

= Kate Beckinsale =

Kathrin Romary " Kate " Beckinsale (born 26 July 1973) is an English actress . After some minor television roles , she made her film debut in *Much Ado About Nothing* (1993) while still a student at the University of Oxford . She then appeared in British costume dramas such as *Prince of Jutland* (1994) , *Cold Comfort Farm* (1995) , *Emma* (1996) , and *The Golden Bowl* (2000) , in addition to various stage and radio productions . She began to seek film work in the United States in the late 1990s and , after appearing in small @-@ scale dramas *The Last Days of Disco* (1998) and *Brokedown Palace* (1999) , she had a break @-@ out year in 2001 with starring roles in the war drama *Pearl Harbor* and the romantic comedy *Serendipity* . She built on this success with appearances in the Martin Scorsese 's *The Aviator* (2004) and the comedy *Click* (2006) .

Since being cast as Selene in the *Underworld* film series (from 2003 to 2017) , Beckinsale has become known primarily for her work in action films including *Van Helsing* (2004) , *Whiteout* (2009) , *Contraband* (2012) , and *Total Recall* (2012) . She also continues to make appearances in smaller dramatic projects such as *Snow Angels* (2007) , *Nothing but the Truth* (2008) , and *Everybody 's Fine* (2009) . In 2016 , she won acclaim for her role in Whit Stillman 's Jane Austen comedy *Love & Friendship* .

= = Early life and education = =

Beckinsale was born in Chiswick , London , England . She is the only child of actor Richard Beckinsale and actress Judy Loe . Her father was of one @-@ quarter Burmese descent . She made her first television appearance at the age of four , in an episode of *This is Your Life* dedicated to her father . When she was five years old , her 31 @-@ year @-@ old father died suddenly of a heart attack . Beckinsale was deeply traumatised by the loss and " started expecting bad things to happen . " Her widowed mother moved in with director Roy Battersby when Beckinsale was nine and she was brought up alongside his four sons and daughter . She has a close relationship with her step @-@ father , who was a member of the Workers Revolutionary Party during her childhood . Beckinsale helped to sell *The News Line* , a Trotskyist newspaper , as a child and has said the household phone was tapped following Battersby 's blacklisting by the BBC . Family friends included Ken Loach and Vanessa Redgrave . Beckinsale has a paternal half @-@ sister , actress Samantha Beckinsale , but they have not had regular contact .

Beckinsale was educated at Godolphin and Latymer School , an independent school for girls in Hammersmith , West London and was involved with the Orange Tree Youth Theatre . She was a two @-@ time winner of the WH Smith Young Writers Award for both fiction and poetry . She has described herself as a " late bloomer " : " All of my friends were kissing boys and drinking cider way before me . I found it really depressing that we weren 't making camp fires and everyone was doing grown @-@ up stuff . " " I loathed being a teenager . " She had a nervous breakdown and developed anorexia at the age of 15 and underwent Freudian psychoanalysis for four years .

Beckinsale read French and Russian literature at New College , Oxford , and was later described by a contemporary , journalist Victoria Coren , as " whip @-@ clever , slightly nuts , and very charming " . She was involved with the Oxford University Dramatic Society , most notably being directed by fellow student Tom Hooper in a production of *A View from the Bridge* at the Oxford Playhouse . As a Modern Languages student , she was required to spend her third year abroad , and studied in Paris . She then decided to quit university to concentrate on her burgeoning acting career : " It was getting to the point where I wasn 't enjoying either thing enough because both were very high pressure . "

= = Acting career = =

= = = 1991 ? 1997 : Early acting roles = = =

Beckinsale decided at a young age that she wanted to be an actress : " I grew up immersed in film .

