
Back to Australia

The plot of “Japanese Story” returns star Toni Collette to her homeland, where her first film of note, “Muriel’s Wedding,” was set. Some highlights of her career:

“Muriel’s Wedding,” 1994

As a marriage-obsessed ugly duckling who becomes a beautiful duckling (right), Collette made her first impression on US audiences. At the time, it wasn’t clear whether she was a found object or a gifted actress.

“Clockwatchers,” 1997

The actress shines as a timid, ultimately heroic office temp in a smart ensemble drama that plays like a female “Dilbert.”

“Velvet Goldmine,” 1998

Collette mines the spirit of rock-wife Angie Bowie in this kinky, glitter-heavy tour through early-’70s pop excess.

“The Sixth Sense,” 1999

Her Hollywood breakthrough, as ghost watcher Haley Joel Osment’s terrified mother. The scene in the car is a keeper.

“Shaft,” 2000

She’s a barmaid and murder witness who Shaft — shut yo’ mouth — has to protect from evil Christian Bale.

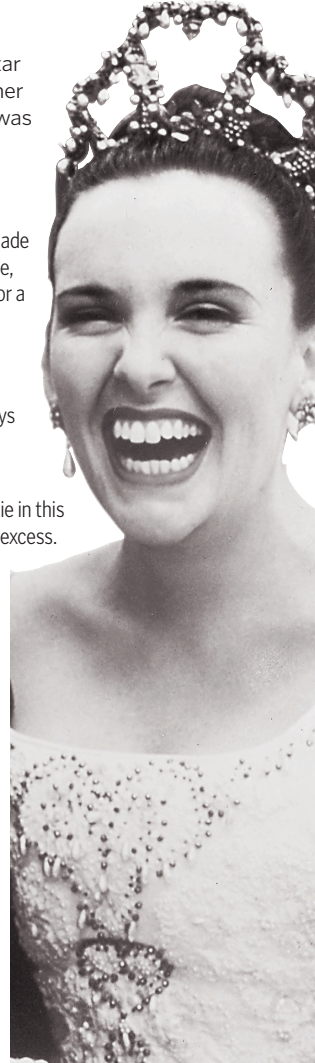
“About a Boy,” 2002

A hopeless, heartbreaking mess as the suicidal mom of the title lad, Collette keeps us both exasperated and enthralled.

“The Hours,” 2002

Playing 1950s suburbanite Julianne Moore’s neighbor, Collette is confident, distraught, and licentious, all in the space of 10 minutes of screen time.

— TY BURR



Clockwise from above left: Collette in “Velvet Goldmine”; with Samuel L. Jackson in “Shaft”; in “The Hours”; and in “Clockwatchers.”



SOURCE: Globe archives

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