

= Rachel Weisz =

Rachel Hannah Weisz (/ ˈvɑːs / VYSS ; born 7 March 1970) is an English film and theatre actress as well as a former fashion model who holds both British and American citizenship .

Weisz began her acting career at Trinity Hall , Cambridge in the early 1990s , then started working in television , appearing in the detective drama Inspector Morse , the British mini @-@ series Scarlet and Black and the television film Advocates II . She made her film debut in the science fiction movie Death Machine (1994) . Her first Hollywood appearance came in the action film Chain Reaction (1996) , opposite Keanu Reeves and Morgan Freeman .

Next , she appeared as Evelyn Carnahan @-@ O 'Connell in the adventure films The Mummy (1999) and The Mummy Returns (2001) . Other notable films featuring Weisz are the war film Enemy at the Gates (2001) , opposite Jude Law ; the comedy @-@ drama About a Boy (2002) , opposite Hugh Grant ; the supernatural action @-@ thriller Constantine (2005) , pairing her once again with Keanu Reeves ; and in the Darren Aronofsky @-@ directed romantic drama The Fountain , opposite Hugh Jackman . For her supporting role in the drama thriller The Constant Gardener (2005) , opposite Ralph Fiennes , she received an Academy Award , a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors ' Guild award . In 2006 , Weisz received the BAFTA Britannia Award for British Artist of the Year . She played the Wicked Witch of the East , Evanora , in the fantasy adventure Oz the Great and Powerful (2013) . In 2015 , she appeared in two films that played at the Cannes Film Festival , Youth and The Lobster .

Weisz also works in theatre . Her stage breakthrough was the 1994 revival of Noël Coward 's play Design for Living , which earned her the London Critics ' Circle Award for the most promising newcomer . Weisz 's performances also include the 1999 Donmar Warehouse production of Tennessee Williams ' Suddenly , Last Summer , and their 2009 revival of A Streetcar Named Desire . Her portrayal of Blanche DuBois in the latter play earned her the Olivier Award for Best Actress .

= = Early life = =

Weisz was born in Westminster , London , and grew up in Hampstead Garden Suburb . Her father , George Weisz , was an inventor from Hungary . Her mother , Edith Ruth (née Teich) , is a teacher @-@ turned @-@ psychotherapist from Vienna , Austria . Her parents fled to the United Kingdom before the outbreak of the Second World War , to escape the Nazis . Her father is Jewish ; her maternal grandfather , Alexander Teich , was also Jewish , and had been a secretary of the World Union of Jewish Students . Her mother 's ancestry is Austrian Jewish , " Catholic Viennese " and Italian . Weisz 's mother was brought up as a Roman Catholic , and , according to Vogue , later converted to Judaism . Weisz has a younger sister , Minnie , who is a photographer and curator .

Weisz 's parents valued the arts and encouraged her sister and her to form opinions of their own by introducing them to family debates . Her parents later divorced . Weisz left North London Collegiate School and attended Benenden School for one year , completing A @-@ levels at St Paul 's Girls School . Weisz claimed that she was a bad pupil until an English literature teacher inspired her at the age of 16 .

Known for being an " English rose " due to her appearance , Weisz started modelling when she was 14 . In 1984 she gained public attention when she turned down an offer to star in King David with Richard Gere .

After leaving school , she entered Trinity Hall , Cambridge , where she graduated with a second @-@ class honours , upper division (2 : 1) Bachelor of Arts degree in English . During her university years , where she was a contemporary of Sacha Baron Cohen , Alexander Armstrong , Sue Perkins , Mel Giedroyc , Richard Osman , and Ben Miller (whom she briefly dated) , she appeared in various student productions , co @-@ founding a student drama group called Cambridge Talking Tongues . It won a Guardian Student Drama Award at the 1991 Edinburgh Festival Fringe for an improvised piece called Slight Possession , directed by David Farr . The group existed until 1993 .

= = Career = =

= = = Films = = =

= = = = 1992 ? 98 = = = =

She appeared in the 1992 television film *Advocates II* , followed by roles in the *Inspector Morse* episode " *Twilight of the Gods* " , and the BBC 's steamy period drama *Scarlet and Black* , alongside Ewan McGregor . " *Dirty Something* " , a BBC Screen Two , hour @-@ long film made in 1992 , was Rachel Weisz 's first film , playing Becca who met and fell in love with a traveller Dog (Paul Reynolds) at the end of Glastonbury Festival . The opening scenes were filmed at the festival . Also starring as an older fellow traveller and sage was Larry (Bernard Hill) .