My family were in the business . I quickly realised that my parents seemed to have much more fun in their work than any of my friends ? parents . " She was inspired by the performances of Jeanne Moreau . She made her television debut in 1991 with a small part in an ITV adaptation of P. D. James ? *Devices and Desires* . Also that year , she appeared as a young woman engaging in a forbidden affair with a Nazi officer in the Hallmark film *One Against the Wind* . In 1992 she starred alongside Christopher Eccleston in *Rachel ? s Dream* , a 30 ? minute Channel 4 short , and in 1993 , she appeared in the pilot of the ITV detective series , *Anna Lee* , starring Imogen Stubbs . In 1993 , Beckinsale landed the role of Hero in Kenneth Branagh 's big @-@ screen adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing* . It was filmed in Tuscany , Italy , during a summer holiday from Oxford University . She attended the film 's Cannes Film Festival premiere and later remembered it as an overwhelming experience . " Nobody even told me I could bring a friend ! " " I had Doc Martens boots on , and I think I put the flower from the breakfast tray in my hair . " Peter Travers of *Rolling Stone* was won over by her " lovely " performance while Vincent Canby of the *New York Times* noted that she and Robert Sean Leonard " look right and behave with a certain naive sincerity , although they often seem numb with surprise at hearing the complex locutions they speak . " The film earned over \$ 22 million at the box office . She made three other films while at university . In 1994 , she appeared as Christian Bale 's love interest in *Prince of Jutland* , a film based on the Danish legend which inspired Shakespeare 's *Hamlet* , and starred in the murder mystery *Uncovered* . In 1995 , while studying in Paris , she filmed the French language *Marie @-@ Louise Ou La Permission* .

Shortly after leaving Oxford University in 1995 , Beckinsale starred in *Cold Comfort Farm* as Flora Poste , a newly orphaned 1930s socialite sent to live with distant family members in rural England . The John Schlesinger @-@ directed film was an adaptation of Stella Gibbons 's novel and also featured Joanna Lumley , Eileen Atkins , Ian McKellen , Rufus Sewell and Stephen Fry . Beckinsale was initially considered too young , but was cast after she wrote a pleading letter to the director . Emanuel Levy of *Variety* was reminded of " the strength of a young Glenda Jackson and the charm of a young Julie Christie . " Kevin Thomas of the *Los Angeles Times* classed the actress as " yet another of those effortlessly skilled British beauties who light up the screen . " Janet Maslin of the *New York Times* felt she played the role " with the perfect snippy aplomb . " The film grossed over \$ 5 million at the US box office . Also in 1995 , she appeared in *Haunted* , a ghost story in which Derek Elley of *Variety* felt she " holds the screen , with both physical looks and verbal poise . " 1995 also saw Beckinsale 's first professional stage appearance as Nina in *The Seagull* at Theatre Royal , Bath . She became romantically involved with co @-@ star Michael Sheen after meeting during play rehearsals . " He was the young lion of the theatre . " " I was all revved up to feel very intimidated . It was my first @-@ ever play and my mother had cut out reviews of him in previous productions . And then he walked in ... It was almost like , ' God , well , I 'm finished now . That 's it , then . ' ... He 's the most outrageously talented person I 've ever met . " Irving Wardle of *The Independent* felt that " the casting , including Michael Sheen 's volcanic Kostya and Kate Beckinsale 's steadily freezing Nina , is mainly spot @-@ on . " In early 1996 , she starred in two further plays ; *Sweetheart* at the Royal Court Theatre and *Clocks and Whistles* at the Bush Theatre .

Beckinsale next starred in an ITV adaptation of Jane Austen 's *Emma* , playing Emma to Mark Strong 's Mr Knightley and Samantha Morton 's Harriet Smith . " You shouldn 't necessarily like Emma , " Beckinsale has said of her character . " You do love her , but in the way the family of a teenage girl could be exasperated by her outrageous behaviour and still love her . " The programme was aired in autumn 1996 , just months after Gwyneth Paltrow had starred in a film adaptation of the same story . Caryn James of the *New York Times* felt that while " Ms. Beckinsale 's Emma is plainer looking than Ms. Paltrow 's , " she is " altogether more believable and funnier . " Jonathan Brown of *The Independent* has described Beckinsale 's interpretation as " the most enduring modern performance " as Emma . In 1997 , Beckinsale appeared opposite Stuart Townsend in the comedy *Shooting Fish* , one of the most commercially successful British films of that year . " I 'd just had my wisdom teeth out , " Beckinsale later recalled of the initial audition . " I was also on very strong painkillers , so it was not the most conventional of meetings . " Elley wrote of " an incredibly laid @-@ back performance " while Thomas felt she " just glows as an aristocrat facing disaster with considerable aplomb . " She narrated Austen 's *Emma* for Hodder & Stoughton AudioBooks and

Diana Hendry 's The Proposal for BBC Radio 4 . Also in 1997 , she played Juliet to Michael Sheen 's Romeo in a radio production of Romeo and Juliet , directed by Sheen .

