

= Penélope Cruz =

Penélope Cruz Sánchez (Spanish pronunciation : [peˈnelope kɾuˈθantʃe] ; born 28 April 1974) , known professionally as Penélope Cruz , is a Spanish actress and model . Signed by an agent at age 15 , she made her acting debut at 16 on television and her feature film debut the following year in Jamón , jamón (1992) to critical acclaim . Her subsequent roles in the 1990s and 2000s included Open Your Eyes (1997) , The Hi @-@ Lo Country (1999) , The Girl of Your Dreams (2000) and Woman on Top (2000) . Cruz achieved recognition for her lead roles in the 2001 films Vanilla Sky , All the Pretty Horses , Captain Corelli 's Mandolin and Blow .

She has since appeared in films in a range of genres , including the comedy Waking Up in Reno (2002) , the thriller Gothika (2003) , the Christmas film Noel (2004) , and the action adventure Sahara (2005) . She was critically acclaimed for her roles in Volver (2006) and Nine (2009) , receiving Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations for each . She won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 2008 for playing María Elena in Vicky Cristina Barcelona . She was the first Spanish actress in history to receive an Academy Award and the first Spanish actress to receive a star at the Hollywood Walk of Fame .

Cruz has modelled for Mango , Ralph Lauren and L 'Oréal . Penélope and her younger sister Mónica Cruz have designed clothing for Mango . Cruz has volunteered in Uganda and India , where she spent one week working with Mother Teresa ; she donated her salary from The Hi @-@ Lo Country to help fund the late nun 's mission .

= = Early life = =

She was born in the working @-@ class town of Alcobendas , Madrid , Spain , to Encarna (née Sánchez) , a hairdresser and personal manager , and Eduardo Cruz , a retailer and car mechanic . She has two siblings , Monica , an actress , and Eduardo , Jr . She also has a paternal half @-@ sister , Salma . She was raised as a Roman Catholic . Cruz grew up in Alcobendas , and spent long hours at her grandmother 's apartment . She says she had a happy childhood . Cruz remembers " playing with some friends and being aware that I was acting as I was playing with them . I would think of a character and pretend to be someone else . "

Initially , Cruz focused on dance , having studied classical ballet for nine years at Spain 's National Conservatory . She took three years of Spanish ballet training and four years of theatre at Cristina Rota 's New York school . She says that ballet instilled in her discipline that would be important in her future acting career . When she became a cinephile at 10 or 11 , her father bought a Betamax machine , which was then a very rare thing to own in her neighborhood . She visited Yerevan with her cousin Jennifer to accept an award from President Sarkisian .

As a teenager , Cruz became interested in acting after seeing the film Tie Me Up ! Tie Me Down ! by Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar . She did casting calls for an agent but was rejected multiple times because the agent felt that she was too young . Cruz commented on the experience , " I was very extroverted as a kid I was studying when I was in high school at night , I was in ballet and I was doing castings . I looked for an agent and she sent me away three times because I was a little girl but I kept coming back . I 'm still with her after all these years . " In 1989 , at the age of 15 , Cruz won an audition at a talent agency over more than 300 other girls . In 1999 , Katrina Bayonas , Cruz 's agent , commented , " She was absolutely magic [at the audition] . It was obvious there was something very impressive about this kid She was very green , but there was a presence . There was just something coming from within . "

Her father Eduardo died at his home in Spain in 2015 , aged 62 , due to heart attack .

