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Keaton & Hawn going strong

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Goldie Hawn—

As she nears 60, her laughter still helps make the world go round

By Sue Facter

SPECIAL TO SENIOR LIFE

Goldie Hawn's first name is a perfect fit.

The talented superstar brings sunshine and light to everyone she encounters. With her 60th birthday just around the corner on November 21, she's still as vivacious and energetic as she was 20 years ago. Goldie Hawn's smile lights up a room and makes you feel as if you're the only one in it.

ple happy. If you feel uncomfortable smiling or laughing, then we have to do something about that."

Laughter makes her world go round

Hawn will go to extremes to make those close to her happy. When son, Wyatt Russell, expressed interest in playing junior ice hockey, she and Kurt packed their bags and moved to a Tudor style home in Vancouver. "He was 15, turning 16, and we

Diane Keaton—

As she nears 60, "clothing optional" may be taking on new meaning

By Darcy Alvey

SENIOR LIFE EDITOR

Diane Keaton has a thing for clothes. She knows when to take them off. She knows when to keep them on. What's more, she has a fashion sense that is altogether quirky and trend setting. Iconic even.

Now age 59, the Southern California native is savvy about more subjects than clothes, however. Lanky and trim at 5'7", Keaton has branched out in recent years

Keaton says she sees bits of herself in many of the parts she has played in her eight films with Allen. "Of course I recognized myself in the roles Woody wrote," she said in a past interview. "I mean, in *Annie Hall* particularly. I was this sort of novice who had lots of feelings but didn't know how to express herself, and I see that in Annie. I think Woody used a kind of essential quality that he found in me at that time, and I'm glad he did because it



Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn walk along Sixth Avenue with sons Oliver Hudson, 29 (c) and Wyatt Russell, 19 (r) after having lunch in New York City's West Village earlier this year. Photo: Arnaldo Magnani, Getty Images.



It's the calm before the storm when Meredith (Sarah Jessica Parker) meets her boyfriend's (Dermot Mulroney) mother, Sybil (Diane Keaton) in *The Family Stone*. Photo: Zade Rosenthal

Along with 500 other guests, I got to meet Hawn a few years ago at her Pacific Palisades home at a fundraising bash for "Operation Smile," a charity that flies doctors around the world to repair underprivileged kids' faces and jaws with reconstructive surgery.

Unbeknownst to Hawn, a nine-year-old Peruvian orphan named Juan Guzman, whose mouth would not close before he became the beneficiary of Operation Smile's work (in fact, Hawn and her partner Kurt Russell were in the operating room for the first of Juan's two surgeries), was flown in and brought to the stage in a surprise guest of honor.

There wasn't a dry eye in the house, including Robin Williams, Kevin Costner, and George Lucas. "Juan is like a nephew to me," said Hawn. "He is the warmest, sweetest kid. He doesn't speak much English, but we communicate with our eyes and giggles and the little English he is learning.

"Laughter is the best medicine for anxiety and depression," said the star, "I feel it's my own personal mission to make peo-

wanted to be with him for the last years of his high school life," said Hawn. She realizes not everyone can do this and feels fortunate that she was able to.

Hawn also had a mom who cared about her child's passion. A native of Washington, D.C., Hawn grew up in a dance family. Her ballet teacher Mom encouraged Hawn to start tap and ballet lessons at the age of three. While studying at nearby American University, Hawn managed "Goldie's Dance School," a Herculean task. She danced at the New York World's Fair in 1964, was a go-go dancer in New Jersey, and danced at the now defunct Las Vegas Desert Inn. Her first break came as the prototype dumb blonde dancer on TV's *Martin and Rowan's Laugh In*.

Those giggles hit the spot

Smart Hollywood types pretty quickly knew she was a natural for features including *Cactus Flower* (for which she won an Oscar in 1969 as Best Actress in a Supporting Role), *Private Benjamin* (for

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to directing and producing as well as fighting for historic preservation.

Ironically, deciding not to "bare it all" led to early recognition for the award-winning actor. Part of the original cast of the 1968 Broadway musical *Hair*, Keaton declined to take her clothes off as fellow cast members displayed their physical attributes in abandonment. (A groundbreaking theatrical production, *Hair* reflects a time during the 1960s when a disenfranchised younger generation shows its disdain for accepted mores by advocating a nonviolent lifestyle with free speech, easy sex and communal living.)

In addition to a stellar acting performance which garnered her the 1977 Oscar for Best Actress, clothing choices again brought Keaton center stage when she played the title character in Woody Allen's neurotic romantic comedy *Annie Hall*. Based in part on Keaton and Allen's personal relationship off-screen, the film has Alyv Singer (Allen) looking back on his failed relationship with Hall (Keaton), trying to figure out where it all went wrong.

worked really well in the movie."

Her clothing for the film, which consisted largely of suits and ties and came from her own closet, established a unisex fashion trend that swept the nation and survives in part to this day. (She's also known for wearing gloves when she appears in public. Not for any particular reason, she says. She just likes them.)

In 2003 the actor came full circle when, at 57, she appeared momentarily nude for a scene in *Something's Gotta Give*. The movie also stars Jack Nicholson as an aging music exec with a fondness for younger women, who finds himself attracted to the mother (Keaton) of one of his girlfriends. This time, by appearing nude, the cheeky Keaton flouted a youth-oriented society that seems to idolize thin women with large expensive breasts.

