

THE INITIATIVE GROUP

AMANDA RIGHETTI

COVER

Dress: Daphne Valente
Earrings: KAIRU Jewelry

LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE

Amanda Righetti
talks *Scarpetta*,
The Mentalist
and her unique
creative journey

By: MIKE BRANNON



Dress: Daphne Valente
Shoes: Atousa G



tal-born Amanda Righetti began her modeling career at 14. Soon after, her desire for acting took its place. She moved to Los Angeles at 18, and a year later, was cast on the hit show *The O.C.*, when Peter Roth and Warner Bros. recognized her talent.

After being part of the success of *The O.C.*, Righetti took on the lead role of Tessa Lewis in the series *North Shore* in 2004. She continued with guest-starring appearances on several more popular series, including *Entourage* and *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*.

In 2008, Righetti had another big break with the hit series *The Mentalist*, which won a People's Choice Award for Best New Television Drama. Around the same time, she was cast as the lead in Michael Bay's 2009 remake of *Friday the 13th*. Then, in 2011, she took on another film role in *Captain America: The First Avenger*, which grossed \$65 million on opening weekend.

After 6 years, Righetti exited *The Mentalist* and was quickly cast in the NBC dramas *Chicago Fire* and *Chicago P.D.* In 2015, she joined the hit series *Colony*, followed by the film *Cats Dancing on Jupiter*. Her Hallmark film, *Love at the Shore*, was released in summer 2017, and she starred in *Reagan* in 2024.

Her latest role is in *Scarpetta*, a crime drama also starring Nicole Kidman and Jamie Lee Curtis, premiering in March 2026.

Righetti has been recognized with many awards throughout her career. She was placed among FHM's 100 Sexiest Women in 2005 and 2006, and she was featured in Maxim's 10th Annual Hot 100 Celebration in 2009. She has also been awarded Best Actress at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival.

71 Magazine is honored to feature Righetti as our ninth annual Space Issue cover star and to share her journey in the film arts.

71: It's always interesting to hear about an actor's unique creative journey. What is your background in the arts? Did you always want to be an actor?

AR: I became heavily involved in the performing arts before I was old enough to be enrolled in kindergarten. I spent hours a day in dance studios as a child and teenager, which eventually led to spending hours a day in the theater as a young adult.

I fell into modeling in my early teens and traveled extensively until I landed in Los Angeles when I was 18 and decided to fully pursue acting as a career.

71: What do you think it takes to be an actor today? How did you develop your acting abilities?

AR: The business model of entertainment has changed, but the importance of being prepared as an actor is the same. Building the best version of yourself and developing yourself as an actor will serve you when the right opportunities arise.

Developing as an actor requires constant observation and study—putting into practice

what you observe and knowing yourself well enough to recognize what techniques bring the best performance out of you.

71: Can you talk about your character, Dorothy, in Amazon Prime Video's highly anticipated crime drama *Scarpetta* and how you prepared for the role?

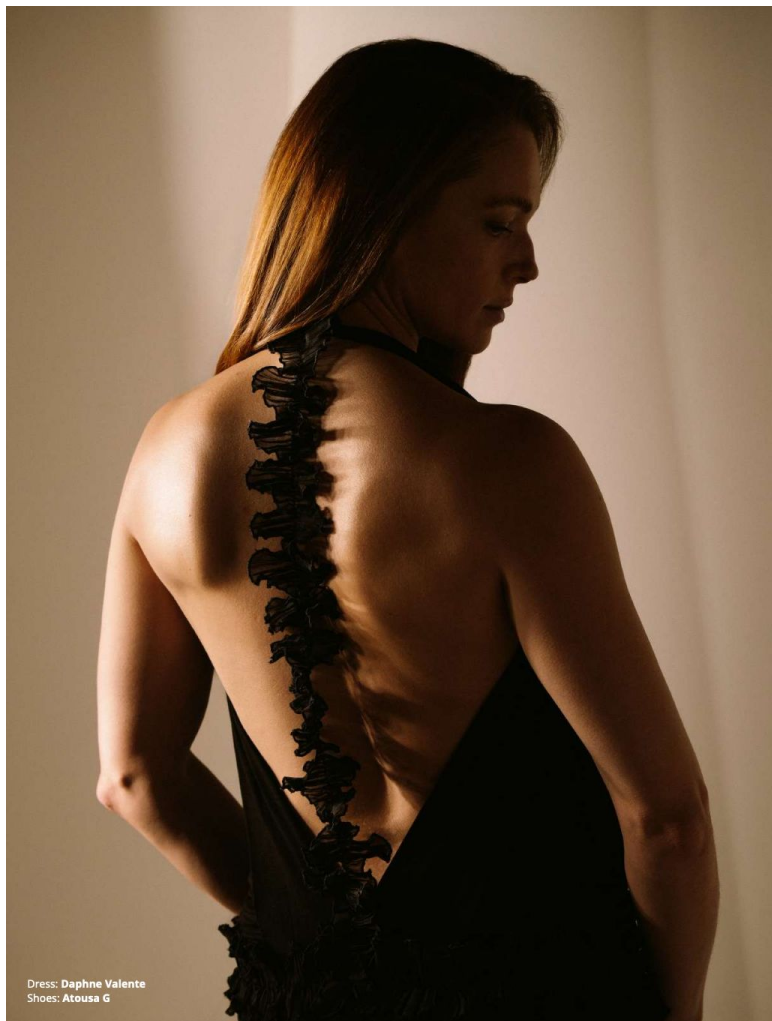
AR: Dorothy Farinelli is Kay Scarpetta's man-eating, extroverted sister who has no qualms about sharing her super-sized opinions. Most of my preparation for the role was spent watching Jamie Lee Curtis movies, interviews and dailies to resemble her mannerisms and cadence.

71: You also starred in the popular series *The Mentalist*. I really enjoyed it personally. Can you talk about your experience working on that series?

AR: *The Mentalist* was a one-of-a-kind experience. It was lightning in a bottle and a once-in-a-lifetime kind of ride. I have such fond memories of the show and its impact on my life and career. It was a huge contributing factor to my development as an actor and my growth as a person. It will always hold a special place in my life.

71: You've also been featured in films including *Reagan*, *Captain America: The First Avenger*, *Role Models* and *Friday the 13th*. All very disparate projects. How do you prepare for such different works?

AR: The context of each project is so different. The fundamentals of building a character remain the same, but the context and approach for each varied. *Reagan* was wildly different from *Friday the 13th*, but the basic through-line for building each character in its respective project was to commit to being a person, in a place, experiencing the given circumstances of that project.



Dress: Daphne Valente
Shoes: Atouza G

“

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Dress: LALO
Shoes: Atousa G





Dress: LALO
Shoes: Atousa G

T: What would you tell yourself when you were starting out (or those currently at the beginning of their creative career) that you wished you'd know?

AR: Don't let the noise and opinions of other people dictate your choices. Learn as many aspects of the business as possible. Committing to trusting oneself is the ultimate lesson in self-confidence. Trust and learn from your choices, whether personal, on the page of a script or in how you navigate the business.

T: Do you have any dream projects or actors you'd like to work with?

AR: *Scarpetta* is a dream! I've been blessed to be a part of some amazing projects over the course of my career. In addition to actively searching out roles that are completely different from what I have done before, I'm at a point now where I am also open to the possibilities of whatever new experience comes my way.

T: What would you like to do that you haven't done yet?

AR: A Victorian period piece, an Elizabethan drama or to play a queen.

T: Since this is our annual *Space Issue*, what are your thoughts on intelligent life elsewhere in the universe?

AR: There are things in this existence that our hearts cannot comprehend and our minds cannot perceive, whether here on Earth or elsewhere in the universe.

T: What is your experience and interest in working on sci-fi and space-themed projects?

AR: I did a sci-fi show years ago created by Carlton Cuse for Legendary TV and USA Network called *Colony*, led by Josh Holloway and Sarah Wayne Callies. It felt slightly ahead of its time back then but sort of fits the current fears associated with the rise of AI, the state of the world and the gap in social classes. It's one of my proudest performances, and I made such wonderful friends on that show.

