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ACTRESS ON POIGNANT BOWIE ANNIVERSARY SHOW

He's such an icon for my generation.. I'm gutted I'll never meet him

SAYS LAZARUS STAR AMY LENNOX

STAGE PRESENCE ... Amy with Michael C Hall in Lazarus, top, and with rest of the cast on stage, middle, and above, with a celebration of The Sound Of Music's first year run in London a few years ago. Below, with Anna Francolini in The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie at the Edinburgh Festival

EXCLUSIVE By JOHN DINGWALL
Features writer

STUNNING actress Amy Lennox is preparing for the toughest night of her career as she takes to the stage in David Bowie's acclaimed musical Lazarus on the first anniversary of his death.

Amy is currently starring opposite Dexter actor Michael C Hall in the London production of the play.

A sequel to the 1976 film The Man Who Fell To Earth in which Bowie played homesick alien, Thomas Jerome Newton, Lazarus was Bowie's final project, co-written with Tony winner Enda Walsh.

Amy, 35, from Aberdeen, said: "It's also been described as a David Bowie jukebox musical but it is certainly not that.

"But there's no jazz hands going on. It feels more like an art installation and a play with some killer songs. I sing Changes, Always Crashing In The Same Car and Absolute Beginners with Michael C Hall and a couple of the others.

"I'm an 80s baby so for me, Bowie will always be the goblin king in Labyrinth.

"That is what I think of when people say his name to me and I just watched that film on Netflix again."

Bowie's death last January followed a battle with liver cancer and triggered a spell of national mourning.

And Olivier Award-nominated Amy is gracing herself for an outpouring of grief as Tuesday's, as people remember him on the anniversary of his death.

She said: "He's such an iconic star for my generation. I'm just gutted that I'll never get to meet him. It's so sad.

"The audiences have so many different opinions on Lazarus, which is also fascinating.

"A lot of people are moved at the end and some people cry.

"Some come out in awe of it, having loved the journey.

"Some feel moved, but need a couple of days to process what they've seen and a few say, 'I totally didn't get it. What the hell was that?'

"That's alright. It's an art piece and the majority absolutely love it. But a lot of people are coming to see this show as part of their mourning process.

"They are coming to pay homage to David Bowie. His passing has affected a lot of people.

"In New York, he came up and took a bow on the opening night and when we opened in London he was already gone.

"A picture of him comes up on the screen at the end. It adds poignancy, so it and Tuesday will be special."

Celebrities who turned out to see Amy and Michael C Hall premier Lazarus in London included Jude Law, Bob Geldof, Bill Nighy and Kate Moss.

TV serial killer Hall portrays the extra terrestrial boozer as he battles through the heartache of lost love, alcoholism and his yearning to return to his native planet.

Amy said: "Michael is quite shy and a real gentleman.

"He invited me and my boyfriend round to his and his wife's for dinner.

"We never see him much before the show because he has to lie there on stage for 20 minutes before we come on.

"The first time you see him he is on stage. He even told me he fell asleep on stage before one performance in New York and woke up and got a fright.

"He thought he was having one of those anxiety dreams of being on stage and not knowing why.

"I'm currently about to start Season three of Dexter. I'm booked on it in Los Angeles. I've been Six Feet Under which I was in.

"He is such a good actor and vocally he channels David Bowie.

"He channels his style and the way he sings without impersonating him.

"I have to remind myself he's not actually Dexter and not to ask him, 'Are you a psychopath?'"

The entire two-hour show is set in a Manhattan apartment and features reworked versions of some of Bowie's best-loved tracks.

The role follows stage performances for Amy in The Sound Of Music, Nine To Five and Kinky Boots.

She also landed a part in the 2010 film Never Let Me Go.

And she admits treading the boards as Hall's troubled love interest eight times a week has been the most demanding role of her career.

She admitted: "The creative team worked so closely with David and his co-writer Enda.

"It is an exhausting and harrowing journey my character goes on which is tiring but in a good way.

"At the end of it I am usually starving and just want to get home for my dinner.

"I don't get caught up in the sociable thing of going to the bar. "I just want to get home and eat and go to bed because I'm knackered.

"But on the plus side I don't need to leave the house until six at night."

Meanwhile, Amy is fed up continually telling people she's **NOT** related to Scots singing namesake Annie despite both hailing from the Granite City.

She's even had stage door visits from people convinced she's related to the Eurythmics star.

Amy said: "We're not even related as far as I'm aware, but it is usually the first question I get asked. I was at a stage door and this woman assumed I was Annie Lennox's daughter.

"She said she used to know my nanny.

"I realised what she was on about but I had never had a nanny when I was a little girl.

"She thought I was one of Annie Lennox's daughters so I corrected her in the end.

"But sometimes I wind people up and tell them she's my auntie.

She added: "It happened again on live radio last week. The woman on the radio show started talking about my mum and I wondered what she was on about.

"She asked me, 'What's it like to have such a talented parent?'

"I thought, gosh, my mum is quite creative, but then I realised and I had to tell her that I wasn't actually Annie Lennox's daughter.

"She just assumed because I was from Aberdeen that I must be her daughter, though obviously she hadn't bothered to do any research and should have checked.

"The show's co-host tried to make up for it at the end of the show by asking, 'What does your mum do?'

"She is an in-house solicitor for the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and I'm sure she would get along with Annie Lennox fine so long as she doesn't sing.

"At this rate I might have to do Who Do You Think You Are to prove I'm not related to her, or discover I am after all."

Producer Robert Fox described the Lazarus musical as "a very personal" production "dealing with one man's struggle at the end of his life".