= = = 1998 ? 2002 : Move to Hollywood = = =

At this point in her career , Beckinsale began to seek work in the United States , something she has said wasn 't " a conscious decision ... My boyfriend was in a play on Broadway so that 's why we ended up in New York , and my auditions happened to be for American films . " She starred opposite Chloë Sevigny in 1998 's The Last Days of Disco . The Whit Stillman film focused on a group of Ivy League graduates socializing in the Manhattan disco scene of the early 1980s . Beckinsale 's attempt at an American accent was widely praised . Kenneth Turan of the Los Angeles Times felt her role as the bossy Charlotte was " beautifully played . " Todd McCarthy of Variety was unimpressed by the film but noted that " compensations include Beckinsale , looking incredible in a succession of black dresses , whose character can get on your nerves even if the actress doesn 't . " Her performance earned her a London Critics ' Circle Film Award . The film grossed \$ 3 million worldwide . Also that year , she starred as Alice in a Channel 4 production of Through the Looking @-@ Glass . In 1999 , Beckinsale appeared opposite Claire Danes in Brokedown Palace , a drama about two teenage Americans forced to deal with the Thai justice system on a post @-@ graduation trip abroad . A then 26 @-@ year @-@ old Beckinsale played a teenager . Danes had hoped to become friends with Beckinsale during the shoot but found her " complicated " and " prickly . " McCarthy said the leads " confirm their status as two of the young actresses on the scene today most worth watching , " finding Beckinsale " very effective at getting across layered character traits and emotions . " " Danes and Beckinsale are exceptionally talented young actresses , " said Thomas , but " unfortunately , the script 's seriously underdeveloped context defeats their considerable efforts at every turn . " Stephen Holden of The New York Times felt that Beckinsale 's character " never comes into focus . " The film was a box office failure . 2000 's The Golden Bowl marked Beckinsale 's first role following the birth of her daughter . The Merchant / Ivory production was based on the novel by Henry James and also starred Uma Thurman and Jeremy Northam . Beckinsale 's partner , Michael Sheen , hit Northam on the film set after he followed Beckinsale to her trailer to scold her for forgetting a line . Holden noted that " the most satisfying of the four @-@ lead performances belong to the British cast members , Ms. Beckinsale and Mr. Northam , who are better than their American counterparts at layers of emotional concealment , " adding that each beat of Beckinsale 's performance " registers precisely . " Thomas felt her performance would take her to " a new career level . " Andrew Sarris of The New York Observer asserted that she " comes close to capturing the sublimity of Maggie , despite the obvious fact that no movie can capture the elegant copiousness of James ' prose . " The film grossed over \$ 5 million worldwide .

Beckinsale rose to fame in 2001 with a leading role in the war film Pearl Harbor as a nurse torn between two pilots , played by Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett . She was drawn to the project by the script : " It 's so unusual these days to read a script that has those old @-@ fashioned values to it . Not morals , but movie values . It 's a big , sweeping epic You just never get the chance to do that . " Director Michael Bay initially had doubts about casting the actress : " I wasn 't sure about her at first ... she wore black leather trousers in her screen test and I thought she was a little nasty ... it was easy to think of this woman as a slut . " He eventually decided to hire her because she wasn 't " too beautiful . Women feel disturbed when they see someone 's too pretty . " He asked her to lose weight during filming . In a 2004 interview , the actress noted that his comments were " upsetting " and said she wore leather trousers because " it was snowing out . It wasn 't exactly like I had my nipple rings in . " She felt grateful that she had not had to deal with such criticism at a younger age : " If I had come on to a movie set at [a younger] age and someone had said , ' You 're a bit funny @-@ looking , can you go on a diet ? ' ? I might have jumped off a building . I just didn 't have the confidence to put that into perspective at the time . " However , speaking in 2011 , she said she was " very fond " of Bay . Pearl Harbor received negative reviews . Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly praised " the avid eyed , ruby lipped Kate Beckinsale , the rare actress whose intelligence gives her a sensual bloom ; she 's like Parker Posey without irony . " A. O. Scott of the New York

Times noted that " Mr. Affleck and Ms. Beckinsale do what they can with their lines , and glow with the satiny shine of real movie stars . " However , Mike Clark of USA Today felt that the " usually appealing Kate Beckinsale " is " inexplicably submerged ? like her hospital colleagues ? under heaps of tarty makeup that even actresses of the era didn 't wear . " The film was a commercial success , grossing \$ 449 million worldwide .

