

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BATT



### Matrix star Carrie Ann Moss talks about her new life and her experiences making her new film, *Chocolat*

BY MATT McCORMICK  
*The Battalion*

Carrie-Ann Moss burst onto the entertainment scene nearly two years ago with her role as the extremely cool cyber-babe, Trinity, in *The Matrix*. Since then, the native Canadian has not had to look far for work. She appeared opposite Burt Reynolds and Richard Dreyfus this summer in *The Crew* and most recently starred with Val Kilmer in *Red Planet*. Currently taking time off before she begins a year and a half shooting *The Matrix 2* and 3 in March, Moss is promoting her new movie, *Chocolat*. The film is one of Miramax Films'

Oscar hopefuls, directed by Oscar nominee Lasse Hallstrom (*The Cider House Rules*). Moss co-stars with Johnny Depp, Juliette Binoche and Judi Dench.

Q: How has your life changed since rising to such stardom from *The Matrix*?

A: My life has changed a lot - for the better. Professionally, it has changed to such a degree, I have had such opportunities that I would never have had before. For that, I am super, super grateful. Let me think. It is a big question. It has changed, but it has also simplified. I could have really gotten overwhelmed by the demands that kind of come with what I do. But I have really simplified everything to make it as normal and real as I can. It is all good. It is certainly what I have dreamed for my whole life. But you realize that when you get a dream, you have to set new ones.

Q: What are some of your new dreams?

A: Family and just simple things. Quiet time, walks with my dogs, much simpler than I think I have ever been.

Q: What attracted you to the *Chocolat* script?

A: First of all, it is a beautiful, beautiful story. It is so well written. I was blown away by the script. Then I met Lasse Hallstrom, who is one of my favorite directors to start with and one of the kindest people I have ever met. I just feel so darn lucky that they picked me for the part. The story is so beautiful.

Q: How did the script differ from the book?

A: They are different. I enjoyed both of them so much. The core, the mysticism, the magical quality is all in there. It is a whole different experience reading a book from watching a movie. It is a different medium. I think that it was a wonderful adaptation of it.

Q: How did doing this film differ from do-

ing sci-fi movies like *The Matrix* and *Red Planet*?

A: Every movie is different regardless of whether it is a sci-fi movie or a love story. Every single job is different. Because you are surrounded by different people, you are in a different location. This particular movie was such a joy to make because we were in the most beautiful locations you can imagine, in France and in England. The group of people were just so wonderful to be around and so creative. Lasse Hallstrom is just such an amazing director. This is certainly a wonderful experience. But I find that most of my experiences are pretty wonderful because I try to be open to that.

Q: Was there one film that you saw in your life that made you decide to become an actress?

A: Wow, there are so many. I guess the movie that made me think maybe I should really live my dream was *Field of Dreams*.

Q: Any particular reason?

A: Seeing a movie for me is so much about timing and what is going on in your own life (if you are inspired or moved by it). At that particular time, I was questioning my path and that movie just inspired me to take some chances and risk things. I continue to be inspired by films that I see.

Q: What sort of films do you like to watch in your private time?

A: I like movies like *Chocolat* to be honest with you. Really beautiful stories with hope and magical qualities and the humor and love. *Chocolat* is really my kind of movie. I can't wait to see it again. I just saw it the other day.

Q: Is it strange seeing yourself on screen?

A: Sure. With this movie, since there are so many characters... I was able to just deal with myself and get on with the story.



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Q: Have you seen anything lately that you really like?

A: Aside from *Chocolat*?

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A: I rented a movie that I definitely enjoyed. It is certainly a dark movie, but it is one that I enjoyed, *Happiness*. It is not normally my kind of movie, but I liked it so much.

Q: You have talked about how beautiful *Chocolat* is. What does it feel like to know that you were a part of this movie that you obviously believe in so much?

A: It is like a dream come true. At the beginning of the movie, I said to my husband who was sitting next to me, "I have always dreamed of being in a beautiful movie like this." I feel so lucky, and I am someone who really believes in love and hope and change and transformation, and this movie is about all those things that I believe in my everyday life. So as an actor and the little girl in me that wanted to be an actress so that I could move people, it means so much to me.

Q: Would it be safe to say that this is one of your favorite experiences?

A: It is right up there with *The Matrix* and special in a whole different way.



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