

Kate Winslet - The Quintessential Beauty

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*A*miraculous trail of winnings with two Golden Globe Awards followed by an Academy Award, the year 2009, has surely proved the Hollywood beauty, Kate Winslet, to be one of the most celebrated actors of our time.

From playing the elite English socialite, Rose DeWitt Bukater, in the most popular romantic flick of our times, *Titanic*, or the very unpredictable Clémentine of *The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, to the passionate Hanna in *The Reader*, or *The Revolutionary Road*, the British beauty has always managed to excel in performance and also look downright gorgeous, surfacing to be a beauty icon! – a quality that also made her the perfect face of the beauty brand Lancôme.

StyleSpeak discovers beauty and the diva.

Q. 2009 is really turning out to be your year. Were you prepared?

A. A. For a start, I didn't know both films were going to come out at the same time. That was a bit of a shock because it meant the workload in terms of press was doubled. It's been hard finding the time to commit to both of these films, which I care so much about - more than any I've ever done before in my life.

To win both Golden Globes and then winning the Academy Award for "The Reader" in the Best Actress category was just incredible!

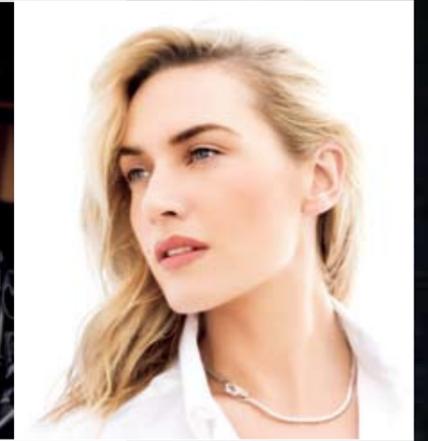
Q. "Revolutionary Road" and "The Reader" are exceptional films. Is the fact that you star in both of them luck, coincidence, or a seasoned actress making mature choices?

A. I just got really lucky because I got these two amazing roles in the space of less than a year. We finished shooting "Revolutionary Road" in August 2007, and I was on set in Berlin on March 1st, 2008, playing Hanna Schmitz for "The Reader." The fact that I got to play both of these women in my lifetime, let alone in less than a year, was incredible! I often just think the universe has been on my side for the last few years.

Q. Does this mark your return to big Hollywood films? Especially, as you've been associated with independent films over the past several years.

A. "Revolutionary Road" was not a big budget film. There were a lot of compromises in order to get the film made, that we were only too happy to make. I think the film is perceived as a big Hollywood film because of me and Leo. The same with "The Reader" - it was filmed in Germany; all the actors were German with the exception of myself, Ralph Fiennes, even Lena Olin, who is Swedish. It felt like we were making a small European film.

It's only how these films succeed in the marketplace that makes them big or small. Take "Slumdog Millionaire." It was a relatively low budget film and it's a huge, great Hollywood movie. It's often the way films are perceived that makes them into the movies that they become.



Q. In your films, you often play characters with strong personalities and rebellious streaks. Often they are looking for a way to escape. Are you attracted to these kinds of roles?

A. I think subconsciously I am. With Hanna, though, it wasn't about that at all. I thought, "I just don't relate to that woman. I really don't know who she is and I can't play that part. I don't have anything of my own life that I can bring to this character." Playing Hanna was really the biggest challenge I've ever faced. I seriously thought I couldn't do it.

Q. Hanna has a lot to escape from, just as your other characters did.

A. Yes, but rather than escaping, she's hiding. Hanna had her feet firmly planted on the ground. Other women I've played felt uncomfortable in their own skin; they've felt as if they've lost touch with themselves and reality. Hanna knew who she was. It was just that who she was, wasn't that great.

Q. So does the common thread that runs through your characters run through you?

A. I don't feel the need to escape. I'm a very happy person. If something's not right with my life, I fix it. I just figure it out rather than suffer in silence. But at the moment, these are the things I seem to be drawn to more than others.

Q. Work-wise, is there anything you dream about doing?

A. I really want to do some theatre.

Q. Your favourite roles as an actress.

A. "Sense and Sensibility", "Heavenly Creatures", "Revolutionary Road" and "The Reader." "The Reader" was a particularly unique experience because I was in Germany and had the chance to travel to different parts of the world.

