

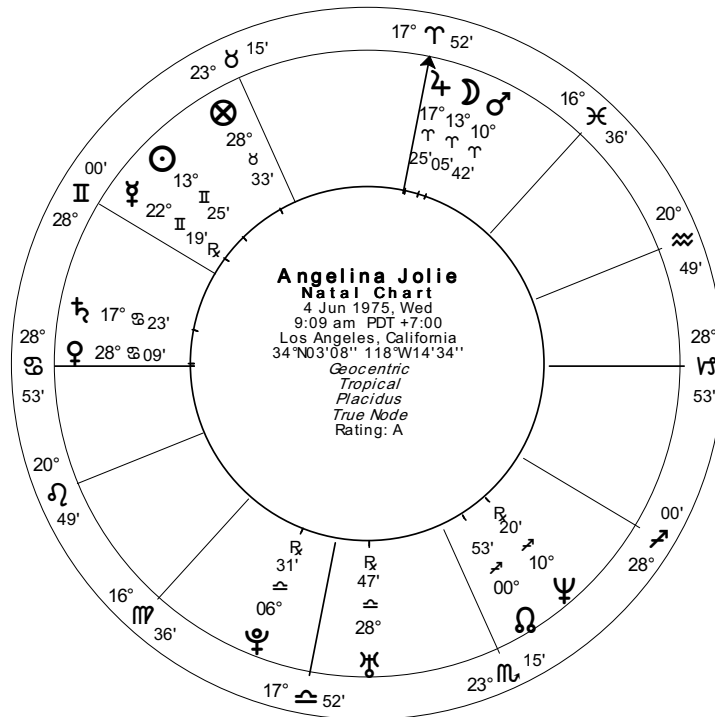
# A Moment of Quiet Respect for Angelina Jolie

By  
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*“A moment of quiet respect for Angelina Jolie’s candor and all women’s bravery in facing this choice.”*

Tweet from Nia Vardolos, star of ‘My Big Fat Greek Wedding’, on hearing of Jolie’s decision to go public over her recent surgery.



Even after all the years I have been practicing astrology, this art/science of ours still continues to humble and amaze me - in its simplicity, in its variety, in its ingenuity, and in its total accuracy. Whether you believe that what drives our science is the planets as pure symbols in an arcane language, or you believe in the idea of cause and effect, makes no difference – we all agree. It works! It works! It works!

In an article published on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in New York Times entitled “*My Medical Choice*”, actress, producer, and UN ambassador for Goodwill, Angelina Jolie revealed that she had recently undergone surgery to reduce her chances of contracting breast cancer by electing for preventative mastectomies.

The decision to remove both healthy breasts resulted after she found that she carries the BRCA1 gene and had an 87% chance of contracting breast cancer and a 50% risk of having ovarian cancer.

The double mastectomy has lowered Angelina's risk of breast cancer from 87% to under 5%. Angelina's own mother Marcheline Bertrand fought ovarian cancer for a decade, but succumbed to the disease in 2007 when she passed away at the age of 56.

Jolie wrote in the article:

*"On April 27<sup>th</sup> (2013), I finished the three months of medical procedures that the mastectomies involved. During that time I have been able to keep this private and to carry on with my work.*

*But I am writing about it now because I hope that other women can benefit from my experience. Cancer is still a word that strikes fear into people's hearts, producing a deep sense of powerlessness.*

*But today it is possible to find out through a blood test whether you are highly susceptible to breast and ovarian cancer, and then take action."*

Sometimes you wait a lifetime to express the archetypal energies of the planets – but usually you play them over and over in all sorts of varied and amazing ways. No astrologer can possibly predict the events prior to them happening, but our skill lies in knowing that *they will keep playing out*. and it is this confidence that we have in astrology that makes us a force to be reckoned with and gives an indication as to one reason behind the longevity of our art. In this one truly unselfish act of going public over such a very private situation, Angelina Jolie has produced perhaps the quintessence of her Jupiter, Moon, Mars stellium in Aries.

The very act of preventative mastectomies is to have the courage to go under the knife (Mars) to save one's body (Moon) after the future prognosis (Jupiter) is so dire. Mars in rulership ruling the MC, coupled with the Moon, ruler of the Ascendant, and Jupiter, ruler of the 6<sup>th</sup> house, the house of illness, describes with acute clarity, the situation in which this vibrant woman has found herself. Fellow actress Marlee Matlin tweeted three words to sum up Jolie's article in the New York Times, little realizing that these same words also summed up Angelina's planetary combination. Marlee's three words were *"Brave, honest and strong."* Mars – Jupiter - Moon

The elevation of these three planets gives Angelina the foresight to urge other women to consider such an extreme act of self preservation in order to give themselves a brighter future. This stellium holds so much sway over the chart, not only through the planets' placement in the chart, and their rulerships and collective sign, but also through contact with other planets in the chart, via aspecting.

