

Ghost writing:

I wrote this profile of *Angelina Jolie* using the notes and diaries of Hollywood celebrity photographer Harry Langdon. This is an excerpt from a memoir book proposal that remains a work-in-progress.

-- Douglas Glenn Clark



Angelina Jolie

The Face that Launched a Thousand Paparazzi

I always keep a large mirror behind me during most sessions so that my clients can watch themselves and stay focused. With Angelina Jolie no mirror was necessary.

Although she was only 16 years old and a Beverly Hills High School student at the time we met, my assistants and I were very impressed with Angelina. I knew she was the daughter of actor Jon Voigt, but as was true in my own heritage, genetics does not always guarantee that the same genius will translate in front of the camera.

Angelina had, as they say in the theater, a terrific grasp of the moment – as well as long legs, ample lips, and stunning blue eyes. She could observe herself as she was performing. She didn't need the mirror because she apparently could see herself in her mind's eye.

When a photographer is fortunate enough to have one of these quintessential beings in front of the camera, hardly any verbal directions are necessary. Only comments that approve or give small suggestions to improve a pose or an expression are necessary.

The session with the mercurial Angelina was a terrific introduction to a complex young woman who, with very little direction from me, gave a career-launching performance in front of a still camera.