



*Ellie Parcey-Alden.*

Photos by Andrew James Photography

## *On the cover*

### *Credits.*

Talent. **Ellie Darcey-Alden**  
Interview. **Vanesa Miraglia**  
Photography. **Andrew James**

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*Ellie Darcey-Alden.*

Ellie Darcey-Alden, known for her iconic role as Lily Potter in the Harry Potter series, has embarked on a new chapter in her career. In this intimate conversation, she discussed her recent return to the UK, her transition from child actor to adult actress, and her exciting new venture as a producer. Ellie reflected on the iconic role that launched her career, acknowledging its impact while also discussing the challenges she faced as a child actor navigating the industry. She expressed her gratitude for the experience and the lasting friendships she formed during her time on the Harry Potter set.

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**V:** Ellie, it's a pleasure to meet you. I've been following your career, and it's fascinating to see how you've evolved from the enchanting young Lily Potter to this independent, multifaceted woman you are today.

**E:** It's lovely to chat with you Vanesa! It has been quite the journey, I am very lucky to have my career today and assure you, it wouldn't be without the support of my parents when I was a young actor to give me the head start I needed. The industry has definitely changed since I first started, especially now that I am working as a producer as well as an actor, it continues to be an eye opening journey.

**V:** You've mentioned your return to the UK. It's a significant step. What brought about this decision? Was it a conscious shift in your perspective, or did a particular project lead you to take this decision?

**E:** It is definitely a big step, one that I felt had been coming for some time, but I was hesitant out of fear that I would be compromising opportunities in other places. Realistically, this is the complete opposite. It ended up being a coincidence and a conscious shift at the same time. I had the privilege of being cast in a pilot that I filmed last summer and decided to make a 5 month move back to London at the same time! I recognized that opportunities arise at the strangest and most unpredictable times, which often prove to be the best time to jump on board and see where they take you.

**V:** Lily Potter is an iconic role, one that undoubtedly shaped your early career. How do you feel that role continues to influence your journey as an actress? Does it sometimes feel like a shadow, or has it become a solid foundation for you to build upon?

**E:** Being a child actor and following my career to adulthood has not been the easiest journey for me. Playing Lily was the greatest privilege of my career, she is the most captivating and heartfelt character I've known, and the experience of working on the Harry Potter series is one I know I will never be able to recreate. Sometimes, when you're working as a child actor, it can be easy for other industry individuals to section you off when you breach acting as an adult. Playing Lily has never felt like a shadow, but with my move to Los Angeles soon after the premiere, and the drastic change from London to Hollywood, it hasn't been the foundation in my acting journey that I was hoping for. What it has done is provided me with the most incredible experiences and friendships that I continue to have and nourish even after 12 years. There is nothing more surreal to a young aspir-

ing actor than being on a 100+ person set full of high-end professionals, and having all those cameras pointed towards me. It was incredible and scary and exciting all at once, and it truly shaped my expectations for myself, and witnessing the true love that all of those cast and crew had for these films only pushed me to make my bigger dreams a reality. I'm also very lucky to frequent convention events around the world for Potter all these years later, and keeping in touch with my costars and other members of the cast that shared those moments is invaluable to me. Those moments only ever contribute positively to the growing actor and producer I am today.

**V:** Your production company is an exciting venture. What kind of stories are you drawn to? Is there a particular message or theme you hope to convey through your work? And, on a personal level, what does producing allow you to express that acting alone cannot?

**E:** **Blue Paradigm Entertainment** is one of my biggest goals. I didn't think it would be a reality for some time, but considering the changes in the industry, I think it can be beneficial for creatives to take matters into their own hands when they find projects they love.

Becoming a producer has opened up an entire new part of the industry for me, and it's made me explore more avenues and take more risks as an actor. It can be really easy as an actor to let all of the weight land on one audition or role, especially because this is something we all love and want so much. Being a producer, although still creative, is a much more analytical process with a linear progression as you move through different stages of production. It's certainly a lot of work and you have to be ready to change the plan or find solutions at a moment's notice! For me, this defined process has given me an outlet to place that worry and weight from acting into something more clear; basically it gives me a concrete to-do list that I can check off (I love a list). These opportunities, in turn, have helped me separate my analytical and creative mind, and have reopened my imagination to explore characters and worlds more deeply, without reservation, when I pick up a script. Also, working behind the scenes has shown me how fantastic the production and crew team are - as an actor I have the opportunity to walk onto a ready-made set with a group of people who have worked hard together to make that a reality - most of the time before I have even eaten breakfast! It is integral for any production to have a strong and well-oiled group of people who come together to build something meaningful. Blue Paradigm champions these teams, and I hope to make films where our crew feel appreciated and understood throughout every stage of production.







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ELLIE DARCEY-ALDEN





**V:** You've mentioned a new film. Without giving away too much, can you share what drew you to this project? Was it the character, the story, or something else entirely? And how does this role fit into your overall vision as an actress?

