

UP *in* LIGHTS

How *Julia Roberts* became one of the world's few true movie stars – with serious staying power



Julia Roberts wears Chopard Ice Cube rings and Alpine Eagle watch © Greg Williams

Ever since she first appeared on our screens in 1988 rom-com *Mystic Pizza* – and became a household name just two years later in *Pretty Woman* – Julia Roberts has been one of Hollywood's most successful and beloved movie stars.

With her megawatt smile and her warm southern voice (Julia originally hails from Georgia) dominating cinema for over three decades, and countless awards under her belt (including an Academy Award for *Erin Brockovich*), Julia has a lasting power that few can match. She was the world's highest-paid actress throughout the majority of the 1990s and the first half of the 2000s, and named most beautiful woman in the world five times by *People* magazine.

Her lifelong love of film-making is celebrated in a new campaign of short movies called *Chopard Loves Cinema*. Director James Gray, known for films such as *Ad Astra* and *The Immigrant*, is behind the shorts, which show Julia behind the scenes, laughing with crew members, and posing for shots by renowned photographer Alisdair McLellan.

'Julia Roberts is that rare thing: a genuine movie star,' says Gray. 'She also happens to be a person with a tremendous sense of humour about it all, and

somehow, she hasn't let her legendary status go to her head. I always jump at any chance I might get to work with her. We are pals, with a real respect and affection for each other. I always consider my day made if I've made her smile. And the work is always a pleasure, if for no other reason than the fact that the camera is as big a fan of Julia's as I am!'

Gray's films and McLellan's portraits are accompanied by magnetic behind-the-scenes shots by photojournalist Greg Williams, who has made a name for himself in the film industry for his candid portraits of stars. Capturing the spontaneity of the actress in action, he explains: 'I'm quite often looking for joy and I try to create a joyful experience. Working closely with Julia on this campaign was in many ways the perfect assignment because she is such a joyful person.'

Julia's 30-year-plus career continues this autumn, with new psychological thriller *Leave the World Behind* arriving on Netflix on 8 December. She's also producing and starring in drama *Little Bee* for Amazon Studios, based on Chris Cleave's 2008 novel and due to be released in 2024. True Hollywood stars don't come much bigger than this.

Julia Roberts is Chopard's global ambassador ■

Julia Roberts in Chopard
© Greg Williams
Haute Joaillerie earrings in ethical 18ct white gold set with brilliant-cut diamonds; Haute Joaillerie ring in ethical 18ct white gold featuring a 5.01ct heart-shaped diamond, set with brilliants; Haute Joaillerie bracelet in ethical 18ct white gold set with emerald-cut diamonds; Alpine Eagle 36mm timepiece in ethical 18ct white gold fully set with diamonds

Stylist: Elizabeth Stewart
Hair: Serge Normant
Make-up: Genevieve Herr

