

1999 10 27 Wednesday Jane Seymour

Somewhere in Time Movie

AB: “And coming up after the break, you did it (!) ... or *we did it (!)* I miraculously got hold of Jane Seymour, who starred in the movie *Somewhere in Time* with Christopher Reeve. The movie that propelled me to make this plane flight to Mackinac Island and the Grand Hotel. And somehow, some way, magically this morning at about 10:00 a.m., um, I got to interview Jane Seymour. That interview is coming up shortly, so you’re not gonna wanta miss it! It’s really going to be absolutely excellent!

Jane Seymour from *Somewhere in Time* coming up! Also, of course, *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*.

We’ll be right back.”

* * *

AB: “Welcome everybody! In a moment an interview coming up with none other than Jane Seymour – co-star of the *Somewhere in Time* movie, that I’m going to go pay tribute to in Mackinac Island tomorrow morning ... tomorrow actually.

So Jane Seymour just around ... oh, by the way! (AB laughs). If you’ll check my website right now and my webcam, you’ll see the picture of Jane Seymour that in that movie, and Christopher Reeve and nearly anybody else who looks at it, ah, fall very much in love with her.

That’s on my webcam right now.

We’ll be right back.”

* * *

AB: “Jane Seymour ...”

JS: “Hi!”

AB: “Hi. *You ... you ... you don’t know me, but I love you!*”

JS: (laughs).

AB: (laughs also). “I’m going back now to a line in the movie, that I’m calling to talk to you about: *Somewhere in Time*.”

JS: “Right.”

AB: “And I remember Christopher Reeve sitting there ... standing there actually and practicing lines that he was going to use on you when he finally met you.

You’ve had sooo many successes! Ah, Emmys, Golden Globes, um ... ahh, of course you’re incredible series, *Dr. Quinn*. So many successes, and yet I call you tonight to talk about *Somewhere in Time*.”

JS: “Yeah!” (JS laughs).

AB: “I, ah, I don’t know how you feel about that movie, but, um, I must tell you: **I believe in the concept of ‘soulmates’**. Do you?”

JS: “I absolutely do!

And you know, when we were making that movie, *it was a magic that happened ... to everybody!* **It was an extraordinary movie!**

It only cost about two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to make”

AB: “Oh my!”

JS: “Um, it was never properly released, because, um, Universal had *The Blues Brothers*, forty million dollar (\$40,000,000) movie coming out the same week, and they sort of didn’t even notice that we existed.

And there was an actor’s strike at that time, and we weren’t allowed ... Chris and I were not allowed to publicize the movie. And we were just so frustrated, because we *loved* this movie!

When I, ah, conned my friend, John Barry, into doing the music for nothing ...”

AB: (laughs).

JS: “... um, and, ah, subsequently, you know, he ... he would own the rights afterwards. And of course, he made more money I think from that ultimately than of his other things, so (JS laughs), ah, it was a sort of labor of love.

And it was a very special movie when we made it. There were no ... no cars allowed on the island, so we were all issued with bicycles. And, ah ...”

AB: “I think that remains the case today by the way.”

JS: "I ... I believe so. But it ... it was just the ... *there was something special about the making of it!*"

And the whole crew ... in fact, probably one of my closest friends in the world today is, ah, one of the associate, ah, producers from that ... from that movie. So a lot of us have at least have kept in touch, and I'm still of course very much in touch with, ah, Christopher Reeve. And ... and it's ... it's just so wonderful to both Chris and I to realize that something that touched our hearts has touched so many people's hearts."

AB: "And ... and ... and so much later!"

In other words, when it came out, it wasn't that big.

And today ... let me tell you, when I met my wife, it's the first movie that I sat her down and that we watched together."

JS: "Ahh!"

AB: "And we were so moved by it and were so in love, that we're making the trip to the Grand Hotel in Mackinac – as a matter of fact, we're leaving in the morning on a ..."

JS: "Oh, that's so ..."

AB: "... on a jet plane."

JS: "I'm so envious!"

You know, I was intending to go this year and I had all the plans ready to go, and then of course at the last minute, it, ah, I had to do a CBS movie. And of course they don't wanta wait till that *Somewhere in Time* weekend is over ... they wanted it now!"

AB: "Of course they did."

JS: "So I didn't have any ... any, ah, you know, any choice really, because I have to work when I get the work."

AB: In my studio directly behind me right now, I have a picture – and have had for a long time – of Elise, and I have never in my life, Jane, seen a more beautiful, classic, fall in love with instantly, face."

JS: "Ahh!"

AB: "Ah, it's just ... it's ... it's ... it's absolutely lovely ... lovely as are you!"

