

Alicia Silverstone is the central focus of the image, shown from the chest up. She has long, wavy, light brown hair and is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a white, long-sleeved blouse with a ruffled collar. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

ALICIA SILVERSTONE

‘We’re All
Perfectly
Imperfect’

THE ACTRESS REFLECTS ON LIFE IN QUARANTINE,
RAISING HER 8-YEAR-OLD SON AND THE NEW PROJECTS
THAT KEEP HER BUSIER THAN EVER *By* **GILLIAN TELLING**

It's been 25 years since Alicia Silverstone first stormed Hollywood and stole hearts as Cher Horowitz, the lovable but spoiled teen with a heart of gold in 1995's *Clueless*. "It feels like a lifetime ago," she says of the breakout role—which Reese Witherspoon recently admitted she'd auditioned for. "I almost don't remember who I was then because I was just 18. So much has happened since."

There have been 35 movies, eight TV series and plays such as David Mamet's *Boston Marriage* in Los Angeles and *Time Stands Still* on Broadway. ("I love, love doing theater," she says.) There was a 13-year marriage to musician Christopher Jarecki; a son, Bear, born in 2011; and a divorce in 2018.

Silverstone lives with Bear and two rescue dogs in Los Angeles, not far from Jarecki, with whom she co-parents. That's been especially convenient during the coronavirus epidemic. "I'm cooking and cleaning, and without regular school it's hard to do much else," she says. "Luckily we have Bear's dad, so my son goes to his place for a few hours while I get some work done, and then we'll take the dogs on a walk, maybe do some yoga or kids exercises, then dinner and reading... then the day is gone!"

The stay-at-home pause is unusual for Silverstone, who is working as much as ever. At 43, she's having a moment as a stream queen. She's starring in three upcoming projects: *Bad Therapy*, a dark comedy with Rob Corddry about a sociopathic marriage counselor (on demand April 17); *Valley Girl*, a musical remake of the 1983 Nicolas Cage classic (on demand May 8); and the original series *The Baby-Sitters Club*, based on the beloved Ann M. Martin books, coming to Netflix soon. "I'm busy!" she says with a laugh, adding that she's also working on new products for her organic Mykind vitamin brand, and that she has two book ideas



Parenting in Isolation
Silverstone's pandemic agenda with Bear: meals, pets and patience. "We cook together, and we take the dogs on walks. Our dogs occupy a lot of time," she says. Her advice for parents who might lose their cool? "The best thing you can do is say sorry. We all have our moments."

she needs to get a jump on. (The longtime vegan published her first book, *The Kind Diet*, in 2009.) "There's not enough time in the day for anything," she says. "I don't understand it!"

The daughter of British parents (dad Monty, a former real estate agent, and mom Didi, a former flight attendant), Silverstone was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay area and started modeling and doing commercial work when she was 6 years old. At 15, she was cast as a disturbed teenager out to ruin a married man in the psychological thriller *The Crush* and then she became every teen boy's dream girl starring in the videos for Aerosmith's songs "Cryin'" and "Crazy." But everywhere she goes, she is recognized for *Clueless*. "People are really respectful," she says. "Sometimes they'll shout

Silverstone's Onscreen Life as a Mom



The Baby-Sitters Club

In the Netflix series (coming soon) Silverstone plays mom Elizabeth to Kristy (Sophie Grace).



Bad Therapy

In the dark comedy (on demand April 17), she plays a mother (with Rob Corddry and Anna Pniowsky) whose therapist wants to destroy her marriage.

Valley Girl

In the musical remake of the '80s film (on demand May 8), Silverstone plays Judy, who retells her story of falling in love with a punk rocker to her daughter (played by Camila Morrone).





Gone Too Soon
Clueless launched the career of Brittany Murphy (far left), then 17, who played Cher's makeover project Tai. She died in 2009 at age 32 of pneumonia. "She was so warm and so sweet," Silverstone said.

catchphrases like 'As if!' but it's more like they'll come up and be apologetic, like, 'I'm so sorry, I just have to tell you, you must get this a million times a day, but I just loved *Clueless* so much.' They are always just kind and loving about it."

Clueless Turns 25!

Where They Are Now



Stacey Dash

After playing Cher's best friend, Dionne, the mom of two, 53, was a commentator on Fox News from 2014 to 2017. She is a vocal conservative.



Paul Rudd

Then 25, he played Josh, the moody college kid who ended up with Cher. Now he's a dad of two and a superstar, playing Ant-Man in the Marvel Universe films.



Donald Faison

He played Murray, who dated Dionne. After *Clueless* he starred as Dr. Chris Turk on *Scrubs* for nine years. The dad of six, 45, just launched a *Scrubs* podcast with Zach Braff.



Elisa Donovan

She was Cher's nemesis Amber and later starred in the *Clueless* sitcom and in *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*. The mom of one, now 49, is still acting.



Breckin Meyer

Tai's skater boyfriend, now 45, has been a fixture onscreen, most notably on *Franklin & Bash*. The dad of two also voiced characters on *Robot Chicken* and *King of the Hill*.

Now frequently cast as a mom, Silverstone is a role model to her young costars. "I always grow close to the people I work with," she says. "I was especially close with Lia McHugh on last year's *The Lodge* and [2018's] *American Woman*. It's so lovely to watch young women grow as actresses."

The eagerly awaited *Baby-Sitters Club* should further broaden Silverstone's appeal—and her audience. "I'm one of those weirdos who had never heard of the books before," she admits. "I was more of a V.C. Andrews girl, though I'm not sure what that says about me. But what I love about this show is how these characters have such kind, thoughtful friendships, and the lead is this strong, feisty little girl [Sophie Grace]. Bear watched and loved it and wasn't like, 'I'm watching a show about girls!' He just loved the characters."

Silverstone is relishing the extra hours she gets to spend with her son during quarantine, many of them devoted to staying healthy. "I'm making things like miso soups and kinpira [lotus root] stew, foods that are nourishing and healing," she says. "I always eat really clean, but I'm mindful about wanting to keep our immune systems strong so we can be resilient and be able to fight off any infection and take control of our health as best we can." Luckily, Bear is on board. "He and I love to cook together," she says. "He's a little chef. He's always helped in the kitchen, but one day out of nowhere he made dinner for me, and I couldn't believe it. He makes delicious meals."

And he enjoys sharing them with his mom. "This morning Bear woke up and asked if we could have pancakes, and I was like, 'Actually yes!'" Silverstone says. "We don't have to rush off to school, so we can have pancakes. It's such a surreal time, but the sweet part is you get to slow down a little bit." Though the pandemic is relentless, she says, "we can't be hard on ourselves. Our kids know we're not perfect. We're all perfectly imperfect." ●

'I'm so grateful that my family and I are healthy'

(STILLS) EVERETT (6); (ELISA) JUSTIN BAKER/WIREIMAGE; (STACEY) JC OLIVERA/GETTY IMAGES; (RUDD) LARS NIKI/GETTY IMAGES; (DONALD) GARY GERSHOFF/GETTY IMAGES; (BRECKIN) TOMMASO BODDI/WIREIMAGE