

Humanitarian Activist, Hollywood Superstar



Angelina Jolie and Matt Damon on the set of *The Good Shepherd*

...and Dedicated Mom; **Angelina Jolie** in her new blockbuster, *The Good Shepherd*

By Adrienne Papp

HOLLYWOOD IS OFTEN THOUGHT OF AS A PLACE WHERE ALL IS ABOUT MONEY AND POPULARITY AND LIFE IS JUST ONE BIG SOAP OPERA AFTER ANOTHER. EVERY ONCE-IN-A-WHILE, HOWEVER, SOMEONE RISES OUT OF THE CELLULOID TO WALK THEIR TALK AND TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD. ANGELINA JOLIE IS ONE SUCH PERSON. A WARRIOR ON AND OFF SCREEN, JOLIE HAS MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE THE WORLD, WHILE MAINTAINING A QUALITY FAMILY LIFE AND AN AMAZING CAREER TO BOOT!

In her new book (albeit a published journal) *Notes from My Travels*, Angelina writes, "I am on a plane to Africa... This is the beginning of my trip and this journal. I do not know who I am writing to... I honestly want to help. I don't believe I am different from other people. I think we all want justice and equality. We all want a chance for a life with meaning. All of us would like to believe that if we were in a bad situation someone would help us... I don't know why I think I can make any kind of difference. All I know is that I want to..."

We have watched Angelina grow up, becoming the most admired and talented young actress of our time, winning—very early on—three Golden Globes and an Academy Award

and evolving into a hands-on, down-to-earth philanthropist with an intensity that reminds us of the legendary Mother Teresa, or at the very least, following the footsteps of another gorgeous humanitarian, Audrey Hepburn.

Despite her megastar status in Hollywood and beauty to die for, Angelina plays no princess. With Brad Pitt by her side, "party time" would more appropriately describe a lifestyle any other woman would choose. But Angelina has a mission. She's a Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations, a working mother of three and a world traveler. Just recently Jolie and Pitt, while taking a break from the India set of *Mighty Heart*, made a "Thanksgiving" visit to a Vietnam orphanage, and then to Cambodia to visit Angelina's conservation project and pay respect to victims of the Cambodian genocide.

While making movies, saving lives, setting up charitable foundations, the latest of which is the Jolie/Pitt Foundation (earmarking \$2 million for Doctors Without Borders and Global Action for Children); working to protect natural resources—in brief, *changing the world*—it makes one wonder where her energy to be superwoman comes from.

Clearly, it's her deep conviction and dedication to a higher cause. Jane Goodall, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace has said, "Angelina is living proof of the power we all have — every one of us — to

make a difference. I...[have] found her personal commitment to be an inspiration."

In 2005, upon accepting the U.N. Global Humanitarian Action Award, Jolie declared that charitable work is "the greatest thing in my life."

Jolie has dedicated one third of her income and the majority of her time to making a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate than our country's most poor. "These people survive things that we cannot even conceive of, and we get back home and see those little things we worry about."

Angelina's Cambodian son, Maddox, is 5 years old. She and Pitt also have a 1-year-old daughter, Zahara, who was adopted from Ethiopia. And Angelina gave birth to the couple's daughter, Shiloh, in Namibia in May. Her commitment to adopting children, an ultimate expression of love, encourages others to follow her path, agencies say the number of inquiries about Ethiopian babies have doubled, though the highest adoption numbers remain in China, Russia and Guatemala.

Unlike many mothers, Angelina *travels with her kids* and manages a busier life than most of us have the capacity to follow just in the news. She has disproved the century-old axiom, "having children equals giving up one's career and mobility." Angelina is a true inspiration to the rest of us juggling motherhood, careers

and relationships, not to mention, being a jet-setting humanitarian 24/7. Still, she somehow manages to *put family first!*

As if all of the above were not enough, her new movie, *The Good Shepherd*, is premiering on December 22 in theaters nationwide. The untold story of the birth of the CIA—viewed through the life of a man who believed in America and would sacrifice everything he loved to protect it—is told in this epic drama in which she stars with Academy Award® winners Matt Damon and Robert De Niro. The film is directed by Robert De Niro and is being released by Universal. Joining Damon, Angelina and De Niro in the all-star cast are actors Alec Baldwin, Billy Crudup, Michael Gambon, John Turturro and William Hurt.

"Her access to her emotions is unbelievable to watch and be around. She is a very emotional actress and she gives a lot," said once co-star, Winona Rider about Angelina's performance. And, that is what characterizes Angelina. She does not do one part or the other. She does it all and she has it all.

Whatever happens next, Angelina continues to evolve from Golden Globe- and Oscar-winning actress to loving mother and Goodwill Ambassador.

"I am very honest and open and do good things with my life," says Angelina. And good things she does. And she does them well.