Beckinsale 's second film appearance of 2001 was in the romantic comedy Serendipity as the love interest of John Cusack . It was filmed directly after Pearl Harbor and Beckinsale found it " a real relief to return to something slightly more familiar . " Turan praised the " appealing and believable " leads , adding that Beckinsale " reinforces the strong impression she made in Cold Comfort Farm , The Golden Bowl , and The Last Days of Disco " after " recovering nicely " from her appearance in the much @-@ maligned Pearl Harbor . Claudia Puig of USA Today felt that " Beckinsale 's talents haven 't been mined as effectively in any other film since Cold Comfort Farm . " McCarthy found her " energetic and appealing " while Elvis Mitchell of the New York Times described her as " luminous but determined . " In an uncomplimentary review of the film , Ebert described her as " a good actress , but not good enough to play this dumb . " The film has grossed over \$ 77 million at the worldwide box office . In 2002 Beckinsale starred in Lisa Cholodenko 's Laurel Canyon as a strait @-@ laced academic who finds herself increasingly attracted to her free @-@ spirited future mother @-@ in @-@ law . The independent film was another opportunity for Beckinsale to work with Christian Bale , her Prince of Jutland co ? star . She found their sex scene awkward because she knew Bale well : " If it was a stranger , it would have been easier . " While Frances McDormand 's performance as Bale 's mother was widely praised , Beckinsale received negative reviews . Holden found the film " superbly acted , with the exception of Ms. Beckinsale , whose tense , colourless Alex conveys no inner life . " Schwarzbaum was unimpressed by the " tedious " characters and criticized " the fussy performances of Bale and Beckinsale " in particular . The film has grossed over \$ 4 million worldwide .

= = = 2003 ? 2006 : Action roles = = =

Beckinsale became known as an action star following an appearance as a vampire in 2003 's Underworld . It was markedly different from her previous work and Beckinsale has said she was grateful for the change of pace after appearing in " a bunch of period stuff and then a bunch of romantic comedies . " " It was quite a challenge for me to play an action heroine and pull off all that training when [in real life] I can ? t catch a ball if it ? s coming my way . " The film received negative to mixed reviews but was a surprise box @-@ office hit and has gained a cult following . Also that year , she starred in the little seen Tiptoes with Gary Oldman and Matthew McConaughey . In 2004 Beckinsale starred in the action horror film Van Helsing . She was " so surprised " to be appearing in her second action film in two years . " It just seemed like a very good role . " Beckinsale had just separated from her long @-@ term boyfriend Michael Sheen at the time of filming and appreciated the warm atmosphere created on set by director Stephen Sommers and co ? star Hugh Jackman : " I really did find that working with people like Stephen and Hugh made it possible to get through what I was going through . " The film grossed over \$ 120 million at the U.S. box office and over \$ 300 million worldwide , but it was not well @-@ reviewed . Mick LaSalle of the San Francisco Chronicle described her as " a pretty actress doing her best to maintain dignity , vainly trying to craft a feminist statement from a filmmaker 's whimsy " while Rex Reed of The New York Observer felt she was " desperately in need of a new agent . "

Also in 2004 , Beckinsale portrayed Ava Gardner in Martin Scorsese 's Howard Hughes biopic The Aviator . Scorsese decided to cast Beckinsale because , " I ? ve always liked her . I ? ve seen all her work , and I was glad that she agreed to audition . " Beckinsale 's performance received mixed reviews . Ken Tucker of New York Magazine said she played the part " in full va @-@ va @-@ voom blossom " while LaSalle felt that she manages " to convince us that Ava was one of the great broads of all time . " However , Clark described it as " the one performance that doesn 't come off (though Beckinsale has the requisite beauty) " while Peter Bradshaw of The Guardian stated that " Gardner 's rich , voluptuous sexiness is completely absent as Beckinsale sleepwalks through the

role as if she was advertising perfume . " The film grossed over \$ 213 million worldwide . In 2006 , Beckinsale reprised her role as Selene in the successful vampire sequel *Underworld : Evolution* , directed by her husband . It was the first time she had " been involved with a movie from the moment it ? s a germ of an idea right through the whole editing process . " Her daughter had a small role as the younger Selene . The film was a box office success , grossing \$ 111 million worldwide . Beckinsale 's second film appearance of 2006 was opposite Adam Sandler and Christopher Walken in *Click* , a comedy about an overworked family man who discovers a magical remote control that allows him to control time . The opportunity to play a mother " was one of the things that was attractive to me " about the part . It was highly profitable , grossing \$ 237 million worldwide from a production budget of \$ 82 @.@ 5 million .

