



Victoria Hamilton

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Victoria Hamilton (born 5 April 1971) is an English actress. After training at the [London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art](#), Hamilton began her career in classical theatre, appearing in productions with the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#) and the [National Theatre](#). In 2002, she appeared in the London stage play *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* alongside [Clive Owen](#) and later [Eddie Izzard](#).

She made her [Broadway](#) debut in 2003 when the production moved to New York, where she earned a [Tony Award](#) nomination. She won the [Critics' Circle Theatre Award](#) and [Evening Standard Theatre Award](#) for her performance in the play *Suddenly, Last Summer*, held in 2004 at the [Lyceum Theatre](#).

Hamilton has often worked in the [costume drama](#) genre. During the 1990s, she had supporting roles in three [Jane Austen](#) adaptations: the 1995 serial *Pride and Prejudice*, the 1995 film *Persuasion*, and the 1999 film *Mansfield Park*.

Hamilton won the role of [Queen Victoria](#) in the 2001 television production, *Victoria & Albert*, portraying the monarch in her early years. From 2008 to 2011, Hamilton was a cast member in the [BBC1](#) series *Lark Rise to Candleford*. Since 2016, she portrays [Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother](#) in the [Netflix](#) historical drama series *The Crown*.

Victoria Hamilton	
Born	<div>Victoria Sharp</div> 5 April 1971 <div> Wimbledon, London, England</div>
Citizenship	 United Kingdom
Education	London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art
Occupation	Actress
Spouse	 Mark Bazeley
Children	2
Awards	<div>Critics' Circle Theatre Award (2000, 2004)</div> <div>Laurence Olivier Theatre Award (2002, 2005)</div> <div>Evening Standard Theatre Award (2004)</div>

Career

Hamilton was born in [Wimbledon, London](#) to a non-theatrical family.^{[1][2]} She attended [St Hilary's School](#), a private school in Surrey, from 1974–82, then [Prior's Field School](#), Godalming until 1987.^[3]

Hamilton initially intended to read English at [Bristol University](#), before opting to train at the [London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art](#).^{[4][2]} She began her acting career in classical theatre, spending the first five years appearing in productions by troupes such as the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#) and the [National Theatre](#).^[5] She stayed with the Royal Shakespeare Company for eighteen months.^[6] Hamilton commented in 2001 that it was

"very unfashionable" to begin a career in classical theatre but she had sought to emulate the careers of actors like Judi Dench and Ian Holm who "started in rep and slowly built themselves into the position where they could juggle theatre and film".^[2]

Stage

In 1995, Hamilton appeared in Ibsen's *The Master Builder* directed by Peter Hall, starring Alan Bates and Gemma Jones and performed at the Haymarket Theatre in the West End of London. *The Independent* described Hamilton as a "formidable talent" despite being a newcomer, and noted that she had previously appeared in two performances held at the Orange Tree Theatre in London, one of them being an adaptation of a play by James Saunders.^[7] *The Master Builder* earned Hamilton the London Critics Circle Theatre Award for Most Promising Newcomer. In 2000 she received the Critics' Circle Theatre Award for her performance in *As You Like It*, Crucible Theatre.^[1]

She made her Broadway debut in the 2003 play *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, co-starring alongside the comedian Eddie Izzard.^[8] She had starred with Clive Owen, and later Izzard, in a successful London production of the play the previous year, in which she and Izzard portray the parents of a girl with severe brain damage who attempt to save their marriage through jokes and black comedy.^{[5][9][2]} For her performance in the Broadway adaptation, Hamilton received a nomination for Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play.^[10]

The following year she appeared in *Suddenly, Last Summer* (2004), an adaptation of the Tennessee Williams play, performed at the Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield.^[11] For her performance, she was honoured as Best Actress by winning the Critics' Circle Theatre Award and Evening Standard Theatre Award.^{[12][13]} Her success lead some of the media to brand her as "the next Judi Dench".^{[2][14]}

She took a three-year break from the stage before returning as Viola in the Shakespearean comedy *Twelfth Night* (2008), staged at Wyndham's Theatre in the West End of London.^{[14][15]}

Television and film

Hamilton is known for working in the costume drama genre;^{[16][17]} in 2001, she joked that she had been in corsets for the preceding seven years.^[18]

During the 1990s, she had supporting roles in three adaptations of Jane Austen's novels. These include the 1995 serial *Pride and Prejudice* as Mrs Forster,^[19] the 1995 film *Persuasion* as Henrietta Musgrove,^[20] and the 1999 film *Mansfield Park* as Maria Bertram.^[21]

