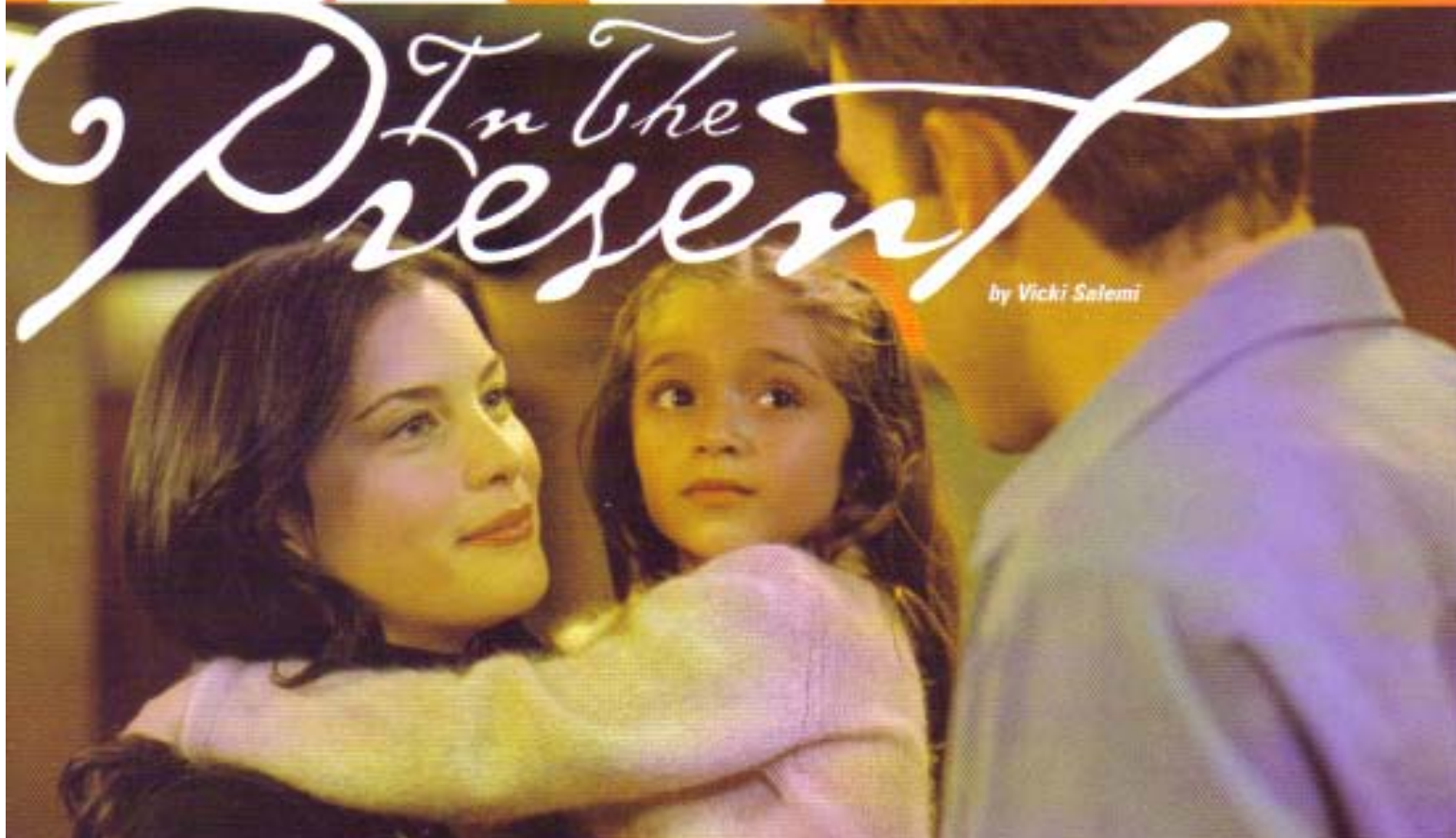




FROM MIDDLE-EARTH TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD, LOVELY LIV TYLER IS HOLLYWOOD'S NEW LEADING LADY.



by Vicki Salemi

She's in the most successful movie trilogy of all time, and has the face and "it" factor to launch countless magazine covers. There's no doubt about it: Liv Tyler's star power is on the rise.