I love a good sci-fi story!

“
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MARK HANSON
Photography

World-class, Los Angeles-based, celebrity/fashion photographer Mark Hanson creates with a unique organic minimalism. He has shot half a dozen 71 covers, and his work can be seen in numerous international publications featuring leading actors, models, musicians and influencers.

He also runs Dayglow Studios LA, shooting portraits and fashion, and has worked with a wide variety of celebrities including Lesley-Ann Brandt, Marlo Kelly, Amanda Brugel, Katherine McNamara, Luna Blaise, Halston Sage, Este Halm, Jody Watley and Holy Wars, as well as international brands including Savage x Fenty, H&M, Rachel Zoe, Express and Tanqueray.

JOHNNY STUNTZ

Hair

Johnny Stuntz is a celebrity hairstylist represented by Uncommon Artists. Known for his sleek, polished aesthetic with a subtle rock 'n' roll edge, he has built a reputation for precision cuts and refined styling across fashion editorials, music projects and red-carpet appearances.

Throughout his career, Stuntz has appeared in leading publications, including Vogue, GQ and Harper's Bazaar, and has collaborated with Mariah Carey, Trent Reznor and many other major figures in music and entertainment.

In addition to his editorial and celebrity work, Stuntz is the founder of the Stuntz Beauty hair-care line, reflecting his commitment to practical, accessible styling products for everyday use.

ELIE MAALOUF
Makeup

Elie Maalouf is a makeup artist represented by The Only Agency. Recognized for his artistic vision and attention to detail, he knew from a young age that he was interested in beauty. His obsession with film, art, music and fashion led him to move from his hometown of Detroit to New York City, and now Los Angeles.

Maalouf's experience speaks for itself, with his constant presence with other top artists in the industry, including Alexandra Daddario, Keke Palmer, Tat! Gabrielle, Liv Hewson and Hilary Swank. His talent is immediately recognized and continues to work with the world's most influential people today.

PAIGE JANAVICH

Styling

Paige Janavich is a Los Angeles-based wardrobe stylist specializing in e-commerce product styling and fashion campaigns. She has worked with a wide variety of celebrity clients, including Aimee Carrero, Jessica Lowndes, Polina Isadora, Kayla Becker and Vanessa Granados.

She has collaborated with brands such as Arctic Fox Hair Color and VEILED, and worked with a variety of publications, including MALVIE Magazine.



Dress: Monaco Colomba
Earrings: KAIRU Jewelry

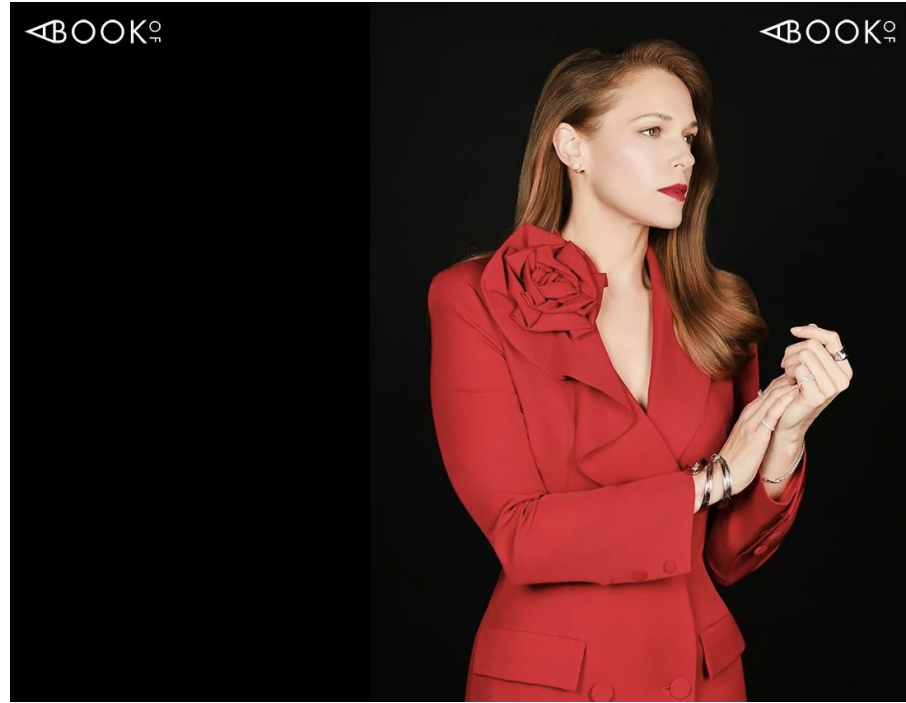


Dress: Daphne Valente
Earrings: KAIRU Jewelry











AMANDA RIGHETTI HAS ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THAT PERFORMANCE BEGINS LONG BEFORE THE CAMERA FINDS YOU. IT BEGINS IN CHILDHOOD, IN IMAGINATION, IN THE DISCIPLINE OF DANCE, IN LEARNING HOW TO OBSERVE BEFORE SPEAKING, AND IN THE STUBBORN AMBITION THAT SHE SAYS “DWELLS IN MY BONES.” IN PRIME VIDEO’S SCARPETTA, THE CRIME DRAMA DEVELOPED BY LIZ SARNOFF FROM PATRICIA CORNWELL’S BESTSELLING NOVELS AND LED BY NICOLE KIDMAN, JAMIE LEE CURTIS, BOBBY CANNAVALE, SIMON BAKER, AND ARIANA DEBOSE, RIGHETTI STEPS INTO THE PAST AS YOUNG DOROTHY, LAYING THE EMOTIONAL GROUNDWORK FOR THE WOMAN CURTIS PLAYS IN THE PRESENT.

FOR RIGHETTI, DOROTHY IS NOT A WOMAN TO BE SOLVED NEATLY. SHE IS GLAMOROUS, WOUNDED, SEDUCTIVE, LONELY, LOUD, BROKEN, AND DEEPLY HUMAN, THE KIND OF CHARACTER WHO ASKS AN ACTRESS TO MOVE PAST JUDGMENT AND INTO EMOTIONAL TRUTH. THAT TRUTH IS SOMETHING RIGHETTI HAS CHASED ACROSS A CAREER THAT HAS MOVED FROM THE O.C. TO THE MENTALIST, COLONY, REAGAN, AND NOW SCARPETTA, ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE LIFE BENEATH THE SURFACE. IN CONVERSATION, SHE SPEAKS WITH THE CLARITY OF SOMEONE WHO HAS STOPPED TRYING TO “GET IT RIGHT” AND STARTED GIVING HERSELF PERMISSION TO PLAY. AS SHE PUTS IT, “ALL OUR ARMOR CANNOT HIDE THE TRUTH BEHIND OUR EYES. THAT’S THE MAGIC.”

Amanda, when you think back on your childhood, what part of who you were then still feels most alive in you now, and how has that early version of yourself found its way into the women you have played throughout your career, including Dorothy in *Scarpetta*?

I’ve always been drawn to performing. As a child, my imagination would run wild, creating people, placing them in stories, and acting them out. Staying open to that aspect of myself has been a key component in keeping a spirit of play when approaching work. I still find myself tapping into imaginary circumstances to find a character’s voice.

You grew up in a very full household with many older siblings. How did that environment teach you when to speak, when to observe, and when to fight for your own identity?

There is quite an age gap between my siblings and me. My personality leaned more toward being observant as a child. I like to think I learned from their mistakes. By the time I grew into the version of myself that was looking for my voice, all of my siblings had moved out of the house. Learning when to speak and fight for my own identity came later in my life.

Your story starts with dance, then modeling, then acting. How do those three versions of Amanda still show up in your work, even in scenes where the audience cannot see the choreography behind the performance?

Dance taught me discipline to dedication that have applied to every aspect of work and life. It also taught me how to use my body to convey emotion. Modeling taught me camera angles and lighting tricks, which have been beneficial when considering composition and listening to a director or cinematographer explain a shot. Acting is a kind of dance with your fellow performers; having a deeper understanding of the camera and spatial awareness allows me to have a freer collaborative experience.

