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ayellet Jurer.

credits.

Talent. **Ayelet Zurer**
Interview. **Vanesa Miraglia**
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- MAGAZINE -



AYELET *Zurer*

Throughout our engaging conversation, Ayelet Zurer exudes a genuine passion for the art of storytelling, taking us on a journey through her impressive body of work in acclaimed films and dynamic streaming projects. With a steadfast commitment to authenticity, she opens up about her approach to crafting complex characters, especially her exciting upcoming roles in "House of David" and "Daredevil: Born Again." Ayelet shares personal stories of resilience that have defined her career, highlighting the importance of self-awareness and the freedom to make choices that truly resonate with her values.



V: Your career has spanned acclaimed films, hit TV shows, and now high-profile streaming projects. What is it about the art of transformation that continues to captivate you as an actress?

A: I love storytelling. I believe in the power of stories and that they are the building blocks of humanity. I love the entertainment part of it, the play, the joy in not growing up and pretending. The older I get, I also feel more responsible to bringing stories that resonate with my sets of beliefs. Whether I am a villain or a hero, I like to stretch the grays between the black and whites of our concepts.

V: When you're preparing for a role that requires a significant physical or psychological shift, what are some of the first steps you take to start that process of embodiment?

A: Reading. Reading the script again and again. Then start watching things - documentaries, YouTube, films, anything that can be relevant. Creating an internal map of space, time, style of the material, finding the logic, the point of view of the part. Then finding me inside all of this.

V: In a role like "Losing Alice," where the character's emotional and mental state is constantly evolving, how do you maintain that nuanced, multilayered performance from start to finish?

A: In this particular case, I stayed in character throughout the day. And didn't pull out. It was exhausting, but necessary.

V: You've had the opportunity to work with renowned directors like Steven Spielberg and Ron Howard. How have those collaborations influenced your own approach to fully inhabiting a character?

A: More than anything I have learned from them how to be good people. Both Steven and Ron are incredibly smart, open, curious and very kind. Sets are run from the top to bottom, the top sets the behavior on set. So I think I have learned that.

V: Many of your roles, from "Munich" to "Man of Steel," have dealt with weighty, complex subject matter. What is it about diving into those kinds of challenging, thought-provoking stories that appeals to you as an actress?

A: The stories find me. So maybe it's karma?

V: As you've progressed in your career, how have you seen your own process of character transformation evolve and become more refined?

A: The more I mature the wider perspective I have on things. That means I have a larger canvas to paint on. I've also learned to trust the process and consequently, become more and more free as a result.

V: With upcoming roles in projects like "House of David" and "Daredevil: Born Again," how do you prepare to take on such iconic characters while still making them your own?

A: They are my own as no one else played them (a joke). In seriousness, both of them are tragic women. So there is some heaviness while working on them. Both women are connected to a King - Achinoam's agenda is to protect the king, throne and kingdom because she believes that is her destiny. Vanessa is siding with her kingpin, because she loves him. But I don't think she loves the world he is in, even though she is definitely immersed in it.

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V: To conclude our conversation, I'd love for you to reflect on the courage and resilience required to thrive in this industry. As an acclaimed actress who has navigated the challenges of prejudice, instability, and creative limitations, could you share a personal anecdote about a moment when you had to summon your greatest inner strength, whether it was for a specific role or in your decision to continue pursuing your craft?

A: In my twenties, a manager wanted to represent me. She sent me to a meeting for what I realized later, was a softcore erotic show. She was calling to let me know I got the part and explained that I will have some nude love scenes.

I came from NYC where I was doing theatre for free since I wanted to be a serious actor. This show was not what I had dreamed of when I envisioned my career. So, I said no. She screamed on the other side of the phone and said that if I don't take the job, it will take me at least a decade to make it. I cried in the kitchen, said no and left LA. 10-years later, I was cast in the movie "Munich," by Steven Spielberg. I went to coffee with her, when I returned to Los Angeles. I was polite. I never said...Remember that call? Look where I am now...I think that one of the most important keys to success is to know yourself. To know what you can or can't do, what you believe or don't believe, is good for you. Freedom of choice is essential in this life. What is the point without it?

“Daredevil: Born Again” premieres on Disney+ March 4 and “House of David” is available to stream on Prime Video.



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