



## BEAUTY

# SJP'S Cosmetics Confessional

*It's official: Sarah Jessica Parker loves HELLO! – and the feeling is definitely mutual. Here, we trade beauty secrets with the actress and style icon*

**As introductions to** Hollywood stars go, it doesn't get much better than this: "Oh HELLO!," Sarah Jessica Parker says when we meet in London. "I just love your magazine. Can I tell you a funny story about my first appearance in HELLO!?"

In the capital to launch her stunning new scent Stash, the committed Anglophile, who wishes she'd been born on this side of the Pond ("because Britain just seems to get me") is loving her time here – not least for the opportunity it gives her to meet UK fans and chat with her favourite magazine about beauty, fragrance and getting better with age.

**Sarah Jessica, why do you love HELLO! so much?**

"Because I love England. I was infinitely interested in the royal family when I first moved to New York and when we were filming *Sex And The City*, and nobody covers the royals like HELLO!. It was unlike any other weekly – it was so glossy and larger and it was only available at this newspaper stand on Times Square, where I could buy all my favourite international magazines. I would buy it every week as a luxury and say to [husband] Matthew, 'One day we're going to be in HELLO!.'"

**And of course your prediction came true...**

"Well, that's the funny part. I was in London years ago to see *Mamma Mia!* when it opened. Now, *Mamma Mia!* is a good musical, but it's not highbrow West End theatre. Anyway, we were gifted with all the *Mamma Mia!* merchandise and Matthew and I walked out carrying all this stuff and your photographer caught us. I mean, why couldn't we have been leaving the National Theatre after seeing Shakespeare or Dame Maggie Smith or Claire Bloom?"

**Do you enjoy being in London?**

"I love the UK. It's because my fragrance Lovely is so popular here that I got to create my new scent. And *Sex And The City* found an audience here almost before it did in the US. That's a huge deal. I almost wish I was

British. Oh my gosh, I feel a huge amount of gratitude to everyone in the UK."

**Tell us about your new scent, Stash...**

"It's very me. It's a rule-breaker and it doesn't subscribe to traditional scent conventions. I've been working on it since I launched Lovely more than ten years ago. It's the same perfumers, Clément and Laurent at IFF, and it's us taking a risk. It's unapologetically romantic, connected and sexy. Like nuzzling an old sweater that the person you love has left behind – it's the best version of the person you love. It has lots of cool woods, musk and patchouli, but is cut through with lavender,

leather, cognac and pistachio.

It's rich and cool and for everyone. At last, I can tell everyone what I've been wearing for years."

**The name is a little subversive...**

"I know that it has naughty connotations to do with drugs but, honestly, people are

smarter than we think. They get that it just means your most precious things – those you covet and collect. Ten years ago, when we started on the scent, it was risqué, but not now. And each label is applied by hand so it's unique."

**We all know that fragrances evoke memories and emotions. What does Stash conjure up for you?**

"So many memories. But what's exciting is that it's creating memories for my children. Now they smell it and say it smells like Mummy. I remember my mother getting ready and spraying on her precious perfume and me sitting downwind of her and breathing her in. I like the thought that my children can go into my closet now and smell my clothes and Stash and think of me."

**The campaign beautifully captures you, too...**

"Thank you. I think I am less traditionally feminine [in it] than the me in Lovely, but it's my same team: Serge Normant, my hairstylist; Leslie Lopez, my make-up artist; and Jon Dinapoli, the creative director I worked with on Lovely. It was done on the smallest budget

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ever, but that seems to have made it more intimate. We created the set and I wore a vintage dress that I've had for years. It's just me."

**You're known for your love of fashion. Which designers are you excited to wear right now?**

"Caroline Constas, who I'm wearing today. She's wonderful. I'm so excited about the Monse/de la Renta pairing. And – always – Prabal Gurung and Narciso Rodriguez and Lanvin."

**What about make-up? Talk us through your typical daytime look...**

"Lots of Laura Mercier Jungle eyeliner to do a smoky eye – I wear that five days out of seven and when I wash my face I don't even care if I get it all off. Then I add a touch of concealer and maybe a clear lip gloss. I put on sunscreen most days when it's sunny, but that really is it. I don't wear mascara or base. I don't know how to apply or even own any base."

**How do you care for your skin?**

"I use whatever soap is to hand to wash, then apply La Roche-Posay Toleriane Ultra Fluid, because it's light and unscented. Then it's a sunscreen from Coppertone or Neutrogena – anything from a drugstore."

**Do you have facials?**

"I dream of having facials and after wearing sunscreen all summer, I need one – but who has the time? Maybe once a year I go uptown to Mario Badescu, because they do the old-fashioned facials."

**Do you give your seven-year-old twin daughters Marion and Tabitha any beauty or style advice?**

"Oh, no. I mean, they ask what I think, but I'd rather instil good manners in them. I think that



if you behave well, then people are more likely to think you're beautiful, right?"

**During your time in London, you've kept fans updated on Instagram. Do you like social media?**

"Yes and no. I don't like it when people are mean or fight or insult each other or me. I mean, that hurts, right? But I think people are nicer on Instagram than Twitter. I don't have a manager to manage my social media – it's just me being me."

**Working in an industry that's youth obsessed, how comfortable are you with getting older?**

"Well, I can't do anything about it, so what the heck am I going to do? There's nothing. Clearly I'm not doing much to change the way I look. I'm comfortable because there are so many other things that make me legitimately uncomfortable and are more deserving of my concern. I have professional people to help me look my best when I'm working. And in my own life? Meh!" ❑



## SARAH JESSICA'S BEAUTY STASH

**1. Stash by Sarah Jessica Parker**, £60, from Boots and Superdrug. "It's not unisex or gender-neutral, it's just for everyone. It's the scent of a loved one and that can be anyone and everyone." **2. La Roche-Posay Toleriane Ultra Fluid**, £17.50, from Boots. "I've been using this for years. I can't wear moisturiser with scent in it and this never feels heavy." **3. Lancôme Gloss in Love in 302 Rose Oscar**, £20; visit [lancome.co.uk](http://lancome.co.uk) **4. Bumble and bumble Sunday Shampoo**, £19; visit [bumbleandbumble.co.uk](http://bumbleandbumble.co.uk). "Once a week I shampoo with this, but I still can't actually blow dry my own hair. Luckily I have Serge Normant to do that." **5. Lancôme Hypnôse Drama Mascara**, £23.50; visit [lancome.co.uk](http://lancome.co.uk). What Jessica wears when she's on the red carpet. **6. Laura Mercier Caviar Stick Eye Colour in Jungle, Khaki and Tuxedo**, £23 each, from Space NK. "This is my most-used make-up item – I never wear mascara unless I'm getting my make-up done for an event. It's easy to smudge, then you leave it to bake and it stays put. I wear it most days with maybe a touch of concealer." **7. Chanel Correcteur Perfection Long Lasting Concealer**, £27, from [boots.com](http://boots.com)

