

FEATURES

Portman takes over as 'Queen' of Hollywood

by Katie Galley
editorial page editor

With jobs ranging from professional hitwoman to queen of an empire, Natalie Portman has done it all. Before she was Queen Amidala in *Star Wars*, she was just a kid living in Long Island. She is a young actress that has never ceased to impress audiences with her acting abilities and peers with her steadfast moral standards.

Back in 1993 when Natalie landed her first movie role, no one had ever heard of her. She was just another kid-actor who would probably have her 15 minutes of fame and disappear back into the woodwork of fickle Hollywood. But when the movie was released, what came out on film proved to everyone that she was there to stay.

The Professional, in which Natalie portrayed an orphan living

with and learning the life-style of a hitman, brought her acclaim from the highest levels of Hollywood. She was quickly dubbed as a young Audrey Hepburn. She was only 11 years old. Soon after this she started acquiring movie roles that placed her with some of the biggest names in Hollywood.

Her role as the President's daughter in the movie *Mars Attacks* let her work with Jack Nicholson. In *Beautiful Girls* she worked with Rosie O'Donnell and Matt Dillion. And in *Heat*, she acted with Al Pacino. Then came her biggest role of all.

Starring in *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* is the role that will make her be remembered forever as Queen Amidala. In the movie, she played the young queen that would marry Anakin Skywalker, and watch him fall to the darkside as Darth Vader. Natalie will be in the

next two *Star Wars* movies, that we will keep her in the public spotlight until at least 2003.

In between the *Star Wars* movies she is keeping busy attending college and making smaller-budget movies. In her breaks, while filming the first *Star Wars*, she played Anne Frank on Broadway in the latest adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. In the Fall of '99, she will star with Susan Sarandon in the movie *Anywhere But Here* where she portrays a girl forced to move to Los Angeles with her mother.

Natalie has been very outspoken about her negative feelings towards drugs and alcohol and says that she wants to be a good role model for young girls. Pretty impressive for a young woman who just turned 18 this summer. With all her attributes and talents, she will surely be around for a long time.



Natalie Portman and Susan Sarandon in *Anywhere But Here*

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