

# Actress Stiles balances big screen, schooling

BY JOE NEUMAIER  
KRT CAMPUS

Julia Stiles has a red-hot movie career. She starred in "Mona Lisa Smile" with Julia Roberts. She's making this summer's "The Bourne Supremacy."

Friday, she opens in "The Prince & Me" as a University of Wisconsin pre-med student dating a young Danish royal (Luke Mably) who wants to make her his queen.

But at Columbia University, where her major is English literature, her professors couldn't care less how big a star she is.

"Being an actor is looked at like a prolonged game of dress-up," said the 23-year-old about her other life as a Columbia College undergrad.

"America puts movie stars on pedestals. In college, it's the flip side — I sometimes have to justify my job to my professors, because they're focused on intellect and ideas."

"I tried to get credit for acting in 'Twelfth Night' in 2002. My teachers said, 'There's a difference between an English scholar and performing (at) Shakespeare in the Park.'"

Actually, she has done a lot of

Shakespeare in the movies, too.

In 1999, she was in "10 Things I Hate About You," based on "The Taming of the Shrew." She played Ophelia to Ethan Hawke's Prince of Denmark in a modern-day "Hamlet" in 2000 and starred in "O," a high-school-set version of "Othello," in 2001.

Still, she got no credit. On the other hand, she said, her ability to critique a classic won't get her a part in the movie version.

"A college student doesn't really have any cachet in Hollywood," Stiles said. "I think if I were dancing on tables at a club, that might be more interesting to a producer than being in college!"

With two semesters left at Columbia, Stiles splits her time worrying about exams as much as scripts.

She often takes a semester off to work, as she's doing this spring to act in a play in London's West End.

"I do feel like it's a lot at times, but there's something comforting about attending college," Stiles said. "Between jobs, actors go kind of crazy not knowing what they're doing next."

"So it's good to have something to focus on ... And if young actors don't have something to give them

perspective, I think it's easy for them to get lost."

One thing Stiles has found while at Columbia has been a steady boyfriend. For two years, she's been seeing a fellow student — a music and English major — but she's careful to keep it under wraps.

"It's awkward to talk about, because it's uncomfortable for him to read about himself, even in an oblique way," she said.

"And people around him know it's him when I speak about it."

"Like dating in Hollywood, college is very insular; even more so when I was living on campus."

"It's sort of funny for him and my friends to see me having this dress-up life. It's not how they know me. If we're on the street and get stopped by somebody who's seen my movies, it's sort of jarring — it's not the way I usually interact with them."

Currently living on the Upper West Side, Stiles was born and raised in SoHo, where her parents are ceramic artists — her mom makes it, her dad sells it.

At 11, she wrote a letter to the director of the Ridge Theater — which had done a production she enjoyed at LaMaMa in the East Village — asking for an audition

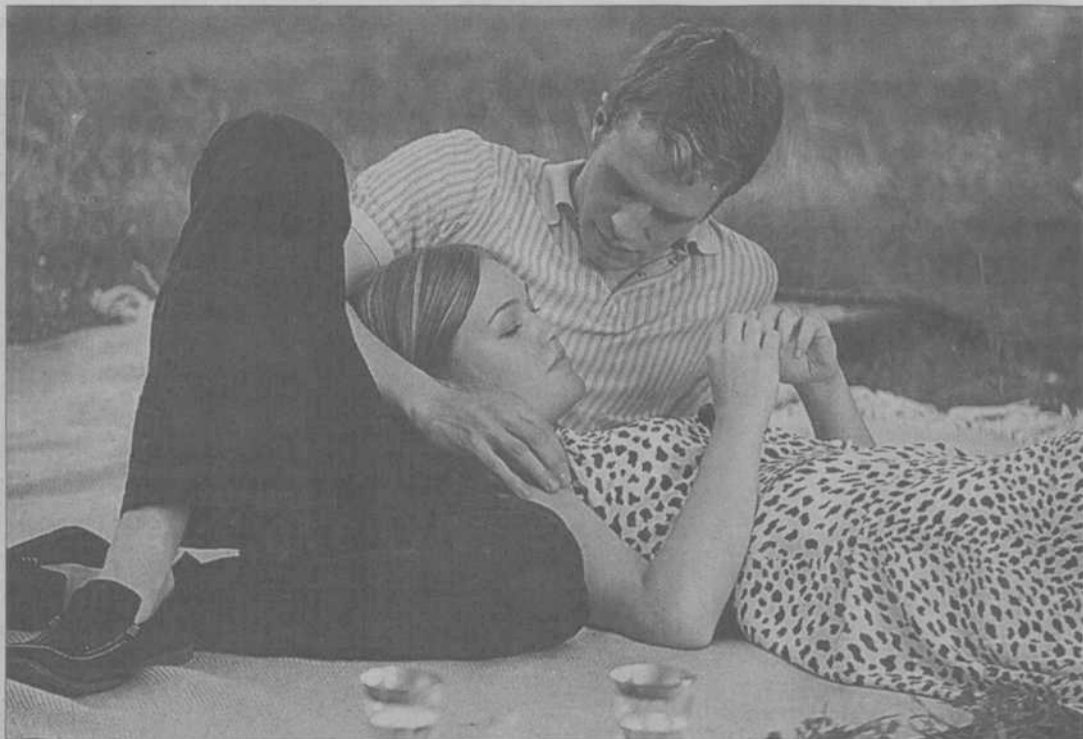


PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Julia Stiles and Luke Mably star in "The Prince & Me," from Paramount Pictures.

and a part in a play. She got both, and at 16 was accepted into the Professional Children's School.