= = = 2007 ? 2008 : Focus on small @-@ scale drama = = =

Beckinsale then made a return to smaller @-@ scale projects : " My experience is that I sort of stepped away from the independent movies and did a couple of big movies . But that 's not necessarily how it 's perceived by everybody else , which I do understand . " " I enjoy an action movie as much as the next person [but] it ? s not something that I would like to do solely . " She explained that she had originally decided to appear in *Underworld* because she felt typecast in classical roles ? it was " assumed that I use a chamber pot and wear bloomers " ? but that her action career " kind of took off a little too much . " In 2007 , Beckinsale starred opposite Sam Rockwell in the independent drama *Snow Angels* , based on the novel by Stewart O 'Nan . The harrowing film , in which she played an overwhelmed single mother , put Beckinsale " in kind of a tough place . " " I did have my kid , my husband and , in fact , my ex was around a lot , so it was very nice to come home to my people whom I love . " Puig felt " Beckinsale gives her best performance in years " while Richard Corliss of *Time* described it as " her sharpest work yet . " However , Scott felt that " her skill and discipline cannot overcome the sense that she is an exotic species transplanted into this grim ecosystem . Hard as she works to convince us otherwise , it ? s a stretch to believe that a woman with the kind of poised confidence in her own beauty she manifests would wind up with an underachieving mouth breather like Glenn . " The film grossed just \$ 414 @,@ 404 worldwide . Also in 2007 , Beckinsale appeared alongside Luke Wilson in *Vacancy* , a thriller set in an isolated motel . Sarah Jessica Parker was originally cast in the part , but dropped out before filming began . Bradshaw felt that " Wilson and Beckinsale have the chops for scary movies " while Gleiberman noted that " Luke Wilson , with his hangdog defensive mopiness , and Kate Beckinsale , all sexy severity , are ideally matched as a couple who hate each other . " However , Manohla Dargis of the *New York Times* was unimpressed , referring to Beckinsale as " the reigning queen of the bland B 's . " The film was profitable , grossing \$ 35 million worldwide from a production budget of \$ 19 million .

In 2008 , Beckinsale appeared in *Winged Creatures* , a film about how six different witnesses cope with the aftermath of a shooting . Beckinsale played a waitressing single mother in an ensemble cast which included Dakota Fanning , Jennifer Hudson , and Forest Whitaker . " It was a really , really nice experience but it was quick , " said Beckinsale of the filming process . " I just felt a bit like I was shot through a cannon . " Betsy Sharkey of the *Los Angeles Times* felt she played the role " with a white trash verve " and found that her character 's " raw ache for that someone with money and respectability is palpable . " However , Dargis felt that Beckinsale and her cast mates have a " tough time filling out characters that are at best abstractions of grief and often just clichés . " The film received a very limited theatrical release in New York and Los Angeles ; it was released simultaneously on DVD . Also in 2008 , Beckinsale starred in *Nothing but the Truth* as a journalist who refuses to reveal her source . The film , co ? starring Vera Farmiga and Matt Dillon , was inspired by the case of Judith Miller . As part of her research for the role , " I spent some time at The L.A. Times with some female reporters , and I spoke to Judith Miller about her experience I really researched the hell out of that one and it was an amazingly fulfilling , brilliant experience . " Ann Hornaday of The *Washington Post* asserted that Beckinsale and Farmiga played " two of the most fascinating female movie characters to hit screens in a long while , and they 've been brought to life

by two gifted actresses , each working at the top of her game . " Beckinsale received a Critic 's Choice Award nomination for her performance . The film never received a full theatrical release after the distributor filed for bankruptcy and the film has grossed just \$ 186 @, @ 702 worldwide . " I have prayed ? prayed ? for film companies to go bankrupt on films I 've made , and then this happens on the one I love , " said Beckinsale . " Usually it 's the ones you 're most embarrassed about that are on the side of every bus . "