You came into the business young, in an era that could reward image faster than depth. How did you decide you wanted a career with staying power, not just visibility?

Sometimes I feel pigeonholed by the era of image obsession, but the draw of acting for me has always been exploring the complexities of human emotion and storytelling. I want to explore more than just what's seen on the surface. Every stage of life brings new complexities to explore. My life has enriched my acting career, and my acting career has enriched my life. It's been a gift that I don't want to let go of, which drives my desire for longevity.

When you left Nevada for Los Angeles, what part of your ambition already felt clear, and what part had to be invented in real time once you were actually living it?

I cannot escape the ambition that dwells in my bones. Once I make up my mind about something, I cannot be moved. Going after a career in acting was clear to me before relocating to Los Angeles. Like many other actors, I lived the *"fake it 'til you make it"* mantra until I built some momentum, but I held onto the vision of desire to push through living repetitive rejection.

From *The O.C.* to *The Mentalist*, *Colony*, *Reagan*, and now *Scarpetta*, you have moved through wildly different genres without losing your center. How has changing genres kept you honest as an actor?

I like to be challenged, and have always sought to play roles that differ from one another. We all have so many facets to our personalities, and we can behave in different ways depending on circumstances. I enjoy seeking roles that express and uncover aspects of myself I may not be immediately tapped into. It serves as an opportunity to stretch myself. I learn something new with every character I encounter, and I never want to lose that ability to grow. Each opportunity is a new learning adventure.

Across Hailey, Grace, Maddie, Nelle, and Dorothy, there is a recurring thread of women who can be misread from the outside. How do you know when a character still has undiscovered interior life, and what makes you trust that instinct?

Ultimately, the writers hold the reins of character development within a show, and part of agreeing to a project is agreeing to take that ride with the creators and writers. It's my job to take a character from the page to its feet. No character is void of desire. Staying connected to a character's intentions and their relationships to the other players keeps the emotional hook alive.

***Scarpetta* is built on the idea that the past keeps billing the present. How did you approach playing a younger Dorothy with the sense that every impulsive or seductive choice might someday calcify into family history?**

Everything about the storyline is held close to the vest, and I can't play a future idea. I have to trust what's given to me and that the editing will bring all the pieces together to tell the full story. I followed Jamie Lee Curtis' lead with Dorothy. She's the final say in who Dorothy becomes. I am just a catalyst to help lay the groundwork for what manifests in the present. Watching her performance and choices helped inform my journey with Dorothy.

Dorothy can feel glamorous, chaotic, manipulative, wounded, and lonely, sometimes all at once. How did you keep her from collapsing into a single explanation or a simple judgment?

Dorothy is as loud as she is broken. All the glamour in the world can't cover the wounds of her inner child, the loss of her father, her fractured pieces of motherhood, and the rivalry with her sister. There is nothing one-note about Dorothy, and she's impossible to explain in one word.

The Kay and Dorothy relationship feels less like ordinary conflict and more like a lifelong archive of private injuries. How did you find the emotional math of a sisterhood where love, envy, memory, and competition are all alive at the same time?

Women are complex creatures. I grew up the youngest of six sisters. The dynamics between my sisters and me have developed through many stages over the course of our lives, and all the complex emotions we've walked through have given me a mountain of experiences to draw from. Dorothy's relationship with Kay is born from my own experiences with my sisters. We know one another in ways no one else does. Pushing deep emotional buttons that only someone you grew up with can know how to push. The ability to shift emotional gears from wanting to murder each other to loving one another in the same breath is a relationship dynamic only sisters can know and appreciate.

A lot of actresses are asked to play women whose beauty, charm, or sexuality becomes shorthand. When a character uses those things as armor, how do you make sure the performance tells the truth instead of just selling the surface?

Staying connected to my scene partner, vulnerability, the character's intentions, and being fully present in the moment keep the character truthful for me. All our armor cannot hide the truth behind our eyes. That's the magic.

You recently talked about your technique becoming whatever truly works for you. What did you have to unlearn from your earlier years in the business to arrive at that freedom?

I didn't really have to unlearn anything. Everything has had a purpose. I just had to apply a little bit of everything I learned that was working. I took the meat and threw away the bones of techniques I didn't respond to. When I started to give myself permission to explore rather than trying to get it right, the doors of performance opened. The whole point of acting is to play.

At this stage of your life, what does success mean to you now that would have been invisible to the younger actress who first arrived in Los Angeles?

Success is the process of building small steps, day by day, to achieve your dream. It's not always loud or obvious, but found in the alignment of shaping our own lives. The commitment to not give up, continually showing up for yourself in the most difficult moments, and pouring energy into the bucket of your own dream. Success starts in the simplest of actions.

Lastly, if you were a book, what book would you be and why?

Rising Strong. There's no logical reason for me to stand where I do today without the God-given revelation of a renewed mind.





In the high-stakes, shadow-drenched world of Patricia Cornwell's *Scarpetta*, every character carries the weight of a complicated history. To bring the pivotal role of Dorothy Farinelli to life for Amazon Prime Video's blockbuster adaptation, the production turned to Amanda Righetti—an actor uniquely equipped to balance the character's extravagant, extroverted “manhunter” energy with the technical precision of a period piece. Starring opposite a powerhouse ensemble including Nicole Kidman and Jamie Lee Curtis, Righetti doesn't just inhabit the younger blueprint of Dorothy; she commands the screen with a “super-sized” personality that serves as the perfect, chaotic foil to the clinical justice of her sister, Kay.

Off-screen, Righetti approached the role with a level of collaborative craftsmanship that is rare in the modern streaming era. By meeting with Jamie Lee Curtis in advance to synchronize her portrayal of the character across two timelines, Righetti ensured that Dorothy's “quicksand” dynamic remained as alluring as it is dangerous. In this exclusive *Elevated Magazines* feature, we sit down with the star to discuss the wardrobe-driven transformation of a late-'90s icon, the thrill of working alongside Hollywood royalty, and the nuanced layers she brought to one of literature's most brilliantly volatile figures.

Elevated: The Character Mirror: “Dorothy Farinelli is described as an extravagant, extroverted ‘manhunter’ with super-sized opinions. How did you and Jamie Lee Curtis work together to ensure that the Dorothy of the late '90s felt like a seamless, younger blueprint of the woman she becomes in the present day?”

Amanda Righetti: JLC generously shared backstory she developed, ideas about Dorothy's character, and photos from fittings/hair and make-up tests. I had my nails done to resemble the 90s version of hers. A lot of my preparation was spent watching her movies, interviews, and Instagram reels. The producers graciously allowed me to see the dailies of her performance with Nicole, which helped shape and carry the dynamic that they developed as sisters.

The Quicksand Dynamic: “The relationship between Dorothy and her sister Kay (Nicole Kidman/Rosy McEwen) is famously fraught. What was the most challenging—or perhaps the most fun—part of playing a character who has an ‘uncanny knack’ for dragging her brilliant sister into her own chaotic quicksand?”

The most challenging element of this job was matching JLC. Dorothy's no-filter, bulldozer personality is a shocking comical contrast to Rosy McEwen's gentle, soft spoken Kay. I enjoyed playing outside of the crime scene sandbox and exploring the complex layers of a sister dynamic, offering reprieve from the brutal crime elements in the show.

The Aesthetic of Dorothy: “Your version of Dorothy is a ‘super-sized’ dresser. How did the wardrobe and the late-'90s period setting help you tap into her extroverted energy, and was there a particular piece of clothing that made you feel like you had truly ‘found’ her?”

We had a good laugh in the wardrobe fittings, reminiscing about 90s fashion... Our costume designer, Beth Ann Hoppe, found these amazing, bold pieces that fit Dorothy's persona so well. There is a blue mini-dress in episode 3 when the 90s Dorothy is introduced and it screams ‘look at me’ which fittingly suits her personality. Once the wardrobe was put together with hair, make-up and nails, things fell into place and I started to find her.

