

= Miranda Otto =

Miranda Otto (born 16 December 1967) is an Australian actress . The daughter of actors Barry and Lindsay Otto , and the sister of actress Gracie Otto , Brisbane @-@ born Miranda began her acting career at age 18 in 1986 , and has appeared in a variety of independent and major studio films . Otto made her major film debut in Emma 's War , in which she played a teenager who moves to Australia 's bush country during World War II .

After a decade of critically acclaimed roles in Australian films , Otto gained Hollywood 's attention during the 1990s after appearing in supporting roles in the films The Thin Red Line and What Lies Beneath . She played Éowyn in Peter Jackson 's The Lord of the Rings trilogy .

= = Early life = =

Otto was raised in Newcastle and Brisbane , and briefly resided in Hong Kong following her parents ' 1974 divorce . She spent weekends and holidays with her father in Sydney and developed an interest in acting through him .

During her childhood , Otto and her friends wrote scripts and designed costumes and flyers in their spare time . She appeared in several plays at the Nimrod Theatre , which attracted the attention of casting director Faith Martin . Subsequently , Otto received a role in the 1986 World War II drama Emma 's War .

She had wanted to be a ballerina but was forced to abandon this goal due to moderate scoliosis . Otto graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney in 1990 . Prior to graduation , she appeared in minor film roles including Initiation (1987) and The 13th Floor (1988) .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Otto 's first post @-@ graduation film role in 1991 , as Nell Tiscowitz in The Girl Who Came Late , was her breakthrough role , which brought her to the attention of the Australian film industry and the general public . In the film , directed by Kathy Mueller , she starred as a young woman who could communicate with horses . Her appearance garnered Otto her first Australian Film Institute nomination for Best Actress the following year .

Otto 's next role was in the film The Last Days of Chez Nous , which portrayed the complex relationships between the members of an Australian family . The film earned Otto her second Australian Film Institute nomination , this time for Best Supporting Actress . In 1993 , Otto co @-@ starred with Noah Taylor in the sexually provocative comedy film The Nostradamus Kid , which was based on the memories of author Bob Ellis during the 1960s . Otto was drawn to the film because she was " fascinated by the period and the people who came out of it . " A small role in the independent film Sex Is a Four Letter Word followed in 1995 .

In 1995 , she began to doubt her career choice as she failed to get the parts for which she auditioned . She fled to her home in Newcastle for almost a year , during which she painted her mother 's house . In 1996 , director Shirley Barrett cast Otto as a shy waitress in the film Love Serenade . She played Dimity Hurley , a lonely young woman , who competes with her older sister Vicki @-@ Ann for the attention of a famous DJ from Brisbane . She starred in the 1997 films The Well and Doing Time for Patsy Cline . When Otto received the film script for The Well , she refused to read it , fearing that she would not get the part . Otto believed that she could not convincingly play the role of Katherine , who is supposed to be 18 , as she was 30 at the time . The film , directed by Samantha Lang , starred Otto as a teenager involved in a claustrophobic relationship with a lonely older woman . The Well received mixed reviews ; critic Paul Fisher wrote that Otto 's performance was not " convincing " as she was " playing another repetitious character about whom little is revealed " , while Louise Keller stated that Otto had delivered " her best screen performance yet . "

Otto earned her third Australian Film Institute nomination for the film . Later that year , she co @-@ starred with Richard Roxburgh in the drama Doing Time for Patsy Cline . The low @-@ budget Australian film required Otto to perform country music standards and also received mixed reviews from film critics .

Soon after the release of The Well and Doing Time for Patsy Cline , magazines and other media outlets were eager to profile the actress . In 1997 , Otto began dating her Doing Time for Patsy Cline co @-@ star Richard Roxburgh . Her involvement with Roxburgh made her a regular subject of Australian tabloid magazines and media at the time , a role to which she was unaccustomed .

Otto 's next project was the romantic comedy Dead Letter Office (1998) . The film was Otto 's first with her father , Barry , who makes a brief appearance . In the Winter Dark , directed by James Bogle , followed later that year . Otto played Ronnie , a pregnant woman recently abandoned by her boyfriend . The film was a critical success in Australia , and Otto was nominated for her fourth Australian Film Institute Award . A small role in The Thin Red Line , led to further film roles outside of Australia , such as in Italy , where she co @-@ starred as Ruth in the low @-@ budget Italian film La volpe a tre zampe (" The Three @-@ legged Fox ") , produced in 2001 and broadcast for the first time on Italian television in March 2009 .