"At this point, does it really matter?" Keaton said of her flash dance. "Nobody is looking at me the way I once imagined people would look at me, like with deviant thoughts. I think they just go, 'Huh. There it is. Intact.'"

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Hawn

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which she was nominated for an Oscar as Best Actress in 1980), *The First Wives Club* and her most recent picture, *The Bangor Sisters*.

Goldie met her soul mate, Kurt Russell for the first time in 1968 while filming an obscure Disney musical called *The One and Only*. When they re-connected while co-starring in *Swing Shift* in 1983, sparks flew and they soon merged households. The duo worked together again on *Overboard* in 1987, the year after their son Wyatt was born. They have never married, but have one of the strongest 22-year old relationships in Hollywood.

"We have an unconventional family, but we're happy," says Hawn. "That's all that counts, isn't it?" Between them, they have four children. In addition to Wyatt, she has Kate (a fine actor in her own right) and Oliver Hudson from her marriage to musician Bill Hudson, and Russell has a son Boston from a previous marriage.

A deep thinker

Born half Jewish and half Protestant, Hawn is a practicing Buddhist. Like Dolly Parton, she has studied many of the world's religions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, shamanism, Judaism and Christianity. "The interesting thing of my spiritual life is studying as much as I can. I try to learn what the precepts are, what the religion is and ultimately, it's based on the same thought. We go into religion in order to feel warmer in our heart, more connected to others, more connected to something greater and to have a sense of peace. I like Buddhist thought because it breaks that down. It teaches you to *view* your thoughts rather than *be* your thoughts." She starts her day with meditation and various dance routines, and also practices yoga. Included in her regime: a low fat and low carb diet. A staunch supporter of the Dalai Lama, she volunteers her services (and cash) worldwide for his organization. She also runs a "Words Can Heal" campaign, a program to stop gossip in America.

Academy Award winner, successful Hollywood mogul, effervescent TV personality with a terrific sense of humor, Hawn is one of the most successful women in Hollywood. Besides co-starring with Warren Beatty, she also received seven percent of the gross of *Shampoo*. In those days, such a deal was unheard of. She appeared on the cover of *Playboy* in the January 1985 issue—at the age of 39. In 1996, she and *First Wives* co-stars, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler, were featured on the cover of *Time*. (In fact, there's buzz that the trio will reunite to do a sequel.)

And that's not nearly all. In 2003, she, Russell and two of their children, Kate and Oliver (also an actor on WB series, *The Mountain*) formed a production company called Cosmic Entertainment.

This year she delivered an autobiography, *A Lotus Grows In the Mud*, which Hawn claims is not a Hollywood tell-all, but rather a memoir and record of lessons learned.

No wonder that Goldie Hawn lives her life with no regrets, and seems to be the happiest actress on the planet.

Keaton

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Intact she is, involved at once with acting and directing projects, raising two adopted children and making herself the media "face" of the fight for historic preservation.

Moving in for a close-up

Directing was a natural for the creative Keaton, even though her first project found a luke-warm reception. In 1987 the screen star took the helm of the documentary *Heaven*, which takes a light-hearted look at life after death, interspersing interviews with tongue-in-cheek classic film clips.

It's no mystery why she chose such a subject for her directing debut. Keaton admits to being a bit obsessed with the afterlife. "I think about dying every single day," she has said. "I've lost lots of friends, and they die in the most bizarre ways. It's like 'that can't possibly be! How could that have happened!' And all I can think is 'that could have been me.'"

Subsequent directing efforts have been better received, notably *Unstrung Heroes* in 1995, her first major feature film as a director. In this heart-warming tale a young man, unhappy at home since his mother got sick, goes to live with two eccentric uncles.

Naturally drawn to character-driven tales, Keaton stays fully connected to life and the world around her, despite being uncomfortable in the limelight. "I build a wall around myself," she has said. "I'm hard to get to know."

Restoring the past

An outspoken member of the Los Angeles Conservancy, which fights to preserve the area's architectural heritage, including many early movie industry structures, Keaton has completely restored three vintage homes herself: a 1928 Art Deco house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and once owned by actor Ramon Novarro, a 1926 residence by architect Wallace Neff and a 1920 "hacienda," typical of the state's cultural heritage.

Championing historic preservation has been one of the pleasures that come with age and professional success.

"It's kind of true, you do disappear off the planet if you are a middle-aged woman, but that has some advantages as well. Because too much of my life was spent waiting to be seen, hoping to be seen, hoping to be picked. Once you realize that you aren't looked at that way any more, other things start to happen and you have to depend on other things to get by."

Diane Keaton is getting by just fine. In a new holiday comedy opening Nov. 4, *The Family Stone*, Keaton plays a mother fighting to keep her family together, through her own failing health and a son who is about to marry the wrong woman.

After two false starts where financing fell apart, it was Keaton coming on board that finally got *The Family Stone* in production. Writer/director Thomas Bezucha had long wanted to work with Keaton. Ironically, he was first attracted to her unique style of dressing when he owned a fledgling clothing business early in his career.

Acting, directing or saving architectural landmarks, Keaton continues to set professional and personal standards with no signs of slowing down. And why shouldn't she? She's just entering her prime.

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