Now, ah, when you ... when you did that movie, um, I talked to Steven Simon – I ... I've interviewed him a coupla' times now. He told me a really interesting story about your coming in *in costume* – did you really do that?"

JS: "Well, you know, what I used to do is ... people ... I used to go in for interviews and things, and people would say: 'Well, you know, we can see how you look, but you play such and such?

And so a long time ago I thought the smart thing to do would be to show up not lookin' like I was in costume, but wearing ... (clears her throat) sorry ... wearing clothes that were as close to the character that I could get away with, while still pretending to be in street clothes."

AB: (laughs).

JS: "So that's what I did."

AB: "Well, when you walked in the room, ah, Steven said: 'Everybody looked at everybody and said: 'That's the end of that!'"

JS: (laughs).

AB: "'It's her! She's the one!'

Now, I also believe that love ... I've been kind of toying with the idea of time travel. All my life it has fascinated with me, ah, been a fascination with me. And I ... I think love is the one thing that actually might do it if anything ever does, **'cause it's gotta be the strongest force on Earth!**"

JS: "I would agree with that.

And, ah, you know, I think there are so many things we really don't understand. I mean, we know there are many parts of our brain and of our psyche and of our souls that we can't pinpoint down, um, that I think it's entirely possible. And I especially believe that *we want to believe that love transcends time and place.*"

AB: "That's right."

JS: "And I ... I know in my heart, for example, my father passed on many years ago. I feel he's right there with me. I mean, every day I find myself at one point thinking of him and ... and kind of almost asking him: 'What do you think?' You know?"

And ... and my love for him has ... has never dwindled, despite the fact he isn't here in body anymore."

AB: "No, but you can feel him there, can you?"

JS: "I feel him there!

I mean he definitely inspired, um, Dr. Quinn for me. For ... for seven (7) years, every day I'd walk on that set and I felt he was right there. And I said: 'What a coincidence that his ... his passion for medicine ... his history of medicine should, ah, you know, suddenly turn into this amazing series that was so wonderful for seven years!'"

AB: "I would lay a wager with anybody that if *Somewhere in Time* were released today it would be a smash hit!"

JS: "Huge!"

AB: "Huge hit!"

JS: "Well, you know what? I went to Universal and I said: 'Are you crazy? (JS laughs). You could make some good money here.'"

AB: (laughs).

JS: "And I think they did their research and they found that they probably could, but what they wanted to do was to try and see if we could come up with a sequel. And I don't know how they can come up with a sequel?

I ... I think ... I think what they would do that would be much better would be to re-release the original and really do a campaign around it, because it's never really been given the opportunity in this country of being shown as a feature."

AB: "Ah, quite right. I keep telling people ..."

JS: "And I think there's a lot of people, you know, who've seen it 'hundreds' of times that would enjoy the experience of going and watching it.

The same way that, you know, in a different way people like going to see *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* or a *Star Wars* movie, or something.

But th-... this is ... is *the ultimate romantic movie*, and people I know watch it fifteen (15) ... twenty (20) times, you know?"

And they ... they just ... they just ... they really enjoy the experience of sitting there and ... and taking it in. It's not a question of: 'Well, I've seen that, you know, I know the story.'"

AB: "*I have seen it that many times (!)*"

JS: (laughs).

AB: (laughs). "**I really have!**"

Um, what was it like? Now I've never been to Mackinac Island nor have I been to the Grand Hotel. What's it like there?"

JS: "It's quite beautiful.

Of course, I haven't been there in twenty (20) years. But I'm told now that it's even more extraordinary than when I was there. Of course you know Chris and I weren't able to stay at the Grand Hotel, because there was no room there. We had to stay in some other ..."

AB: "Oh my!"

JS: "... not particularly nice little hotel down the road.

So we just go filmed there. But it is a spectacular hotel.

I'm told that it's almost like a shrine to *Somewhere in Time* now. They have, ah, they play the movie there all the time. And they have gift shops with things to do with *Somewhere in Time*."

AB: "Oh, yes!"

JS: "And it's really become like quite a little mecca, I think."

AB: "I'm going to be blessed with seeing it on the big screen at the hotel for the first time!"

JS: "Oh, wow! That ... that has to be amazing!

I ... I think I've only ever seen it once on the big screen."

AB: "Were you aware that in ... in the book from which the movie came – *Bid Time Return* – they used in the book the Hotel del Coronado ..."

JS: "Right."

AB: "... which was amazing to me! I picked up the book the other day and began to read it and I said: 'Wow!' Ha-ha, a different hotel al- ... altogether (!)"

JS: "Absolutely! I think the reason that they changed, um, was because when you see the setting of Mackinac Island, you'll see it just, ah, I mean: **Time stops still there! It's just an amazing place!**

You're on an island and it's isolated, and they, um, they've really protected that island."

