

= Naomi Watts =

Naomi Ellen Watts ( born 28 September 1968 ) is a British actress and film producer . She made her screen debut in the Australian drama film *For Love Alone* ( 1986 ) and then appeared in the Australian television series *Hey Dad .. !* ( 1990 ) , *Brides of Christ* ( 1991 ) and *Home and Away* ( 1991 ) and alongside Nicole Kidman and Thandie Newton in the coming @-@ of @-@ age comedy @-@ drama film *Flirting* ( 1991 ) . After moving to America , Watts appeared in films , including *Tank Girl* ( 1995 ) , *Children of the Corn IV : The Gathering* ( 1996 ) and *Dangerous Beauty* ( 1998 ) and had the lead role in the television series *Sleepwalkers* ( 1997 ? 1998 ) .

After years as a struggling actress , Watts came to attention in David Lynch 's psychological thriller *Mulholland Drive* ( 2001 ) . The following year she enjoyed box @-@ office success with *The Ring* ( 2002 ) , the remake of a successful Japanese horror film . She then received nominations at the Academy Awards and the Screen Actors ' Guild Awards in the Best Actress categories for her portrayal of Cristina Peck in Alejandro González Iñárritu 's neo @-@ noir *21 Grams* ( 2003 ) . Her subsequent films include David O. Russell 's comedy *I Heart Huckabees* ( 2004 ) , the 2005 remake of *King Kong* , the crime @-@ thriller *Eastern Promises* ( 2007 ) and the Tom Tykwer @-@ directed thriller *The International* ( 2009 ) . Since then , Watts has portrayed Valerie Plame Wilson in the biographical drama *Fair Game* ( 2010 ) and Helen Gandy in Clint Eastwood 's biographical drama *J. Edgar* ( 2011 ) . For her leading role as Maria Bennett in the disaster film *The Impossible* ( 2012 ) , she received second nominations for the Academy Award and Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Actress and a nomination for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress .

In 2002 , Watts was included in *People* magazine 's 50 Most Beautiful People . In 2006 , she became a goodwill ambassador for Joint United Nations Programme on HIV / AIDS , which helps to raise awareness of AIDS @-@ related issues . She has participated in several fundraisers for the cause , and she is presented as an inaugural member of AIDS Red Ribbon Awards .

= = Early life = =

Watts was born 28 September 1968 , in Shoreham , Kent , England . She is the daughter of Myfanwy ( " Miv " ) Edwards ( née Roberts ) , an antiques dealer and costume and set designer , and Peter Watts ( 1946 ? 1976 ) , a road manager and sound engineer who worked with Pink Floyd . Miv was born in England but lived in Australia between the ages of one and seven . Her maternal grandfather was Welsh and her maternal grandmother was Australian .

Watts ' parents divorced when she was four years old . After the divorce , Watts and her elder brother , Ben Watts , moved several times across South East England with their mother . Peter Watts left Pink Floyd in 1974 , and he and Myfanwy were later reconciled . Two years later , in August 1976 , he was found dead in a flat in Notting Hill , of an apparent heroin overdose .

Following his death , Watts ' mother moved the family to Llanfawr Farm in Llangefni and Llanfairpwllgwyngyll , towns on the island of Anglesey in North Wales , where they lived with Watts ' maternal grandparents , Nikki and Hugh Roberts , for three years . During this time , Watts attended a Welsh language school , Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni , where she carried out her studies . She later said of her time in Wales : " We took Welsh lessons in a school in the middle of nowhere while everyone else was taking English . Wherever we moved , I would adapt and pick up the regional accent . It 's obviously significant now , me being an actress . Anyway , there was quite a lot of sadness in my childhood , but no lack of love . " In 1978 , her mother remarried ( though she would later be divorced again ) and Watts and her brother then moved to Suffolk where she attended Thomas Mills High School . Watts has stated that she wanted to become an actress after seeing her mother performing on stage and from the time she watched the 1980 film *Fame* .

In 1982 , when Watts was 14 , she moved to Sydney , New South Wales in Australia with her mother , brother and stepfather . Myfanwy established a career in the burgeoning film business , working as a stylist for television commercials , then turning to costume design , ultimately working for the soap opera *Return to Eden* . After emigrating , Watts was enrolled in acting lessons by her mother ; she auditioned for numerous television advertisements , where she met and befriended

actress Nicole Kidman . Watts obtained her first role in the 1986 drama film , For Love Alone , based on the novel of the same name by Christina Stead , and produced by Margaret Fink .

