

## RACHEL SHELLEY



As the only Brit starring in the hugely successful chic US Lesbian drama *The L-Word* (the sixth and final season hits UK screens in Spring 2009) Rachel Shelley has attracted plenty of attention as the uber-glamorous quintessential English bad girl, Helena Peabody. “She’s as sharp and spiky as the Stella McCartney heels I get to wear. I love playing Helena”, Rachel observes.

The final series of *The L-Word*, transmitted on Living TV, is a mini-series so will appeal to anyone who has thus far missed out on what has become a world-wide, award-winning show with huge cult status.

With a reputation as an actress who exudes class with an edgy, wild side she will next be seen in the spine-chilling film *The Children*, released nationwide in the UK on Dec 5 2008. In the Tom Shankland helmed horror, she plays Chloe, a mother on the receiving end of some pretty diabolical behaviour from a group of violent kids, including her daughter. “There’s nothing more terrifying, or more shocking, than trying to stop your own child killing you.” she comments.

Rachel bagged her first film role in 1997 - the award winning *Photographing Fairies*, opposite Ben Kingsley. This was followed by a leading part opposite David Bowie in *Everybody Loves Sunshine*. Further credits included *Canone Inverso* with Gabriel Byrne and *Cruise of the Gods* opposite Steve Coogan. In 2001 she got her breakout role in the Oscar nominated Bollywood film *Lagaan: Once Upon A Time in India*. Her performance, as the inspirational Elizabeth Russell, won her critical acclaim and a Zee Cine Award nomination (Indian Oscars) for Best Supporting Actress. Her international popularity especially impacted in the US – where her career began to blossom.

Temporarily relocated in Los Angeles she took up a number of guest starring roles on American Television including *Miss Match*, *The American Embassy* and *Robin Hood*. In 2004 she joined the cast of Showtime’s *The L Word* during its second season. Her more recent credits include the Sue Kramer romcom *Gray Matters* (she plays another lesbian!), as well as the CBS show *Ghost Whisperer* opposite Jennifer Love Hewitt.

When not filming or travelling (which she loves) Rachel turns her hand to journalism and has had a number of articles published in *The Guardian*. Originally from Swindon, she has a Bachelor’s Degree in English & Drama and is a founder member of the Prince Charles’ Trust sponsored Crowded Theatre Company – for whom she has acted in and directed productions for. She currently lives in London.

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