



**HAPPY 75<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

**'I HAVE A HARD-WIRED SENSE OF JOY'**

# GOLDIE HAWN

**WE PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON COMEDY'S GOLDEN GIRL AS SHE CELEBRATES A MILESTONE**

**S**hortly after lockdown began, Goldie Hawn often found herself in tears – an unusual occurrence for the woman whose engaging smile and bubbly personality have forever been her trademarks.

“I cry probably three times a day because it hurts me to think that there is abuse going on, anger going on and this all has to do with confinement, fear and uncertainty about what is going to happen,” the Oscar-winning actress admitted in May, two months into isolation with her partner of 37 years, actor Kurt Russell.

To pull herself out of her despair and help others do the same, Goldie did what she does best: she got people laughing. Taking to Instagram, she issued a “Laughing Challenge,” urging fans to film themselves in full-on guffaw mode and post the videos online to help everyone ease their anxieties. “Laughter is so important – it helps so many parts of our being,” explained Goldie, whose MindUp program helps children deal with anxiety and stress.

### SOLID GOLDIE

Laughter has certainly defined Goldie’s life, both as a Hollywood icon and as a devoted partner, mother and grandmother. The gal who rose to fame in her 20s playing the quintessential ditz blonde in popular 1960s sketch show *Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In* – she was the era’s “It” girl – is still captivating audiences as she turns 75: this month, she reprises her role as Mrs. Claus alongside Kurt’s Santa in Netflix’s *The Christmas Chronicles 2*.

“I deeply do have a real embedded hard-wired sense of joy,” Goldie has said. “I have to feel it, though. The giggle comes from the tickle. When you feel the tickle, you get the giggle!”

Though comedy is what made

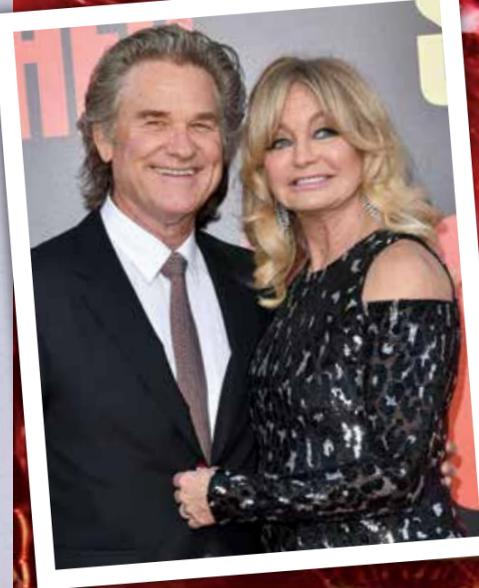
Goldie a star, it wasn’t on her radar growing up in Maryland as the younger daughter of a working mom and musician father. “I wanted to be a prima ballerina or a Broadway chorus girl, but never the goofy, crazy Goldie Hawn most people think of today,” she wrote in her 2005 memoir, *Goldie: A Lotus Grows in the Mud*. “That comedy just happened, unintentionally, and I think it all began with a desire to be liked and to fit in. Well, that and the fact that some people just seem to look at my face and laugh.”

### COMEDY QUEEN

Having studied dance for years, Goldie moved to New York City in 1964 to follow her dream. She was just 19, and after some uncomfortable incidents – including a tabletop dance gig at a seedy truck stop – she hightailed it to Las Vegas for a chorus-line job and then moved to L.A., going door to door to find an agent. A dancing stint on an Andy Griffith special led to a role on the sitcom *Good Morning World*, where her quirkiness caught the eye of *Laugh-In*’s producer. By the time Goldie was 21, she was a Hollywood sensation due, in her own words, to “being a little bit absent-minded and accidentally inverting my words, being nervous and then laughing at myself.”

Soon afterward, Goldie landed her first big movie role – in 1969’s *Cactus Flower* alongside Walter Matthau and Ingrid Bergman – and she was stunned to win an Academy Award for best supporting actress. By then married to actor and dancer Gus Trikonis (one of the Sharks in *West Side Story*), she continued to light up the screen in 1970s hits including *Foul Play*, with Chevy Chase. When she took on the 1980 army comedy *Private Benjamin* as both star and producer – landing her the

Ever since her early days as one of the grooviest gals in Hollywood, Goldie has kept audiences in stitches with her positivity, effervescence and lust for life.



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Love actually! Goldie and Kurt Russell share a steamy scene in romantic war film *Swing Shift* (right), and above at her *Snatched* premiere in 2017, setting the stage for their real-life romance. ‘He makes every day a new day,’ she says.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: GLOBE PHOTOS/SHUTTERSTOCK; AXELLE/BAUER-GRIFFIN/GETTY IMAGES; RICHARD YOUNG/SHUTTERSTOCK; WARNER BROS./EVERETT COLLECTION

cover of *Newsweek* and a best actress Oscar nod – she was in a floundering marriage to musician and actor Bill Hudson and a mom to toddler Oliver and baby Kate.

It was on the set of 1984’s *Swing Shift*, starring a dashing divorcé named Kurt Russell, that she found true love. She and Kurt had first met in 1966 while filming *The One and Only, Genuine, Original Family Band* (her character was aptly called Giggly Girl) when he was 16 and she was

21, but this time, they felt a spark. To get to know her better, Kurt asked Goldie out to L.A.’s Playboy Club, saying they should practise their dance moves for the movie. Two hours later they were still talking, having never set foot on the dance floor.

Almost four decades on, Goldie and Kurt, 69, are as in love as ever (they never married) and devoted to their blended family: Goldie’s kids, actors Oliver, 44, and Kate, 41 (who calls Kurt “Pa”);

Kurt’s son, Boston, 40; their actor son, Wyatt, 34, a hockey player turned actor; and six grandchildren. “Relationships go through periods, sometimes really hard times,” she says. “But there’s nothing sweeter than having a family, and that is worth everything.”

Join us on a trip down memory lane as we relive some of the actress’s golden moments.

REPORT: SUZANNE WINTROB