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ACTRESS SUSAN SARANDON FROM "ATLANTIC CITY"

WAS A NATURAL BIG SISTER AS OLDEST OF NINE

Art imitates life for actress Susan Sarandon in her role as Sally in the Louis Malle Film, Paramount Pictures' "Atlantic City," starring her opposite Burt Lancaster, Michel Piccoli, Hollis McLaren and Kate Reid as Grace.

In the film, for which Ms. Sarandon won the 1981 Canadian Cinema Genie Award for Best Performance by a Foreign Actress, she portrays a young woman who arrives at the gambling mecca with hopes of dealing herself a better hand in the game of life. Directed by Malle, the film was produced by Denis Héroux and written by John Guare.

Sarandon's character of Sally is a young person who has spent most of her life holding everything together for those around her--taking care of her younger sister, Chrissie, and filling in for the moral lapses in her husband's character. She sets out alone to find a new life for herself, and arrives in Atlantic City, the rejuvenated gambling mecca with the complex of a decayed resort town. Sally finds that the biggest gamble of all is to take a chance on someone else, when she meets Lou, an aging, small-time hood, played by Burt Lancaster.

In real life, Ms. Sarandon, the oldest of nine children, found her identity as a child occasionally sacrificed to the family as a whole.



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"It grounded me," she confesses. "If someone was in pain, I'd be there right away, even if they were stepping on my foot." But it all ultimately worked out for the best, she points out, maintaining that when you come from a large family, you learn to be flexible. "Whatever measure of common sense I now have is the result of being the oldest child."

"Atlantic City" was the co-winner of the Golden Lion Best Film Award at the 1980 Venice Film Festival as well as winner of three Canadian Cinema Genie Awards, including the one for Sarandon. It is a romantic thriller set in the East Coast resort city whose declining fortunes have been dramatically reversed with the introduction of legalized gambling casinos. The film is populated with characters hoping to get a new lease on life, much like the city itself.

Sarandon rejoins director Malle in "Atlantic City." Her first role for him was in Paramount Pictures' "Pretty Baby," also starring Brooke Shields and Keith Carradine. She was voted Star of 1979 by the Motion Picture Bookers' Association and recently appeared with Shirley MacLaine and James Coburn in "Loving Couples."

Susan was born in Edison, New Jersey, a small commuter town one hour's drive from Atlantic City. Before entering college, where she majored in drama, Ms. Sarandon won a scholarship to the Boston Conservatory of Ballet. She married Chris Sarandon while still in university, and the couple was signed by a New York agent shortly afterwards.

Ms. Sarandon won a major role in the box-office hit "Joe" and has become an idol of the cult circuit for her characterization of Janet in the underground classic, "The Rocky Horror Show." She

was critically acclaimed for her role as Katherine in "The Other Side of Midnight" and more recently starred in "King of the Gypsies" with Sterling Hayden, Eric Roberts and Brooke Shields. She appeared in "Last of the Cowboys," starring Henry Fonda and Eileen Brennan, which she also co-produced.

Physically fit, Ms. Sarandon prefers to do her own stunt work whenever possible and her hobbies include driving racing cars, and playing the drums to all sorts of music, from classical to punk.

She insists her entire life is ruled by Venus, believes absolutely in the power of love. "I have a very strong fate line," she points out, "and I segue into things almost as if I'm being led there."

An I.C.C.-International Cinema Corporation presentation of a John Kemeny-Denis Héroux production, "Atlantic City" was written by John Guare. Michel Legrand composed and conducted the music.

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