

# COSMOPOLITAN

Cosmo's  
Cover Model  
Search  
25 Semifinalists  
Vote for Your  
Favorite!

APRIL 2003

**WOW HIM TONIGHT!**

## 50 SEXY SURPRISES

Just When You Thought You'd Tried Everything, We Whipped Up Some All-New, All-Naughty Twists (#39 Will Blow His Mind)

**Renée Zellweger**  
Lets Loose About Love

**[ MAKE LOVE LAST WITH THESE 6 LITTLE RITUALS ]**

**Yikes!**  
5 Things You Do That Creep Him Out in Bed

The Flirtiest New Hairstyles

**TOO HOT FOR TV**

## Guy Confessions Special

**JUICY JOE MILLIONAIRE PHOTOS**

He's Got No Cash, but Check Out His "Assets"

Some Very Bad Boys Spill Their Sleaziest, Stupidest Scams. If the Stories Weren't So Freakin' Funny, We'd Cry

**YOU, YOU, YOU**  
Obliterate Stress by Discovering Your Hidden Triggers (Everyone Has Them)



www.cosmopolitan.com



Cinematic chameleon:  
From sweet to sexy,  
Renée can play it all.

# RED-HOT RENEE

She had us all at hello in *Jerry Maguire*, scored one for singletons everywhere in *Bridget Jones's Diary*, and floored audiences in her fishnets in *Chicago*. Now, the awe-inspiring actress explores romantic game-playing in *Down With Love*. Read on as she chats about dating in Hollywood, her weakness for rock stars, and the one thing she'd dump a guy for.

By Jennifer Graham

■ Renée Zellweger is a bona fide movie star—*Jerry Maguire*, *Nurse Betty*, and *Bridget Jones's Diary* are a few résumé highlights—but she acts more like a grammar-school pal. While the point of this Cosmo rendezvous is to get Renée to dish about her upcoming romantic comedy, *Down With Love*, she's the one throwing out the questions. Some are breezy ("Have you seen Springsteen sing with his wife? And the way he looks at her?"). Others are brainy ("Why do you think negativity is so rampant in the media today?"). It's as if she's waited months for today's gabfest.

And since she's having fun, she doesn't seem to mind swapping dating stories with an acquaintance she's just met (and who's brought along a tape recorder). "This is a treat for me," she says, referring to the fact that most of her interviews as of late have been all business. "I really don't meet people. And when I do, they don't really talk about normal stuff like this."

That probably has something to do with the fact that she just came off an intense publicity campaign for her starring role as Roxie Hart in the award-season darling *Chicago*. (At press time, her role had won her a Golden Globe for best actress and

earned her an Academy Award nomination.) But the levelheaded 33-year-old from Katy, Texas, takes it all in stride.

She has always chosen films for their potential to be "an enriching experience." She did small dramas like *A Price Above Rubies* and big comedies like *Me, Myself, and Irene*. Her only formula is not to have one, and the theme continues with her upcoming flicks: this month's satiric sex romp *Down With Love* and a Civil War drama, *Cold Mountain*, out Christmas Day.

But as big or small as the project may be, the gossip columnists keep tagging along. During *Bridget Jones*, Renée got more ink for gaining Bridget's extra 20 pounds than for her acting, which was so good, it earned her an Oscar nod. (Renée just signed on for a second *Bridget* and another 20 pounds.) And now that she's slimmed way down, some gossips snipe that she's anorexic. "What you look like is a reflection of a lot of things," Renée says, sighing. "Hard work, happiness, sadness, time off, or an exercise regimen. And for me it might be a reflection of some movie." The rumors clearly bother her.

But when the conversation shifts to love and dating, Renée turns bubbly and

## RENÉE'S RED-CARPET LOOKS

Our girl's earned a rep for dressing elegantly.



**APRIL '01**

In vintage Oleg Cassini at the Met

**MARCH '01**

At the Oscars in vintage Jean Dessès



**DEC. '02**

Chicago premiere, London, in Chanel couture

**DEC. '02**

NYC Chicago premiere in Carolina Herrera

**JAN. '03**

Vintage Valentino couture at the Golden Globes

clever. A recent gossip column said that she and George Clooney were "lip locked...at the after-party for *Chicago* in Los Angeles and went home together afterward." Renée simply says, "I have nothing to do with my tabloid image." But she doesn't shy away from the topic either. Maybe she's prepping herself for talk of her new movie?

In *Down With Love*, she plays a sassy '60s-era Doris Day-like beauty, and Ewan McGregor is her Rock Hudson. Her character, Barbara Novak, believes "if women are more cavalier about sexual relationships, then they won't be as likely to get caught up in men's games," she says. "And [Ewan's character] sets out to prove she's fooling herself." Since *Down With Love* is all about the roller coaster of love, we decided to talk with Renée about her own views on the saucy subject...

### Are you more of a hopeless romantic or a realist like your *Down With Love* character?

I'm an extreme on both ends. Is that possible? I *am* a hopeless romantic. I believe in love because I've experienced it.

### What does your inner realist say?

I believe in love, but I'm not sitting around waiting for it. I buy houses. I travel. I take jobs on mountaintops in Transylvania [the Romanian region where *Cold Mountain* was filmed]. I make decisions based on what I have now, today. Because I know that happiness comes in many ways and if you spend your life hoping to be found by or to find a significant other, you're going to miss out on all that stuff. And that's what makes you special and makes your life rich.