In Australia , Watts attended Mosman High School and North Sydney Girls High School . She failed to graduate from school , afterwards working as a papergirl , a negative cutter and managing a Delicacies store in Sydney 's affluent North Shore .

She decided to become a model when she was 18 . She signed with a models agency that sent her to Japan , but after several failed auditions , she returned to Sydney . There , she was hired to work in advertising for a department store , that exposed her to the attention of Follow Me , a magazine which hired her as an assistant fashion editor . A casual invitation to participate in a drama workshop inspired Watts to quit her job and to pursue her acting ambitions .

Regarding her nationality , Watts has stated : " I consider myself British and have very happy memories of the UK . I spent the first 14 years of my life in England and Wales and never wanted to leave . When I was in Australia I went back to England a lot . " She also has expressed her ties to Australia , declaring : " I consider myself very connected to Australia , in fact when people say where is home , I say Australia , because those are my most powerful memories . "

= = Career = =

= = = 1986 ? 2000 : Early work and struggling career = = =

Watts ' career began in television , where she made brief appearances in commercials . The 1986 film For Love Alone , set in the 1930s and based on Christina Stead 's 1945 best @-@ selling novel of the same name , marked her debut in film . She then appeared in two episodes of the fourth season of the Australian sitcom Hey Dad .. ! in 1990 . After a five @-@ year absence from films , Watts met director John Duigan during the 1989 premiere of her friend Nicole Kidman 's film Dead Calm and he invited her to take a supporting role in his 1991 indie film Flirting . She starred opposite future Hollywood up @-@ and @-@ comers Kidman and Thandie Newton . The film received critical acclaim and was featured on Roger Ebert 's list of the 10 best films of 1992 . Also in 1991 , she took the part of Frances Heffernan , a girl who struggles to find friends behind the walls of a Sydney Catholic school , in the award winning mini @-@ series Brides of Christ and had a recurring role in the soap opera Home and Away as the handicapped Julie Gibson . Watts was then offered a role in the drama series A Country Practice but turned it down , not wanting to " get stuck on a soap for two or three years " , a decision she later called " naïve " .

Watts then took a year off to travel , visiting Los Angeles and being introduced to agents through Kidman . Encouraged , Watts decided to move to America , to pursue her career further . In 1993 she had a small role in the John Goodman film Matinee and temporarily returned to Australia to star in three Australian films : another of Duigan 's pictures , Wide Sargasso Sea ; the drama The Custodian ; and had her first leading role in the film Gross Misconduct , as a student who accuses one of her teachers ( played by Jimmy Smits ) of raping her . Watts then moved back to America for good but the difficulty of finding agents , producers and directors willing to hire her during that period frustrated her initial efforts . Though her financial situation never led her to taking a job out of the film industry , she experienced problems like being unable to pay the rent of her apartment and losing her medical insurance . " At first , everything was fantastic and doors were opened to me . But some people who I met through Nicole [ Kidman ] , who had been all over me , had difficulty remembering my name when we next met . There were a lot of promises , but nothing actually came off . I ran out of money and became quite lonely , but Nic gave me company and encouragement to carry on . "

She then won a supporting role in the futuristic 1995 film Tank Girl , winning the role of " Jet Girl " after nine auditions . While the film was met with mixed reviews , it flopped at the box office , although it has gone on to become something of a cult classic . Throughout the rest of the decade , she took mostly supporting roles in films and occasionally considered leaving the business , but : " there were always little bites . Whenever I felt I was at the end of my rope , something would come up . Something bad . But for me it was ' work begets work ' ; that was my motto . " In 1996 , she

starred alongside Joe Mantegna , Kelly Lynch and J.T. Walsh in George Hickenlooper 's action @-@ thriller *Persons Unknown* ; alongside James Earl Jones , Kevin Kilner and Ellen Burstyn in the period drama *Timepiece* ; in *Bermuda Triangle* , a TV pilot that was not picked up for a full series , where she played a former documentary filmmaker who disappears in the Bermuda Triangle ; and as the lead role in *Children of the Corn IV : The Gathering* , in which children in a small town become possessed under the command of a wrongfully murdered child preacher .

