

Teresa Palmer tapped into childhood fear for 'Lights Out'

Teresa Palmer says she tapped into a part of herself that was scared of the dark as a child for her new horror movie, "Lights Out." "I remember I had a touch-lamp next to my bed and I would tap it on the brightest light, and I remember my mom would always come in and she was like, 'That's too bright to sleep, we've got to put it on the dimmer one,' and I was like, 'OK, goodnight, mom.' And then (push the button) right back up to the bright one. I was just petrified."

In "Lights Out," now in theaters, Palmer plays a young woman who has distanced herself from her family because of trauma she experienced growing up, but is drawn back in when her younger brother begins to experience the same things she went through.

Palmer says playing out the emotional scenes sometimes took its physical toll on the set where she had migraines for three days. One thing that's funny in retrospect, she says, is the woman who plays an evil spirit in the film is actually "the sweetest" in real life.

"I know her actually. She was my stunt double in 'I Am Number 4.' Her name's Alicia Vela-Bailey and she's this incredible stunt woman and a contortionist and she's very thin and lean and the way she can move her body was really abnormal. I've never seen anyone being able to move their body like that, so she just made it so scary, and then in the suit (costume), she'd be talking about her wedding dress and she's so excited and in a few weeks she's getting married," she said with a laugh.

Palmer was also quick to bond with her young co-star, Gabriel Bateman, who plays her brother. "I would always check with him and make sure, 'Are you doing OK? How are you feeling? Should we take a break?'"

The 30-year-old actress, who is expecting her second son with actor, writer, director Mark Webber later this year, says she's always had a connection with kids. "I've always been so fond of children. I remember when I was 10, all my little friends were the 6-year-old little girls and boys at school that I'd take under my wing and take to the playground. I've always been very maternal in that sense but it's just been heightened now that I'm actually a mother."

After appearing in nine films since 2014, Palmer says she's planning a "year of no." When she resumes working, she looks forward to taking her children to the set. "I have the luxury of being able to work and being a mama because Hollywood is really embracing working moms these days, so I can bring my son everywhere. He's traveled to every film set. I haven't spent a day away from him. Every day he's with me. It's nice you have so much downtime as an actor that you're in your trailer with your family, you go and shoot for a little bit and then you're back with your family again." —AP



NEW YORK: Actress Teresa Palmer, star of the horror film, "Lights Out," poses for a portrait on July 18, 2016. — AP



NEW YORK: Rihanna attends the JFENTY PUMA by Rihanna fashion show on Feb. 12, 2016. — AP

Rihanna to play Marion Crane in 'Bates Motel'

Rihanna is checking into the final season of "Bates Motel" as Marion Crane. The cast and crew of the A&E drama announced Friday at San Diego Comic-Con International that the singer-actress will join them to portray the role originated by Janet Leigh in the original film version of "Psycho."

"Let me tell you what a bad bitch is about to do," Rihanna said in a video played during the "Bates Motel" panel. "I'm about to check into the Bates Motel very soon."

"Bates Motel" executive producers Kerry Ehrin and Carlton Cuse were on hand at the pop-culture convention with cast members Vera Farmiga, Freddie Highmore, Max Thieriot and Nestor Carbonell on Friday to discuss the show's upcoming fifth and final season.

Cuse said he and Ehrin heard Rihanna was a fan of the psychological series and called her casting the "perfect collision of creativity and fate." In the film, the character famously meets her bloody demise in the shower of Room 1.

The modern-day "Psycho" prequel debuted in 2013 and features Highmore and Farmiga as Norma and Norman Bates operating the motel in the coastal town of White Pine Bay, Oregon. While best known for songs such as "Umbrella" and "Work," Rihanna's previous acting credits include the board game adaptation "Battleship" and the apocalypse comedy "This is the End." — AP

Q&A: Patsy, Eddie and friend Kate Moss hit the big screen

Champagne socialites Eddie and Patsy are back onscreen in a movie spin-off of the hugely popular BBC television series "Absolutely Fabulous." The film comes 24 years after the self-absorbed duo, played by Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, first hit TV screens in 1992. The pair sat down to talk about the transformation to the big screen, convincing supermodel Kate Moss to film in the Thames and the possibility of more movies. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Associated Press: Was the series always going to be a film? Was that always in the back of your minds that you'd put it onto the big screen?

Joanna Lumley: It was always in the back of Jennifer's mind ever since I placed it there in 1995. So, she's been thinking about this for a long time.