* * *

AB: "So, you have stayed in touch with Christopher?"

JS: "Yes, I actually spoke to him about four (4) days ago."

AB: "How is he?"

JS: "He's ... he's doing great!

He's very excited, ah, about the progress that they're having with the American Paralysis Association, which he's now ... he ... his foundation has, ah, merged.

They've got ... I mean, they're going to be starting human trials I believe this year!"

AB: "So he continues to hope ..."

JS: "For ... *for spinal regeneration!*"

AB: "... in his lifetime?"

JS: "Oh, yeah. I mean, they're ... they're starting this year! It's amazing! I mean, the ... the big push right now he said is ... it's a question of how much money they can raise. The more money they can raise, the sooner they can find a cure for this.

It's because they have the scientists, they have the experiments, they have the people who are willing to be the guinea pigs. And, um, and you know, they've proven it in laboratory testing with animals that it does work and so it's a question of doing it on human beings."

AB: "It's odd ... when I look at Christopher today, he doesn't look different. He, ah, his face ... he still looks like the same Christopher. And if he ... if he were to be back on his feet, I don't know that I'd see the difference."

JS: “No, I mean he looks amazing! And what’s amazing about him though is he’s just inspirational.

I had a conversation with him once about, you know, obviously no one would ever choose to have this horrible thing happen to him the way that it did. But of all the people in the world that I know, he is able now to do more with his life, in a funny way, than he would have done ...”

AB: “Hmpf.”

JS: “... if this had never happened to him.

I mean, he really is changing ... he’s changing history in terms of ... of ... of medical, um ... ah, research, because no one has ever considered it was possible to do anything to the spine. It was one area that they’d all given up on.

And he is the one that’s made that happen (!) He’s changing the world for people who have disabilities. Um, he’s really fighting in government for ... for rights for people. And, ah, he’s become an extraordinary activist. And he really also I think has become an inspiration for everyone in the world that when you think things are tough for you, you ... you think about ...”

AB: “That’s right.”

JS: “... the fact that he ... *not only is it tough for him just to survive moment by moment, but he is going out of his way with what energy he has to help other people.*

And it makes you realize that that really is probably the *key to happiness* – is that when you can do something for someone else, it takes it away from, you know, from whatever you feel is not right about your life (!)”

AB: “Quite right.”

* * *

AB: “What was the ... what was the chemistry, ah, chemistry like between the two of you during that movie? *It was such a romantic movie!*”

JS: “I think, you know, one day a book will have to be written on that.

(JS and AB both laugh).

Um, those of us who were there know! It was ... there was a magic! And there has always been a magic!

Um, Chris and I ... you know, *we were really totally overcome by this movie!*

And ...”

AB: “Yes.”

JS: “... a very long-term wonderful love we really had for each other ... *and still do have.*”

And it’s wonderful because our spouses are ... are very understanding.”

AB: (laughs). “That’s fortunate (!)”

JS: “And ... and happy about this.

So you know, it’s, um ... *he’s just a very special person!* And something magical happened, and, um, he just, ah, we ... we felt very strongly about each other.”

* * *

AB: “Jane, when you read the part of Elise McKenna, did you know right away?”

JS: “Oh yes! When I read it I just said: ‘I have to play this role.’ And I was so superstitious about not getting it that, um, on the day that I went in for the final interview and actually met Chris, I got ... got into my car and, ah, a girl that I barely even knew ... a sort of semi-girlfriend said: ‘I’m turning forty (40) and I’m freaking out! Will you please take me far, far away so I can go on a beach and ...’”

AB: (laughs).

JS: “... and so I went off to this faraway beach. I don’t even know where I was. I was incommunicado all day. And by the time I got back, the phones had been ringing off the hook”

AB: (laughs).

JS: “Everyone’s trying to leave messages to tell me that I’ve got this part. And I’d completely forgotten! Because you know I ... I’d decided to dedicate the rest of the day to helping this girl get through what she thought was going to be a big trauma for her.” (JS laughs).

AB: “Well, you know, it ... going back to if it were released today, I would love to see it re-released, because there are so many people who would benefit from the love in that movie (!)”

JS: “I think it would be great, you know, now with the internet and everything, if people got together and made a campaign to ask, um, Universal to re-release it – maybe it would happen!

I mean, amazing things were happening in *Dr. Quinn*.”

AB: “Oh, let’s do it!”

JS: “But I think it ... that’s one that I think is really worth – if people feel that strongly about it – and I ... I don’t think you’re alone. I know, um, for one, General Colin Powell, it’s his favorite movie ... of all time!”