Saturn squares the stellium from the 12<sup>th</sup> house in the Placidus chart, but as it is disposed by the Moon, i.e. it is in Cancer, it becomes a more prominent player in her life if we convert the chart to a Whole Sign chart. Saturn then moves to the first sign of Cancer, and the house of her physical body, so we have health issues (1<sup>st</sup>) that can bind, imprison and frighten her (12<sup>th</sup>), as both house systems are relevant when we examine the chart in detail.

Saturn is in the sign of its detriment – not a good sign for Saturn, and rather than go through cookbook interpretations, I will leave it up to the lady herself to explain. Note that Saturn also aspects the Moon as well as being disposed by it, and that the Jupiter and the Mars also square Saturn.

When talking about her early self-destructive behavior Angelina said:

*“I didn’t really want to live, so anything that was an investment in time made me angry....but also I just felt sad. When the hopelessness is hurting you, it’s the fixtures and fittings that finish you off.”*

It’s an interesting term she uses – ‘*the fixtures and fittings*’ – perhaps it is her reference to the small irritations and the constant pain of such an aspect from Saturn which wear us down eventually - Saturn’s continual and detrimental rub against such vital planets at the zenith of her chart.

In continuing with the aspects to her Aries stellium we find Pluto opposes Mars and, by association, the Moon and Jupiter. This aspect has much to answer for in Angelina’s history – her reported fascination with death, her experiences with heroin after a particularly harrowing film role, her willingness to perform her own daredevil stunts in her movies, and her teenage foray into the dangerous habit of body-cutting in order to ‘*feel something emotionally*’. Although Saturn does not directly aspect Pluto by degree in her chart, their mutual association with her Jupiter, Moon, Mars stellium shows he is never far away from being involved. Saturn rules both the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> houses of partners and death, and it was between the ages of 14 and 16 – her first serious relationship when her boyfriend moved in with her mother and herself, that she was most actively engaged in self-mutilation.

Angelina’s passion and intense focus on her former husband Billy Bob Thornton whom she married in 2000, is shown by her comments at the time : *“I’m obsessed with Billy. I always want more. I can’t have enough of him.”* Wearing an amulet with Billy Bob’s blood around her neck, and her alleged use of knives in their sex play, only adds to the Pluto and Saturn connection to Jupiter/Moon/Mars in the chart.

This same aspect also sheds some light on the power and influence her mother had in her life, creating a close and loving connection between the two women. As it so too describes the terrible loss she suffered not only in losing her mother to cancer, but also witnessing the slow decline in her mother’s health, and reinforces the fear that underlies her current actions in not wanting to follow her mother’s fate. Jolie has stated that one of the driving forces behind her decision was her determination in wanting to reduce the risk that her own children might have to go through the same ordeal. To quote from her recent article : *“Cancer is still a word that strikes fear into people’s hearts, producing a deep sense of powerlessness.”* The presence of both Pluto and Saturn and their influence over the Aries stellium is clear in her statement, and the message is loud and clear from a Jupiter smack on the M.C. – learn from my experience and consider this extreme act as a possible solution to a future problem.

Angelina has said, *“I’ve been reckless, but I’m not a rebel without a cause.”* Her Gemini Sun obviously anchors her decisions and keeps her head and her heart in some balance as the Sun sextiles her Moon in the same degree, and her Sun’s dispositor, Mercury, also forms a 5 degree sextile aspect to Jupiter.

Although some of her actions have bordered on the bizarre, with such a strong Mercurial presence in the chart, Angelina has been able to channel her intellect toward her passions through her various film roles. Her first film lead was in *Hackers*, a 1995 cyber thriller, but she is perhaps better known for her 2001 role as the heroine character, Lara Croft, in the film *Tomb Raider*. The film was based on a video game and was an instant hit, racing to the top of the summer box-office winners, and making the most money on a movie opening. Adding to the weight of this plugged-in stellium is the partile (same degree) trine from Neptune, in a fire sign, in the house of entertainment and creative pleasures.

Angelina has been quoted as saying : *"Where ever I am, I always find myself looking out the window wishing I was somewhere else."* Whilst all three of these aspects from Sun, Mercury and Neptune have been put to work in an industry full of illusion, the Neptune Sun opposition has meant that Angelina may struggle sometimes to hold on to who she is when she is away from the cameras. Her roles have often been edgy and unusual women (Venus partile squares Uranus), as she has played a variety of characters with psychotic overtones, drug addictions or dysfunctional personalities, and there have certainly been times when she has lost her way so far as normal conventions are concerned. However, her strong commitment to projects involving third world issues, her very public involvement in landmine detection and eradication, and her love for her adopted children, are the signposts for someone who cares very deeply for others and who wishes to make a contribution to this world via her notoriety and star status.

To go into her current predictive work would take too long for the purposes of this article, so I will finish here with the last of a string of very interesting quotes (given the nature of her chart) from the lady herself. It is a quote from an earlier period of her life, with reference to another time and another place, but given the circumstances of her current situation, is one that sends a shiver down the spine.

She says *"What nourishes me also destroys me."* And in the removal of the most basic of all human nourishment apparatus, the mammary glands, she may not have only saved her own life, but also aided an immeasurable number of women in averting the destructive force that is breast cancer.

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