Weisz started her film career with a minor role in the 1994 film *Death Machine* , but her first major role came in the 1996 film *Chain Reaction* , which also starred Keanu Reeves and Morgan Freeman . While the film received mostly negative reviews ? it holds a 16 % rating on Rotten Tomatoes , it was a minor financial success . She next appeared as Miranda Fox in *Stealing Beauty* , directed by the Italian Academy Award @-@ winner Bernardo Bertolucci , where she was first labelled an " English rose " .

Following this , Weisz found roles in the 1997 American drama *Swept from the Sea* , the 1998 British television comedy @-@ drama *My Summer with Des* , the Michael Winterbottom 's crime film *I Want You* , and David Leland 's *The Land Girls* , based on Angela Huth 's book of the same name .

= = = = 1999 ? 2003 = = = =

In 1999 Weisz played Greta in the historical film *Sunshine* . The same year , her international breakthrough came with the 1999 adventure film *The Mummy* , in which she played the female lead opposite Brendan Fraser . Her character was the English Egyptologist Evelyn Carnahan , who undertook an expedition to the fictional ancient Egyptian city of Hamunaptra to discover an ancient book . *Variety* criticised the direction of the film , writing : " (the actors) have been directed to broad , undisciplined performances [...] Buffoonery hardly seems like Weisz 's natural domain , as the actress strains for comic effects that she can 't achieve " . She followed this up with the sequel *The Mummy Returns* in 2001 , which grossed an estimated \$ 433 million worldwide , (equivalent to \$ 579 million in 2016 dollars) higher than the original 's \$ 260 million (equal to \$ 369 million in 2016 dollars) . In 2000 , she portrayed Petula in the film *Beautiful Creatures* , following this up with 2001 's *Enemy at the Gates* , and the 2002 comedy @-@ drama *About a Boy* , with Hugh Grant , based on Nick Hornby 's 1998 novel . In 2003 , she played Marlee in the adaptation of John Grisham 's legal thriller novel *The Runaway Jury* , along with Dustin Hoffman , John Cusack and Gene Hackman ; and starred in the film adaptation of the romantic comedy @-@ drama play *The Shape of Things* .

= = = = 2004 ? 09 = = = =

In 2004 Weisz appeared in the comedy *Envy* , opposite Ben Stiller , Jack Black and Christopher Walken . The film failed at the box office . *Variety* magazine opined that Weisz and co @-@ star Amy Poehler " get fewer choice moments than they deserve . " Her next role was alongside Keanu Reeves in *Constantine* , based on the comic book *Hellblazer* . *Film Threat* called her portrayal " effective at projecting scepticism and , eventually , dawning horror " .

Her next appearance , in 2005 , was in Fernando Meirelles 's *The Constant Gardener* , a film adaptation of a John le Carré thriller set in the slums of Kibera and Loiyangalani , Kenya . Weisz played an activist , Tessa Quayle , married to a British embassy official . The film was critically

acclaimed , earning Weisz the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress , the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress , and the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role . UK newspaper The Guardian noted that the film " established her in the front rank of British actors " , while the BBC wrote : " Weisz is exceptional : film star charisma coupled with raw emotion in a performance to fall in love with " . In 2006 , she received the BAFTA Britannia Award for British Artist of the Year .

In 2006 she starred in Darren Aronofsky 's romantic drama The Fountain . The San Francisco Chronicle found her portrayal of Queen Isabel " less convincing " than other roles . That same year , she provided the voice for Saphira the dragon in the fantasy film Eragon ; and rejected an offer to star in The Mummy : Tomb of the Dragon Emperor due to script issues . The part eventually went to Maria Bello . Her subsequent films include the 2007 Wong Kar @-@ wai drama My Blueberry Nights , and Rian Johnson 's 2008 caper film The Brothers Bloom , alongside Adrien Brody and Mark Ruffalo . In 2009 she played the lead role of Hypatia of Alexandria in the historical drama film Agora , a Spanish production directed by Alejandro Amenábar . The New York Times called her portrayal " adept " , noting that she imparted " a sympathetic presence " .

= = = 2010 ? present = = =

Weisz starred in the film The Whistleblower , which debuted at the Toronto Film Festival in 2010 . The film was based on the true story of human trafficking by employees of contractor DynCorp . During its première , the intense depiction of the treatment meted out to victims by the kidnappers made a woman in the audience faint . Variety magazine wrote " Weisz 's performance holds the viewer every step of the way . " That same year , she guest @-@ starred in the animated series The Simpsons , in the 22nd season episode " How Munched is That Birdie in the Window ? " . Weisz 's 2011 roles included an adaptation of Terence Rattigan 's play The Deep Blue Sea , Fernando Meirelles ' psychosexual drama 360 opposite Jude Law again and Anthony Hopkins , the BBC espionage thriller Page Eight , and the thriller film Dream House , alongside Daniel Craig .