= = Acting career = =

= = = Early work , 1989 ? 1996 = = =

In 1989 , 15 @-@ year @-@ old Cruz made her acting debut in a music video for the Spanish pop group Mecano 's song " La Fuerza del Destino " . Between 1990 and 1997 , she hosted the Spanish TV channel Telecinco 's talk show La Quinta Marcha , a programme that was hosted by teenagers , aimed at a teenage audience . She also played in the " Elle et lui " episode of an erotic French TV series called Série rose in 1991 , where she appeared nude . In 1992 , Cruz made her feature film debut at 18 as the lead female role in the comedy drama art house film , Jamón , jamón . In the film , she portrayed Silvia , a young woman who is expecting her first child with a man whose mother does not approve of the relationship and attempts to sabotage it by paying Javier Bardem 's character to seduce her . People magazine noted that after Cruz appeared topless in the film , she became " a major sex symbol " . In an interview with the Los Angeles Daily News in 1999 , Cruz commented that " it was a great part , but ... I wasn 't really ready for the nudity . [...] But I have no regrets because I wanted to start working and it changed my life . " Charlie Rose of 60 Minutes noted that Cruz " became an overnight sensation as much for her nude scenes as for her talent " . When Rose asked Cruz if she was concerned about how she would be perceived after her role in the film , Cruz replied , " I just knew I had to do the complete opposite . "

Jamón , jamón received favorable reviews , with Chris Hicks of the Deseret News describing Cruz 's portrayal of Silvia as " enchanting " . Writing for the Chicago Sun @-@ Times , film critic Roger Ebert wrote " it stars actors of considerable physical appeal , most particularly Penélope Cruz as Silvia " . For her performance , Cruz was nominated for a Spanish Actors Union Newcomer Award and a Goya Award for Best Actress . The same year she appeared in the Academy @-@ Award winning Belle Epoque as the virginal Luz . People magazine noted that Cruz 's role as Luz showed that she was versatile . From 1993 to 1996 , Cruz appeared in ten Spanish and Italian films . At 20 , she went to live in New York for two years at Christopher and Greenwich to study ballet and English between films . She recalls learning English " kind of late " only knowing the dialogue she had learned for the casting beyond that , she could only say , " How are you ? " and " Thank you . "

= = = Early critical success , 1997 ? 2000 = = =

Cruz 's agent is Hylda Queally , shared with Cate Blanchett and Kate Winslet . In 1997 , Cruz appeared in the Spanish comedy film Love Can Seriously Damage Your Health . She portrays Diana , a fan of the Beatles band member John Lennon ; she tries unsuccessfully to meet him . Years later , after multiple failed relationships , Diana re @-@ unites with an acquaintance under unusual circumstances . Also in 1997 , she appeared in the opening scene of Pedro Almodóvar 's Live Flesh as a prostitute who gives birth on a bus and in Et hjørne af paradís (A Corner of Paradise) as Doña Helena . Cruz 's final appearance in 1997 was the Amenabar @-@ directed Spanish sci @-@ fi drama , " Abre Los Ojos " / Open Your Eyes . She plays Sofia , the love interest of Eduardo Noriega 's lead character . Open Your Eyes received positive reviews , and was later remade by U.S. director Cameron Crowe as " Vanilla Sky " (who cast Cruz in the same role and Tom Cruise in Noriega 's role) , but " Open Your Eyes " was not commercially successful . Kevin N. Laforest of the Montreal Film Journal commented in his September 2002 review that Cruz " has been getting some really bad reviews for her recent American work , but I personally think that she 's a more than decent actress , especially here , where she 's charming , moving and always believable . [...] There 's one shot in particular , where Cruz enters a room in a greenish glow , which is right out of Hitchcock 's picture [Vertigo] . "

The following year , Cruz appeared in her first American film as Billy Crudup 's consolation @-@ prize Mexican girlfriend in Stephen Frears ' western film , The Hi @-@ Lo Country . Cruz stated that she had difficulties understanding people speaking English while she was filming The Hi @-@ Lo Country . The film was critically and commercially unsuccessful . Kevin Lally of the Film Journal International commented in his review for the film that " in an ironic casting twist , the Spanish actress Penélope Cruz [...] is much more appealing as Josepha [than in her previous roles] " . For her performance in the film , she was nominated for an ALMA Award for Best Actress . Also in 1998 Cruz appeared in Don Juan and The Girl of Your Dreams .

