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Zeta-Jones discusses career opportunities

Men's knees buckle at the mere mention of her. Their eyes get that wistful faraway look. They're zeta-jonesin'.

Catherine Zeta-Jones admits that it helps when your star-making film role includes getting your clothes whipped off during a sword fight with Antonio Banderas.

Her latest movie, Entrapment, devises ways to show off her body, her agility and general athleticism. She swims in tight wetsuits, writhes, wriggles and highsteps her way through security lasers and does a backflip off a beam that would make Nadia Comaneci proud.

There are too many pretty girls around," she said. "I hope that the image that comes across is one which is much more of a fun, kind of approachable woman.'

That approachability steps down from the screen to the extent that, when informed that many men will confect any excuse to meet her, she jokes: "Why didn't you bring them, for God's sake? I'm a single woman."

She is not spoken for these days. But that is OK with her, especially while her movie career is zooming.

"There will come a time when there will be someone special who comes along who'll be special enough that you make time for. Right now, I'm just fine," she said.

Like so many seemingly overnight successes, the 29year-old actress' breakthrough was years in the

Born in Wales, she was singing and dancing by age 4. She got her first actor's guild card by age 15 and moved to London, where she landed the lead in a revival of

Barely 21, she took a role as the eldest daughter of a wild family in a series titled 'The Darling Buds of May.' It became a hit. And her stardom on the TV tube meant, as she puts it, she could never again ride the tube (the

subway). She quickly became a pet subject for the British tabloids and it got so bad that one night seven years ago she drove her car into a lamppost while trying to

ditch paparazzi. One of the reasons she came to America was "to go back to acting as opposed to being a celebrity.'

"I really started to suffer in my work, because I was perceived in a way as this Tabloid Babe' — there wasn't a day I wasn't in there."

Her career, indeed, sputtered. She appeared in the 1992 movie *Christopher Columbus: The Discovery* and the short-lived ABC series "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles.

But then she gained no-tice in the lead of CBS's Hallmark Hall of Fame production of "Return of the Native" in 1994, then the title role in the miniseries "Catherine the Great" the following year. In 1996, she appeared in the miniseries Titanic.

Steven Speilbery, produc er of Zorro, met her and said, "I really think you would be great in this. He put me in touch with (Zorro director) Martin Campbell.'

Even though she has scored success as a femme fatale, she is not concerned about typecasting. In this summer's The Haunting she plays someone described as 'wild, bisexual.

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