She filmed scenes for To the Wonder , a 2012 romantic drama film written and directed by Terrence Malick , alongside Ben Affleck , Olga Kurylenko , Javier Bardem and Rachel McAdams ; her scenes were cut . She has also starred in the 2012 action thriller film The Bourne Legacy based on the series of books by Robert Ludlum .

She portrayed Evanora , in Oz the Great and Powerful , which opened on 7 March 2013 . In 2015 she appeared in drama film Youth and in science fiction film The Lobster . The film won Cannes Jury Prize . She appeared in the 2015 drama film The Light Between Oceans with Michael Fassbender . She will appear in an upcoming British biographical drama film about sailor Donald Crowhurst , The Mercy , which is being directed by James Marsh .

= = = Theatre = = =

On stage , Weisz 's breakthrough role was that of Gilda in Sean Mathias 's 1994 revival of Noël Coward 's Design for Living at the Gielgud Theatre , for which she received the London Critics ' Circle Award for the most promising newcomer . Her portrayal was described as " wonderful " by a contemporary review . In 1999 she played the role of Catherine in the Donmar Warehouse production of Tennessee Williams ' Suddenly Last Summer , What 's on Stage called her " captivating " , stating that she brought " a degree of credibility to a difficult part " . The same year , Weisz appeared in Neil LaBute 's The Shape of Things at the Almeida Theatre , then temporarily located in London 's King 's Cross . CurtainUp called her " a sophisticated , independent artist " with " great stage presence " . In 2009 she appeared as Blanche DuBois , in Rob Ashford 's revival of the play A Streetcar Named Desire . Her performance in the play was praised by the critics , the Daily Telegraph noted that she " rises to the challenge magnificently " . Weisz and her husband starred in a Broadway play titled Betrayal . It began performances in October 2013 , and continued until January 2014 . Despite mixed reviews , it grossed \$ 17 @.@ 5 million , becoming the second highest Broadway play of 2013 .

= = = Awards and honours = = =

= = = = Film = = = =

Weisz gained honours for her work in *The Constant Gardener* , including the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress , the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture , and the Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture . She was also nominated for the BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role . Furthermore , the role also led to her receiving the London Critics ' Circle Film Award for British Actress of the Year , the British Independent Film Award for Best Actress , and the San Diego Film Critics ' Society Award for Best Supporting Actress . Additionally , she was nominated for the Online Film Critics ' Society Award for Best Supporting Actress . In 2006 , Weisz was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences , and was also honoured at the Los Angeles BAFTA ceremony with the Britannia Award for Artist of the Year .

= = = = Theatre = = = =

In 1991 , Weisz received the Student Drama Award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe , for her part in the play *Slight Possession* . In 1994 she was awarded the London Critics ' Circle Award for Most Promising Newcomer , for the play *Design for Living* . In January 2010 , the Critics ' Circle Theatre Awards in London named her Best Actress of 2009 , for her performance as Blanche Dubois in the Donmar revival of *A Streetcar Named Desire* . She also won the 2010 Olivier Award for Best Actress for the same role .

= = Personal life = =

Weisz began dating American filmmaker and producer Darren Aronofsky in the summer of 2001 . They met backstage at London 's Almeida Theatre , where she was starring in *The Shape of Things* . Weisz moved to New York with Aronofsky the following year ; in 2005 , they were engaged . Their son , Henry Chance Aronofsky , was born in 2006 in New York City . The couple resided in the East Village in Manhattan . In November 2010 , Weisz and Aronofsky announced that they had been apart for months , but remain close friends and are committed to bringing up their son together in New York .

Weisz began dating English actor Daniel Craig in December 2010 and they married on 22 June 2011 in a private New York ceremony , with only four guests in attendance , including Weisz 's son and Craig 's daughter . Weisz , a British citizen by birth , became a naturalised American citizen in 2011 .

In 2009 Weisz expressed her views on Botox to Harper 's Bazaar ? " It should be banned for actors , as steroids are for sportsmen . Acting is all about expression ; why would you want to iron out a frown ? " During her career , she has been featured on the covers of magazines such as *insideKENT* , *Vogue* and *Esquire* . She serves as a muse to fashion designer Narciso Rodriguez , and was named L 'Oréal 's global ambassador in 2010 .

On 7 July 2007 she presented at the American leg of Live Earth , along with Alec Baldwin and Kevin Bacon .

= = Filmography = =