Hamilton won the role of Queen Victoria in the 2001 BBC-TV production *Victoria & Albert*, despite facing strong competition and being relatively unknown at the time. She auditioned with the director John Erman in a London hotel suite, and after reading lines from several more scenes at his prompting, was offered the part immediately.^[22] Noting that the monarch is typically depicted as stern and stout, Hamilton desired to show a younger version who "loved parties and balls and theatre and opera and new dresses" after a childhood spent in a "forbidding environment".^[23]

In 2005, Hamilton appeared in the three-part miniseries *To the Ends of the Earth* alongside Benedict Cumberbatch and Jared Harris. The production, an adaptation of the novels of the same name by William Golding, featured various self-absorbed characters who are forced to remain in close quarters while sailing on a

ship to Australia during the Napoleonic Wars.^[24] Hamilton described the production as having "some of the most beautiful scripts I've seen", and called her character Miss Granham "one of the strongest people on the boat".^[6]

From 2008 to 2011, Hamilton appeared in the BBC1 series *Lark Rise to Candleford* as Ruby Pratt, one of two spinster sisters who run a high fashion shop in a small 19th-century town.^[25] *The Guardian* deemed Ruby's rivalry with her sister Pearl (played by Matilda Ziegler) as a highlight of the series, believing both actresses portrayed their characters with "infectious relish".^[26] In 2013, Hamilton played Peggy in the BBC drama series *What Remains*.^[27]

In 2015, Victoria starred in the BBC1 Drama, *Doctor Foster*, playing a character named Anna, a lady who lived across the road from Gemma & Simon Foster, played by Suranne Jones and Bertie Carvel.

In 2016, she appeared in the Netflix series *The Crown* as Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. The drama series, which is scheduled to span over six seasons, depicts the relationship between Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh from 1947 to the present.^[28]

In 2017, Victoria reprised her role as Anna in Series 2 of the BBC1 Drama, Doctor Foster, and featured in episodes 1-4 of Series 2, the character had moved away by the final episode.

Filmography

Year	Film	Role	Notes	Citation
1995	<i>Cone Zone</i>	Zandra Ward	TV film	[1]
	<i>Persuasion</i>	Henrietta Musgrove		[29]
	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Mrs. Forster	TV mini-series (3 episodes)	[29]
1996	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	Nerissa	TV film	[29]
1998	<i>King Lear</i>	Cordelia	TV series/Masterpiece Theatre	[29]
1999	<i>Mansfield Park</i>	Maria Bertram		[29]
2000	<i>Midsomer Murders</i>	Hilary Inkpen	TV series (1 episode: "Garden of Death")	[1]
2001	<i>The Savages</i>	Jessica	TV series (6 episodes)	[1]
	<i>Victoria & Albert</i>	Queen Victoria	TV serial	[29]
2002	<i>A Day in the Death of Joe Egg</i>	Sheila	TV film	[29]
	<i>Before You Go</i>	Catherine		[29]
	<i>Babyfather</i>	Lucy	TV series (2 episodes)	[29]
	<i>Goodbye, Mr. Chips</i>	Kathie	TV film	[29]
2003	<i>In Search of the Brontës</i>	Charlotte Brontë	TV film	[1]
2005	<i>Twisted Tales</i>	Jessie Vasquez	TV series (1 episode: "The Magister")	[1]
	<i>To the Ends of the Earth</i>	Miss Granham	TV mini-series (2 episodes)	[1]
	<i>A Very Social Secretary</i>	Kimberley Fortier	TV film	[1]
	<i>Jericho</i>	Miss Greenaway	TV series (1 episode: "To Murder and Create")	[1]
2006	<i>Scoop</i>	Jan		[29]
	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	Cora	TV film	[29]
	<i>The Shell Seekers</i>	Nancy	TV film	[1]
2007	<i>Trial & Retribution</i>	Suzy	TV series (1 episode: "Curriculum Vitae: Part 1")	[29]
	<i>The Time of Your Life</i>	Esther	TV series (6 episodes)	[29]
2008	<i>French Film</i>	Cheryl		[29]

	<u><i>Lark Rise to Candleford</i></u>	Ruby Pratt	TV series (25 episodes: 2008–2011)	[29]
2010	<u><i>Toast</i></u>	Mum	TV film	[29]
2013	<u><i>What Remains</i></u>	Peggy Scott	TV series	[29]
2014	<u><i>The Game</i></u>	Sarah Montag	TV series	[29]
2015, 2017	<u><i>Doctor Foster</i></u>	Anna	TV series	[30]
2015	<u><i>Call the Midwife</i></u>	Iris Willets	TV series	[29]
2016–2017	<u><i>The Crown</i></u>	Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother	TV series	[28]
2016–present	<u><i>The Circuit</i></u>	Helene	TV series	[31]

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