The Collaborative Masterclass: “In *SCARPETTA*, you're part of a powerhouse ensemble that includes Nicole Kidman, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Bobby Cannavale. What was the most surprising or insightful thing you learned about your own craft while collaborating with these industry icons to bring Patricia Cornwell's world to life?”

There is an ease and freedom in their performances that make them the icons they are. I'm just humbled to be included and have the opportunity to be a witness in the circle of it.

The Legacy of ‘Scarpetta’: “Fans have waited decades for a definitive screen adaptation of these novels. For those who know Dorothy Farinelli from the books, what is one layer or nuance you were able to bring to her that might surprise even the most loyal Patricia Cornwell readers?”

There is more Dorothy Farinelli in the show than there is in the books. We get to know more about her and her relationship with Kay on screen. Fans might be surprised by deviations from the books, however, they serve the screen version. Dorothy comes to life on screen more vividly than the ideas of her portrayed by Kay throughout the books.

AMANDA RIGHETTI
SCARPETTA





Amanda Righetti shares details about her new thriller 'Scarpetta'

<https://ktla.com/video/amanda-righetti-shares-details-about-her-new-thriller-scarpetta/11590605/>



Amanda Righetti Talks ‘Scarpetta,’ Reveals Why She’s Recognized for ‘The O.C.’ Now More Than Ever (Exclusive)

Amanda Righetti is teasing what to expect from her upcoming crime thriller series, *Scarpetta*.

“Dorothy is really unhinged. She’s really unfiltered. She is a man-eater,” Righetti, 42, exclusively told *Us Weekly* of her character in the show, which premieres on Prime Video on Wednesday, March 11. “She is very opinionated. She doesn’t care about what anybody thinks about her, and she is very ready to just interject herself into any circumstance. And I just love it because she’s such the wild card to this procedural model. And she kind of acts as a little bit of, like, comic relief, I would say. But she’s also, like, there for the drama.”

Righetti plays young Dorothy in *Scarpetta*, which follows a forensic pathologist named Kay Scarpetta (Nicole Kidman). Jamie Lee Curtis plays the older version of Dorothy, Kay’s older sister. The cast also stars Rosy McEwen, Ariana DeBose, Savannah Lumar, Bobby Cannavale, Jake Cannavale, Simon Baker and Hunter Parrish.

Righetti revealed that she and Curtis, 67, talked about Dorothy’s “backstory” to make sure they were on the same page regarding the character’s “mannerisms.” Though she and Curtis didn’t have any scenes together, the pair started prepping for their roles before filming.

“In terms of the mannerisms, like, Jamie, she does talk with her hands a lot, but she brings that to Dorothy because Dorothy is so over the top, there’s a lot of hand talking with Dorothy. So I tried to pick up on that a little bit,” Righetti explained. “And there’s a dialect coach that is there to just sort of make sure that everybody’s ... because we’re dealing with ’90s and present day and everybody is kind of from different parts of the world, making sure that the accent of any specific character that it’s matching for both present, day and past. So it was also trying to get a little bit of the cadence, like the rhythm of the way Jamie speaks, to intertwine that into Dorothy in the past, as another way to just have a similarity with her that would have a through line.”

Righetti also weighed in on *The O.C.*’s resurgence in popularity. The actress played Hailey Nichol during the first and second seasons of the teen drama, which aired on Fox from 2003 to 2007.

“I think what’s interesting is I never really was [recognized by fans] right after I got off the show,” she shared.

Righetti added that *The O.C.* has gone through “milestones,” including the 20th anniversary of its premiere in 2023.

“You know, having time and space from [the show], I get recognized more often now, later in my career, than I did earlier on,” the actress, who played Hailey Nichol during the first and second seasons of the teen drama, continued. “Yeah, it’s really amazing to me. Though it’s like, ‘Wow, it really shows how pop-culture stuff can grow legs.’” Righetti noted that *The O.C.* was her “first big break,” so she “wasn’t really sure what to expect” regarding the show’s popularity.

“But I remember walking into the makeup trailer [for] the episode that **Paris Hilton** was on, and at that point, the show had really started to pick up, and they were in every ragtag magazine from every side of the spectrum,” she explained. “And it was like, as the season went on, there was just more and more tear sheets from magazines that were being, like, pasted on the walls. And I feel like that’s when it kind of started to sink in, where I was like, ‘Wow, this is getting a lot of attention and a lot of coverage.’”

Righetti said her own fame from the show “came in a slow burn.”

As for why *The O.C.* has become so popular with younger generations, Righetti said, “I think it really touches on the teenage angst, and no matter what generation you’re in, teenagers go through that phase of awkwardness and making hard decisions. And I think there’s a relatability to it, even though now there’s more electronic devices and things to grab people’s attention.”

The *Mentalist* star continued, “At the core of it, there’s still that time period in a person’s life [that] is so tumultuous, and so I think it really touches on that chord, and it’s timeless in that sense that it still touches on it. It’s survived really well and held up really well over time in terms of the themes of the show.”

<https://www.usmagazine.com/entertainment/news/amanda-righetti-is-recognized-for-the-oc-now-more-than-ever/>

NEWBEAUTY®



Amanda Righetti Reflects on Growing Up in Hollywood—and Finding Her Voice

With a career spanning more than two decades, Amanda Righetti is no stranger to evolution. Now, she's stepping into one of the year's most anticipated projects with *Scarpetta*, the buzzy adaptation of Patricia Cornwell's bestselling crime novels. In the series, Righetti plays the younger version of Dorothy, the complex character portrayed by Jamie Lee Curtis—a role that required equal parts transformation and collaboration to bring the character's layered past to life.

Behind the scenes, beauty played its own role in shaping the performance. From late-'90s inspiration (think the iconic glamour of Pamela Anderson and early-'90s hair reminiscent of Mariah Carey) to discovering new on-set favorites like Haus Labs by Lady Gaga, Righetti says the glam process helped unlock Dorothy's bold, carefully constructed exterior.

Here, the actress opens up about joining a powerhouse cast, the wellness rituals that keep her grounded during demanding shoots and how her relationship with confidence and beauty has evolved since her early days in Hollywood.

Scarpetta is already being called one of the most anticipated series of the year—what was your initial reaction when you found out you were joining the cast?

"Overwhelmed with joy! It was an amazing feeling to land this show, to have the opportunity to be a part of such an iconic book series and to be included among such legendary talent."

What drew you most to Dorothy as a character?

"Dorothy's unfiltered, unhinged, gregarious personality and complicated relationship with Kay were intriguing to me. There is a lot to pull from. She's terrifying and hysterical all in the same breath, which made the challenge attractive."

You're portraying the flashback version of Jamie Lee Curtis' role. How did the two of you collaborate to create a seamless story?

"We spoke about Dorothy's backstory as well as ideas about what makes her tick. I studied JLC's work in other projects and watched dailies from her scenes with Nicole Kidman to see what behaviors I could match. She thoroughly encouraged me to bring my own version of Dorothy."

How did wardrobe, hair and makeup guide your performance?

"Dorothy's visage is her armor and mask from the world, to hide any vulnerability. I didn't fully find her until I had gone through the wardrobe and glam process. For makeup inspiration, we used Pam Anderson in the late '90s...hair was inspired by Mariah Carey in the early '90s. I was introduced to Lady Gaga's makeup line, Haus Labs, which I love!"

What was it like working alongside such an accomplished cast?

"It was an incredible experience to be included with such talented individuals. Everyone is so on their game. It raises the bar and sets the tone for the work ethic. It's been great fun to play in that sandbox."

How has your definition of confidence changed over the course of your career?

"My confidence has found roots in developing self-awareness over the years, and learning to simply trust my instincts."

Are there wellness or skin-care rituals you rely on during demanding shoots?

"Soaking in Epsom salt and magnesium baths during demanding shoots helps keep my body balanced. It allows me time alone to process, recharge and reset."