= = = 2009 ? 2015 : Career downturn = = =

In 2009 , Beckinsale starred in the comic @-@ book adaption Whiteout as a U.S. Marshal tasked with investigating a murder in Antarctica . It was filmed in Manitoba , Canada . She found the action scenes less physically demanding than those in Underworld because " three pairs of trousers and a parka gives you a bit more protection than the latex suit . " The film was critically panned and a box office failure , failing to recoup its budget . She also made a brief cameo in the prequel Underworld : Rise of the Lycans ; she appeared in flashforwards composed of footage from 2003 's Underworld . Also in 2009 , Beckinsale starred in the family drama Everybody 's Fine alongside Robert De Niro , Drew Barrymore , and Rockwell , her Snow Angels co @-@ star . Beckinsale was excited by the opportunity to work with De Niro , whom she had first encountered " years and years ago when I just had Lily and he was putting together a reading of The Good Shepherd . " . Everybody 's Fine was a box office flop , failing to recoup its production budget . In May 2010 , Beckinsale sat on the nine @-@ member 2010 Cannes Film Festival jury , chaired by director Tim Burton . Unable to find a script she felt passionate about , Beckinsale kept a low profile in 2010 and 2011 , opting to spend time with her daughter .

Beckinsale returned to acting in 2012 with appearances in three action films . Beckinsale first appeared in the action thriller Contraband . She had a supporting role as the wife of Mark Wahlberg 's character , a former criminal who gets forced back into a life of crime after his family members are threatened . The film was directed by Baltasar Kormákur , who also starred in the Icelandic language version of the film , Reykjavík @-@ Rotterdam . The San Francisco Chronicle felt Beckinsale was " stuck in a bit of a thankless role as the victimised wife , but she does try to infuse a harder edge to the character . " The Hollywood Reporter stated that " Beckinsale , her innate classiness calibrated down a few notches , has little to do but be supportive , worried and , eventually , besieged . " Entertainment Weekly felt that the " woman @-@ in @-@ peril stuff is second @-@ rate , giving off a whiff of exploitation " while Variety found the repeated violence towards Beckinsale 's character disturbing . The film had a production budget of \$ 25 million and has grossed over \$ 96 million worldwide . Beckinsale next reprised her role as Selene in the fourth installment of the vampire franchise Underworld : Awakening . The franchise was initially conceived of as a trilogy and Beckinsale was not " intending to do another one " but was convinced by the quality of the script . The Hollywood Reporter noted that " when she ? s not actually fighting , her performance consists of little more than striding purposefully toward or away from the camera . " The Los Angeles Times remarked that she " finally manages to perfect the monotone delivery she 'd been honing for the series ' first two entries . " The film had a production budget of \$ 70 million and has grossed over \$ 160 million worldwide . With adjustments for inflation , Underworld : Awakening is the lowest grossing Beckinsale @-@ led film in the franchise .

Also in 2012 , Beckinsale appeared as the villainess in the sci @-@ fi action remake Total Recall , directed by her husband Len Wiseman . She has said that Wiseman joined the project because he was unable to receive studio financing for an original sci @-@ fi idea : " You ? re constantly finding yourself having to defend doing a remake when you didn ? t really want to make one in the first place . " The film received mainly negative reviews . Variety found her performance " one @-@ note " while The Hollywood Reporter described her as " one @-@ dimensional . " USA Today remarked that she " spends much of the movie strutting down hallways and looking relentlessly , though blandly , nasty . " The New York Post asserted that Beckinsale " vastly overstays her welcome . " The film has grossed \$ 198 million from a production budget of over \$ 200 million .

In 2014 , Beckinsale starred in the legal thriller The Trials of Cate McCall opposite Nick Nolte and

James Cromwell . The film received negative reviews and was released as a Lifetime movie . She next appeared in *Stonehearst Asylum* , a psychological thriller loosely based on Edgar Allan Poe 's short story . Jeannette Catsoulis of *The New York Times* said Beckinsale was " emoting as if an Oscar nomination depended on it " while Dennis Harvey of *Variety* found her performance " overwrought . " Also in 2014 , she provided the voice for Queen Ayrenn , a character in the *The Elder Scrolls Online* video game . In 2015 , she starred in the psychological thriller *The Face of an Angel* alongside Daniel Brühl . The film , directed by Michael Winterbottom , was inspired by the case of Meredith Kercher . Jesse Hassenger of *The A.V. Club* felt her " charismatic " performance was wasted . Also that year , she starred alongside Simon Pegg in the poorly reviewed Monty Python comedy *Absolutely Anything* . Tom Huddleston of *Time Out* said her character " is never really developed ? which is perhaps a blessing , because her cut @-@ glass @-@ posh performance is almost as grating as Pegg ? s . "

