

Films, TV Don't Reflect Our World: Molly Parker

DUBAI: Molly Parker has always been conscious about playing strong characters because she feels the entertainment world has the power to influence people, especially young minds. The actress says there is a wave of inclusion in the industry, but there is still a long way to go as "film and TV still don't look like what our world looks like".

From "House of Cards", "Deadwood" to her latest Netflix series "Lost in Space", Parker has always picked a character which has a strong voice in the narrative. And she has been very conscious about it.

"I have for many years been conscious and tried to bring to my work a consciousness around how women are represented. Be-

cause it is clear to me that we are making culture through which we give a message to the young people without even thinking about it," Parker told IANS in an interview here.

Parker, who hails from Canada, is full of hope for change -- thanks to the whole debate around diversity in the industry.

"I do think it is possible for change to happen because we are seeing a change in film and television. I also think a correction is needed because... film and TV don't look like what our world looks like. There are lots of people who are not adequately represented in films and TV.

"It is changing. It is slow," added the actress, who took out time to talk about her reaction



on the sexual allegations on her "House of Cards" co-star Kevin Spacey and express her support for the #MeToo movement while promoting "Lost in Space" here. She is confident that the move-

ment around women's empowerment will not die down.

"It is not going to go away or die down. We are at a turning point and things have to change."

Even in "Lost in Space" -- a Netflix Original dramatic and modern reimagining of the classic 1960s' science fiction series -- her character, Maureen Robinson, is strong and has a mind of her own.

"She is not afraid to express her views, and act on them.

The makers have also gender-swapped Dr. Smith's character. It was played by Jonathan Harris in the original, but in the new version, actress Parker Posey has taken on the role of the doctor.

"All of the women in the show are strong, complicated human

beings. It partly happened because these writers are people who really love women. They have great women in their lives. It was a natural extension."

The actress said it is an "aspiration that hopefully in next 30 years we won't have to even have the conversation about why the women are so strong".

"Like it is no surprise any more. And one of the things which I really like is that the makers haven't actually talked about (the position of women) in the show. It is assumed that a woman or a girl can do any job that a man can."

Parker said it is high time a female James Bond is introduced to the world. "And she should get paid as much as Daniel Craig."

Shania Performs In New York



Shania Twain performs on NBC's Today show at Rockefeller Plaza on Monday, April 30, 2018, in New York. (Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/AP)

Gere Sues Production House Over Adaptation

LOS ANGELES: Actor Richard Gere has filed a lawsuit against a production company, saying he is being extorted over book adaptation rights.

According to the lawsuit filed on Friday in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Gere says he is being extorted for half a million dollars after creative differences arose with a producing partner, reports hollywoodreporter.com.

Gere says Random Acts Entertainment, owned by Scott and Anna Elias, optioned the rights to "Bones of the Master: A Buddhist

Monk's Search for the Lost Heart of China" and in 2009 he entered into discussions with them about potentially acting in, directing and producing a film adaptation of the book.

The actor says they entered into a joint agreement, which included that they would split the purchase price if they decided to buy the rights and Anna Elias would be allowed to write one or more drafts of the screenplay.

Gere claims he paid \$35,000 in 2015 but hasn't been reimbursed for the other half, and therefore,

the Eliases lost all rights in the project. Gere has said the parties reached a creative impasse.

"In order for Mr. Gere to commit to the Project as the star and director, Mr. Gere required that the screenplay be completed and approved," wrote attorney Jeremiah Reynolds.

"This approval right has been consistently applied to virtually all films in which Mr. Gere has starred." Elias' script was "woefully inadequate" and Gere couldn't commit to starring in the film, according to the complaint.

McAdams & Weize Ensured Erotic Scene Was Perfect In 'Disobedience'

LOS ANGELES: Actresses Rachel McAdams and Rachel Weisz (pictured) worked closely with their director Sebastian Lelio to ensure their sex scene in "Disobedience" was perfect.

The three were in agreement that there would be no nudity in the movie's sex scene as it was not essential to the story, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Lelio told Den of Geek magazine: "That was very organic. It was a long conversation. I always knew that the hotel scene, the big love scene, was the heart of the film. I knew it had to be long. It was all about duration, I mean screen time." At the same time, I really wanted to explore the possibility of portraying a very erotic and urgent encounter without nudity, so how to do that. Then I storyboarded everything, and I presented the idea to them, and we were all in agreement. I had this idea of instead of showing skin we would find very specific acts that we rarely see on screen or in these kind of films and go for them," he added.

Leilo also believes the scene gives audience a greater insight into McAdams' and Weisz's char-



acters, who had a relationship while growing up in an extremely conservative orthodox Jewish community.

"We have two women that are somehow, that have lost an important part of what constitutes their personality. With this re-encounter, they manage to re-integrate those areas. Ronit (character) recovers somehow her origins, and Esti (character) gets back in touch with who she really is sexually," he said.

Amy Schumer Better After Kidney Infection

LOS ANGELES: Actress-comedian Amy Schumer is recovering after being hospitalised for five days with a "horrible" kidney infection.

The 36-year-old actress gave her health update in an Instagram post on Friday alongside a photo of herself in the hospital, reports pagesix.com.

"Here's what I've been up to this week. I want to give a big thank you to the doctors, the badass nurses also my husband who's name is, I want to say, Chris? and my sisters Kimby and Mol who have been by my side the whole time."

The "I Feel Pretty" star was supposed to fly to London for the opening of her new movie, but announced in the post that her doctors wouldn't let her travel.

"I'm really disappointed selfishly to miss this trip because I love London and Europe in gen-



eral and all the great people (food) there. But I need to put my health first... (The movie) is sweet and fun and you will walk out feeling better. Which is something I hope to feel soon too."

Gibson To Direct 'Destroyer'

LOS ANGELES: Actor-director Mel Gibson will direct World War II drama "Destroyer".

This will be his first directorial since he received an Oscar nomination for the 2016 film "Hacksaw Ridge", reports variety.com.

"Destroyer" is being produced at Gianni Nunnari's Hollywood Gang Productions. It's based on the John Wukovits book "Hell From the Heavens: The Epic Story of the USS Laffey and World War II's Greatest Kamikaze At-

tack". Rosalind Ross wrote the script, which centers on the Battle of Okinawa in April 1945 when the ship withstood multiple kamikaze attacks and earned the nickname "The Ship That Would Not Die". Wukovits used personal interviews with survivors, the memoirs of crew members and sailors' wartime correspondence to construct the story. Gibson might also star in "The Six Billion Dollar Man" along with actor Mark Wahlberg.

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