

EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS

TIMELESS BEAUTY NICOLE KIDMAN

OPENS UP ABOUT FINDING HER PARTNER FOR LIFE, RAISING CHILDREN AND WHAT MAKES HER TRULY HAPPY



From the moment Nicole Kidman appears onstage at a private dinner in Vienna's Liechtenstein Garden Palace, she has the audience of local dignitaries and international media eating out of her elegant hand.

In a playful mood, the Hollywood star instantly breaks the ice with her laughter – great life-affirming hearty hoots that may seem at odds with her serene beauty but that testify to her naturalness and warmth.

"I'm shooting a film in London and it's snowing there, so it was lovely to get off the plane and [find] it was sunny," she says, seizing the microphone to say a few words about the host city chosen by Swiss watchmaker Omega for the launch of its latest Ladymatic models.

After dinner, Nicole, 45, graciously poses for photos, throwing her arms around awestruck fans, seemingly oblivious of the well-heeled "scrum" that has gathered around her as she tours the enchanted-forest-themed palace.

"She is wonderful, very natural and generous

[of spirit]," observes Omega's urbane president Stephen Urquhart, putting his finger on the qualities that make the Australian Oscar-winning actress both the perfect face of the Ladymatic collection and such an enduring and accessible star.

The next day, she is equally relaxed during a series of news conferences. Such is her good humour that she is unfazed by a journalist's suggestion that she left the previous evening's jollities early, at 11 p.m. "You have to understand that I usually go to bed at 9:30," she protests, laughing. "That was a really late night for me. I don't go to many parties. I prefer being at home and having people over."

PORTRAIT OF A LADY

The *Stoker* star, who is married to Australian country music singer and *American Idol* judge Keith Urban, has spent much of the past year living in Europe, although the family's base is their ranch outside Nashville, Tenn. Having

recently finished filming *Grace of Monaco* in France, Belgium and Italy, Nicole and her daughters – four-year-old Sunday Rose and two-year-old Faith – have been temporarily calling London home while she shoots the psychological thriller *Before I Go to Sleep* with Colin Firth. Lucky for Nicole, Keith nips back and forth to the U.S., sometimes jetting in for overnight visits. "I love it that he's crazy enough to get on a plane and come over here for 24 hours," Nicole said recently.

Having her family close by while she is working provides countless benefits – including free fashion advice for her red-carpet appearances. "I tend to solicit the opinions of all three of them even though one of them is only two!" the statuesque beauty laughs. "I've actually changed when my husband said something's not great. A lot of times, I look in the mirror and see something different. He likes natural and he likes something that's "not so 'done,'" which I would say speaks for a lot of men. I've definitely ►

'Time is the most precious thing. You can't buy it and you can't get it back. How you spend it becomes the most important thing'



Nicole looks flawless in the ad campaign for Omega's Ladymatic. Having taken a career break after the birth of her daughter Sunday Rose, now 4, the actress says she has found more of a work-life balance.



Though she says she eschews parties in favour of early nights, Nicole certainly knows how to turn up the glamour when called for. Attending La Nuit Enchantée gala (here and top right), Nicole chose a stunning floor-length Oscar de la Renta gown covered in intricate beading, from the designer's autumn 2013 collection. Just as eye-catching is her Ladymatic diamond-dot bezel-steel-and-rose-gold watch.

'I've adopted children, I have a birth child and a child through a surrogate. My greatest joys have come from my children'

changed my style since I've been with him." She reveals that it was Keith and her mother, Janelle, who persuaded her to resume her career following a hiatus after Sunday's birth. "I was in a place of contentment and kind of thought I don't need to keep doing this [acting]," she recalls, her Australian accent still discernible despite decades living abroad. "My mum, who is a huge driving force in my life, and my husband both said, 'You still have things inside you and you should pursue them.' My mother said, 'As a woman, I wish I'd done more with my life in terms of my career and I'm encouraging you not to abandon it.' Fantastic advice that only a mother could give."

LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER(S)
On the subject of motherhood, Nicole says her children offer up life's biggest pleasures. "I never thought I would get to experience motherhood in terms of giving birth to a child," she says with characteristic openness. "I've experienced many different types of how to become a mother because I've adopted children [Isabella, 20, and Connor, 18, with first husband Tom Cruise], I have a birth child and a child through a surrogate. The greatest joys for me have come from my children."

It's fair to say the actress's peace of mind these days can also be attributed to Keith. The pair will celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary on June 25. "I've always wanted a partner in life – that's just who I am. I'm not a loner. I like to have my partner to go through life with and I've been very fortunate to find him," she says. "So I try to stay in a very humble place, where I will do everything I can to make it last, but at the same time I am humbled that I've actually found it."

Nicole's beauty may be unchanged by the years, but she reveals that she's conscious now more than ever of the passing of time. "Time is the most precious thing. You can't buy it and you can't get it back, so how you spend it becomes the most important thing. What I'm doing now is allocating time to travel to see my parents [in Sydney]. All of those things that in my 20s wouldn't have been so important have now become incredibly important."

It says a lot about the actress, who

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made her name in films such as *Moulin Rouge* and *The Hours*, that she has been an Omega ambassador for nearly 10 years, a partnership both she and the prestigious watch brand value.

"They're amazing to work for and they're also very philanthropic and have been incredibly supportive of the work I do with UNIFEM [now UN Women, of which she is a goodwill ambassador]. I'm very grateful."

Before she leaves, the actress recalls spending weekends in Vienna while filming the 1997 action thriller *The Peacemaker* in neighbouring Slovakia. At the time, she was married to Tom.

"We would come here to relax and look at art and wander around the streets. Nobody knew we were here, which is a nice way to see a city. They're really nice memories."

She would like to stay longer this time, but filming starts at 6 a.m. the next day. "I have to be at work punctually," she chuckles, charming us all.

INTERVIEW: JULIET HERD AND JULIA SEIDL
CAMPAIGN PHOTOS: PETER LINDBERGH



Nicole is chic in a Nina Ricci suit and Nicholas Kirkwood heels at the Omega press conference in Vienna (left). The actress was visiting Austria from London, where she and daughters Sunday Rose and Faith are based while Nicole films her latest movie. The family (right) try not to spend long periods apart, which means singer Keith, who is a judge on *American Idol*, has become a transatlantic frequent flyer. Nicole and the girls plan to join him on tour in the U.S. this summer.



CLOCKWISE (FROM FAR LEFT): ANDREAS TISCHLER; ELISABETH TOLLOMEGA; BLUE WASP/GREY; SPLASH NEWS; RAINER ECKHARTER/REX FEATURES/OP