

## INTERVIEW WITH 'BIBI DAHL' AKA LYNN-HOLLY JOHNSON, AUGUST 2012

*Interview by Anders Frejdh, Editor of From Sweden with Love, with help from Enlil Albanna, Journalist and Project Manager of Cinewebradio in France.*

**Very early in life, you were in the spotlight: At the age of four, people could see you in adverts for McDonald's and Coca-Cola. Retrospectively, what do you think of this time in your life? Do you regret it, in the sense that you may have liked to have a more "normal" childhood?**

To me my childhood was very normal, because that is all I knew since it started at age 4. I was well aware that other kids didn't "play" the way I did, I just thought what I got to do was great fun.

**In 1978, you starred in your first film *Ice Castle*. Could you tell us about this first experience? Were you afraid of this new life? Do you think that your past experiences helped you? What do you remember from this movie?**

Of course my past experiences helped me greatly. I was already a "pro" at being serious about a task, patience in doing things over and over, taking direction, dealing with adults, being away from my parents. I wasn't afraid; somehow I felt this was just the next step in line. But I had no idea there would be 15 more movies afterwards and that you would be writing to me this many years later. Because of my background I only concentrated on the single job at hand, never thinking about how this movie would help me to get more movies. I remember a lot of the shooting of this movie because there was video made of the filming of it and thru numerous interviews. Without all of that I'd be rather lost in trying to remember it. This is because two years ago I suffered a stroke. I lost so many memories, lost all numbers, didn't know my age, my kid's age or birthday, all phone numbers, events current and past, didn't know what happened one hour before, yesterday or much of anything. I'm very lucky to be alive, very lucky.

**For your part in *Ice Castle*, you were a Golden Globe nominee. Could you tell us about the feeling you had at that time? What were your professional projects at the time thanks to this nomination?**

I was working on *The Watcher in the Woods* when I found out about the Golden Globe nomination for *Ice Castles*. That was exciting because as a kid I was always involved in competitions, so now I looked at movies as a competition. It was fun!

**In 1980, you played Jan Curtis in *The Watch in the Wood*, which was produced by Walt Disney. How did you get the part? Could you tell us about that experience? How was Bette Davis?**

I got the part thru regular auditions, and then was screen-tested at Pinewood Studios when they narrowed it down to either hiring me or Diane Lane. Bette Davis was this wonderful grand lady, sort of reminded me of Colleen Dewhurst. I knew she had done great movies and had this amazing film background but due to my serious nature about how I worked I wasn't too intimidated. I just felt we were 2 actresses trying to make a great movie. At the time I had not seen any of her movies because as a skater I missed out on a lot of stuff regular kids knew about or did.

**The following year, you portrayed Bibi Dahl in the 12th Bond film For Your Eyes Only. How did you feel about starring in such a super-production as a James Bond film? Were you scared? How was Roger Moore? What do you remember most from this movie? Do you have any anecdote to share about the filming?**

I wasn't scared at all about doing a Bond film. Again I had only seen one Bond movie prior. And again since my background was about treating work seriously, I wasn't concerned about the super-production. I had absolutely no idea that Bond, Bibi Dahl would stay in my life and that I'd be doing interviews about it at age 53! My favorite anecdote is that working with Roger meant there was always a lot of laughter on the set. Roger is great fun, a wonderful gentleman. Due to the stroke I am sure I've lost some moments, but now all I can remember is laughter.

**In FYEO, you mixed acting with ice-skating, were you afraid to receive a lot of offers for parts as ice-skater?**

That didn't concern me at the time. And also I just finished movie, Watcher, that didn't have any skating. I was always just very keen on the next adventure.

**What are your memories of Albert R. Broccoli?**

A very large happy gentle gentleman who got on so well with Roger, the crew and me too.

**Brosnan, did you meet him then? What did you think when he was later chosen to be James Bond?**

At the time when I worked with Cassandra, and met Pierce, there was no idea that he could even think about trying to fill Roger's shoes. so I was surprised years later.

**What do you feel about your involvement with Bond now? Why do you think the film series has lasted 50 years?**

50 years!!! Isn't that amazing? I'm sure Cubby is looking down with his giant smile. It works because everyone likes adventure and everyone likes a classy hero. And being tied to Ian Fleming makes it more intriguing. Ian's life was amazing.

**What do you feel about the recent Bond films with Daniel Craig?**

Daniel Craig is super!! But never as great as my James Bond!

**Did you ever read any of Ian Fleming's books?**

I've only read an Ian Fleming biography.

**Do you have any advice to give to a young actress?**

My advice would be to take the career seriously; Bette Davis always said in interviews how much she enjoyed working with me because she said I was professional and serious to get the job done according to whatever the director directed us to do. Also be proud of what you are doing, it is on film forever, I am

so glad I did not do the nudity in Ice Castles. It was wrong at the time and the way people enjoy the movie today, it still feels wrong to have nudity in it.

**What is the best memory of your career so far?**

Best memory is probably working with Roger, Golden Globes and people still being fond of Ice Castles which was very much the hardest movie to work on, most challenging, so I guess that's what makes the result so worthwhile.

**Which have been the most enjoyable actors to work with over the years?**

Definitely Roger Moore and most interesting to watch was Bette Davis.

**What are your hobbies and how do you relax in between your work commitments?**

My hobbies now are mostly playing with my kids. We were body-boarding at the beach yesterday! Fantastic! After the stroke I was in cognitive therapy for one full year to get my brain working accurately again. It was a very emotional experience for the whole family and my kids are well-aware that they almost lost their mom. So now we are a very tight and happy family, and my husband is my wonderful rock! Before the stroke I was a National Champion in sailing and I was an avid runner. The stroke started on an airplane, in the hospital they discovered a hole in my heart which allowed 3 blood clots to go into my brain. One of the clots was in the Middle Cerebral Artery where they say 3 out of 10 people die. Two months after the stroke I had heart surgery to repair the tiny hole in my heart. Now all is well, except I'm still searching for some memories. But I know my kids and my husband and that is all that matters.

After a year and a half of recovery from the stroke I am now a spokesperson for American Heart Association, doing speeches, with hopes of trying to save lives. I am also an ambassador for The Neurosciences Institute. God must have had a plan, a stroke that I was able to recover from, with the hopes of helping others.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ANSWERS LYNN-HOLLY, YOU ROCK!**

*Interview © 2012 From Sweden With Love. Not to be reproduced without permission.*