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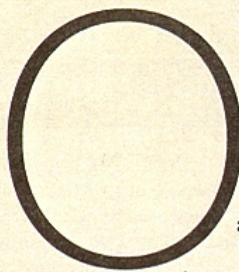


Exclusive Interview

MIKE MYERS and **CAMERON DIAZ**

They've played ogres over and over — and over! But the *Shrek* stars have never gotten down and dirty like they do here.

Shrek the Third
opens May 18.



One thing about animated paramours is that you can't see whether the lovers really crackle with that movie magic known as chemistry.

Too bad. Because coltish beauty Cameron Diaz and awkward funnyman Mike Myers are practically combusting with the stuff, in a yin-yang kind of way. And why not? Both find themselves hugely successful, rich and, alas, single in Hollywood, after long-term relationships. Myers is split from his wife of 12 years, Robin Ruzan, and Diaz went through a tabloid-fodder split from beau Justin Timberlake. Not to mention they co-star yet again in one of this season's blockbuster sequels, *Shrek the Third*, which opens next Friday.

a hockey game, I was standing in line buying popcorn, and a guy said, 'Hey, Mike Myers is here and he is really little,'” says Myers, the voice of Shrek. “Of course, I ordered a small popcorn because of my small size.”

In between the laughs, we tried to have a grown-up conversation with the duo. Here's how it turned out:

When two people star in a movie, you can see the chemistry on screen. So how does it work with you?

Myers: We are bitter enemies!

Diaz: Do you see the fern between the two of us? There is a reason for that.

Myers: It takes a million phone calls between my camp and her camp to get us together. What you see is a little bit of history.

THIRD TIME CHARMERS

Forget Shrek and Fiona. Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz show the love — just for us.

On this day, Myers, 43, and Diaz, 34, are bonding at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills. They are loose, friendly. He pecks her on the cheek. She gamely puts her arms around him. Someone cranks up the tunes, and Diaz suddenly blurts, “That’s the song I lost my virginity to!” Myers laughs and deadpans, “I will never listen to Oasis again without that image in my head.”

Myers is the opposite of his co-star: Diaz, with her legs that don't quit, is an extrovert, exuding a kind of kinetic energy that makes her twirl her hair incessantly. For the interview, she wraps a tablecloth around herself because she's cold.

Myers is an introvert. His demeanor is much quieter than his quirky larger-than-life screen persona. He's quick to deflect questions with a joke: “Once at

Seriously, are you in the studio at the same time?

Myers: It is an odd experience. I like recording by myself. I find it easier to get into make-believe when I am alone. But I will hear playback of the other people, and it inspires you.

Do you keep in touch in between movies?

Myers: Not until this one says, “I'm sorry.”

Diaz: We both know which one is owned an apology.

Myers: Till hell freezes over: [Both

laugh.] Mostly it's because I live in New York City.

Diaz: And we just don't run into each other.

***Shrek the Third* is, among other things, a chick flick. Fiona bonds with girlfriends like *Sleeping Beauty* (Cheri**

DIAZ ON PRINCESS POWER:
“[The movie tells] young girls they are capable of doing anything.”

