

BY SAMANTHA PARRISH



changing FACES

Have some celebrities taken their anti-aging addiction a step too far?



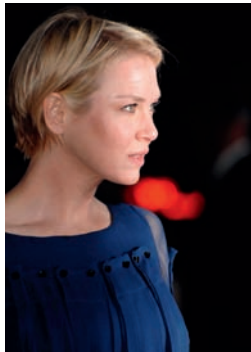
How often do you flick through a celebrity magazine or browse the internet and come across a celebrity you no longer recognise? In this day and age, when plastic and cosmetic surgery is becoming more and more popular, it isn't uncommon for your childhood celeb crush from the 1980s to have a completely different face in 2014. Ironically, aesthetic doctors are reporting a trend towards more natural and subtle changes, but there are still those – clients and surgeons – who take anti-aging a step too far.

Aging, while inevitable, has become something fewer and fewer people want to accept as part of a natural process, taking matters into their own hands to slow the hands of time, to feel better about their appearance, and themselves. While some surgical and non-surgical options can give us a more youthful appearance, others can make us look like completely different people.



2009

2008



THE 'NEW FACE' OF RENÉE ZELLWEGER

Renée Zellweger, known for her quirky role in the *Bridget Jones' Diary* movies, recently appeared at *ELLE US* magazine's Women in Hollywood awards, and left the public, fellow celebrities and tabloids gossiping about her dramatically different appearance.

The 45-year-old actress, who has always been known for her youthful, girl-next-door looks, appeared almost unrecognisable on the evening. She attributed her new appearance to a positive change in her lifestyle, as well as natural aging. But plastic surgeons are sceptical.

According to Drs Michael Edwards and Stuart Linder, based in Beverly Hills, Zellweger's looks have changed dramatically because her most distinctive features have changed dramatically. "It doesn't seem likely that she has had any invasive surgery, such as a mini-facelift, done," Edwards said. "Still, it's a pretty remarkable change."

They suggest the most significant difference in Zellweger's appearance is the change to her eyes, which are the centre of the face and the first part of the face we are drawn to, and that this could have occurred due to her brows being lowered and fat pads under her lower lids being removed. Linder also believes there have been some changes made to the actual shape of her face, which he explains "would have been achieved through the plumping of her jawline with cosmetic filler". The final change the two surgeons point out is what has occurred to make her cheekbones more prominent, which they say could be attributed to some weight loss, natural aging, as well as minor Botox, which would have made them plumper and reduced wrinkles.

Mirroring the views of the Beverly Hills' surgeons, Dr Xen Ludick, a medical doctor with a special interest in aesthetic and anti-aging (preventive) medicine at Skin Renewal in Johannesburg, believes Zellweger's "transformation" is a prime example of how change to prominent features of the face can change the entire face, even to the point where the person is almost unrecognisable. "Her eyes, cheeks and jawline have definitely been altered," he says, "If I were a betting man, I would put money on cheek fillers, a surgical bleph, which is eyelid surgery that removes excess skin and fat, as well as jawline reshaping."

He goes on to suggest that Zellweger's jawline was most likely done surgically, but he believes these changes could also be due to dermal fillers.

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2007



2014

"Zellweger has attributed her drastic change in appearance to aging and lifestyle changes, and there could be some truth to this too," Ludick says. "When we age, we do lose fat and volume in certain areas of the face, especially the cheeks and lips, and it does look like natural aging also played a role in her 'new look'."

While it is clear there have been major changes to Zellweger's look, it should be noted that the actress does not look bad; she just looks different from what we were used to. Ludick says that if we didn't know it was Zellweger, we probably wouldn't even notice anything specific about her appearance. "I am sure it was never the intention to make her look like someone else, but the ratios between the prominent features – eyes, nose, lips and cheeks – have been altered too much to ensure a 'natural-looking result'."