Looking back at your early breakout on *The O.C.*, what do you think you understand about yourself now that you didn't then?

"I've grown in patience with myself and others. I'm enjoying the process more and not rushing through the small, fleeting moments of life."

You began your career at 14. How has your relationship with beauty and self-image evolved since those early days? Is there anything you'd like to tell that teenager?

"Self-image is developed through self-reflection, and I think that's beautiful. I would tell my teenage self to drown out all the noise and to love and trust herself."

<https://www.newbeauty.com/view/amanda-righetti-interview-2026>

Numéro^v

NETHERLANDS

IN CONVERSATION WITH AMANDA RIGHETTI



'Scarpetta' is already being hailed as one of the most anticipated series of the year. What first drew you to this project?

I love that 'Scarpetta' is a female driven show. It's also a long standing international best-selling book series, has a tremendously smart show runner, and an outrageously talented cast. There are many attractive elements to choose from, but I was mostly drawn to the fact that I would have an opportunity to play a younger Jamie Lee Curtis.

Dorothy is such a vivid, larger-than-life character. How did you initially connect with her energy and point of view?

The hair, makeup, wardrobe are what helped me connect to Dorothy the most. Her personality is as loud as those elements are, and serve as armor from showing her vulnerability to the world, which helped me find Dorothy's energy.

You portray the flashback version of Jamie Lee Curtis' character. What was it like collaborating with her to build a shared emotional and psychological foundation?

Jamie Lee Curtis was wonderful to work with. She had some wild ideas about the men in Dorothy's backstory and how Dorothy uses that power over men to control her reality. We also discussed the family dynamics and how those elements formed Dorothy's relationship with Kay. I followed her lead, but was also encouraged to bring my own take.

'Scarpetta' centers on justice, power, and obsession. How does Dorothy fit into those larger themes?

Dorothy and Kay grew up feeling powerless in the face of their father's illness and ultimate death. Dorothy seeks power in relationships. Kay seeks power in vindicating the dead. This power struggle is explored throughout the show and gives complexity to the sister dynamic.

You've portrayed a wide range of women throughout your career. Where does Dorothy sit in that lineage for you?

Playing Dorothy has been one of the most unique experiences of my career. I am still exploring Dorothy, so at the moment, she sits at the top of my list.

After decades in the industry, how has your relationship to character-building evolved?



Life experience has given me deeper insight to my choices, and contributes to having more tools at my fingertips. My approach is more fluid now than when I started out. For instance, I've never built a character quite the way I have on 'Scarpetta'. My approach is really determined by the context of the project, and varies from character to character.

You began your career at a very young age. How has that early entry shaped your instincts as an actor today?

I stumbled around in doubt about making the "right" choices when I started out. Perfectionism is death to an artist. My instincts have become more settled in exploration, giving myself over to the process of letting go to find happy accidents or magic rather than reaching for results.

Is there a freedom that comes with playing more complex, morally layered characters at this stage of your career?

Freedom is born from performance preparation. At this stage in my career, I have learned how to better tap into that freedom.

Are you drawn more now to roles that challenge perception rather than invite easy sympathy?

I'm always looking for a challenge to stretch myself as a performer. Whether its perception or sympathy, I'm interested in exploring human behavior and emotional connection.

What keeps you grounded when you're not on set?

I find daily prayer, breath work and meditation to be one of the most grounding practices I continually return to.

With 'Scarpetta' launching this spring, what kind of stories are you most excited to tell next?

Stories that explore the human condition, and the relationships that define it. While I'm still riding the beautiful wave of this amazing opportunity and don't want to rush through this part, I am always looking forward to what comes next.

<https://www.numeronetherlands.com/in-conversation-with/in-conversation-with-amanda-righetti>





Amanda Righetti on Playing Young Dorothy in Scarpetta & Working with Jamie Lee Curtis

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqk3xQM_KR4

Amanda Righetti Talks Scarpetta, Playing Dorothy, working with Jamie Lee Curtis, Rosy McEwen, + MORE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzMha5OYOak>



Scarpetta: Righetti on Dorothy-Kay Sibling Dynamic, Curtis & More

Any time you have to double for two powerhouses like Nicole Kidman and Jamie Lee Curtis for any project, it would be quite intimidating, but Rosy McEwen and Amanda Righetti are taken to task as past Kay and Dorothy in the Prime Video series *Scarpetta*. Set within two timelines, the series follows Kay Scarpetta (Kidman and McEwen) as an innovative and intuitive forensic pathologist, embracing her role as Chief Medical Examiner through multiple stints in cases in Florida, Virginia, and South Carolina. Based on Patricia Cornwell's novels, creator and showrunner Liz Sarnoff regularly shifts between the past and present, with an ensemble cast surrounding the sibling characters. Righetti spoke to Bleeding Cool about how Sarnoff expanded Dorothy's character beyond Cornwell's original designs, learning and studying Curtis's performances, and working with McEwen on the Kay-Dorothy dynamic.

Scarpetta Star Amanda Righetti on Expanding Dorothy Beyond Cornwell's "Island"

Before getting cast, Amanda, how familiar were you with Patricia's work, and what intrigued you about entering her world?

I had heard of the books, but I hadn't read them. I read the first two before we started filming the first season is based on, and I was immediately hooked. Now, I'm reading the series, and I'm about halfway through.

What's it like working with Liz as a creative?

She's amazing. She's such a talented writer, brilliantly created these characters, took what Patricia wrote, and made it come to life in script form. Obviously, it's a stacked cast with amazing actors who have brought a lot of that to life. It's really smart, the scripts were page turners, and now that I've seen the first episode, it's just amazing to see it all come to fruition.

Did you coordinate with Jamie Lee Curtis to capture Dorothy's essence? Or did you work exclusively with Liz just on that aspect? Was there a point of reference?

I worked more with Jamie than with Liz in building Dorothy, and we spent a few hours together talking about the backstory, the Scarpettas, and the sisters' upbringing.

From there, I studied some of Jamie Lee Curtis's older films, watched her in a lot of interviews, and then the producers were kind enough to let me see some of the dailies. I picked up on a lot of the mannerisms she was implementing with Dorothy and tried to lace that into my performance, so it would make it a little bit easier of a through line for the audience to follow.

Were there elements of Dorothy you had to isolate, playing her at a younger age, to where it's more a distinguishing characteristic of Jamie's incarnation?

Here's the thing, because Dorothy is more limited in [the Cornwell] books and we don't know a whole lot about her, Liz really took some purchase there to fill her out and make her come alive in a way that the books didn't or didn't spend the time on her. In terms of pieces of her that may be missing, I feel like it was the opposite, they were adding. Liz was adding things for Dorothy and to make Dorothy more a part of the story of *Scarpetta* than she is in the books.

How did you develop chemistry with Rosy and Jake [Cannavale as Pete Marino], and maintain that core trio of consistency throughout the series?

I was thrown into it with Rosy, like my time on set was pretty limited, but I'm the youngest of eight, and they're all sisters except for one, so I know a thing or two about the sister dynamic. Rosy and I spoke about it a little bit before we started filming, but she's such an easy person to speak to; she's soft-spoken and very lovely. Liz wrote such well-rounded characters that I don't want to say, "It was easy," but all the pieces for the foundation were set up for us to really be able to run with it.

It's such a stacked cast. Was it hard not to just sometimes feel a little lost in the shuffle? Or were there some days where you just kind of saw, you had to see like others work when you didn't have scenes to film?

Sometimes Dorothy is a little bit of an island in the show, especially for the flashback portions. Since it's a dual timeline, the character doesn't... Like, I don't have anything with present-day Dorothy or present-day Kay, so I had an opportunity to watch a little bit of Jamie's work while I was there, but for the most part, it was really fast and furious. I was in and out when I got to film, and I guess there's sort of like a blessing and a curse to it. It allowed me to focus on Dorothy, but in terms of getting to know the other cast members and spending time with them, that was limited. It wasn't as prevalent as the shows that I've done in the past.

