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Hollywood Foreign Press Interview: Amanda Seyfried

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Anticipation is making me wait! For the last several weeksâ?? Oscar buzz has been swarming all over *Mank,* the David Fincher biographical drama revolving around the witty and often acerbic, Herman Mankiewicz, the screenwriter for one of the greatest films ever made, *Citizen Kane.* The film stars Oscar-winning (*Darkest Hour*), Gary Oldman, as Mankiewicz, Amanda Seyfried as Marion Davies, and Charles Dance as William Randolph Hearst. *Mank* is coming on December 4th, 2020, to Netflix. Getting hot and bothered due to my above-average risk of COVID-19, and not being able to attend a theatrical screening, I share this awesome, albeit all-too-brief, interview as it appeared on GoldenGlobes.com. with the always delightful, Amanda Seyfried. Enjoy! And, until next time, I look forward to seeing you at the movies.



Larry Gleeson, left, with Hollywood starlet, Angie Dickinson. (Photo credit: HollywoodGlee)

Interview by Scott Orlin

November 23, 2020

Amanda Seyfried on â??Mankâ?•: â??I have never seen myself dressed up that way.â?•

Amanda Seyfried was all set to start classes at Fordham University when she got the call. The then 18-year-old had been cast in an upcoming feature, *Mean Girls*, which required her to postpone her college career to co-star in the **Tina Fey** penned comedy. Needless to say, the decision proved inspired as the Allentown, Pennsylvania native has never looked back.

Pivotal roles in such TV series as *Veronica Mars* and *Big Love* led her to her first lead role in the 1999 musical *Momma Mia!* co-starring *Meryl Streep*. The movie, which used Abba songs to convey the characterâ??s emotions, was a worldwide smash and would eventually produce a sequel 10 years later. In between her portrayals of Sophie, Seyfried secured parts in *Jenniferâ??s Body*, *Sucker Punch*, *Ted*, *Letters to Juliet*, and most recently, the psychological horror film *You Should Have Left.* Now the mother of two steps before the camera under the tutelage of acclaimed filmmaker David Fincher in the period drama *Mank*, that details the creation of the classic film *Citizen Kane.*



ARMANDO GALLO/HFPA

You are stepping into the shoes of actress Marion Davies, though popular in her time many people today donâ??t really know her. What insights did you gain about her in your research?

Marion Davies, while being a movie star and having some people know who she was, is such a mystery. There actually wasnâ??t a lot of research. I found one book that was an autobiography published posthumously of interviews she had done about ten years before her death. The way she remembers things, we are not really sure how clear they are. She had done a lot of movies but not many knew her back story. If you happened to have seen *Citizen Kane*, you could see that Susan Alexander was inspired by Marion. It is tough to figure out who she is. I do feel the screenwriter, Jack Fincher really captured who she really was more accurately. We get to see how she communicated with other people, especially by the letters she had written, and so we were able to capture the best of her.



Amanda Seyfried in *Monk* (2020)
NETFLIX

She was quite confident. She knew who she was and operated through life that way.

She wasnâ??t a worrier. She was an extrovert and loved to have fun. That is absolutely the opposite of me. I like to have fun (laugh). I live like an introvert. I can socialize well but I would rather hole up on my farm. That is great but we share an essence in that she was very kind and just wanted to make the most of it. She liked to celebrate all the time and entertain people. She was cool and knew who she was. I think that is why she was so confident.

The look of the film was quite cool. These women from the 1940s style films were dressed regally and not a flaw on their face. How did you like capturing that visual?

I have never seen myself dressed up that way. Even looking in the mirror on set, it was awe-inspiring. It was kind of surreal. I do watch my movies but I am able to take myself out of it to a point. This viewing experience really struck me by the fact that it made me look like I was really living in that era. It felt like it at times. Not a lot of actors get that opportunity. It was very special. I donâ??t think I will ever get over it. I wasnâ??t CGIâ??d into something. I was there. It is not a trick. It is all so specific to technical details. It is only something Fincher can do.

Speaking of Fincher, how did he work with you? He is notorious for doing many takes.

He knew my character in and out; through his bones. The way he approached me was with the most amount of knowledge about where she was coming from for a specific scene or what she was thinking. It really helped shape my performance. He gave me such details about one little breath that helped me change the reaction to something. He wasnâ??t that specific but we were on the same ride. He was really connected to Marion in a way that I needed because there were so many things happening. He set these parameters and just led me down the path. He was extraordinary.

Speaking of extraordinary. Congratulations on your new baby.

Thank you. My last baby (laugh).

You never know.

I know (laugh).

Category

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