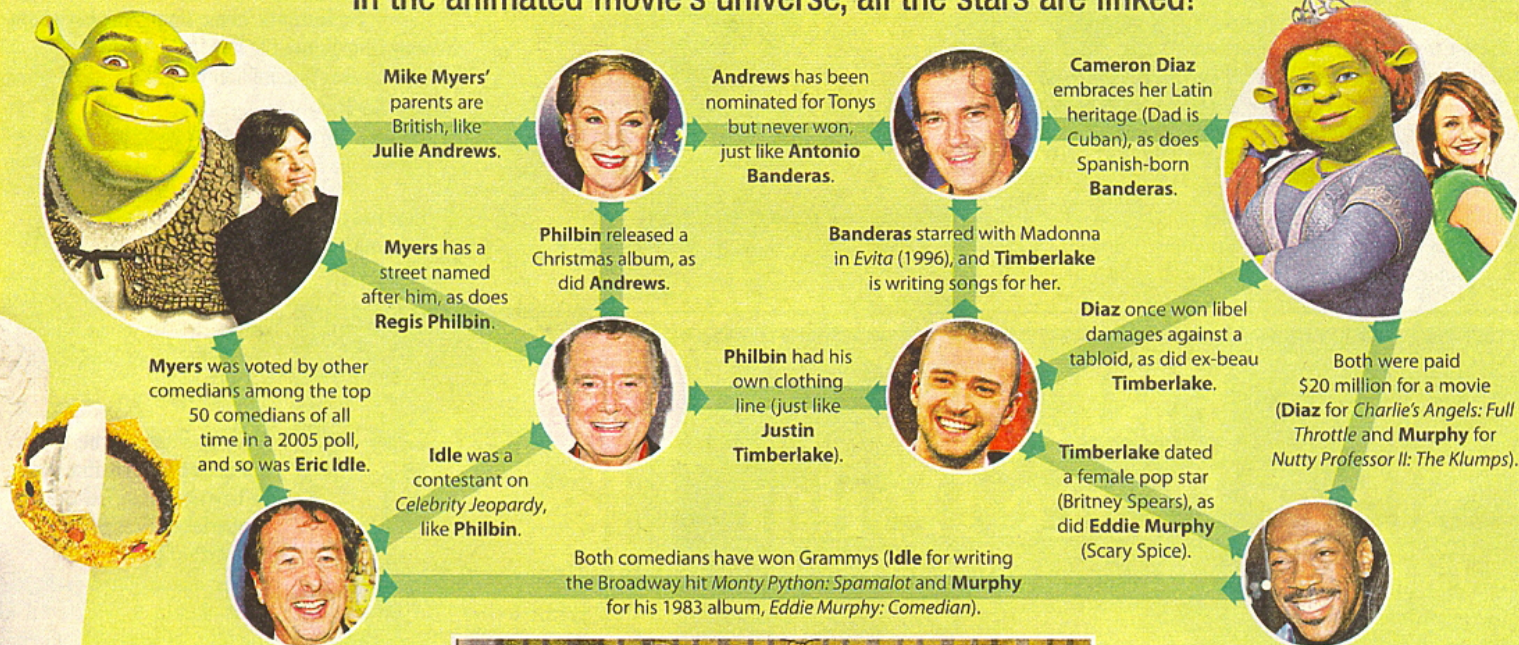


BY MARY MURPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM WRIGHT

The DNA of Shrek 3

In the animated movie's universe, all the stars are linked!



Oteri and Cinderella (Amy Sedaris). **Cameron**, we usually see you alone or with a man, but not with girlfriends.

Diaz: I have always had a lot of girlfriends. First, I have my sister, and you know the bond between sisters. And I have always been close to my mother. And I have a strong group of girlfriends [including Drew Barrymore] who really inspire me. I love women, and I love that connection with my female friends.

Fiona and her royal princess pals kick butt when they are trying to save Shrek.

Diaz: One thing I want to make sure people know about the princesses is that this is not about girls being aggressive. The princesses are in self-defense mode when



Shrek (Mike Myers), with a "dronkey" on his head, and Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz) mull their royal fate in *Shrek the Third*.

they put their power out there. It is about empowerment of women in the sense that it is telling young girls that they are capable of doing anything. It is not about fighting and being physically able to overtake another person.

How concerned are you with the violence in the movie?

Diaz: *Shrek* isn't a violent film. There is good vs. evil, and there is a power play, but it is fairy-tale violence.
Myers: If you want to apply the movie to world events, I think a lot of international crises are about people not feeling good enough about themselves. As John Lennon said, "The way to peace is inner peace."

Cameron, you say that Fiona is a role model for girls and

that she's not locked into the fairy-tale stereotype. Is that the same for you?

Diaz: I have never felt stereotyped. Maybe it is because I have parents who told me that I am capable of doing anything I put my mind to.

By the way, why the dark hair, Cameron?

Myers: I wanted to be the one with brown hair. Now I am going to have to go blond. Thanks, Cameron.

Diaz: Just for myself. I just like it. I always saw myself as a brunette, and I did it.

You have lost a lot of weight, Mike.

Myers: [Smiles.] I have been playing hockey [with pals like Denis Leary]. It is something I love to do. I don't count weight. But I play about four times a week.

Where?

Myers: I play in secret locations. If not, I would never be able to play anymore.

Diaz: It's like my workout: Every single day when I work out they take a picture of me. It is unbelievable. Apparently, now I am the workout queen. I am not working out anymore than I have ever worked out.

Mike, are you uncomfortable doing interviews?

Myers: Do I find it stressful? Yes. I try to make it as silly

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Shrek 3's gang of gals (left to right): Cinderella (Amy Sedaris), Snow White (Amy Poehler), Fiona, Rapunzel (Maya Rudolph) and Sleeping Beauty (Cheri Oteri)



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and fun for myself as I can. To tell the truth, I am shy. Diaz: Over the years, I have learned little tactics to protect myself. But I am sure that six months from now I will read "Cameron Diaz Hates Doing Interviews." When there is nothing going on, they make up stories. But there are certain situations I do not want to talk about.

For instance, being single. You have both become single since the last *Shrek* film.

Myers: I never in a million years talk about something like that.

Diaz: Did you watch the basketball game last night?

How has that influenced how you play your animated characters?

Diaz: We get to play their lives and tell their stories, which are so much more interesting than ours are, I am sure.

It must be tough to be promoting a movie that your ex-boyfriend is in. [Justin Timberlake voices young King Arthur.]

Myers: Justin does a great job. Diaz: Justin is wonderful in the film. [Smiles.] He is great in it. Awesome.



Shrek hangs out with Fiona's cousin Artie (Diaz's real-life ex Justin Timberlake).

What tops your must-see list of summer movies?

Diaz: I can't wait to see *Pirates*.

Why?

Diaz: Ah ... Johnny Depp! I love Johnny Depp. Plus, they do a great genre, and I love adventure.

Myers: Oh God, I don't even know what else is coming out this summer. I tend to watch hockey or movies from the '70s, so I am looking forward to watching *Three Days of the Condor* again. It is so hard. If I say I want to see a film, your friends always say, "Hey, you didn't mention my film," so I just don't want to hurt anyone's feelings.

Your next reunion will be for *Shrek 4*, which is scheduled to be released in 2010.

Myers: It will be in pill form and in zero gravity.

Where do you see your life at that time?

Diaz: I am trying to figure out what to do this weekend!

Myers: Probably living in a house on [movie studio head Jeffrey Katzenberg's] compound, playing hockey on Planet Jeffrey.

Cameron, maybe you'll be like Princess Fiona, married and having a baby?

Diaz: How about if I wanted to be the next president? Really, I do not know where I will be, and that is the beauty of life. I do know one thing: I will be shuffling my script pages and screaming, "Shrek, Shrek and Shrek!"

MARY MURPHY is a Los Angeles-based entertainment writer.

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