In 1997 , she starred in the Australian ensemble romantic drama *Under the Lighthouse Dancing* and also played the lead role in the short @-@ lived television series *Sleepwalkers* . In 1998 , she starred alongside Neil Patrick Harris and Debbie Reynolds in the TV film *The Christmas Wish* , played the supporting role of Giulia De Lezze in *Dangerous Beauty* , and provided some voice work for *Babe : Pig in the City* . She said in an interview in 2012 , " That really should not be on my résumé ! I think that was early on in the day , when I was trying to beef up my résumé . I came in and did a couple days ' work of voiceovers and we had to suck on [ helium ] and then do a little mouse voice . But I was one in a hundred , so I 'm sure you would never be able to identify my voice . I probably couldn 't either ! " In 1999 , she played Alice in the romantic comedy *Strange Planet* and the Texan student Holly Maddux in *The Hunt for the Unicorn Killer* , which was based on the real life effort to capture Ira Einhorn , who was charged with Maddux 's murder . In 2000 , while David Lynch was expanding the rejected pilot of *Mulholland Drive* into a feature film , Watts starred alongside Derek Jacobi , Jack Davenport and Iain Glen in the BBC TV film *The Wyvern Mystery* , an adaptation of the novel of the same name by Sheridan Le Fanu that was broadcast in March of that year .

Much of her early career is filled with near misses in casting , as she was up for significant roles in films such as 1997 's *The Postman* and *The Devil 's Advocate* and 2000 's *Meet the Parents* , which eventually went to other actresses . In an interview in 2012 , Watts said , " I came to New York and auditioned at least five times for *Meet the Parents* . I think the director liked me but the studio didn 't . I heard every piece of feedback you could imagine , and in this case , it was ' not sexy enough ' . " Watts recalled her early career in an interview in 2002 , saying , " It is a tough town . I think my spirit has taken a beating . The most painful thing has been the endless auditions . Knowing that you have something to offer , but not being able to show it , is so frustrating . As an unknown , you get treated badly . I auditioned and waited for things I did not have any belief in , but I needed the work and had to accept horrendous pieces of shit . " Watts studied the Meisner Technique .

= = = 2001 ? 02 : Breakthrough with *Mulholland Drive* = = =

In 1999 , director David Lynch began casting for his psychological thriller *Mulholland Drive* . He interviewed Watts after looking at her headshot , without having seen any of her previous work , and offered her the lead role . Lynch later said about his selection of Watts , " I saw someone that I felt had a tremendous talent , and I saw someone who had a beautiful soul , an intelligence ? possibilities for a lot of different roles , so it was a beautiful full package . " Conceived as a pilot for a television series , Lynch shot a large portion of it in February 1999 , planning to keep it open @-@ ended for a potential series . However , the pilot was rejected . Watts recalled thinking at the time , " just my dumb luck , that I 'm in the only David Lynch programme that never sees the light of day . " Instead , Lynch filmed an ending in October 2000 , turning it into a feature film which was picked up for distribution .

The film , which also starred Laura Harring and Justin Theroux , was highly acclaimed by critics and would become Watts ' breakthrough . She was praised by critics , including Peter Bradshaw from *The Guardian* , who said , " Watts 's face metamorphoses miraculously from fresh @-@ faced beauty to a frenzied , teary scowl of ugliness . " and Emanuel Levy , who wrote , " ... Naomi Watts , in a brilliant performance , a young , wide @-@ eyed and grotesquely cheerful blonde , full of high hopes to make it big in Hollywood . " The film premiered at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival and received a large number of awards and nominations , including the Best Actress Award for Watts from the National Society of Film Critics and a nomination for Best Actress from the American Film Institute . The surrealist film following the story of the aspiring actress Betty Elms , played by Watts ,

attracted controversy with its strong lesbian theme .

Also in 2001 , she starred in two short films , *Never Date an Actress* and *Ellie Parker* , and the horror film *The Shaft* , director Dick Maas ' remake of his 1983 film *De Lift* . In 2002 , she starred in one of the biggest box office hits of that year , *The Ring* , the English language remake of the Japanese horror film *Ringu* . Directed by Gore Verbinski , the film , which also starred Martin Henderson and Brian Cox , received favourable reviews and grossed around US \$ 129 million domestically ( equivalent to US \$ 169 @. @ 7 million in 2016 ) . Watts portrayed Rachel Keller , a journalist investigating the strange deaths of her niece and other teenagers after watching a mysterious videotape , and receiving a phone call announcing their deaths in seven days . Her performance was praised by critics , including Paul Clinton of CNN.com , who stated that she " is excellent in this leading role , which proves that her stellar performance in *Mulholland Drive* was not a fluke . She strikes a perfect balance between scepticism and the slow realisation of the truth in regard to the deadly power of the videotape . " That year , she also starred in *Rabbits* , a series of short films directed by David Lynch ; alongside several other famous British actors in the black comedy *Plots with a View* ; and with Tim Daly in the western *The Outsider* .