Jennifer Saunders: Yeah, every time I saw you, you'd go to me, "Do a film, write a film, write a film."

AP: Honestly, really, was it?
Saunders: Seriously, and then she started telling the press that I was writing a film, so I actually had to write a film. Otherwise I just look stupid. "What happened to the film?" We go, "There was no film, Joanna made it up."

AP: Getting Kate Moss on board - was she written in from the beginning?

Saunders: I wrote the whole thing and then forgot to ask her. Wrote the whole thing, sold it to Fox and the BBC and they said, "So Kate's up for it?" I went, (snaps fingers) "Got to ask Kate." I just thought she'd be cool about it and she was cool about it. She's, you know... I thought, well if she says no, we have to get a picture of her or something and push it off the balcony.

Lumley: Did you really think that? You didn't think that would work on a movie did you? You didn't think pushing a photograph off the edge would work?

Saunders: To be honest, I didn't think it through.

Lumley: No, you haven't thought it through, Jennifer. This is not the first time.

Saunders: No, I know. We were very lucky - very lucky - that she said yes.

AP: And she's such a good sport, as well. I mean, was she actually in the Thames?

Lumley: Oh my God yes.

Saunders: Yes. She was so good and people were going, "Have a cup of tea, have a blanket" and she'd go, "Oh, you're all being so nice. If this was a modeling shoot they'd just leave me here and tell me to stop shivering."

AP: What was the atmosphere like on set, was there any actual partying?

Saunders: It's hard work because you have to fit an awful lot into a day and you cannot afford to get behind because if you start getting behind then everything falls apart. So, we're on a very tight schedule and we moved like the wind.

Lumley: We did, however, have a lunch break when we were filming the Hooke Mookie party and we had a lunch break at the wonderful old Prospect of Whitby, which is one of the most ancient of the English pubs, London pubs.

Saunders: We were filming right opposite there, yeah.

Lumley: And who was in there?

ture." Lulu and Emma Bunton probably.

Lumley: Yes, I think she was there. The pub was really cool. They just brought us food.

Saunders: Honestly it was... We had such a lovely time that day. Just hanging out at the Prospect of Whitby with the gang.

AP: And do you think this movie is paving the way for any more? Can you see a sequel or more films coming out?

Lumley: Yes we can.

Saunders: You see, she's started already. She's started already.



Saunders: There was a lunch and then we got a picture of it, all sitting outside the pub, and it was you, Kate, Gwendoline Christie, Jon Hamm, Janette Togh.

Lumley: You.

Saunders: Celia Imrie, Bruno Tonioli. It's just like...

Lumley: It was extraordinary. This is just a sample of some of us clumped together there eating fish and chips.

Saunders: We were all going, "Look at that pic-

Lumley: Yes. I am pleased to say we can see a future.

Saunders: She's started already. In a year's time people will be going, "Where's the sequel, Jennifer?" I'll say, "There was no sequel. There was no movie." — AP

In this image released by Fox Searchlight Pictures, Jennifer Saunders, left, and Joanna Lumley appear in a scene from the film, "Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie." — AP

Star of 'The Bachelor' not running for office after all

Ben Higgins, the most recent star of ABC's "The Bachelor," announced Friday he had abandoned a campaign for public office in Colorado, just two days after filing the required paperwork to run.

Higgins planned to run as a Republican for a Denver state House district that is overwhelmingly Democratic. He filed paperwork to do so Wednesday. In a statement from Disney-

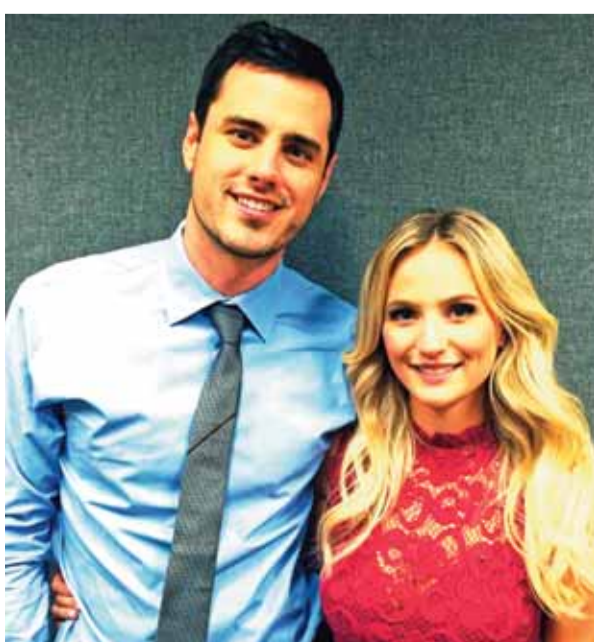
ABC Television Group, Higgins said that "due to unforeseen circumstances, I will not be able to move forward as a candidate."