These days, her favorite films are those with old-fashioned appeal. In her new movie, her char-

acter doesn't know she's dating a prince, who is attending Wisconsin on a year off from royal duties.

"Classic stories are always in my head because of school,"

Stiles said. "Even 'The Prince & Me' is like a love story from the 1950s, like 'Roman Holiday' or 'The Prince & the Showgirl.' But I like to add a modern-girl twist to it."

## Aerosmith

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pump faster during "Shame, Shame, Shame," but the song is aimed at their childhood hearts, not the listeners' desire for new material.

The guys in Aerosmith have always been masters of twisting the blues into new, emotional plateaus and sounds, but "Bobo" is a throwaway treat, OK for road trips and background noise but existing in a heavily eroded patch of music. This friendly-but-safe detour feels like a pacifier for die-hard members of the Aeroforce One Fan Club, not for fans of the band's devastating rock.

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## Music Crawl

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### HEADLINERS

- 700 Gervais Street
- Bolt** 8:15 p.m.
- Mean Weiner** 9:15 p.m.
- Beat Junction Project** 10:15 p.m.
- The Movement** 11:15 p.m.
- DejaVoodoo** 12:15 a.m.

- JILLIAN'S** 800 Gervais Street
- Star Climber** 8 p.m.
- The Lackies** 9 p.m.
- Tinker's Punishment** 10 p.m.
- MIKENPIKE** 11 p.m.
- The F-Mob** Midnight

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## Designers move past military with fashionable trench coats

BY LISA TOWNSEL  
BY KRT CAMPUS

The trench coat may have had military beginnings, but this season's selection is coolly relaxed, perky and totally at ease.

The quintessential waist cincher and figure flatterer, the trench coat — with its bold construction and distinctive detailing — remains a classic wardrobe staple.

It offers credibility to professionals and lends a degree of intrigue to characters on the big screen. Plus, where would we be without this cover-up that moves us between breezy, winter nights and spring's shower-filled days?

But don't expect to toss this piece aside. This season, the trench coat refuses to sit back and be prim and proper. It'll play a key role in many springtime ensembles and, in some cases, it may upstage them.

"The trench has taken on a new spirit and attitude. Now, it can be worn for more than special occasions, not just in inclement weather. They really have become essentials in every woman's wardrobe," said Doreen Salerno, brand director of Adrienne Vittadini. "Women want to be more pulled-together and dressed well all season. And it's a great midseason coat."

Adrienne Vittadini's trench, offered in a blood-red orange and also a darker bark hue, incorporates snaps and zipper features into its design. A little less tailored than many other seasonal coats, Salerno said the company's unbelted, water-repellent driving coat, with its sassy metropolitan length, is "great for getting out of cars and walking everywhere very comfortably."

Designers helped to propagate such a revival, including the likes of Michael Kors, Marc Jacobs and a whole slew of European designers who reinterpreted the classic in fabrics ranging from sturdy cot-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Trench coats make bold statements with colors this season.

ton to sultry silk. The British design house of Burberry probably deserves props for its original, strong classic design.

"About a year ago, the trench began to appear in all the runways both in New York and Europe. It achieved real momentum when color was added — and exploded this season with bright color," said LaVelle Olexa, senior vice president of fashion merchandising for Lord & Taylor.

Olexa speaks of a color spectrum that ranges from the typical beige and black to a season filled with eye-popping shades of yellow, blue, pink, green and orange, just to name a few. Such colors are stamped on full length and jacket styles of trench coats and even some blouses this season. And as colorful as the outsides are, many manufacturers paid just as much attention to linings that often show off beautiful striped or floral prints. And while most of the season's trench coats have button-down fronts, some retailers have incorporated prominent zippers and snaps into the detail work.

Belted or not, zipped or but-

toned, Olexa said, the trench coat can be worn by practically every woman. "Fashionable women will wear them with everything for every occasion — day and night. Professional women can wear it in place of a jacket, and trench silhouettes and details also appear in shorter jacket versions and shirts," she said, adding, "Young women will wear them with jeans, or to go out in the evening. It can even be worn in the rain."

For the most part, modern trench coats are most likely to incorporate a bit of water-resistant technology, meaning that they can withstand a small shower or drizzle without getting too wet. A few brands may be water-repellent (they can withstand a bit more water, say a light rain, before totally becoming soaked) and a few more may even be waterproof (you can walk, run and sing in the rain without a problem).

Prices for trench coats this season are all over the board. You can snag a Louis Vuitton ostrich skin trench for \$12,600 or find a pretty reasonable one at The Gap for a fraction of that.

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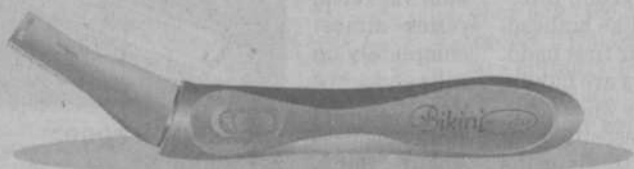


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