= = = 2003 ? 07 : Steady success = = =

The following year , she took the part of Julia Cook in Gregor Jordan 's Australian film *Ned Kelly* opposite Heath Ledger , Orlando Bloom and Geoffrey Rush ; as well as starring in the Merchant @-@ Ivory film *Le Divorce* , portraying Roxeanne de Persand , a poet who is abandoned by her husband Charles @-@ Henri de Persand at the time she is pregnant . Roxeanne and her sister Isabel ( Kate Hudson ) dispute the ownership of a painting by Georges de La Tour with the family of Henri 's lover . *Entertainment Weekly* gave the film a " C " rating and lamented Watts ' performance : " I 'm disappointed to report that Hudson and Watts have no chemistry as sisters , perhaps because Watts never seems like the expatriate artiste she 's supposed to be playing " .

Conversely , her performance opposite Sean Penn and Benicio del Toro in director Alejandro González Iñárritu 's 2003 drama *21 Grams* earned Watts an Academy Award nomination as Best Actress later that year . In the story , told in a non @-@ lineal manner , she portrayed Cristina Peck , a grief @-@ stricken woman living a suburban life after the killing of her husband and two children by Jack Jordan ( Benicio del Toro ) , who started a relationship with the critically ill academic mathematician Paul Rivers ( Sean Penn ) . She said of the nomination , " It 's far beyond what I ever dreamed for ? that would have been too far fetched " . She also was nominated for Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role , as well as many other nominations and acclaim . The *New York Times* praised her : " Because Ms. Watts reinvents herself with each performance , it 's easy to forget how brilliant she is . She has a boldness that comes from a lack of overemphasis , something actresses sometimes do to keep up with Mr. Penn " . The *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote : " Watts is riveting , but she 's much better in scenes of extreme emotion than in those requiring subtlety . "

She then starred alongside Mark Ruffalo in the 2004 independent film *We Don 't Live Here Anymore* . The film is a drama which was based on the short stories *We Don 't Live Here Anymore* and *Adultery* by Andre Dubus , and depicts the crisis of two married couples . She reunited with Sean Penn in *The Assassination of Richard Nixon* , which was set in 1974 . She played Marie Andersen Bicke , the wife of the would @-@ be presidential assassin Samuel Byck ( Penn ) . Finally in 2004 , she teamed up with Jude Law and Dustin Hoffman in David O. Russell 's ensemble comedy *I Heart Huckabees* . Watts next starred and co @-@ produced with director / screenwriter Scott Coffey her film , the semi @-@ autobiographical drama *Ellie Parker* ( 2005 ) , which depicted the struggle of an Australian actress in Hollywood . The film began as a short film that was screened at the Sundance Film Festival in 2001 and was expanded into a feature @-@ length production over the next four years . Film critic Roger Ebert praised Watts ' performance : " The character is played by Watts with courage , fearless observation and a gift for timing that is so uncanny it can make points all by itself . "

Watts returned in the lead role in the sequel to *The Ring* , *The Ring Two* . The film received several

negative reviews , but was a major success at the box office , with an over US \$ 161 million worldwide gross ( equivalent to US \$ 195 @. @ 1 million in 2016 ) and Watts was once again praised for her performance . Her third film of the year was Marc Forster 's psychological thriller Stay . Written by David Benioff , it also starred Ewan McGregor , Ryan Gosling and Bob Hoskins . Watts then starred in the 2005 remake of King Kong as Ann Darrow . Watts was the first choice for the role , portrayed by Fay Wray in the original film , with no other actors considered . In preparation for her role , Watts met with Wray , who was to make a cameo appearance and say the final line of dialogue , but she died during pre @-@ production at the age of 96 . King Kong proved to be Watts ' most commercially successful film yet . Helmed by The Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson , the film won high praise and grossed US \$ 550 million worldwide ( equivalent to US \$ 666 @. @ 4 million in 2016 ) . The Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer praised her performance : " The third act becomes a star @-@ crossed , " Beauty and the Beast " parable far more operatic and tragic than anything the original filmmakers could have imagined , exquisitely pantomimed by Watts with a poignancy and passion that rates Oscar consideration . "

