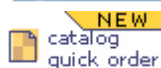


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Though she started out to be a ballet dancer, Neve Campbell instead found a toe-hold in Hollywood, getting cast in the hit TV series "Party Of Five", and then stretching her acting muscles in such films as *Scream*, *Wild Things*, *The Craft* and *54*. With the release of her latest film, *I Really Hate My Job* (distributed by Mongrel Media), we caught up with the Guelph, Ontario-born actress to talk about her recent work.

Q - In *I Really Hate My Job*, each of the characters working in the restaurant has loftier ambitions. They have dreams. Did that strike a chord with you?

A - Yeah, I would say I was definitely a determined kid. I certainly knew that I wanted to dance; I started dancing when I was six. I had the ambition to be part of a great ballet company; so yeah, I can relate to that kind of passion.

Q - Have you ever had to do the actress-working-as-a-waitress thing?

A - No, I never have. I started dancing professionally in Toronto when I was 15. That was my first job, so I guess you'd say I've never really had a real job [laughs].

Q - This film features a great ensemble cast. Do you enjoy working in an ensemble situation?

A - I do love that atmosphere. I think, coming from being a dancer, I like being part of a company and the atmosphere of an ensemble. We had a really delightful time working together. We all got on fantastically, so it was fun.

Q - Is working with an ensemble cast different from other shoots? Certain challenges? Rewards?

A - I think with any job, whether it's acting or anything, really, people are different and people have different opinions about things and function differently, and work differently; it's about finding a middle ground where everyone can be happy.

Q - You have a full nude scene in this film. Is that difficult to do?

A - It's not easy [laughs]. But you make it the most comfortable situation, and you ask the director to have as few people on the set as possible during the scene. But it's more the idea of it that's scary than actually [doing it]. You just think, 'we've all got...bits', y'know? [laughs] As long as people are professional about it, it's fine. When I was younger, I was asked to do nudity, and I turned it down a lot, because I did feel it was more about box-office draw than actually about the character. But with this, it made a lot of sense to me because it was a very important moment in the film.

Q - In the film, your character, Abbie, is stressed about turning 30. Is age something you think about, being in the business you're in?

A - I feel very lucky in the sense that I don't concern myself with my age; I really celebrate getting older. You go through maybe a period of transition where you're not quite right for the young roles and not quite right for the older roles, but I think I've passed that now, and it hasn't stopped me from working. I'm actually really enjoying playing adults [laughs], but there was a good period of time where I was playing teenagers a lot, and that can get frustrating. I actually prefer the more mature, more rounded, stronger characters that are coming along now.

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Q - What do you look for in a role or in a script?

A - To be honest, it's not necessarily just the script. I mean, obviously the writing is the most important thing; if you don't have the writing, and you don't have a solid script, then you don't have anything, really. I definitely look for strength in characters, or at least that they be fully fleshed-out and seem true, so that the audience will be able to relate to them and I'll be able to relate to them, if I have to play them. I look for anything interesting or different that hasn't been done before. That's always a challenge [chuckles]. But more so, I think it's the entire package. It's about the experience--where we're shooting, who the director is, who the other artists are, will it be something new and challenging--that's what I look for.

Q - You've worked in film and television. Do you prefer one over the other?

A - I've just finished a [BBC TV project], called "Burn Up" with Bradley Whitford from "The West Wing" and Rupert Penry-Jones (*Match Point*, *Hilary And Jackie*) and a bunch of other wonderful English actors, that was written by Simon Beaufoy, who wrote *The Full Monty*, and we shot in Calgary. So, yeah, I'm doing both, features and television. For me, as long as the characters are good and the story is good, it doesn't matter. The business has changed a lot in the last ten years. There isn't an attitude about jumping from one to the other; everybody does it now. I actually think that there's really good television being written these days, and sometimes you're finding better scripts for television than you are for features.

Q - So, unlike your character in the film, you don't seem to be someone who hates her job...

A - I love what I do. I really enjoy acting. I love being an artist. I love being creative. I love that I can get paid to do what I enjoy [laughs]. It can definitely be a challenge in the sense of scheduling your life--you never really have a say in when you're going to be working or where you're going to be working, for how long, and that kind of thing, so you feel like a bit of a gypsy, but otherwise I love the work itself.

Neve picks her recent faves

"I thought it was really beautiful. That scene on the beach--the one shot that pans for about 15 minutes--I thought that was completely stunning."



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"That was definitely one of my favourites. I love Julian Schnabel's work. He's a real master."



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Just Released



I Really Hate My Job
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Starring: Neve Campbell, Shirley Henderson
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About this DVD:

Release Year: May 6, 2008
Studio: Mongrel Media
Running Time: 1:29

I Really Hate My Job sizzles its way through one steamy night and the lives of five feisty women working in a London restaurant--each with loftier ambitions. Customers come and go, unaware of the real concerns of these women; a rat or two in the kitchen, bitter arguments about life and art, as well as a coup d'état in the kitchen... all overshadowed by the anticipation of the arrival of a famous Hollywood movie star. You might assume they're just three waitresses, one cook and a dishwasher, but they see themselves as an artist, an actor, a lover, an author and a revolutionary.

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