AB: “Well, you know, I think you’re right. There really could not be a sequel to it. It is what it is! And it would never be improved on!”

JS: “And ... and, you know, when I watch *Titanic*, and ... and, you know, and the *hugeness (!)* ... I mean the extraordinariness of the *Titanic*, I kept thinking to myself that *Somewhere in Time* was in some ways even more moving! And yet it was a small movie.”

AB: “If ...”

JS: “But it was something really ... the ... the same magic that *Titanic* had, *Somewhere in Time* has.”

AB: “Plus!”

JS: “Plus.”

AB: “Plus. I ... I ... no movie ...”

JS: “Plus. It didn’t need a big ship!” (JS laughs).

AB: “And I’m a big movie fan, ah, Jane.”

JS: “Ah!”

AB: “But that movie ... nothing has ever moved me like that movie, and I can’t even really explain it!

It’s just, ah, it’s something to my very core that was affected, so ...”

JS: "I'll tell you something very interesting. A piece of ... of trivia that you probably don't know.

It's that when it came out in, ah, the Far East ... in Hong Kong specifically, um, they were going to play it for two (2) weeks and it played for over a year to packed houses."

AB: "Wow!"

JS: "And Siran [sic?] Ramshore [sic?], who owns the theatre chain out there, said: 'I didn't understand why.' So he invited me out and I met him, and he wanted to see it was me? Why was this film doing so well?

In the history of Chinese cinema, um, never since *Gone With the Wind* had anything played so consistently.

And he took it off, ah, when it was still playing to packed houses and put it back on again six (6) months later and it packed them out again!

So he ... he said never ... they ... they've never had a film that did that (!)"

AB: "That's remarkable!"

JS: "Yeah!"

AB: "And you're remarkable!

Um, you have a very, very busy schedule, don't you, of shooting?"

JS: "Yeah. Right ... right now it's pretty crazy!

Yeah, we're doing a ... a movie for CBS [Columbia Broadcasting System] called *Murder in the Mirror* and I'm in every shot. And, ah, James [Keach, her husband] is directing and producing with Larry Thompson. And ... I'm, ah, filming every day for eighteen (18) days, so ..."

AB: "I've done, ah, I've done radio now for a decade, but that's like, ah, it's like falling off, ah ... um, you know, it's like water off a duck's back. Nothing to me.

But television! Oh, I've done is a couple of times! And, oh my, that's a lotta work!"

JS: "It's much harder and faster work than doing features. It's ... because you have to come up with the same quality and, ah, material eighteen (18) days as opposed to two (2) or three (3) months.

So, ah, I think when people come and watch us do it, they ... they have no idea how hard and how fast everybody works on a ... on a television movie."

AB: "Ah, that's right.

I ... I interviewed Chris Carter, ah, last night and he said he went and starred in one of his own, ah, series. And when he went in, he said: 'You know, I'm paying you all much too much.' And when he left, he said: 'I'm not paying anywhere nearly enough!' (AB laughs).

JS: "Right."

AB: "So ..."

JS: "*It's amazing ... amazing how hard the work is!*

We just, ah, James and I also finished a wonderful movie that I think, ah, you and everyone, who loved *Somewhere in Time*, will love. And it's called *Enslavement*, ah, *The True Life Story of Fanny Kemble*.

And we just had a test screening for it in its very rough form on Monday, and it scored extraordinarily high!

So I think there's a chance that it will be put out now as a feature film."

AB: "I'll look for it. When?"

JS: "And then ... hopefully. We're ... we're waiting to hear now. And then it will definitely be on Showtime afterwards."

AB: "On Showtime ..."

JS: "Yes."

AB: "All right. Well, I'm not going to miss it, *as I don't miss a thing you do (!)*

Jane, I know, you're busy and I wanta thank you, but, ah, one thing: There are a lotta people from all over the country and beyond, ah, getting ready to converge in the morning and Friday on, ah, on Mackinac Island. And, um, so you might have a word or two for them."

JS: “Well, I really wish I could be with all of them! I ... I’m so upset that I didn’t get to make it this year.

I’ve sent a ... a brief video message, so hopefully they’ll put that up on the screen for everybody.

And, ah, I will be there – I will find a way to get there one of these years.

And I just thank you all for being supporters of *Somewhere in Time*, and let’s see if we can’t get it re-released as a feature, because that would be so exciting!”

AB: “Yes!”

JS: “After all these years to share it with this generation.”

AB: “Yes! Jane, thank you so much!”

JS: “Okay.”

AB: “Good night.”

JS: “Good night.”

AB: “Jane Seymour, and, um, what an interview, huh? That was really neat!

It was really neat of her to do on such short notice!”

* * *