Q. How has your relationship with your body and your image changed over the years?

A. I'm happier about myself than I've ever been. I remember being 21, 22 and looking at other women and thinking, "Oh, they just look so brilliant. I'm sure I'm never going to look that good." I am absolutely amazed that here I am at the age of 33, having had two children, and having had no work done, and I feel really good. Maybe it's just hormones and age.

Q. Speaking of age, what are some of the best things about being in your 30s?

A. I don't feel self-conscious anymore. I think turning 30, you're allowed to be less obsessed with how you look. I really like being 33. I don't think I look younger than I am or older than I am. I think I look my age. Also, while I feel joined at the hip with my family, I also feel independent. I feel like I can stand on my own two feet.

Q. You have been the ambassador of the Lancôme fragrance Trésor for two years now. How has it been?

A. It's been really great! The nicest thing is to see how much people love this fragrance. When they talk about it, they're not just talking about a perfume that they happen to wear. They talk about remembering the first time they wore Trésor or why it means something to them.

Q. What have you discovered about Lancôme's universe and philosophy that you appreciate?

A. Lancôme believes women are to be celebrated and that beauty comes from within. I share the same philosophy. When you look at the women who have represented the brand over the years, Isabella Rossellini, Juliette Binoche - warm, powerful, strong women who embrace who they are - you know this is true. Their beauty penetrates to a deeper level, an emotional level, as opposed to just being about the façade. I think that is very important and quite unique.

Q. What has been the best part about being an ambassador for a beauty brand?

A. The best part has been the collaboration. I didn't think I would be so involved in the process. I don't feel like I'm just somebody who's been pushed from pillar to post and expected to turn up when they're told to. I like the sense of

feeling included. I like working together as a team. That's the way it is when you work on a film. So it's nice to find an extension of that within Lancôme.

Q. What Lancôme products have become your favourites?

A. Rénergie Morpholift RARE Eye Cream. It's great. It takes away puffiness and reduces any sort of dark circles and fine lines under the eyes. And when you go to bed wearing it, it's not too heavy. I've also become a big fan of Teint Idole Ultra Foundation. It covers well without being too thick and when it's on, it stays on. I love Définicils Mascara and the newest vibrating mascara Ôscillation too! The Lancôme lip pencils are fantastic because you can blend them like crazy and they go with any lipstick or gloss. I also love the Crayon Kôhl eyeliners because you can get right underneath the lash line so easily.

Q. Has this experience changed the way you think and feel about Trésor?

A. It has. Before, I wasn't so consistent about wearing fragrance. Now, I feel a bit odd if I'm not wearing it.

Q. Are you the beauty expert among your friends?

A. Absolutely. People always come to me and ask, "What eyeliner should I use?" or "What do you use for this and that?" It's nice to be able to say, "Well, here's what you have to do." I wasn't always that person. I was the one asking the questions. But as I've gotten older, I've learned to trust myself more.

There are so many brands out there that it gets confusing. Half the time, I don't even know what the words used to describe a product even mean. But with Lancôme, it says one thing and it means just that. The products last, they stay on, they don't go flaky. **SS**

Trivia

Q. What is your definition of elegance?

A. A long, heavy, black satin dress. That will be eternally elegant. You can never go wrong with something like that.

Q. How do you define the French touch?

A. Full of conviction. The French are very much like that. French women, they just have that edge. It's their effortless sense of style.

Q. What is femininity for you?

A. Fragrances sum up femininity for me. They really do. There's something so feminine about fragrance.

Q. What do you do when you're not filming?

A. Look after my kids and cook.

Q. What causes do you feel strongly about?

A. Breast cancer. Homelessness. World hunger. World peace.

Q. Favourite looks?

A. I love the way women looked in the 40s and the great hats they wore. I love a hat.

Q. Who would be the guests at your ideal dinner party?

A. Emma Thompson, always. She's such a laugh and she makes everyone comfortable. She's a great friend. And she knows a lot about wine. Barack Obama. I would love to meet him and to have dinner with him. And Bill Clinton, too. Funny that I would choose U.S. politicians, isn't it? What does that say?