

And because he wasn't gay, and because we were not involved romantically, people had a very hard time understanding that friendship. Because they couldn't define us, they did not seem to be able to grasp the idea that we were just dear friends.

**Do you miss anything from your college days?**

I miss learning and the growth that comes with that. The days of reading screenplays can be vapid, and you find yourself fussing over minor details. Now that I have some time off, I really need to focus on learning again. The discipline that I gained in college has really helped me with my work ethic today. I learned at Princeton how to arrange my time. Also, I gained a great deal of pleasure from success in my classes – knowing that I could accomplish those things – and I realized that my success was directly proportionate to the work I put in.

**How did you pick a major?**

I wanted to be fluent in another language. I felt that I needed the major to accomplish that. Also, the English department was very large and the more classes I took, the more that French literature interested me.

**So, how is your French today?**

I could have a deep, meaningful conversation, but I'd have trouble getting my bike fixed. It takes me a few days of being in France to really start to get it back without having to conjugate in my head.

**What was your favorite expression as a student?**

"Have faith in your own thoughts." I learned in college that ultimately everything boils back down to that.

**Who was your favorite teacher and why?**

Professor Uitti. He taught Romance Languages, and he also taught me that I had original ideas. He helped me to feel safe with those ideas versus repeating back what others said. He is delightful. I still keep in touch with him. Whenever I'm going to do a new film I'll call and he will say, "Oh that story reminds me of this book, or that story," and he'll give me a whole wealth of references to read.

**Where were your favorite getaways on campus?**

I spent a lot of time at the student center, and there was a great muffin place right across the



main street. The truth is that I studied so much, I didn't have large windows of time anywhere except in my cubicle at the library.

**If you weren't an actor, what else might you have liked to do with your life professionally?**

I could have easily worked with children and their education.

**When you were a student, did you know you would go back to acting?**

I didn't know it would matter to me. I was just focused on the university and knowledge.

**Do you stay involved with Princeton?**

Not directly – through friends. It was such a great time for me that I've actually avoided going back since I don't want to have anything in my mind change. I've thought about going to my reunion this year, but... Princeton was the first place where I learned to work at something from the inside out, instead of having things work from the outside toward me. That has set a precedent for everything in my life.

**What dreams haven't you yet fulfilled?**

To be a mother.

**If you could spend the weekend with anyone, living or dead, who would it be?**

Right now, it would be Wallace Stegner, who wrote "The Angle of Repose." He has a wonderful way of looking at life and commitment, and I'd love to pick his brain.

**What are your favorite books?**

C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity," Baudelaire's "Fleurs de Mal," and Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past."

**What music do you listen to?**

Bette Midler, Mozart, Bruce Coburn, and Eagle Eye Cherry.

**What don't people know about you?**

I don't know either... Sometimes I think people choose one side or one element in me, or in others. Very few people see the whole picture. But I, personally, don't know that I need them to.

Left to right from top; Face of the Eighties; with George Burns in *Just You and Me Kid*; marooned in *The Blue Lagoon*; as Violet in Louis Malle's controversial *Pretty Baby*; in *Endless Love* with whatever-happened-to Martin Hewitt; in *Sahara* circa 1983; *The Seventh Floor*; with Chris O'Donnell in the 1999 comedy, *The Bachelor*; in the 1995 mini-series *Nothing Lasts Forever*

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