CELEB INTERVIEW

Christina Aguilera

One of the most accomplished performers of the last decade, she has sold more than 30 million albums world-wide, achieved four #1 singles on the Billboard hot 100 chart.

Q: Was this the first time you've seen Cher since the movie?

CA: Maybe. Wow! We've talked on the phone. We've emailed and everything.

Q: There's obviously quite a cinematic element to a lot of your music videos. Does any of that help in preparation for a feature film like this?

CA: No. (Laughs) No, it doesn't actually. Yes, I've been around the block with it before but doing a movie and doing this kind of a movie is a whole different animal. I completely had to throw away everything I knew about anything and approach doing this movie with an open heart, being truly vulnerable, truly naïve as my character is, and open myself up as a newcomer in a whole new way for everything that I did on this movie.

Q: What was the experience like playing opposite Cher?

CA: (Laughs) Unbelievable. I left that movie a completely changed, different person for so many reasons but a lot of it did have to do with Cher and what I learned from her – just on all counts – as a person, both personally and professionally, the way she has such a tranquil, calm, loving energy when she enters a room but still is such a presence, the way she works, the way she allows herself the freedom to throw the dialogue out the window and just go on a tangent and let things feel real and natural in front of the camera gave me priceless information that I'll cherish forever but yeah, she's just one of the most amazing people I've ever met.

Q: What about the scene where Cher does your make-up for you while she tells you a story? How was that experience?

CA: That was a very interesting day because of what was happening on camera and what was happening off camera. I was getting my make-up done, yes, by Cher on camera. That was a real story that she told from her own childhood. It was very sweet. We were bonding almost in a maternal way on camera but behind the scenes we were like old, chatty girlfriends that could not stop talking and they actually had to drag us to set a few times because we were late just talking, talking about love and relationships in life on a personal level. So, it was a girlfriend moment and a mother-daughter moment on screen.

Q: Your character comes along like the new girl in town, do you think Lady Gaga is like that in real life? Is there any kind of competition there?

CA: No, no, no. We're two completely different women, but I can respect her work ethic.

Q: Is there a prejudice against people making it from one area of show business to another? Cher obviously did it in three different areas. You talked about making this choice, how do you react when people say "No, you can't do that"?

CA: No one was saying I can't do that. I knew that there are many people that make the transition and sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. Cher is the perfect example of someone that it does work with. I've always been inspired even more by any naysayers to keep going for what I really want and they've almost been my inspiration many times more so than any positive people around me to conquer. But yeah, you have your reservations and your fears, but like Ali does, she just kicks in the door, doesn't take no for an answer and goes for it.

Q: What do you like most about Ali and to what extent did you connect with her?

CA: I liked her drive. I liked her passion. I loved the way she wouldn't take no for an answer – not from Jack, not from Tess, Cher's character – how she steps up to the plate whenever Kristen (Bell) pulls the mic out and just goes for it. In many ways, I would do the same in that kind of a situation. I'm a go getter and I don't stop until I get what I want in the most positive way.