production, who suggested that she should audition for a coveted place in the highly-acclaimed New York performing arts school, Juilliard, as a drama major. During her tenure, Chastain performed in 'Romeo and Juliet' and also received glowing reviews for her performances in 'The Cherry Orchard,' opposite Michelle Williams at Williamstown, and in Richard Nelson's 'Rodney's Wife' – in which she played opposite David Strathairn – off-Broadway at Playwright's Horizons.

Academy Award winners, Estelle Parsons (director) and Al Pacino, handpicked Chastain to perform the title role in the stage production of 'Salome,' acting opposite Pacino. The collaboration continued with Pacino directing, and Barry Navidi producing, 'Wild Salome,' the big screen adaptation of the play which captured a behind-the-scenes look and portions of the play's production.

Her convincing performance in 'Salome,' saw her land the dynamic title role in Dan Ireland's production of 'Jolene.' In the film, she starred opposite Rupert Friend, Frances Fisher and Dermot Mulroney, and later won the Best Actress Award at the 2008 Seattle Film Festival for her role. Chastain loves the stage and in 2009, she relished the opportunity to play the role of Desmonda, in the classic play 'Othello,' opposite Phillip Seymour Hoffman. The production was directed by Peter Sellars, and began its run in Vienna, before moving on to Germany and finishing in New York's Broadway.

Appearances and Accolades

Chastain has played opposite a number of the film industry's leading actors, including Al Pacino, Brad Pitt, Gerard Butler, Dame Helen Mirren, Ralph Fiennes and Sean Penn. She had a stand-out year in 2011, receiving several nominations and accolades for her work from the LA Film Critics, British Academy of Film and TV, Broadcast Film Critics, HFPA, Screen Actors Guild and the Academy Awards. 2012 saw her featured by TIME Magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World". Her prolific performance in Kathryn Bigelow's espionage thriller, 'Zero Dark 30' garnered several awards, including the Broadcast Film Critics Association Award for Best Actress, the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture Drama, and her second consecutive

Jessica Chastain has emerged as one of Hollywood's most sought after actresses of her generation. She is probably best known for her role as Celia Foote, in Dreamwork's 'The Help,' where she played an insecure Southern lady, constantly trying to impress the high society women who ultimately reject her. An Academy Award-nominated adaptation of Kathryn Stockett's best-selling novel, 'The Help,' won numerous awards in 2011. For her role, Chastain garnered an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress, and received similar nominations at the Golden Globe Awards, the Screen Actors Guild Awards and the Critics' Choice Awards.





Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. In the film, Chastain stars as Maya, whose character was inspired by a real CIA analyst who was instrumental in the hunt for Osama bin Laden. 'Zero Dark 30' earned several nominations, including Best Film at the NYT Critic Awards and Independent Spirit Awards.

Favouring roles that will challenge her as an actress, which allow her to delve into the psyche of the human condition, she has an eclectic collection of characters on her resume. In 2012, Chastain played the role of Maggie Beauford, in The Weinstein Company's 2012 film, 'Lawless', opposite Shia LaBeouf and Tom Hardy, and in 2013, she starred in the horror film 'Mama', directed by Andres Muschietti for Guillermo Del Toro's production company Toma 78. She also lent her voice to DreamWorks Animation's 'Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted,' as the character of Gia, the jaguar.

2014 and 2015 are also proving to be impressive years for Chastain who appears in A24's 'A Most Violent Year,' Legendary Pictures' 'Crimson Peak,' 'The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby,' 'Miss Julie' and 'Interstellar'. Over the next two years, she appears in 'The Zookeeper's Wife,' 'The Death and Life of John F. Donovan,' and 'The Martian.'

Piaget Timepieces

Chastain was appointed International Brand Ambassador for luxury Swiss watchmaker, Piaget, in January 2015. It appears a natural fit for the flamboyant brand, known for its extraordinary designs combining evocative beauty with timeless elegance. Chastain is radiant and enjoys life, pursuing her passions and taking on diverse and challenging stage and screen acting roles, always striving to be a better version of herself. She is charismatic, alluring and chic – just like the women who favour Piaget's exciting designs. Of her ambassadorship, Chastain says, "It is an incredible honour to enter this partnership with Piaget. They believe in innovation and boldness in their approach with pieces that are modern but respect the company's rich heritage. Their attention to detail is unparalleled and their beautiful collection reflects the company's motto to 'Always do better than necessary.'"

At a recent photo shoot for the brand, she expressed delight with Piaget's new Possession ring, exclaiming, "I love the Possession ring. Ever since I've worn rings, I've always been the girl who likes to turn my rings on my fingers. And how incredible that actually it's designed to turn! It feels playful and as I wear it I am constantly in a meditative state. I am always turning it. It is very addictive".

A talented star on the silver screen and a beautiful ambassador for Piaget, Jessica Chastain is an all-encompassing performing artist, whose works keep garnering her international attention and recognition. Her zest for life and everything she does prove testament to her driven personality, and her partnership with Piaget is nothing short of blockbuster perfection, fit for any red carpet. ■ Lindsay Grubb

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