

**F**or someone who became famous for her scream in the horror franchise *Halloween*, you'd be forgiven for thinking Jamie Lee Curtis is a horror movie junkie.

Especially when you consider she's also the daughter of horror film royalty – mum Janet Leigh was in the 1960 classic *Psycho* – and that the veteran actress is currently starring in *Scream Queens*.

Surprisingly, though, Jamie reveals she's easily frightened and doesn't watch scary movies or shows!

Married for 31 years to Christopher Guest, and mother to Annie, 28, and Thomas, 17, the funny and down-to-earth actress is the latest movie star to head to the small screen.

In *Scream Queens*, she plays no-nonsense dean Cathy Munsch, who's determined to keep her college open – despite a murderer being loose on campus!

Here, Jamie talks about her fears and reflects on the movie that shot her to fame.

**You've done a lot of horror in your career. What scares you?**

I'm known as someone who can sleep anywhere, because I don't get nightmares. But by nature, I'm frightened. So, in the sense of showbusiness, when everyone was talking about [creator] Ryan Murphy's *American Horror Story* series, I couldn't even watch the trailer!

**Oh, so you're a bit of a scaredy-cat?**

The truth is, I scare easily and it's stupid, because I've made my living being scared! In my wedding vows, my husband and I vowed we would not give each other surprise parties, because a surprise party would send me to the hospital!

**So, why did you decide to say yes to *Scream Queens*?**

I was not expecting this! I was minding my own business when the phone rang and it was Ryan Murphy. He gave me this delightful present that I didn't go out looking for. Now, I'm trying to have just as much fun as one can have at this point – and age – in the industry.

**Is it true you originally turned down the role of Dean Cathy Munsch?**

I didn't find out that the show would be shooting in New Orleans until after I'd met with Ryan. And I know it sounds crazy, because I'm 57 years old and shouldn't turn down a role like that, but I texted Ryan, thanked him

**'I SHOCK  
easily!'**

She's made a career out of being scared, but don't throw any surprises at Jamie Lee Curtis in real life!

and said I couldn't be part of it, because I couldn't leave my family in LA for months. But, they wanted me to do the show, so they made it possible for me.

**How did it feel being the matriarch?**

This group has mostly all been very established in their own right. Abby Breslin and Lea Michele both had books published while we were filming, and Kiki Palmer's album is coming out soon. Diego Boneta's album is coming out in two weeks and we all know Nick Jonas can sing. I don't feel like any of them are so new to the game that they need this old lady's advice!

**Perhaps, but you have a wealth of experience.**

**Did you pass on any words of wisdom?**

On the media side, we've had a couple of discussions. I think that's a place where someone with a little bit more experience can be helpful.

**Were you in a sorority at college?**

No, I have a problem with exclusion. I wasn't popular in school. I always felt "less than" in the way that school systems are run. I think sororities and fraternities are just an extension of that, but wildly exclusionary. I'm just happy that my character challenges them.

**How did you feel about re-creating your mother's famous shower scene from *Psycho* in the show?**

In the past, I've had lots of people

ask me to take *that* photo. I've always said no. That shower belonged to my mother and Alfred Hitchcock. When I saw the script with the reference "Yes, *that* shower scene", I thought, "My mum has been gone a long time – it's time to get in the shower and honour her."

**Is there anything left to do on your bucket list?**

My plan is to have no plan and it has worked beautifully for me so far!

I also write books for children and never understood when or how someone or something is going to show up. That's the nature of my life – family, then work.

*"I wasn't expecting this"*

**How do you remain so grounded?**

I think it's the benefit of being raised in this industry by parents who were also in the industry. I understand that you need to have a life worth living outside of it. The minute I expect something or think that I hold a position of power, I become an a\*\*\*\*\*e. I'm very mindful of that!

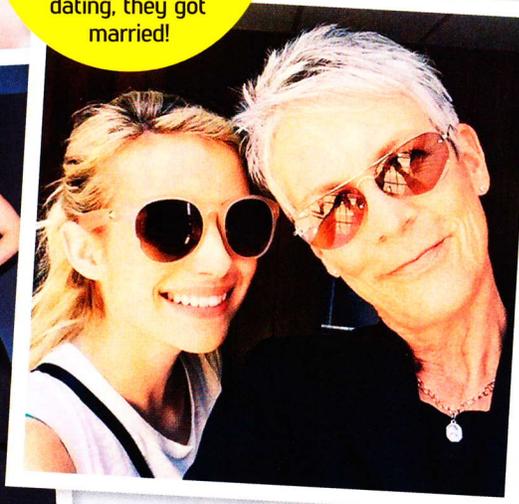
**What do you remember about your origins in *Halloween*?**

We shot for three weeks and I made US\$8000. I thought that was it! It was a tiny low-budget movie and no-one expected it to become what it became. It didn't happen overnight.

It took a while for the movie to become what would be later considered a horror classic.

**Trivia time**

Jamie first heard of her husband, **Chris**, in *Rolling Stone* magazine in 1984. After five months of dating, they got married!



Jamie's all smiles with her kids (above), and with her *Scream Queens* co-star Emma Roberts (right).

**SHOUT IT OUT**

Jamie has a pretty great resumé! Here are some of her best roles...



**Halloween, 1978**

Jamie plays Laurie, a victim of escaped mental patient Michael Myers (Tony Moran, both above). She also reprised the role for *Halloween II*, *Halloween: H2O* and *Halloween: Resurrection*.

**Trading Places, 1983**

She plays a prostitute who's dragged into a bet that reverses the fortunes of an investor (Dan Aykroyd) and a con artist (Eddie Murphy, right).



**A Fish Called Wanda, 1988**

John Cleese (right), Kevin Kline (centre), Michael Palin and Jamie play four people who commit armed robbery, but double-cross each other over the loot.



**Anything But Love, 1989-92**

Comedian Richard Lewis and Jamie (both right) starred in the TV comedy as friends who hid their romantic feelings.



**True Lies, 1994**

James Cameron (*Titanic*) directed Jamie and Arnold Schwarzenegger (both right) as a secret agent whose wife (Jamie) thinks he's a dull salesman until he reveals his true identity.



**Freaky Friday, 2003**

A mother (Jamie) and her bratty daughter, Anna (Lindsay Lohan, both right), are forced to adapt to each other's lives when they switch bodies.