<https://bleedingcool.com/tv/scarpetta-righetti-on-dorothy-kay-sibling-dynamic-curtis-more/>

Cherry Picks



Amanda Righetti's Top Picks: Book-to-Screen Adaptations

Find your next fave read + watch...

In honor of Prime Video's new crime thriller series, Scarpetta, we asked star Amanda Righetti to curate a list of her favorite book-to-screen adaptations. And trust us when we say you'll want to add these to your reading and watchlists. Righetti plays Dorothy (the younger version of Jamie Lee Curtis' character) in Scarpetta. Watch all eight episodes, streaming now on Prime Video, and grab a copy of the book the show is based on!

The Harry Potter Series

I read the series out loud to my son over the course of a few years, then we watched all the movies together. It was a wonderful way to experience the series and a memorable part of his childhood.

The Princess Bride

One of my favorite movies! The film holds a special place of nostalgia for me from watching it and quoting it with my sisters growing up.

Life of Pi

Visually captivating and emotionally challenging. Beautiful storytelling.

Children of Men

The exploration of humanity going extinct through powerful imagery and touching storytelling has always stuck with me.

Gone Girl

Though it deviates slightly from the book, the film offers a strong adaptation.

The Shawshank Redemption

I'm a big **Stephen King** fan and I thought this adaptation was an emotionally charged and loyal representation.

Mystic River

A gritty, heart-wrenching story that authentically captures the book.

Sharp Objects

I thought the execution of the darker themes explored in this show were brilliantly performed by **Amy Adams**. She brought such emotional complexity to a deeply troubled character—I couldn't take my attention away from her journey.

Hidden Figures

An empowering visual representation. It does not have as much history displayed in the movie as the book delves into, but is an informative and inspiring story with beautiful performances.

The Silence of the Lambs

A masterpiece and distinct adaptation that has stood the test of time. An unnerving subject with memorable characters that continue to be referenced almost 40 years later.

<https://www.thecherrypicks.com/stories/amanda-righetis-top-picks-book-to-screen-adaptations>

the bare magazine





Gorgeous Amanda Righetti flew into NYC for press on her film *Reagan* and enjoy a day at the US Open. Check out Amanda alongside Dennis Quaid and Jon Voight in theaters now as she steps back in time to the 1920's/30's to play Nelle the mother of Ronald Reagan the 40th president of the United States. We followed Amanda through her day starting with her early morning breakfast to unwinding later letting her natural curls flow freely as she slowly moved into a smokey eye for a sultry evening out on the town. But not before we got some tips on how she keeps her skin so luminous, hair voluminous, body fit and she shares her dream role of playing a Medieval Queen from the Middle Ages...we couldn't imagine a more perfect fit for this ethereal beauty and gifted soul.

Bare: what a talented cast you worked with on Reagan and such an incredible historical story! in what way did you evolve from the experience both personally and professionally?

AR: It was an incredible learning experience, and opened the door to a piece of the former president's life that I never knew. I took a piece of the boundless optimism that Nelle Reagan passed onto her children from working on the project.

Bare: did the costume and hair/makeup set the mood for your character and describe the transformation process?

AR: I played Nelle in the 1920-30s, so the clothes and hairstyles were a big part of the transformation. The social norms of the time, her family background, economic bracket and religious beliefs helped inform the style of clothing and type of hairstyles she wore. Every piece of the puzzle contributed to finding and recreating her.

Bare: in your real life do you have a pretty regular skincare and curly hair care routine? please describe and what are your product go-to's?

AR: My skin routine is pretty basic. I have a lot of allergies and my skin is really sensitive, so [Cetaphil](#) face wash and moisturizer have been long living products in my routine as well as Thayer's Witch Hazel with Aloe Vera facial toner. For my hair, I'm loving Prose UV defense shampoo and curl defining conditioner. Their custom curl cream is amazing! It's light and moisturizing without leaving my hair feeling greasy, heavy or crunchy.





Bare: you are so fit! can you tell us about your boxing workouts? and other ways you like to stay in shape.

AR: Boxing is one of my favorite fitness routines. It's an engaging and high energy sport that gives me a mental and physical work out. I build in endurance and strength training on the days I don't box.

Bare: can you share how your modeling background has been a positive in your on-camera comfort and confidence? and when do you feel most confident?

AR: My pursuit of modeling as a teenager lead me through an unconventional education. Working with creative collaborators taught me about cameras, angles, lighting, hair, make up. Things that became a benefit when I pivoted into acting. I feel most confident when I'm in alignment with myself, which includes embracing where I am and practicing gratitude and grace.

Bare: you've worked on so many great projectsis there anything you haven't yet done that you would love to sink your great talents into?

AR: I haven't played a Medieval Queen from the Middle Ages yet... she's at the top of my list of dream characters.

Bare: please list your top 5 *Bare* essentials.

[Smiths Rosebud Salve](#)

[Diorshow Waterproof mascara](#)

[Cle de Peau concealer](#)

[Prose Custom Curl Cream](#)

[Original Sprout Tahitian Hair Oil](#)

<https://www.thebaremagazine.com/home/amanda-righetti>





Amanda Righetti Shares On-Set Glam Secrets From ‘Reagan’

<https://www.newbeauty.com/view/amanda-righetti-interview-2024>

She made waves as the trust-fund squandering, world-traveling black sheep “Hailey Nichol” on *The O.C.*, but this August, Amanda Righetti’s role in *REAGAN* couldn’t be taking her any further from her character in the Fox series. Starring Dennis Quaid, Penelope Ann Miller and Jon Voight, the biopic features Righetti as ‘Nelle Reagan,’ Ronald Reagan’s mother, a stoic and protective woman who influenced him with his politics. The film premieres in theaters nationwide on August 30 and while the tone may be historical, as Righetti shared with us, getting the glam to be accurate was a huge part of the process.

What can audiences expect from the film?

REAGAN is a historical biopic about the 40th president of the United States, Ronald Reagan. Set against the back drop of the Cold War, the film explores who Reagan was as a man, how his upbringing, and the time he was raised in, impacted the choices and convictions he held throughout his life.

How did you prepare for this role? Are there any big similarities or differences between Amanda and Nelle?

I did a lot of reading to learn as much I could about Nelle Reagan. She deeply impacted and influenced her children in a profoundly optimistic way. I connected to her most closely as a mother. Some similarities we shared were being the youngest of many siblings, growing up in a small town, and faith being a strong guiding compass.

Do you have any insider glam tips on how you got into character?

Nelle’s wardrobe was a big part of my process, as well as the hair and makeup. We used a few different wigs, and minimal makeup for a more youthful and time-appropriate look.

Do you have any on-set beauty secrets from any of your previous roles?



Smith's Rosebud Salve is one of my favorite lip balms! It's been my go-to for years. It gives moisture without color or too much gloss, and works beautifully as a base moisturizer or on its own.

What are some skin-care products you swear by?

I have very sensitive skin and wrestle with allergies, so Cetaphil has become a staple in my skin-care routine.

How do you maintain your red hair?

I try to use a shampoo/conditioner with UV defense to help protect the color.

What's the one piece of advice you'd tell the teenage version of yourself who was starting out in this industry?

Trust and listen to your instincts.

<https://www.newbeauty.com/view/amanda-righetti-interview-2024>



Amanda Righetti shares details about playing Ronald Reagan's mother in 'Reagan'

<https://ktla.com/video/amanda-righetti-shares-details-about-playing-ronald-reagan-s-mother-in-reagan/9911136/>



Amanda Righetti talks about new 'Reagan' biopic

<https://pix11.com/video/amanda-righetti-talks-about-new-reagan-biopic/9985413/>

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Amanda Righetti talks 'Reagan,' and if she would be down for a 'The Mentalist' reboot (Exclusive)

<https://pagesix.com/video/amanda-righetti-talks-reagan-and-if-she-would-be-down-for-a-the-mentalist-reboot/>



Amanda Righetti on Ronald Reagan, Modeling, and Motherhood

https://music.youtube.com/podcast/tMmPPiAT_Ng

Cherry Picks



Actor Spotlight: Amanda Righetti

Learn about her fave movies and the best advice she's ever gotten...

