



DEPP, IN TOO DEEP

Johnny Depp possessed the qualities of a star ever since his auspicious role in 1986 hit- *Platoon*. After a momentary deviation into teen stardom with the TV show *21 Jump Street*, Depp began justifying that early enthusiasm, amassing well received turns in the likes of *Ed Wood* and *Edward Scissorhands*. Hollywood believed that the actor possessed the rare combination of talent and charisma that defines a superstar that it stuck by Depp for over a decade until he found his box office grip. Finally, in 2003 with *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Depp hit the jackpot, scoring a global blockbuster that earned him a nomination at the Oscars. From there

onwards, his fame skyrocketed. Besides, his friendships with Hunter S. Thompson and Marlon Brando, fascination with pop culture and a fondness for fedoras, marked him as on the most enthralling characters to have ever existed in the industry. Along with hits like "*Alice in Wonderland*" and "*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*," he offered the fans an unmatched level of entertainment to cherish.

However, there have been flops aplenty. *Transcendence*, *Lone Ranger* and *Mortdecai* received heavy criticism. Depp's chameleonic turn as Whitey Bulger in *Black Mass*, reminded audiences of his shape-shifting talent, but

cost too much and made too little. Despite *Into the Woods* being a hit, Depp's work as the Wolf barely registered as a cameo. Aside from that it has been a stream of flops and frustrations. His recently released film, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* did not seem promising either. Depp however, still has the ability to spark the internet. For example, the media created a furore for sneaking his dogs into Australia and his peculiar, hostage-like video apology for violating the country's laws, had people laughing at Depp and not with him. In the social media age, when stars' personal lives and careers collapse on each other, scandals can do lasting damage to

reputations. Now, the immediacy of Twitter and Facebook are acting as a double-edged sword with the recent allegations thrown at him for abusing his spouse.

"Audiences want to see the 'Donnie Brasco' Johnny Depp or the 'Blow' Johnny Depp," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at Rentrak. "They want him to play a real character again." Johnny Depp will return for a fifth "*Pirates of the Caribbean*" and has signed on for a remake of "*Invisible Man*," both of which could score commercially and help his helm to spin longer.

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Adapted from Variety

CLASSIC CHUCKLES

SMALL WONDER (1985-1989)



Small Wonder is an American comedy science fiction sitcom that first aired from September 7, 1985 to May 20, 1989. The show centres on a family consisting of loving parents Ted and Joan Lawson, their 10-year old son Jamie Lawson and their modelled robot daughter Vicki Lawson, who is adored by her supposed family, and the struggles they face hiding V.I.C.I.'s secret from the rest of the world. V.I.C.I (or Voice Input Child Identificant) was built by Ted Lawson who is an engineer for United Robotronics for helping handicapped children. Having brought home for human interaction necessary for VICI's development, the family hides her identity from the world but almost always fails to do so because of their displeasing neighbours who show up uninvited and at the most unexpected moments. V.I.C.I. is staged to the world as an orphan and so she was supposedly adopted by the Lawsons. Her artificial intelligence is somewhat imperfect; being incapable of emotion, she speaks in a monotonous voice. She however, manages to blend in with the real world.

Harriet Brindle, who claims to be madly in love with Jamie, is their nosy next-door neighbour who cannot stop herself from interfering in the Lawsons' lives. Her father is Ted's boss who received that stature after stealing Ted's ideas, adds to the bunch of annoying neighbours, including his ever-bothersome wife Bonnie Brindle.

The show's humour derives from V.I.C.I.'s attempt to learn human behaviour, her literal understanding and interpretation of language and the family's effort to mask her true identity. The often jab of wittiness from the one-sided love affair of Harriet and Jamie, and the frequent intrusion of the Lawsons' neighbours make it all the more fun and a hilarious sitcom to watch with family.