### Sure, but your love life seems pretty rich too. You're becoming known for your celebrity beaus.

Am I? That's crazy to me. I've only dated one [Jim Carrey] for not even a year. And I was in England for half that year.

### Supposedly, you were engaged to him.

I know. The English papers wrote that I was proposed to in a West End restaurant with a ring, and they included the size and cost of the ring. But it was all made up. I'd only been dating him for three months. As if I would consider marriage after only three months!

### So you've never been engaged?

No. And I have a mythical relationship floating around right now—that's been floating around for a couple of years—that somebody made up and it just snowballed and kept going.

### You mean George Clooney?

I don't talk about who [*laughs*]! I'm very good friends with a couple of celebrity men, and I see them a lot. But I haven't dated anybody, and I haven't had a boyfriend since that one [Carrey].

### Okay, so you're single. Do you want to get married?

I don't require it. If I meet that best friend that I'm in love with, then sure. But otherwise, no. I do sit back sometimes and wonder about it. My girlfriend [*Down With Love* costar] Sarah Paulson and I were laughing one day because we couldn't get over how gorgeous Ewan McGregor is. You just die when you see him.

### He's married, right?

Yes, and he has this beautiful, clever wife and the most beautiful children you've ever seen. They're just to die for. And Sarah and I were like, "Wait a second! What's wrong with us? If a guy is making a list of things he's hoping for in a girl—beautiful, professional, self-sufficient, smart, funny, interesting—where are *we* on that list?"

### Did you go on more dates before or after you became famous?

Before. Because now no one asks.

### Why not?

I don't know why [*laughs*]. I don't say, "Excuse me. I was wondering, has it crossed your mind to invite me to lunch? And if not, why not?" [*More laughter*]

### But you should have no problem picking up guys.

I can't do that—go to a bar, meet a guy, get his phone number, and see what happens. It takes me a long time to get to know somebody, and I value friendship. I certainly don't want 90 guys to have my number and come to my house and know me intimately and then move on. There has to be a true connection or something that I admire in that person.

### So your memoirs won't be full of casual-sex stories?

No, but I don't judge people who do it. If you're interested in that, then go for it. It's nice that women have the prerogative to choose. But I'd like to have nice

conversations with a man that teach me something, make me mad, make me curious. And *then* I find him attractive.

#### What else attracts you?

It's always about the heart and his ability to empathize. And he has to make me laugh, but in a smart way, not by putting himself on display or being the showy guy.

#### What about looks?

Sure, but you learn it doesn't matter. It's not a telltale. It's like credentials: "Oh,



As a dinky dating author in her latest movie

Renée's mastered the come-hither look of a Cosmo cover girl.



## RENÉE GETS DOWN WITH LOVE

Got a first date? Renée's been there. Here are her four tips on how to make it great.

### 1 SKIP THE MOVIES.

"It's dark and you want to ask him questions and you can't," she says. "Diners are cool. I like them because they're low-key and you can actually hear the person across the table."

### 2 ENTER HIS ELEMENT.

"One of the best dates I ever went on was water-skiing on Lake Austin," she says. "You get to see the guy in an active environment, and he's teaching you some-

thing, so you see how patient he is and what really interests him."

### 3 HAVE A PIMPLE.

"Don't obsess over a pimple," she says. "Guess what? Next week, or next year, if he wants to see you again, you're going to have another pimple."

### 4 QUIT OVER-THINKING.

"Don't have rules about what time it has to end and what you have to do afterward," she says. "Just do what's organic."

he went to so-and-so school?" But that doesn't mean he's smart.

**You're from Texas, where some men still open a woman's car door for her. Do you find modern chivalry charming or condescending?**

Well, what are his intentions? I don't want somebody to open the door for me because he's trying to manipulate me. But I dated a guy once from the Carolinas. When I'd pull up, he'd automatically come out to help with the groceries. That's sweet,

because you generally do need and appreciate help bringing in the groceries.

**Speaking of old boyfriends, can you stay friends with an ex?**

Oh, completely. One of my best friends is an ex-boyfriend. And I don't really think of him as an ex. It was just a process of getting to where we always needed to be. Which is perfect.

**What traits in a guy would cause you to dump him?**

To be dismissive of my dog [Woofy, a

collie-golden retriever mix]. If she has to be sent away from the table, well, then *he* can't be *across* the table.

#### Anything else?

If he's disrespectful of the waiter or the busboy, because it clearly means that his kindness is conditional and he divvies it up when it serves him to be nice. And I don't need a guy who raises his fists for any reason, even to protect me. I need a guy who neutralizes the situation and takes us *away* from the danger.

#### Can I get your five best dating tips?

Wait, I want to talk more about my relationships with celebrity men! Who else do they say I'm dating?

**One of the tabloids just linked you with Matthew Perry.**

I know Matthew. He's very nice and handsome. I'm not dating him either. But that's good. Let's make my list really good!

#### Do you go for rock stars?

Yeah! Where have all the rock stars gone? They're gone! No, they're not. There's The Strokes. And Paul McCartney. And Bruce Springsteen. Life is good. ■