We're shining a light on **Amanda Righetti** who plays Nelle Reagan, Ronald Reagan's mother, in the 1920-30s in the upcoming biopic *Reagan*, starring **Dennis Quaid**, **Jon Voight** and **Penelope Ann Miller**. Past projects include *Colony*, *The Mentalist*, and *The O.C.*

What's been the biggest hurdle you've faced as a woman in the entertainment industry and how did you overcome it?

Amanda Righetti: It's a work in progress. Being a woman in the entertainment industry is a hurdle that is never fully overcome. The key is getting back on the horse as many times as it takes. Resilience, perseverance, and patience.

What's the best advice you've received in your career thus far?

AR: Every series gets canceled. Don't ever take it for granted.

Is there a character, actor, film/TV show that's inspired you or stuck with you at a young age?

AR: Lauren Bacall in *To Have and Have Not*, and Angelina Jolie in *Gia*.

If you were to curate a list of your top must-see movies or series of all time, what would they be?

AR: *Tombstone*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, and *Terms of Endearment*.

Tell us your party trick or fun fact!

AR: I can tie a cherry stem in a knot with my tongue, no hands.

We fully endorse that trick around here. What's one film or series that you would give a 100% Cherry Score to?

AR: *I Love Lucy*

Three things you always have with you on set?

AR: Water, a book, and headphones.

<https://www.thecherrypicks.com/stories/actor-spotlight-amanda-righetti/>



Reagan Star Amanda Righetti Reflects On Portraying The President's Mother

ShowBiz Direct's new biopic **Reagan** offers a closer look at the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of the 40th President of the United States. The film hits theaters on Friday, August 30 and is told from the perspective of KBA agent, Viktor Petrovich, whose life becomes entwined with Reagan after the Hollywood actor attracts Soviet attention. Directed by Sean McNamara, *Reagan* stars Dennis Quaid, Jon Voight, Penelope Ann Miller, Mena Suvari, Lesley-Anne Down, David Henrie, Kevin Dillon, and Amanda Righetti.

Righetti plays the role of Nelle Wilson Reagan, a devoted Christian who dedicated her life to raising her two boys. The president held his mother's bible when he was sworn into office, paying homage to Nelle nearly twenty years after her death. While Righetti had little knowledge of Nelle's life before joining the film, she was excited to learn about the historical figure and her influence on Reagan's presidency. Righetti shares that the biopic inspired her to examine her own life, and she plans to carry what she learned from Nelle into future roles.

Screen Rant chats with Righetti about what drew her to *Reagan*, how Nelle helped shape the former president, and what she believes Hailey is up to after *The O.C.*

Righetti Was Excited To Be Part Of A Film That Took Place In The Roaring '20s "It was the beginning of a transition for women during that time period."

Screen Rant: What drew you to *Reagan* and made you want to get involved in the project?

Amanda Righetti: I'm kind of a sucker for period pieces, which was a big selling point. I think being a part of something historical, and the challenge of being able to represent and help tell the story of Reagan's life, and not just his policies as a politician and a president, but what shaped him. I thought that was exciting. I felt like there hadn't been anything done like that on Reagan before.

Do you have a favorite period piece or biopic?

*Amanda Righetti: Gosh, it's hard to narrow it down to just one thing. I think, especially on a historical basis, *The Crown* has been a really great, successful historical biopic. I also like stuff from *The Roaring '20s*, which was kind of the appeal with *Reagan*, because I play his mother in the '20s. It was the beginning of a transition for women during that time period.*

As you were saying, your character is based on a real person. How much did you know about Nelle Reagan before you took on the role?

Amanda Righetti: I knew nothing of Nelle Reagan before this was offered to me. It really opened me up to learning, not only about his mother, but about him, and how his mother influenced him and impressed upon him things at a young age that he really carried with him for the rest of his life. It helped shape him as a man, which then led to some of his policies and the ways that he became a leader.

Even in a biopic, creative liberty is always taken. Do you feel the character that's been written accurately represents what you've learned about Nelle?

Amanda Righetti: Yes. It's about as accurate as it gets in terms of dialogue and moments that Reagan spoke about in his autobiography. There were people in his upbringing who were interviewed for various books that were written about him and his life. A lot of things in the movie are really true to those stories, and they tried to just stick with it to a T. I felt like it was a good representation of who she was to him. They also picked the most pivotal moments in his life to share about things that she imparted to him.

Reagan Is Broken Up Into Three Different Phases Of Life

"There was his younger life and upbringing, and then the college and SAG years, and then his presidency."

With Reagan being a period piece, can you talk a bit about what it was like to step into the time period and encapsulate this moment of History?

Amanda Righetti: We filmed in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and what's really neat is a lot of the buildings are from the late 1800s, so it felt like you were stepping back in time on that basis. They brought in, I think, over 100 Model T cars to really finish off the set pieces in that way. When I'm building a character, it sounds kind of silly, but the shoes are always something that are really important to me.

I think finding those for her and the clothes—there were a lot of social norms at that time that indicated how women would dress and carry themselves. So being able to marry those two things, I think, were really important to, not only stay true to the time period, but also true to Nelle. I also just love to play with all those old vintage clothes.

Do you take any different acting approaches when you're playing a real person versus a character who's purely fictional?

Amanda Righetti: Yes. There's a little bit more red tape, I would say, but not in a bad way. Just in terms of a guiding post. Because she was a real person, it was also important for me to understand how she was raised. The Reagans were dirt poor, which was also something I was not fully aware of until I started researching about him and her. In that sort of milieu of where they lived and how they lived and all that stuff, there were a lot of pressures on her to meet where Jack Reagan fell short. She picked up the slack in a lot of ways. That shaped her, but it also shaped her viewpoint on how to protect her children. A lot of it was giving them a sense of optimism that no matter what they were facing in their day-to-day life, there was something greater for the purpose of what they were living in that moment.

This film has an all-star cast. What can you share about your experience collaborating with everyone?

Amanda Righetti: It was sort of fast and furious, because I didn't have a whole lot of time to prep the character. The film was broken up into, essentially, three different movies. There was his younger life and upbringing, and then the college and SAG years, and then his presidency. I was only a part of his upbringing and those years, and so unfortunately, I didn't have a chance to collaborate with Dennis Quaid, or Jon Voight, or Penelope Ann Miller, or any of those aspects of the cast. I've been able to meet them and appreciate them in this press tour and things like that. Being able to connect with Justin Chatwin, who plays Jack Reagan, we talked a lot about what the relationship may have looked like. That was really collaborative between him and I. The way that Sean, the director, guided us through that was a collaborative experience, and it made it a real joy to be a part of.

Righetti Shares Her Theories On Hailey's Future After The O.C.

"Maybe she burned enough bridges in her life that she finally got hip to the fact that she needed to just chill out and grow up."

How do you feel that playing Nelle has helped you stretch new creative muscles that you haven't had the opportunity to use in past roles?

Amanda Righetti: I think what's interesting about playing Nelle is that she was such a humble woman, and her life was dedicated to the poor and helpless and giving back to her community. There was such selflessness about her. Playing a character like her makes me question some of my own motivations in life. Some of her insights about life were really beautiful. It was a nice piece of her that I felt like I was able to carry with me while playing her and after.

Before I let you go, I'm a huge fan of *The O.C.* and I'm curious what you think Hailey is up to today. Do you have any personal theories?

Amanda Righetti: Maybe Hailey grew up a little bit. Maybe she burned enough bridges in her life that she finally got hip to the fact that she needed to just chill out and grow up. [Laughs] I loved her. She was really fun. I loved that wild unpredictability she would bring to a scene. It was so much fun to play.

<https://screenrant.com/reagan-amanda-righetti-interview/>

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**AMANDA RIGHETTI EMBRACING
AUTHENTICITY AND RESILIENCE IN
EVERY ROLE**

Explore Amanda Righetti's journey from her breakthrough role on The O.C. to her compelling portrayal of a historical figure in REAGAN. Discover how she stays authentic and resilient in Hollywood's spotlight.

