



1986

Pretty  
in Pink

2020

Ringwald  
says her young  
*Riverdale*  
fans are “just  
discovering” her  
'80s-idol past.

then  
& now!

Molly Ringwald

# From Brat Packer to Modern Mom

Molly Ringwald knows that the '80s made her famous—but the actress, writer and singer, who now stars on the CW's *Riverdale*, has no desire to live in the past. “I can’t tell you how many times I get asked to do '80s-related stuff,” she says. “I mean, I’m always going to have that history and those films, but I also very much live in the present. I like to keep moving forward.” That doesn’t mean she isn’t incredibly grateful to have launched her career with movies like *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club* and *Pretty in Pink*. “People have so many positive associations with those films, so usually when they see me, they’re pretty happy,” she says. “I love all my projects, but they’ll always have a place in my heart.”

Now 51, the mom of three kids (Mathilda, 16, and twins Roman and Adele, 10) lives a more low-key life, relishing being at home in New York with her husband, Panio Gianopoulos, 44, and family when she’s not filming *Riverdale* in Vancouver. “I’m focusing on writing right now. I’m working on a screenplay I’d like to direct and a collection of essays,” says Ringwald, who also stars in a new Super Bowl ad for Avocados from Mexico. “That and I’m looking at colleges for my daughter next year, which is crazy.”

She stayed grounded through teen stardom and beyond by maintaining her privacy, she says. “That’s not to say I didn’t go through stuff. I just did it in a more private way. I figured out pretty early that substance abuse wasn’t going to give me the life I wanted.” Plus, back in the '80s, “there was no Twitter, no Instagram, no reality TV. It was so much easier to keep your private and public lives separate.”

— GILLIAN TELLING

‘I LIKE TO LOOK  
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NOSTALGIA’



## Her Life Now

“I’m actually a huge fan of avocados,” says Ringwald with a laugh of starring in a Super Bowl ad for Avocados from Mexico (left). Inset: With her husband and twins on Halloween 2019.