= = = 2016 : Love and Friendship and screenwriting = = =

Beckinsale will star in three 2016 films . In the romantic comedy *Love & Friendship* , which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2016 , she reunited with her *Last Days of Disco* collaborators Stillman and Sevigny . Justin Chang of *Variety* described the role as " one of the most satisfying screen roles of her career Beckinsale magnetizes the screen in a way that naturally underscores how far ahead of everyone else she is : an effect that doesn ? t always work to the movie ? s advantage . " Todd McCarthy of *The Hollywood Reporter* remarked , " There aren ? t great depths to the role , but Beckinsale excels with the long speeches and in defining her character as a very self @-@ aware egoist . " She will also appear in the horror film *The Disappointments Room* and the action movie *Underworld : Blood Wars* .

She is currently writing an adapted screenplay of the book *The Chocolate Money* , with screenwriter and childhood friend Emma Forrest .

= = Modeling career = =

Beckinsale has worked occasionally as a model . In 1997 , she appeared in the music video for George Michael 's *Waltz Away Dreaming* . She starred opposite Orlando Bloom in a 2002 Gap television advert directed by Cameron Crowe . She appeared in a Diet Coke television advert in 2004 , directed by Michael Gondry . She advertised Absolut Vodka in a 2009 print campaign photographed by Ellen von Unwerth . She has also promoted Lux shampoo in a Japanese television advert .

= = Personal life = =

= = = Relationships = = =

Beckinsale had an eight @-@ year relationship with actor Michael Sheen from 1995 until 2003 . They met when cast in a touring production of *The Seagull* in early 1995 and moved in together shortly afterwards . In 1997 , they appeared in a radio production of *Romeo and Juliet* . Their daughter , Lily , was born in London in 1999 . The actress has said she was " embarrassed " that Sheen never proposed , but felt as though she were married . Their relationship ended in early 2003 , after the filming of *Underworld* . Beckinsale and Sheen remain close friends . She remarked in 2016 : " He 's really dear , close family . He 's somebody I 've known since I was 21 years old . I really love him a lot . "

Beckinsale was married to director Len Wiseman for eleven years . They met on the set of 2003 's *Underworld* . Beckinsale persuaded Wiseman to cast Sheen in the film , but , while on set , she and Wiseman fell in love . All parties , aside from Wiseman 's then @-@ wife , have maintained that there was no infidelity . They married on 9 May 2004 in Bel @-@ Air , California and announced

their divorce in November 2015 .

== Legal actions ==

In July 2003 , the Press Complaints Commission dismissed a complaint filed by Beckinsale . Beckinsale had claimed that the Daily Mail invaded her and her daughter 's privacy by publishing photographs of the actress embracing and kissing her then new boyfriend Len Wiseman . The article was headlined " Mummy 's latest love scene leaves Lily unimpressed " and included a picture in which her four @-@ year @-@ old daughter appeared to be ignoring her mother 's romantic actions . The Commission found that " the photographs had been taken in a public place and did not reveal any private details about Lily ? such as her health or schooling ? but were restricted to general observations about her apparent reaction to her surroundings . " In August 2003 , Beckinsale received a published apology from the Daily Mail after the newspaper reported that she had " spent time in a clinic " following her split from boyfriend Michael Sheen . The apology was issued after the actress filed a complaint with the Press Complaints Commission . In 2009 Beckinsale was awarded £ 20 @,@ 000 in damages by the British High Court after taking legal action against Express Newspapers . The Daily Express had falsely reported that the actress was " facing heartbreak " after missing out on a part in a remake of Barbarella .

== Charity work ==

The British Heart Foundation has been Beckinsale 's charity of choice " ever since [she] was six years old . " She has also donated film memorabilia to the Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Foundation , MediCinema , Habitat For Humanity and the Entertainment Industry Foundation . In 2008 she hosted the 4th Annual Pink Party to raise funds for the Women ? s Cancer Research Institute at Cedars @-@ Sinai Medical Center and organised a screening of All About Eve for FilmAid International . In 2012 Beckinsale joined Nestlé 's Share the Joy of Reading Program to raise awareness about the importance of children 's literacy .

== Performances ==

== Film ==

== Television ==

== Video games ==

== Stage ==

== Radio ==

== Awards and nominations ==