Her next film was The Painted Veil with Edward Norton and Liev Schreiber . Watts played Kitty Garstin , the daughter of a lawyer , who marries Walter Fane ( Norton ) for his reputation as a physician and bacteriologist . The film centres on the relationship of the couple at the time they move to China , where Fane is stationed to study infectious diseases . Comparing her portrayal with Greta Garbo 's in the original movie , The San Francisco Chronicle wrote " Watts makes the role work on her own terms ? her Kitty is more desperate , more foolish , more miserable and more driven ... and her spiritual journey is greater . For her only other film of that year , she provided the voice of a small role , Suzie Rabbit , in David Lynch 's psychological thriller Inland Empire . Also that year , she was announced as the new face of the jewellers David Yurman and completed a photoshoot which was featured in the 2007 Pirelli Calendar .

She later appeared in David Cronenberg 's crime thriller Eastern Promises with Viggo Mortensen , which premiered at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival , to critical acclaim . As the movie , Watts also generated positive feedback among critics ; Slate magazine remarked in its review that she " brings a wounded radiance to the overcurious midwife Anna . Though it 's a bit of a one @-@ note role , it 's a note she 's long specialised in , a kind of flustered moral grievance " . Eastern Promises grossed US \$ 56 million worldwide , ( equivalent to US \$ 67 @. @ 9 million in 2016 ) .

She appeared with Tim Roth in Michael Haneke 's Funny Games ( 2007 ) , a remake of Haneke 's 1997 film of the same name that opened at the London Film Festival . The director said that he agreed to make the film on condition that he be allowed to cast Watts , according to UK 's The Daily Telegraph . In the picture , she portrayed Ann Farber , who with her husband and son are held hostage by a pair of sociopathic teenagers . Watts also served as a producer , as this charge was for her " one way to spice up the deal and be involved in all the creative decisions " . The movie generated mixed reviews and received a limited theatrical release in the United States , grossing \$ 7 million , on a \$ 15 million budget . Newsweek felt that Watts " hurls herself into her physically demanding role with heroic conviction " . David Stratton , from At the Movies concluded that she was " as usual , really fine " . However , New York Daily News criticised her part for being half @-@ naked throughout most of her appearance , considering that it was " an awfully strange way to make a righteous point about exploitation " .

= = = 2009 ? 14 : Biopics and arthouse films = = =

After a short hiatus from acting following the birth of her two children , Watts returned to acting in 2009 , starring alongside Clive Owen in the political thriller The International . She played a Manhattan assistant district attorney who partners with an Interpol agent to take down a merchant bank . The picture was well received by critics , and grossed over US \$ 60 million ( equivalent to \$ 66 @. @ 2 million in 2016 ) worldwide . The same year , she appeared in the drama Mother and Child , which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival . She portrayed the role of Elizabeth , a lawyer who never knew her biological mother . Watts co @-@ starred the film along with Annette Bening , Kerry Washington and Samuel L. Jackson . Mother and Child received mainly

favourable reviews , with ViewLondon remarking that Watts " is terrific as Elizabeth , delivering a powerful performance that [ ... ] isn 't afraid to be unsympathetic " . She was nominated for the Best Actress award at the Australian Film Institute Awards and was also nominated for an Independent Spirit Award in the category of Best Supporting Female .

Her next film , the Woody Allen dramedy *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger* , opened at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival . She portrayed Sally , a woman who has a troubled marriage with author Roy ( played by Josh Brolin ) . Antonio Banderas , Freida Pinto , Lucy Punch and Anthony Hopkins also co -@-@ starred in the film , which received mixed reviews from critics and grossed over US \$ 26 million ( equivalent to \$ 28 @.@ 2 million in 2016 ) . Later in 2010 , she starred as Valerie Plame in the biographical thriller *Fair Game* , which was given a November theatrical release in the US . Based on Plame 's memoir , *Fair Game : My Life as a Spy , My Betrayal by the White House* , the movie also marked the third pairing of Watts with Sean Penn after *21 Grams* and *The Assassination of Richard Nixon* . The movie was acclaimed by critics and earned Watts a Satellite Award nomination for Best Actress .

