

Self-images

Anna Massey



ANNA MASSEY, 56, is an actress. She is currently playing Bol, in Harold Pinter's new play, *Moonlight*, at London's Almeida Theatre.

What image do you have of yourself?
As an actress, one has to have many images; you are hopefully a piece of blotting paper upon which people can imagine a new image absorbed.

What kind of image are you trying to achieve?
Tasteful, subtle and quite quiet; I don't like to be startling.

Has your appearance affected your career?
If you are a very beautiful woman, you get offered very beautiful parts; if you are like me, they tend to be more varied — character roles.

What kind of clothes do you like?
As an actress, I think it is important not to dress flamboyantly. I am known as a cardigan person, which can be tedious, but I do feel comfortable in them, they're so reassuring.

What do you wear to work?
I tend to dress in the style of the character I am playing; it helps in rehearsals. The Pinter character is very smart. I am lucky I have a very beautiful outfit to wear.

What do you wear to dress up?
Jean Muir is my favourite.

Are you aware of fashion?
No, I like the classics: a good coat, good shoes, nothing trendy. I have made so many mistakes in the past, I don't give myself the opportunity to blunder any more.

Are you happy with your body?
Yes. My face is a different matter.

Do you diet?
No, but I follow the Hay system, not mixing carbohydrates and protein.

Do you exercise?
Yes, I have an exercise bike and try to do 20 minutes every morning.

Do you wear make-up?
I loathe wearing it but I have to. A fabulous woman comes to my house every month and dyes my eyelashes.

Would you have plastic surgery?
Never. Your face is the face you have lived in, why have it rectified?

Are you worried about ageing?
No, in the theatre age does not matter; it is possible for me to play a 70-year-old woman and not impossible to play a 40-year-old. On film it is different, the camera doth not lie.

Interview By Catherine Wilson

Anna Massey Moonlight

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