



cast by jenny roth, dress by american eagle, shoes by john galliano.

cultivated her daughter's career since Belle was just nine months old. "The story is that when I was little my mum would take me to these 'mommy and me' classes," she says. "Anyway, there were a lot of models and actors in the classes and I guess I was really outgoing and they suggested I go and get an agent and try and do commercials and modeling and whatnot. We ended up going and the agent signed me up that day and I shot my first Subaru car print job when I was nine months old. Then I went on and did a lot of baby modeling and stuff..."

To date, that "stuff" has included her first film when she was five ("I just remember having the best time and I wanted to laugh all the time and my mom was like 'Camilla! You have to be scared right now!"), followed by a part in Spielberg's *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* ("We were on this street, right over there. My mum got the call and we ran to the car, shut the door, and were like 'Oh my God!'), and a role in *Practical Magic* ("I think pretending to be a witch is fun for any little girl. I remember watching Nicole Kidman work. That's how I learn—I take things from different people and make what works for me") all before she was 12. After a three-year break from acting between the ages of 13 and 16, Belle was cast, following an intensive search by Rebecca Miller and her husband Daniel Day-Lewis, as Rose Stavrin in *The Ballad of Jack and Rose*. "He is such a genius actor," she says of Day-Lewis. "If you're so good at something you're not going to be completely normal. He is such a powerful, intense guy, but so sweet and a wonderful human being." It's obvious from watching it that making the film—and neither Miller nor Day-Lewis make many—was an intense, intimate experience. Ever modest, Belle will only praise the cast and crew, but it's her performance that sets the movie apart. Needing a second opinion, I called Day-Lewis in County Wicklow, Ireland, for his impressions of Belle. "I would love to be able to tell you what it is that's special about her in a few words but it's very hard to be able to boil things down," he says. "I'm reluctant to reach for the usual platitudes that fly around when people describe working with other people. I remember after Rebecca and I saw that first tape, Camilla seemed to have something very unusual about her. She's just a magical creature; there's nothing more you can really say about her."

Day-Lewis is well-known for his divergent views on the movie business, while Belle in many ways can be seen to represent the Hollywood dream come true: a radiant paradigm of success even in such an ephemeral industry. Day-Lewis's concerns for Belle's future are as tender as they are poignant. "She's very rare," he says, with his typical, recondite deliberation.

Jason Nocito

DSREPS

dsreps.com  
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New York

(917) 407-4292

Nicki Silverman: [nicki@dsreps.com](mailto:nicki@dsreps.com)

Los Angeles

(626) 441-2224

Deborah Schwartz: [deb@dsreps.com](mailto:deb@dsreps.com)

Crystal Roberts: [crystal@dsreps.com](mailto:crystal@dsreps.com)