In the period drama The Girl of Your Dreams (La niña de tus ojos) , Cruz portrayed Macarena

Granada , a singer who is in an on @-@ and @-@ off relationship with Antonio Resines 's character , Blas . They are part of a Francoist film troupe that travels from Spain during the Spanish Civil War to Nazi Germany for a joint production with UFA . Cruz 's performance in the film was praised by film critics , with Jonathan Holloland of Variety magazine writing " if confirmation is still needed that Cruz is an actress first and a pretty face second , then here it is " . A writer for Film4 commented that " Cruz herself is the inevitable focus of the film " but noted that overall the film " looks great " . Cruz 's role as Macerna has been viewed as her " largest role to date " . For her performance , Cruz received a Goya Award and Spanish Actors ' Union Award , and was nominated for a European Film Award . In 1999 , Cruz worked with Almodóvar again in All About My Mother , playing Sister María Rosa Sanz , a pregnant nun with AIDS . The film received favorable reviews , and was commercially successful , grossing over \$ 67 million worldwide , although it performed better at the box office internationally than domestically .

In 2000 , she appeared in Woman on Top in the lead female role as Isabelle , a world @-@ class chef who has suffered from motion sickness since birth , her first American lead role . Lisa Nesselson of Variety magazine praised the performances of both Cruz and her co @-@ star , Harold Perrineau , saying they " burst off the screen " , and added that Cruz has a charming accent . BBC News film critic Jane Crowther said that " Cruz is wonderfully ditzy as the innocent abroad " but remarked that " it 's Harold Perrineau Jr as Monica who pockets the movie " . Annlee Ellingson of Box Office magazine wrote " Cruz is stunning in the role ? innocent and vulnerable yet possessing a mature grace and determined strength , all while sizzling with unchecked sensuality . " Also in 2000 , she played Alejandra Villarreal , who is Matt Damon 's love interest in Billy Bob Thornton 's film adaptation of the western bestselling novel , All the Pretty Horses . Susan Stark of the Detroit News commented that in the film Thornton was able to guide Damon , Henry Thomas and Cruz to " their most impressive performances in a major movie yet " . However , Bob Longigo of The Atlanta Journal Constitution was less enthusiastic about Cruz and Damon 's performance , saying that their " resulting onscreen chemistry would hardly warm a can of beans " .

= = = Breakthrough acting , 2001 ? 2005 = = =

2001 marked a turning point year when Cruz starred in the feature films Vanilla Sky and Blow . In Vanilla Sky , Cameron Crowe 's interpretation of Open Your Eyes , she played Sofia Serrano , the love interest of Tom Cruise 's character . The film received mixed reviews but made \$ 200 million worldwide . Her performance was well received by critics , with BBC film critic Brandon Graydon saying that Cruz " is an enchanting screen presence " , and Ethan Alter of the Film Journal International noting that Cruz and her co @-@ star Cruise were " able to generate some actual chemistry " . Her next film was Blow , adapted from Bruce Porter 's 1993 book Blow : How a Small Town Boy Made \$ 100 million with the Medellín Cocaine Cartel and Lost It All . She had a supporting role as Mirtha Jung , the wife of Johnny Depp 's character . The film received mixed reviews , but made \$ 80 million worldwide . Nina Willdorf of the Boston Phoenix described Cruz as " multi @-@ talented " and Mark Salvo of The Austin Chronicle wrote " I may be one of the last male holdouts to join the Cruz @-@ Rules camp , but her tour de force performance here sucks you right in . "