Since first strutting her stuff on the fashion catwalk at the age of 14 and launching a movie career a decade ago, Liv, whose name means "life" in Norwegian, Swedish and Danish, has been working steadily. "My mom used to tell me all the time I'd be an actress because I was such a drama queen," the 26-year old says. "I used to perform and was really outgoing and put little skits on in the living room!"

This sweet, soft-spoken actress has come a long way since those living room performances. The daughter of Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler, Liv grew up in the spotlight (she appeared in Aerosmith's "Crazy" video) and was never that far away from getting input from her famous father.

"In a way, my dad's always surprised by me and the decisions that I make because I'm so young and the decisions that he was making when he was my age were horrible," Liv laughs. "I've never been particularly rebellious. I'm married (she

(What she has done, however, was accidentally leave her pair of prosthetic ears on the dashboard of her car while filming the trilogy. Get this – when she returned to her car, they had melted!)

Having recently starred in *Jersey Girl* with Ben Affleck (also her love interest in 1998's *Armageddon*), what's next for the recently-named international face of Givenchy Parfums? She's shooting a little independent film called *Lonesome Jim* starring none other than Ben's brother, Casey. Project after project, this woman's on a role!

"I'm kind of tired. I could use some sleep!" Liv smiles. But one can't help but wonder about the "tough" life she leads, sharing screen time with the hunky Affleck brothers, Viggo Mortensen (*LOTR*), Joaquin Phoenix (*Inventing the Abbotts*) or Johnathon Schaech (*That Thing You Do!*).

"I seem to always be the only girl in movies with all these guys," she says, noting that it's a demanding business, not just monkey business. "Working's always scary because there's so much responsibility and pressure. No matter how much you're laughing, you still need to go on the set and everyone's relying on you."

"If everybody looked the same, it would be such a boring world. I particularly like that everybody's really different."

wed Spacehog's Royston Langdon in April 2003), I have a husband and a home – the building blocks of creating a foundation in my life that is really good for me. I think that (my dad's) just surprised by that sometimes. He always says, "Where did you come from? Who are you?"

Playing Elven Princess Arwen in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy has introduced well-grounded Liv Tyler to a younger, fervent legion of fans. And with that kind of cult celebrity comes some pretty ridiculous rumours, like that she constantly speaks in her Middle-earth native tongue.

"I don't speak Elvish all the time – there were all these (rumours) for a while that I was leaving Elvish on people's answering machines and I was like, 'Never done that,'" she says. "I haven't had many weird *Lord of the Rings* things like that."

Fair-skinned Liv, casually dressed for the interview in jeans and a light gray lace top with a striped pastel scarf, is a natural beauty in every sense of the word. She tosses the "thin is in" mindset out the window and encourages people to accept who they are.

"In the past couple of years, I was probably a little bit heavier and went a few pounds up and down. People are so critical and it's sort of ridiculous because I'm not a supermodel, I'm an actor. I'm also a young woman – and young women go through changes.

"You go to something like the Oscars and you see everybody's so different in their style and their shapes and that's what makes them unique. If everybody looked the same, it would be such a boring world. I particularly like that everybody's really different," says the vegetarian and reported Pilates student. "I just try to be as healthy as I can and be comfortable in myself." ●

Rise and Get Risi

Our Favourite Tyler Movie Roles

Maya in

JERSEY GIRL (2004)

Arwen in

THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY (2001-2003)

Jewel in

ONE NIGHT AT MCCOOL'S (2001)

Marilyn in

DR. T & THE WOMEN (2000)

Grace Stamper in

ARMAGEDDON (1998)

Pamela Abbott in

INVENTING THE ABBOTTS (1997)

Faye Dolan in

THAT THING YOU DO! (1996)

Corey Mason in

EMPIRE RECORDS (1995)