Amanda Righetti's career is a testament to embracing one's true self and overcoming life's challenges. With a journey that began at a young age and spans iconic roles across film and television, Amanda has continually demonstrated an unwavering commitment to authenticity and personal growth. As she prepares for her role in the upcoming biopic REAGAN, portraying Nelle Reagan, the formidable mother of Ronald Reagan, Amanda reflects on the lessons learned from her diverse roles and how they've shaped her approach to life and career. Rising to prominence with her role as the rebellious "Hailey Nichol" on Fox's The O.C., Righetti quickly became a household name, showcasing her undeniable talent and charismatic presence. Her remarkable versatility was further highlighted as the lead in North Shore, followed by a memorable portrayal in Reunion, which earned her a spot among FHM's 100 Sexiest Women. Amanda's career flourished as she appeared in major films such as Friday the 13th and Captain America while delivering standout performances in TV shows like CSI and Entourage. Her role on Friday the 13th helped the film achieve a record-breaking opening weekend, and The Mentalist won a People's Choice Award for Best New Television Drama during her tenure on the series.

Set against the backdrop of the Cold War, REAGAN offers a unique perspective through the eyes of a former KGB agent whose life intertwines with Ronald Reagan's. This role promises to reveal a different facet of Amanda's acting prowess and give audiences a fresh take on a pivotal historical figure.

Join us as Amanda shares her insights on navigating the world of Hollywood and nurturing inner strength through every experience in our exclusive interview.

You began your career as a model before transitioning to acting. How did these early experiences shape your craft and personal growth?

When I was 14 years old, I left the United States, and headed to Japan to start modeling. That journey allowed me to experience things in my life that many of my peers had not. The maturity I gained became an advantage with the acting opportunities that were presented to me later. Being alone, in a foreign country as an adolescent, it was imperative that I trust myself and my instincts. That helped guide me through my life, and ultimately my career.

Your role as "Hailey Nichol" in The O.C. was a breakout moment in your career. How did this role influence your acting approach and your choices afterward?

The multiple layers and colors of Hailey, made her very engaging to play. I enjoyed the wild shock value that she brought to every scene she was in. Playing her introduced me to a freedom in acting, and a much needed confidence boost that carried me into what was to come.

Stepping into the role of Nelle Reagan in REAGAN, you're portraying a woman whose influence on Ronald Reagan was deeply significant. How did you approach portraying such an influential historical figure, and what did you learn about her impact on her son's legacy?

Approaching an historical figure is much different than any fictional character I've portrayed; she was a real person. I started doing as much research as I could, and from there, I built my internal version of her emotional life based on the geographical societal norms at the time.

Aside from getting the physicality right for Nelle, I intended to stay true to her essence. While there weren't any videos of her that I could find, and very few photographs, most of what I found about her was in written form. The most insightful works were from Ronald Reagan directly, in his autobiography. "God and Ronald Reagan: A Spiritual Life" by Paul Kengor dives into Reagan's spiritual upbringing and his mother's involvement with her church in Dixon, Illinois, as recounted by members of the Disciples congregation. Her impact on "Dutch" Reagan went well beyond his spiritual upbringing. Nelle was a natural born leader with a gift for public speaking and performing. She encouraged her son in this pursuit, and would help him memorize stage performances, public readings of scriptures, and poetry.

Nelle Reagan's role in Ronald Reagan's life was pivotal and protective. What was most challenging about capturing her essence on screen, and how does her story connect with your own experiences of guidance and support?

While it was impossible to cram an entire lifetime of Nelle Reagan into one scene, the moments that were chosen for the film, were pivotal in Reagan's life. It was important for me to stay as connected to the truth of the moment as possible, while exploring the emotional life of a mother that faced more hardship than success. Her belief and optimism carried her through hardships in a most graceful way. While Nelle could not foresee what the future held for her son, her convictions overrode her doubts.

The challenge I faced was to capture Nelle's love and sternness in equal measure, as well as the internal struggles she faced in imparting these hard lessons to her children. I connected with Nelle first as a mother, and secondly as a woman of faith.

You've worked on both major motion pictures and television series. How do you adapt your approach to different types of projects?

My approach is always character first. Fleshing out a character takes on a different shape, based on the medium. In television, you have multiple episodes where character is slowly revealed. In film, you have 90 minutes to tell a story.

How do you stay true to yourself and manage industry pressures when facing Hollywood challenges?

I try to keep a routine. The nature of my career in Hollywood makes that difficult at times, but, like everyone else, I do the best I can.

What experience has been the most transformative in your career, and how has it shaped your growth and perspective on life?

Every experience in my career has been transformative in one way or another, whether it's the kind of character I am portraying, or the genre of the project. I stay open to these experiences because ultimately, they have helped me grow in the most unexpected ways.

Balancing a personal life with a demanding career is tough. How do you maintain your well-being amid a busy schedule?

I make an effort to carve out time for myself each day, whether it's 20 minutes, or if I'm lucky, an hour! I have learned over the years, that I have to put my own oxygen mask on first (as difficult as that may be), in order to show up one hundred percent for others.

You've been recognized for your talent and resilience. How do you stay motivated and inspired in your work and personal life?

I have a child that will undoubtedly learn from my example. He will not learn how to be in the world by word, but by example and actions. What keeps me motivated is the hope that my greatest role is still ahead of me.

Who has inspired you in your life and why? How can women find and embrace their true selves in a world that often pressures them to conform?

My earliest inspiration was my paternal grandmother; tough as nails, but her love was so big it made you feel like you were the only person that mattered. She had a shine that was unapologetically beautiful. In order to find and embrace our true selves we must get quiet, and listen to that still small voice within us that speaks to our true nature and what really makes our heart sing. Don't ever wait for the outside world to validate you. You have everything you need inside, you just have to fan the flames to make your fire grow.

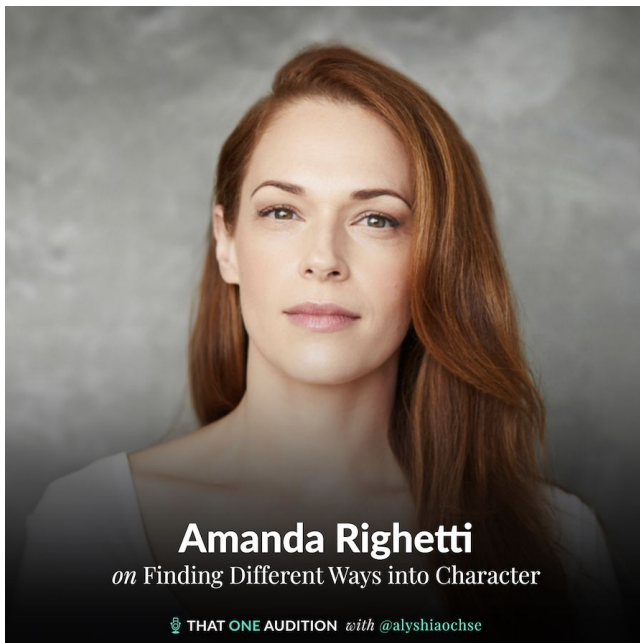
As a woman in entertainment, how do you view the evolving landscape for female actors and creators? What changes would you like to see?

It's exciting that women are finding a more substantial voice in the entertainment industry. I'm excited to see more stories told from the complexities of a female perspective.

What role or project excites you most, and what personal or professional goals do you hope to achieve next?

I get excited by characters that are outside of my wheelhouse in stories that explore human conflict and condition. I've been blessed to work consistently as an actor, and hope to continue to improve and grow with each project.

<https://ebbymagazine.com/amanda-righetis-authenticity-and-resilience-in-every-role/>



Amanda Righetti on Crafting Characters: From The O.C. to Reagan

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/that-one-audition-with-alyshia-ochse/id1262208420?i=1000666789951>



Amanda Righetti-A Beyond The OC Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OchnuDrxhk>