**E:** Yes! We are keeping this very much under wraps at the moment, but I can share that it is Blue Paradigm's first in-house feature film that we are projected to shoot in early 2025. When the director first brought this project to the table, I completely fell in love with the story, but I was also captivated by how he wanted to tell it. Without saying too much, the best (and scariest) thing you can do as a creative is challenge yourself to do something different, and that's exactly what this project is about. I can't wait to share more about how we plan to tell this story!

**V:** Beyond the roles, what drives your passion for acting? Is it the transformation, the storytelling, or something deeper? And how do you balance the demands of the industry with your personal life?

**E:** My passion for acting has always come from storytelling. Since I was a young girl, throwing myself into a different world to bring someone else's to life has brought me a sense of purpose, through love, willingness, and often times an escape too. Personally, I think actors hold a brilliant responsibility to show the world the best and the worst parts of life - whether that is through a tragic fantasy novel or an indie romance with a bittersweet ending. So much of who we are is poured into cinema—our joys, fears, dreams, and flaws. Acting allows me to explore these facets of humanity, and through storytelling, I find a profound connection to both the characters I portray and the audience who experiences them. My relationship with acting has changed throughout my life, especially since becoming an adult and broaching the industry as my place of work. My parents always made sure that my childhood was protected and I could maintain a "normal" life outside of acting, like still attending karate classes or birthday parties. I truly attest this to keeping my love for acting alive all these years, especially considering the amount of rejection you are faced with; becoming familiar with that at such a young age was a shock, but I built resilience to these challenges that carried me through some of the saddest moments. Now, as an adult, it's actually become important to prioritize my acting career amongst the other 'normal' demands of life. I still work a part-time job to cover the rent and bills, which means it's important for me to manage my time well and focus my sights on film, scripts, and project development. I love to travel, and I've been spending a large amount of time in Canada where my partner lives, which contributes hugely to my creative battery and gives me an outlet to start writ-

ing projects of my own that I hope to create. I have always been a family girl, so I tend to spend as much time with my family as possible, especially when I travel home to the UK. Truthfully, as much as it's important for me to have a work-life balance, a lot of my "life" activities shape me and provide experiences that I fold into my creative process. I think that is the beauty of being an actor, and why so many of the greats speak on taking those risky opportunities, because the more life you live, the more I have to draw from when I begin to explore a new character.

**V:** There's this intriguing moment when an actor transitions from simply performing to truly embodying the craft. Is it a sudden epiphany, a gradual evolution, or perhaps a combination of both? Do you feel it's defined by external markers like awards or critical acclaim, or is it a more intimate, internal shift?

**E:** In my experience, acting is not just about technique or hitting the right emotional notes, but about being present, vulnerable, and completely open to whatever the moment demands. For me, the transition from performing to truly embodying the craft is a deeply personal journey, one that I believe is a combination of both gradual evolution and moments of sudden clarity. It's not something that can be easily pinpointed to a specific event or milestone, but rather, it's an ongoing process of growth and self-discovery. It's an evolution that continues to change as I take on more demanding roles and new challenges that push me deeper into my craft, especially through my transition into adulthood and experiencing the heavier parts of life. So, while external markers like awards can be gratifying and provide recognition, the true transformation happens internally, in those quiet moments when I'm alone with the character, and I realize that I'm no longer just acting as the character—I'm living.

**V:** Courage is a fascinating quality. It's often admired from afar, but its true nature remains somewhat mysterious. In your experience, is courage something that is cultivated over time, a passion-fueled spark, or perhaps an innate quality? Have there been particular moments in your life where you've felt the weight of courage, and how did those experiences shape your understanding of it?

**E:** The need for courage also hits you when least expect as I learnt when I was having to balance performing a lead role while learning my father had been diagnosed with Cancer. The distraction of his subsequent surgery took both courage and focus in order to deliver the best performance in the face of this distraction. The courage it took to stay focused on my work taught me a lot a-

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***The courage it took to stay focused on my work taught me a lot about the strength we find within ourselves during difficult times.***

- ELLIE DARCEY-ALDEN

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bout the strength we find within ourselves during difficult times. I'm so happy to say all ended well and I've grown from the experience.

**V:** As our conversation winds down, I'm keen to explore your thoughts on respect within the industry. What constitutes true respect for you as an artist? Is it measured by external validation, or is there a deeper, more intrinsic sense of respect that you strive for?

**E:** For me, this is very much an internal journey. It started off as something so innocent and beautiful, with my young mind needing an outlet to place my bad dreams or exciting sto-

ries through the puppets of my stuffed animals and barbie dolls. Exploring depth in my acting has helped me understand my emotions through my pre-teens and gave me an outlet to pour my heart in moments of grief as I transitioned into an adult.

Ultimately, I believe that the richness of an actor's performance can come from the richness of their life experiences. Every adventure, every relationship, every quiet moment of reflection adds depth to the characters I bring to life. This is why I strive to live fully, embracing both the demands of the industry and the joys of personal life, because it all feeds back into my craft.



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