Watts appeared opposite Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz in Jim Sheridan 's psychological thriller *Dream House* , which was released in September 2011 , to a lackluster critical and commercial response . Watts ' following film role was in Clint Eastwood 's biopic *J. Edgar* , alongside Leonardo DiCaprio in the title character . Watts played Edgar 's secretary Helen Gandy . The film was released in December 2011 and rated average with reviewers . About Watts ' performance , *The Hollywood Reporter* remarked that she " has little opportunity to express much beyond dogged loyalty " and while *Los Angeles Times* called her " talented " , it also noted that her part was a " thankless one " for the actress .

Watts starred in *The Impossible* ( 2012 ) , a disaster drama based on the true story of María Belón and her family 's experience of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami ; she played the lead role , with her name changed to Maria Bennett . Critical response towards the movie and Watts ' performance was unanimously positive . Deborah Young of *The Hollywood Reporter* said that " Watts packs a huge charge of emotion as the battered , ever @-@ weakening Maria whose tears of pain and fear never appear fake or idealised . " Justin Chang of *Variety* magazine noted that " Watts has few equals at conveying physical and emotional extremis , something she again demonstrates in a mostly bedridden role . " Damon Wise of *The Guardian* said that " Watts is both brave and vulnerable , and her scenes with the young Lucas ... are among the film 's best . " Watts went on to be nominated for the Academy Award , Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Actress .

In the Australian drama *Adore* , Watts co @-@ starred with Robin Wright , playing two childhood friends who fall in love with each other 's sons . The movie premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival as *Two Mothers* , and later opened in selected cinemas . It received a mixed feedback from critics , who concluded that Watts and co @-@ star Wright " give it their all , but they can 't quite make *Adore* 's trashy , absurd plot believable " . She obtained the FCCA Award for Best Actress in 2014 , for her role . Her next release was *Movie 43* , an independent anthology black comedy film that featured 14 different storylines , with each segment having a different director . Watts ' segment , titled " *Homeschooled* " , was directed by Will Graham and revolved around two devoted parents ( Watts and Liev Schreiber ) attempting to replicate their son 's whole high school experience . This marked Watts ' second collaboration with Schreiber , following the 2006 drama *The Painted Veil* . The portmanteau film was universally panned by critics , with Richard Roeper calling it " the *Citizen Kane* of awful " .

She appeared opposite Matt Dillon in Laurie Collyer 's *Sunlight Jr .* , an indie drama about a struggling working @-@ class couple . The movie premiered at the 12th Tribeca Film Festival , and was given a limited US theatrical run in November 2013 . Reviewers expressed a warm reception for the film and the *San Francisco Chronicle* , praising Watts and co @-@ star Dillon , stated that they are " formidable actors at the top of their game here [ ... ] exhibiting a remarkable chemistry " . Also in 2013 , she portrayed the title role in Oliver Hirschbiegel 's *Diana* , a biographical drama about the last two years of the life of Diana , Princess of Wales . The picture , released amid much controversy given its subject , was a box office bomb and received largely mediocre reviews from critics . James Berardinelli found the film to be a " dull , pointless " production and remarked that while Watts did a "

decent job encapsulating the look and feel of Diana " , her portrayal was " a two @-@ dimensional recreation " .

Alejandro González Iñárritu 's 2014 dark comedy Birdman or ( The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance ) saw Watts play an actress and the partner of stage co @-@ star Edward Norton . The film , about a faded Hollywood actor ( Michael Keaton ) struggling to mount a Broadway play , opened the 71st Venice International Film Festival and received an October theatrical release in specialty theaters , generating widespread critical acclaim . Cinemablend felt that Watts and Norton shared an " explosive chemistry " as " warring " lovers , and San Francisco Chronicle found the actress to be " poignant and funny " in her role . Birdman won four awards at the 87th Academy Awards including Best Picture , and Watts and the other cast members earned the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Cast in a Motion Picture .

Watts appeared in the comedy @-@ drama St. Vincent , as a Russian prostitute . She learnt the accent by spending time with Russian women in a West Village spa during a six @-@ week period . The film , co @-@ starring Bill Murray and Melissa McCarthy , was screened at the 39th Toronto International Film Festival and released to theaters on October 10 , 2014 , one week before Birdman . The dramedy garnered favorable reviews as a whole , but Los Angeles Times reported a dividing reaction towards Watts ' role , asserting that her part " put off some critics with its outrageousness " , but " earned plenty of plaudits too " . Watts later nabbed a Screen Actors Guild Award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress . In the comedy @-@ drama While We 're Young , Watts co @-@ starred with Ben Stiller as a New York @-@ based married couple who begin hanging out with a couple in their 20s . Like St. Vincent , While We 're Young was screened at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival , receiving an US release the following year . The movie was an arthouse success and Watts was highly acclaimed for her on @-@ screen chemistry with Stiller .