Dr Marshall Murdoch, a plastic surgeon in private practice at the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre, and an honorary lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, adds: "The furore over Renée Zellweger's aesthetic procedures continues online, with numerous 'before' and 'after' photos supposedly documenting her transformation. It is important to point out that these comparisons are misleading at best. These photos cannot offer a realistic comparison, since they are shot under variable lighting

conditions, with different make-up and in starkly different poses. I have even seen one comparison in which the time difference is over a decade! Small variations in even one of these conditions can easily alter the subtle interplay of light and shadow on the face – mimicking the effects of aesthetic intervention."

Murdoch adds: "While the decision to undergo an aesthetic procedure is an intensely personal one, celebrities do attract (and perhaps expect) speculation and rumour-mongering. For the rest of us, privacy is just as important. When well-considered and well-executed, the results of both injections and surgery can be very natural – enhancing the pleasing aspects of a face without radical change."

PLASTIC SURGERY: AN ADDICTION

According to Dr Howard Samuels, an addiction expert from The Hills Treatment Centre in LA, most people think of drugs and alcohol when the word "addiction" is mentioned, but substance abuse is only one type of addiction that controls and changes people's lives. "Plastic surgery is an extremely serious addiction that is often overlooked," he says. "It falls into a category known as behavioural or process addiction."

Unlike drug addicts who suffer from chemical addiction, plastic surgery addicts experience mental obsession to alter their body and face. "Typically, this comes from underlying insecurities and desires to look a certain way, to fit their personal ideal of what beauty is," Samuels explains.

**OTHER CELEBRITIES WHO HAVE UNDERGONE DRAMATIC CHANGES
(NOT ALWAYS FOR THE BEST)**



MELANIE GRIFFITH

Melanie Griffith, the 57-year-old American actress and soon-to-be ex-wife of Antonio Banderas, has come under scrutiny for her plastic surgery choices since her face started to change back in 1994, when she was still seen to be youthful. We started to notice small changes, most notably her fuller, more pronounced lips. Normally, as we age, our lips start to become less full and thinner. While she has had a history of substance abuse, which could have led to her plastic surgery results faltering, it is also believed that she has had extensive work done, including regular Botox, eyelid surgery, lip fillers, as well as a possible facelift.



BRUCE JENNER

There is no doubt that Bruce Jenner, the 64-year-old former Olympian and father to Kendall and Kylie Jenner, has been through a lot in his life, and that it might have started to take its toll, especially on his appearance. But these are not the effects of natural aging. His stepdaughter, Kim Kardashian, openly spoke about how unhappy Jenner was with the results of a half-facelift and nose job over 20 years ago, saying: "Bruce was ill-advised by a doctor to have a partial facelift and a nose job. Unfortunately, the result wasn't what Bruce had hoped for, and for years since then he has been the victim of cruel taunts from the media." Jenner admits that he was not happy with the surgery, as it left his face taut and puckered around the sides, and admits that it was an attempt to keep the aging at bay. Since then he has had numerous procedures, including more lifts to his face and eyebrows, fillers and changes to his lips.



BARRY MANILOW

The famous singer and producer Barry Manilow apparently was not satisfied with the fame he had garnered. The 71-year-old star, known for his all-time hits *Can't Smile Without You* and *Copacabana*, believes he deserved a lot more fame than he received. Considered somewhat of a "one-hit wonder", Manilow's fame faded fast, and this is when he started to use plastic surgery to change his appearance. Over the years it became clear that Manilow had had numerous surgeries and procedures, including eyelid surgery, brow lifts, a facelift, Botox injections and a forehead lift.



DONATELLA VERSACE

With an ever-changing face in recent years, there is no doubt that Donatella Versace has gone under the knife on numerous occasions. According to Dr Steve Fallek, a renowned plastic surgeon, Versace has "pretty much had it all" when it comes to plastic and cosmetic surgery. Often referred to as the human wax figure, Versace's face is taut and shiny, and it is also clear that she has altered the fullness of her lips. Experts, including Fallek, say she has had a facelift, brow lift, lip fillers, Botox, lasers for the skin, as well as other changes to her face which have led to the dramatic changes we have seen in her over the years. ■

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