= = = Hollywood = = =

Otto 's first Hollywood role was opposite Harrison Ford and Michelle Pfeiffer in the suspense thriller What Lies Beneath in 2000 . She played Mary Feur , a mysterious next @-@ door neighbor . The film was met with mixed reviews , but was an international success , grossing US \$ 291 million . In 2001 , she was cast as a naturalist in the comedy Human Nature . Writer Charlie Kaufman , impressed by her audition two years earlier for his film Being John Malkovich , arranged for Otto to audition and meet with the film 's director Michel Gondry . Human Nature was both a commercial and critical disappointment . Critic Jeffrey M. Anderson criticized Otto 's French accent and wrote that she " doesn 't seem to mesh with what 's going on around her " . That same year , she also appeared in the BBC adaptation of Anthony Trollope 's The Way We Live Now , as a strong @-@ willed American Southerner determined to manipulate Cillian Murphy 's character into marrying her .

In 1999 , Otto was cast as Éowyn , a shieldmaiden of Rohan , in The Lord of the Rings film trilogy . Director Peter Jackson cast her immediately after viewing the audition video she had filmed in Australia . For the role , Otto spent six weeks learning stunt choreography and horseback riding . Otto 's character was introduced in the trilogy 's second film The Lord of the Rings : The Two Towers in 2002 and appeared in the third film , The Lord of the Rings : The Return of the King , the following year . The Lord of the Rings trilogy was a critical and financial success , and the third film won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2004 . Otto 's performance earned her an Academy of Science Fiction , Fantasy & Horror Films nomination for Best Supporting Actress .

Otto 's next project was the Australian television miniseries Through My Eyes : The Lindy Chamberlain Story (2004) . The film is a drama that portrays the story of Lindy Chamberlain , who was convicted in 1982 of killing her baby daughter , Azaria , in one of Australia 's most publicized murder trials . Otto was cast as Chamberlain after her husband , Peter O 'Brien , had been cast as prosecutor Ian Barker . She was drawn to the role because it provided her with the " prospect of exploring an unconventional character . " At the 2005 Logie Awards , Otto won Most Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series for her role .

Director Steven Spielberg , impressed by Otto 's performance in The Lord of the Rings , called her to ask if she would play opposite Tom Cruise in the big @-@ budget science fiction film War of the Worlds (2005) . Otto , pregnant at the time , believed she would have to turn down the role , but the script was reworked to accommodate her . After giving birth to her daughter , she took a rest from films to concentrate on motherhood and theatre roles in Australia .

In 2007 , Otto starred as Cricket Stewart , the wife of a successful director , in the television miniseries The Starter Wife . That same year , she was cast in the American television series Cashmere Mafia . In the series she plays Juliet Draper , a successful female executive who must

rely on her friends to juggle the demands of a career and family in New York City . Otto chose to star in the series because " American television at the moment is so interesting and , particularly , the characters for women are so fantastic " and she " liked the idea of having a character over a long period of time and developing it . " The series was cancelled in May 2008 .

Otto is attached to star opposite Stephanie Sigman in Annabelle 2 directed by David Sanberg . The film is scheduled to be released on May 19 , 2017 .

= = = Theatre = = =

Otto made her theatrical debut in the 1986 production of The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant for the Sydney Theatre Company . Three more theatrical productions for the Sydney Theatre Company followed in the late 1980s and early 1990s . In 2002 , she returned to the stage playing Nora Helmer in A Doll 's House opposite her future husband Peter O 'Brien . Otto 's performance earned her a 2003 Helpmann Award nomination and the MO Award for " Best Female Actor in a Play " .

Her next stage role was in the psychological thriller Boy Gets Girl (2005) , in which she played Theresa , a journalist for a New York magazine . Otto committed to the project days before she found out she was pregnant . Robyn Nevin , the director , rescheduled the production from December 2004 to September 2005 so Otto could appear in it . In 2005 , Nevin began pre @-@ production on a play commissioned especially for Otto .

= = Personal life = =

On 1 January 2003 , she married actor Peter O 'Brien , after the two had met while performing in A Doll 's House . Otto and O 'Brien have one child , a daughter named Darcey , who was born on 1 April 2005 . The pregnancy almost forced her to turn down her role in War of the Worlds . Since the birth of her daughter , Otto has limited her work so she can spend time with her family at their home in Australia .

In a 2004 interview , Otto stated that she hopes she would never be as famous as fellow Australian actress Nicole Kidman because she is " not sure [she] could ever deal with that . "

= = Filmography = =