In 2001 , she also appeared in Don 't Tempt Me , playing Carmen Ramos . The film received negative reviews . Jeff Vice of the Deseret News commented that " unfortunately , casting Cruz as a tough girl is a hilariously bad [idea] " and Michael Miller of the Village Voice writing that " as Satan 's helper Carmen , Penélope Cruz doesn 't hold a candle to her cocaine @-@ huffing enabler in Blow " . Cruz 's last film in 2001 was Captain Corelli 's Mandolin , film adaption of the novel of the same name . She played Pelagia , who falls in love with another man while her fiancé is in battle during the Second World War . Captain Corelli 's Mandolin was not well received by critics , but made \$ 62 million worldwide . In 2002 , she had a minor role in Waking Up in Reno . It had negative reviews and was a box office failure , making \$ 267 @,@ 000 worldwide . The following year , Cruz had a supporting role in the horror film Gothika , as Chloe Sava , a patient at a mental hospital . David Rooney of Variety wrote that Cruz " adds a serviceably malevolent edge to Chole 's apparent

madness " . Cruz 's performance in *Fanfan la Tulipe* , also in 2003 , was not well received , Peter Bradshaw of *The Guardian* commenting that Cruz " deserves a special Cannes Razzie for a performance of purest teak " .

In 2004 , Cruz appeared in the Christmas film *Noel* as Nina , the girlfriend of Paul Walker 's character and as Mia in the romantic drama , *Head in the Clouds* , set in the 1930s . *Head in the Clouds* performed poorly at the box office . For *Head in the Clouds* , Bruce Birkland of *Jam ! Canoe* said , " The story feels forced and the performances dreary , with the notable exception of Cruz , who seems to be in a different film from the rest of the cast . " Desson Thompson of *The Washington Post* was more critical ; his comment about the character 's " pronounced limp " was that " Cruz (hardly the world 's greatest actress) can 't even perform without looking fake " . She also starred in Sergio Castellitto 's melodrama *Don 't Move* . Cruz , who learned Italian for the role , earned critical acclaim for her performance and won the David di Donatello . She was also awarded the European Film Award for Best Actress for the film in 2004 . In 2005 , Cruz appeared as Dr. Eva Rojas in the action adventure *Sahara* . She earned \$ 1 @. @ 6 million for her supporting role . The film grossed \$ 110 million worldwide but did not recoup its \$ 160 million budget . *MovieFone* dubbed the film " one of the most famous flops in history " and in 2007 , listed it at 24 on its list of " Biggest Box @- @ Office Turkeys of All Time " . Lori Hoffman of the *Atlantic City Weekly* felt Cruz put her " considerable [acting] skills on cruise control as Dr Eva Rojas " and James Berardnelli of *ReelViews* described Cruz 's performance as a " black hole " , that she " lacks screen presence " . Also in 2005 , Cruz appeared in *Chromophobia* , screened at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival and released the following year . Mathew Turner of *View London* said Cruz 's character Gloria , a cancer @- @ riddled prostitute , is " actually more interesting than the main storyline " while Time Evan 's of *Sky Movies* wrote , " The Cruz / Ifans storyline ? featuring the only two remotely sympathetic characters ? never really fuses with the main plot . " Her final 2005 film was *Don 't Move* playing Italia . Eric Harrison of the *Houston Chronicle* noted that Cruz " goes all out " with her appearance and Patrick Peters of *Empire* magazine commented that the film 's director , who also appears in the film , was able to draw a " sensitive performance " from Cruz .

= = = Worldwide recognition , 2006 ? 2009 = = =

Cruz appeared alongside her good friend Salma Hayek in the 2006 Western comedy film , *Bandidas* . Randy Cordova of the *Arizona Republic* said the film " sports " Cruz and her co @- @ star Salma Hayek as the " lusty dream team " and that they were the " marketing fantasy " for the film . Also in 2006 , Cruz received favourable reviews for her performance as Raimunda in Pedro Almodóvar 's *Volver* . Carina Chocano of *The Los Angeles Times* wrote , " Cruz , who has remarked that in Hollywood she 's rarely allowed to be anything more than pretty , instills her with an awesome resoluteness and strength of character . " She shared a Best Actress award at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival with five of her co @- @ stars , as well as receiving a Goya Award and European Film Award , and was nominated for the Golden Globe , the Screen Actors Guild Award , the BAFTA Award , and the Academy Award for Best Actress in a leading role . She was the first Spaniard to ever be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress .

In 2007 , Cruz appeared in the lead female role in *Manolete* , a biopic of bullfighter Manuel Laureano Rodríguez Sánchez , playing Antoñita " Lupe " Sino . She also appeared in *The Good Night* , playing two characters , Anna and Melody . TV Guide film critic Maitland McDonagh noted that in the film Cruz " expertly mines the contrast between chic , compliant , white @- @ clad Anna and funky , street @- @ wise Melody , who treats [Martin Freeman 's character] Gary like the world @- @ class drag he is " . In 2008 , Cruz appeared in Isabel Coixet 's film *Elegy* , which was based on the Philip Roth story *The Dying Animal* , as the lead female role , Consuela Castillo . Ray Bennett of *The Hollywood Reporter* described Cruz 's performance as being " outstanding in an otherwise lame male fantasy [film] " . Later that year , she starred in Woody Allen 's *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* as María Elena , a mentally unstable woman , which was praised . Peter Bradshaw of *The Guardian* praised Cruz 's performance in the film . Cruz received a Goya Award and her first Academy Award and BAFTA Award for Best Supporting Actress . She also received a Golden Globe and SAG

nomination . Cruz was the first Spanish actress to ever be awarded an Academy Award in that category and the sixth Hispanic person to ever receive the award .

After being shelved since 2007 , Cruz 's film *Manolete* (originally shot in 2005) released on demand via cable , satellite , telco and online in June 7 , 2011 under the title *A Matador 's Mistress* .

Cruz 's next film was the kid @-@ friendly *G @-@ Force* voicing a guinea pig spy named Juarez . *G @-@ Force* was a commercial success , making over \$ 290 million worldwide . Also in 2009 , she appeared in the film *Broken Embraces* as Lena . Stephanie Zacharek of *Salon.com* noted in her review for the film that Cruz " doesn 't coast on her beauty in *Broken Embraces* , and she has the kind of role that can be difficult to flesh out " . Cruz received nominations from the Satellite Awards and European Film Awards for her performance in *Broken Embraces* . Cruz 's final 2009 film was the film version of the musical *Nine* , playing the character Carla Albanese , the lead character 's mistress . *Variety* reported that Cruz had originally auditioned for the role of the film within a film 's star , Claudia , which eventually went to Nicole Kidman . Cruz said that she trained for three months for the dance routine in the film . Claudia Puig of *USA Today* commented that while Cruz " does a steamy song and dance " , her " acting is strangely caricatured " . Cruz 's performance as Carla garnered her nominations for Best Supporting Actress from the Academy Awards , Golden Globes and SAG Awards .

= = = 2010s = = =

Cruz only film of 2010 *Sex and the City 2* , the sequel to the 2008 film , in which she appeared as a banker in a cameo role . A commercial success , the comedy film was largely panned by critics . Cruz appeared in her biggest Hollywood turn to date in Rob Marshall 's *Pirates of the Caribbean : On Stranger Tides* , the fourth installment in the film series , opposite Johnny Depp . In the film , Cruz portrayed Angelica , a former love interest of Jack Sparrow , who blames him for her corruption . Cruz was the only actress considered for the role , as she fit Marshall 's description and invited her for the role as they wrapped the production of *Nine* . The actress spent two months working out and learning fencing for the role . During filming , Cruz discovered she was pregnant , leading the costume department to redesign her wardrobe to be more elastic , and the producers to hire her sister Mónica Cruz to double for Penélope in risky scenes . One of the most expensive film ever made , *On Stranger Tides* ranks among the highest @-@ grossing film of all time , grossing more than \$ \$ 1 @. @ 046 billion in box @-@ office receipts worldwide . On 1 April 2011 , prior to the film 's release , Cruz received the 2,436th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in front of the El Capitan Theatre . She became the first Spanish actress to receive a Star .