= = = 2015 ? present : Film and television balance = = =

She will also appear in filmmaker Gracie Otto 's upcoming documentary film Chalky about British film and theatre producer Michael White , who is a close friend of Watts ' . Watts played rebel leader Evelyn Johnson @-@ Eaton in the sequel The Divergent Series : Insurgent ( 2015 ) . The film was a commercial success , grossing \$ 274 @. @ 5 million worldwide , but received mainly mixed reviews from critics . Watts reprised her role in the series ' final two installments , The Divergent Series : Allegiant , released on 18 March 2016 , and The Divergent Series : Ascendant , scheduled to be released on 9 June 2017 . Watts then starred in Gus Van Sant 's mystery drama The Sea of Trees , opposite Matthew McConaughey . The film premiered at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival where it competed for the Palme d 'Or . The film was heavily panned by both critics and audiences , who reportedly booed and laughed during its screening . Critic Richard Mowe stated the audience reaction should " give the film 's creative team pause for reflection about exactly where they went so badly awry . " Justin Chang of Variety also criticised the film , but commended Watts ' performance for being " solidly moving and sometimes awesomely passive @-@ aggressive . " Watts was confirmed to be involved in the revival of the TV series Twin Peaks that will air in 2017 . In 2017 , Watts will star in the television drama Gypsy and will also serve as an executive producer on the series .

= = Personal life = =

Her father 's laugh can be heard in the Pink Floyd songs " Speak to Me " and " Brain Damage " from their 1973 album The Dark Side of the Moon . Watts is pictured in her mother 's arms with her father , brother , the band and other crew members , in the hardback / softcover edition of drummer Nick Mason 's autobiography of the band Inside Out .

Watts was in a relationship with actor Heath Ledger from August 2002 to May 2004 . Since the spring of 2005 , Watts has been in a relationship with actor Liev Schreiber . She confirmed in an interview in late January 2009 that Schreiber had in fact given her a ring ( which she was not wearing at the time ) but that neither of them wanted to rush into marriage . Schreiber , known to

play tricks on the media , had once before called her his wife in 2007 , but later revealed that it was a joke .

The couple 's first son , Alexander " Sasha " Pete , was born in July 2007 in Los Angeles , and their second son , Samuel " Sammy " Kai , in December 2008 in New York City . After a temporary hiatus from acting , she returned to work with The International , her first project since becoming a mother . Watts stated in April 2010 that she would have a third child if she could guarantee a baby girl .

She considered converting to Buddhism after having gained interest for that religion during the shooting of The Painted Veil . She said of her religious beliefs , " I have some belief but I am not a strict Buddhist or anything yet " . She practices the Transcendental Meditation technique . In 2002 , she was featured in People magazine 's 50 Most Beautiful People .

In February 2016 , it was reported that she had agreed to become the honorary president of Glantraeth FC , a small football club in Malltraeth , Anglesey , Wales , near to her grandparents ' farm , where she spent time as a child .

= = = Charity work = = =

In 2006 , Watts became a goodwill ambassador for Joint United Nations Programme on HIV / AIDS , it helps to raise awareness of AIDS issues . She has used her high profile and celebrity to call attention to the needs of people living with this disease . Watts participated in events and activities , including the 21st Annual AIDS Walk . She is presented as an inaugural member of AIDS Red Ribbon Awards . She has participated in campaigns for fundraising . On 1 December 2009 , Watts was meeting with United Nations Secretary @-@ General Ban Ki @-@ moon and joined the AIDS response at a dramatic public event commemorating World AIDS Day 2009 . During the event , she said : " It has been both unfortunate and unfair for HIV infection to be considered a shameful disease , for people living with HIV to be judged as blameworthy , and for AIDS to be equated with certain death . I have personally seen that dignity and hope have been strongest among those whose lives were changed by HIV . "

In 2011 , she attended a charity polo match in New York City along with Australian actors Hugh Jackman and Isla Fisher , which was intended to raise money to help victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake .

= = Filmography = =

= = Awards and nominations = =