"Despite my best efforts to pursue this opportunity in good faith, I recently received information that has made such a pursuit unworkable," Higgins said. Higgins was to face Democratic Rep. Dan Pabon, who was recently sentenced to one year probation after pleading guilty to drunken driving in March. Pabon came under fire to resign after police this week released a video of the traffic stop that shows him asking a police officer to call the city attorney or his supervisor before he was arrested.

Higgins appeared last year on ABC's "The Bachelorette." This year, he was star of "The Bachelor" and lives in northwest Denver with his fiancée, Lauren Bushnell. The two have a new show airing this fall, "Ben and Lauren: Happily Ever After."

Dustin Olson, a campaign consultant to Higgins, suggested in a prepared statement that Higgins' decision wasn't a strictly political one, but he didn't elaborate. "Ben and our team are incredibly disappointed," Olson said. "Between support from our friends in the Republican Party, building a talented campaign team, and lining up financial support, we were ready to kick off the campaign with huge announcement rally next week." ABC-Disney and Colorado's Republican Party didn't immediately have comment on the announcement. Higgins had planned to run on a small-government platform that emphasized advocating for affordable housing and small businesses. — AP

NEW YORK: Ben Higgins and Lauren Bushnell pose for a photo on March 15, 2016. — AP



'Scream Queens' reveals changes for Season Two

"I think it's bloodier and funnier," said executive producer Ian Brennan during Friday's Comic-Con panel to talk about the second season of the Fox series "Scream Queens." "I feel like we're leaning into the creepiness a little more and the comedy a little more." The action is moving from the Kappa house and jumping three years into the future where we find out the cast is in a hospital that just happens to be owned by a familiar face. "Dean Munsch parlayed her fame as an icon in the movement called New Feminism and her subsequent book tour and parlayed that money and purchases a hospital," Brennan said. The hospital is also a former asylum but, he confirmed, not the same hospital seen at the end of season one.

Along with Brennan, returning cast members Jamie Lee Curtis (Munsch), Emma Roberts (Chanel), Abigail Breslin (Libby), Billie Lourd (Sadie), Keke Palmer (Zayday), Lea Michele (Hester) and new cast members John Stamos (Brock Holt) and Taylor Lautner (Cassidy Cascade) were present for the panel. Glen Powell (Chad Radwell) will also be returning, though he wasn't in San Diego. For Stamos, joining the cast as the hospital head of surgery was a no-brainer given he'd already appeared on "Glee" and "The Normal Heart" (both series executive produced by Brennan, Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk). After the cancellation of his sitcom "Grandfathered," he talked to Brennan, who explained a bit about the character he had in mind for him: "You play a doctor but you're going to be the recipient of the first complete hand transplant." The origins of that hand, however, will be one of the many questions in the new season. Also entering the "Scream Queens" world is Taylor Lautner, who said he was excited to join the series. "It's

completely different for me," said the "Twilight" star. "I've never done anything like this, and I just wanted to work with talented people." Besides the additions of Stamos and Lautner, it was announced earlier today that former "Arrow"/"Teen Wolf" star Colton Haynes would appear in the new season. "Saturday Night Live" star Cecily Strong is also set to guest star as a patient in the hospital.

As for the Chanels, who dominated the Kappa house in the first season, the mean girls are not exactly where we saw them previously. "They have fallen from glamour but they're trying to hold onto it," revealed Roberts. "It's really funny to see them try to hold onto their style when they have no money and they have to work, which is something completely foreign to them."

But what about Hester, who was revealed to be the killer at the end of season one? "When we come back, we don't know where Hester is," Michele said. "It's great when you find out." While Brennan would not comment on whether the new season's storyline would be linked to the baby mystery in the first season, he did say, "We're in the same world, the same universe." Roberts, who had appeared on the Coven season of "American Horror Story," was asked if she might also appear in the upcoming season of the FX horror show. "I think that there might be [a chance]...now we're both in LA so maybe," she said. "I love that show so much." Season two of "Scream Queens" premieres on September 20 at 9pm on Fox. — Reuters