In 2012 , Cruz appeared in the first ever Nintendo commercial to promote *New Super Mario Bros. 2* and the Nintendo 3DS XL in which she played the role of Mario in the ad . She spoke Italian again , this time in Woody Allen 's romantic ensemble comedy film *To Rome with Love* , in which she portrayed a street @-@ smart prostitute who agrees to pretend to be the wife of a newlywed . Fond to work with her again , Allen compared Cruz 's play in the film with that of Italian icons Anna Magnani and Sophia Loren . While the film garnered mixed reviews in general , Cruz received favourable reviews for her " exuberantly , cartoonishly sexy " performance , which reviewers such as *The Week* cited as a stand out . The same year , Cruz also reunited with Italian director Sergio Castellitto in his war tale *Twice Born* about an infertile Italian woman who returns to relive her past in Sarajevo . An adaptation of Castellitto 's wife Margaret Mazzantini 's same @-@ titled bestseller , Cruz portrayed the transitional character at different phases in her life , ranging from her early twenties to her late forties . Despite receiving little praise from critics , Cruz 's performance opposite Emile Hirsch earned positive reviews .

In 2013 , Cruz appeared in Ridley Scott 's *The Counselor* , featuring an ensemble cast consisting of Michael Fassbender , Cameron Diaz , Brad Pitt and husband Javier Bardem . The crime thriller follows a lawyer who , tempted by the lure of quick money , finds himself involved in drug dealing with ruthless Mexican cartels . Cruz plays his girlfriend , Laura , the only innocent character in the story . The film received mostly negative reviews from critics and became a moderate commercial success at the international box offices . The same year , Cruz along with Antonio Banderas made a

cameo appearance in Pedro Almodóvar 's farcical comedy I 'm So Excited , which marked a return to the director 's light , campy comedies of the 1980s and 1990s . "

In 2015 , Cruz co @-@ produced and starred in the Spanish drama film Ma Ma , directed by Julio Medem . In it , she plays Magda , a gutsy mother and unemployed teacher , who is diagnosed with breast cancer , a role which Cruz later cited as " one of the most complex , beautiful characters I 've ever been offered , the most difficult . " The melodrama was screened in the Special Presentations section of the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival , where it garnered generally negative reviews for its weepie story line . Cruz however was praised for her " aces performance , " which earned her an eighth Goya nomination at the 30th awards ceremony .

Cruz 's first film of 2016 was the American comedy Zoolander 2 , co @-@ starring and directed by Ben Stiller . In the sequel film , Cruz portrayed a secret Interpol agent who enlists models Derek Zoolander (Stiller) and Hansel McDonald , played by Owen Wilson , to help find out who is killing the world ? s most beautiful people . Specifically written for her persona , Cruz , a fan of the original 2001 film , was one of the first actors to be cast in their parts . Upon its release , the film received generally negative reviews from critics , who felt that it had " more celebrity cameos than laughs . " Cruz 's other film that year was Louis Leterrier 's British spy comedy Grimsby , in which she played a powerful philanthropist , opposite Sacha Baron Cohen and Mark Strong . Cruz was reportedly offered \$ 400 @,@ 000 for her appearance in the film , which was released to generally mixed reviews from critics , who felt that the actress was highly underused and " looking even less invested here than she did in Zoolander 2 . "

As of March 2016 , Cruz has various film projects in different states of production . She has reteamed with Fernando Trueba on his Spanish @-@ language period pic The Queen of Spain , a sequel to Trueba 's 1998 drama The Girl of Your Dreams , also starring Cruz and set during the Spanish Civil War . She has also signed on to appear in Fernando León de Aranoa 's Pablo Escobar biopic Escobar , also starring husband Javier Bardem , and will start work with Iranian director Asghar Farhadi 's on his second foreign film in fall 2016 .

= = Public image = =

In 2006 , Cruz became spokesmodel for French cosmetics company L 'Oréal to promote products such as the L 'Oréal Paris hair dye Natural Match and L 'Oreal mascara products . She receives \$ 2 million a year for her work for the company . Cruz has appeared in print ads for Mango and had a contract with Ralph Lauren in 2001 . Cruz and her sister designed their second collection for Mango in 2007 . It was inspired by Brigitte Bardot and summers in St Tropez .

Cruz ranked as No. 58 in Maxim 's " Hot 100 " of 2007 list , and was chosen by Empire magazine as being one of the 100 Sexiest Movie Stars in the world . Cruz was also ranked on Askmen.com 's Most Desirable Women of 2008 at No. 26 , in 2009 at No. 25 , and in 2010 at No. 7 . In April 2010 , she replaced Kate Winslet as the new face and ambassador of Lancôme 's Trésor fragrance . Lancôme has signed Cruz as the brand 's third superstar spokesmodel , along with Julia Roberts and Winslet . The campaign was shot by Mario Testino at Paris 's Hotel de Crillon and debuted in the autumn of 2010 .

In 2010 , Cruz was a guest editor for the French Vogue magazine , focusing on larger @-@ size models in a provocative photo shoot . Almodóvar described her as his muse . On the cover of Spanish Vogue 's December 2010 issue , she agreed to be photographed by fashion photographer Peter Lindbergh only if her pregnancy was not shown . In 2011 , The Telegraph reported the most sought after body parts of the rich and famous revealed by two Hollywood plastic surgeons who carried out a survey among their patients to build up the picture of the perfect woman . Under the category of the most sought after body shape , Penélope Cruz , known for her voluptuous figure , was voted as having the top body . Men 's Health ranked her at No. 32 @.@ on their " 100 Hottest Women of All @-@ Time " list . Esquire named her the Sexiest Woman Alive in 2014 .

During the 2014 Israel ? Gaza conflict , Cruz along with her husband signed an open letter , denouncing Israel 's actions as a " genocide " . a letter that was criticized by several Hollywood personalities including actor Jon Voight .

= = Philanthropy = =

Cruz has donated money and time to charity . In addition to work in Nepal , she has volunteered in Uganda and India , where she spent a week working with Mother Teresa that included assisting in a leprosy clinic . That trip inspired Cruz to help start a foundation to support homeless girls in India , where she sponsors two young women . She donated her salary from her first Hollywood film , *The Hi @-@ Lo Country* , to Mother Teresa 's mission . In the early 2000s , she spent time in Nepal photographing Tibetan children for an exhibition attended by the Dalai Lama . She also photographed residents at the Pacific Lodge Boys ' Home , most of whom are former gang members and recovering substance abusers . She said : " These kids break my heart . I have to control myself not to cry . Not out of pity , but seeing how tricky life is and how hard it is to make the right choices . " A pregnant Cruz showed her support for the battle against AIDS by lighting up the Empire State Building with red lights in New York City on 1 December 2010 on International AIDS Day , as part of (RED) ' s new awareness campaign , ' An AIDS Free Generation is Due in 2015 , ' which aims to eradicate the HIV virus from pregnant mothers to their babies . In 2012 , she posed for an ad supporting PETA 's anti @-@ fur campaign .

= = Personal life = =

Cruz is married to Spanish actor Javier Bardem . Bardem was her co @-@ star in her first breakthrough role as Silvia in *Jamon* , *Jamon* as well as starring alongside her in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* . They were also both in the 2013 film *The Counselor* . Cruz began dating Bardem in 2007 and they married in early July 2010 in a private ceremony at a friend 's home in the Bahamas . They have a son born in 2011 in Los Angeles , and a daughter born in 2013 . She has become a public advocate of breastfeeding since the birth of her children .

Cruz had a three @-@ year relationship with Tom Cruise after they appeared together in *Vanilla Sky* . It ended in January 2004 . In April 2003 , she filed a lawsuit against the Australian magazine *New Idea* for defamation over an article about her relationship with Cruise .

Cruz is a friend of Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar , whom she has known for more than two decades and with whom she has worked on films . She is known to friends as Pe . Cruz owns a clothing store in Madrid and designed jewelry and handbags with her younger sister for a company in Japan .

= = Filmography = =