

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Susan Sarandon

Elisa Leonelli · Monday, October 5th, 2026

Susan Sarandon is a woman after my own heart, because she's an amazing actress, a feminist who loves men, a mother, a leftist who is not afraid to express her political opinions.



Elisa Leonelli, Susan Sarandon © HFPA 2002

I loved her comedic and fearless performance in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975). [Read here](#) my article about the 50th anniversary of this cult film.

She was great in *Pretty Baby* (1978) with Brooke Shields and *Atlantic City* (1980) with Burt Lancaster, both directed by French master Louis Malle, who was her lover.

She was daring in *The Hunger* (1983) by Tony Scott playing Catherine Deneuve's lover

She was appropriately bewitching in *The Witches of Eastwick* (1987) with Jack Nicholson, Cher, and Michelle Pfeiffer.



You believed that in *Bull Durham* (1988) by Ron Shelton she loved Kevin Costner, when he said: "I believe in long, slow, deep, soft, wet kisses that last three days." While in real life she fell for [Tim Robbins](#), and had two sons with him, John Henry and Miles.



It was not until 1990 that I interviewed Susan Sarandon, the first of more than 20 times. It was about *White Palace* by Luis Mendoki, but we also talked about *Thelma and Louise* (1991) by Ridley Scott with Geena Davis, which she defined “a female buddy picture like *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* with cars.”



My interview was published in Venice, Los Angeles Arts and Entertainment Magazine, when I served as Film editor from 1990 to 1999. [Click here](#) to see.



Elisa Leonelli, Susan Sarandon © 1990 HFPA

I never forgot what Sarandon said she had learnt from the women generals who liberated Nicaragua: “Machismo is something that’s passed on from mothers to sons like hemophilia.”



I next talked to her about *Lorenzo's Oil* (1992) co-starring Nick Nolte and wrote a text for Marie Claire, Italy. Sarandon was glad about Bill Clinton having been elected President and about Hillary bringing “capable women inside the administration.”

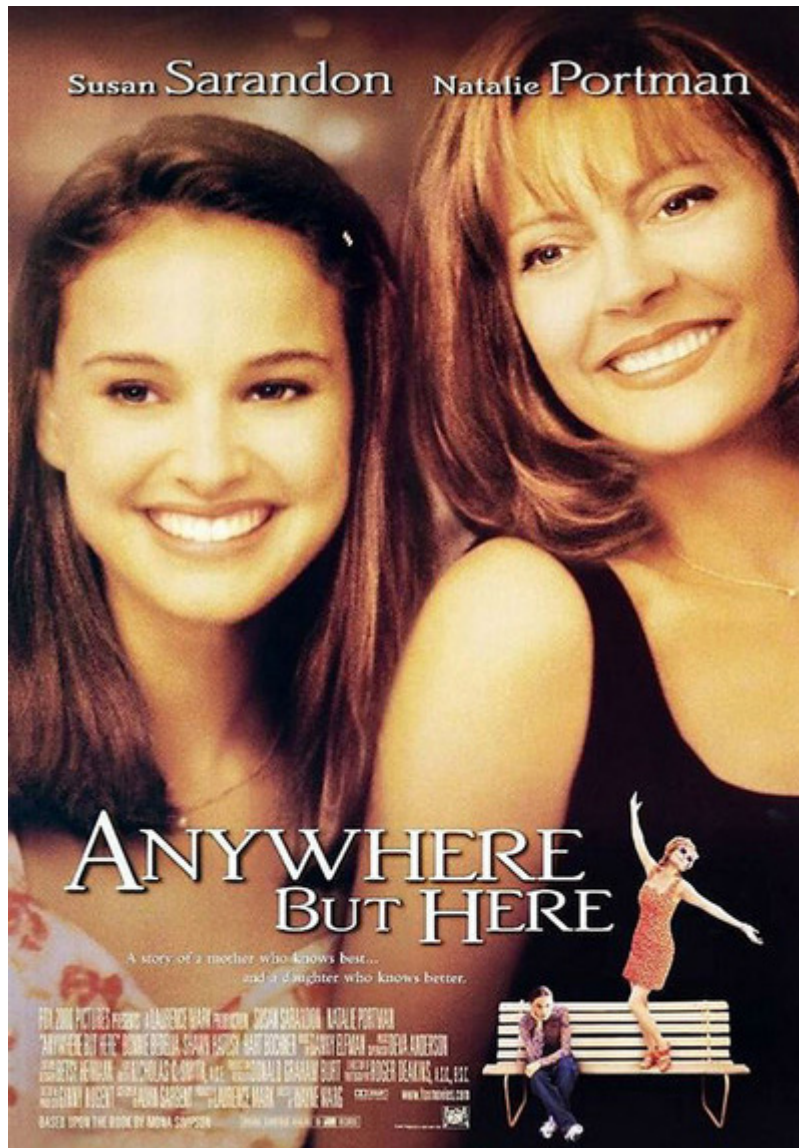
In 1995 I wrote for Marie Claire an interview with Susan Sarandon about *The Client* (1994) by Joel Schumacher and *Little Women* (1994) by Gilliam Armstrong.



In 1996 I interviewed Sarandon about *Dead Man Walking* directed by Tim Robbins, where she played Sister Helen Prejean opposite Sean Penn as a prisoner on death row. [Click here](#) to see text published in the Italian weekly Gioia.



Also for Gioia I wrote an interview with Sarandon about [Stepmom](#) (1998) costarring Julia Roberts. [Click here](#) to see layout.

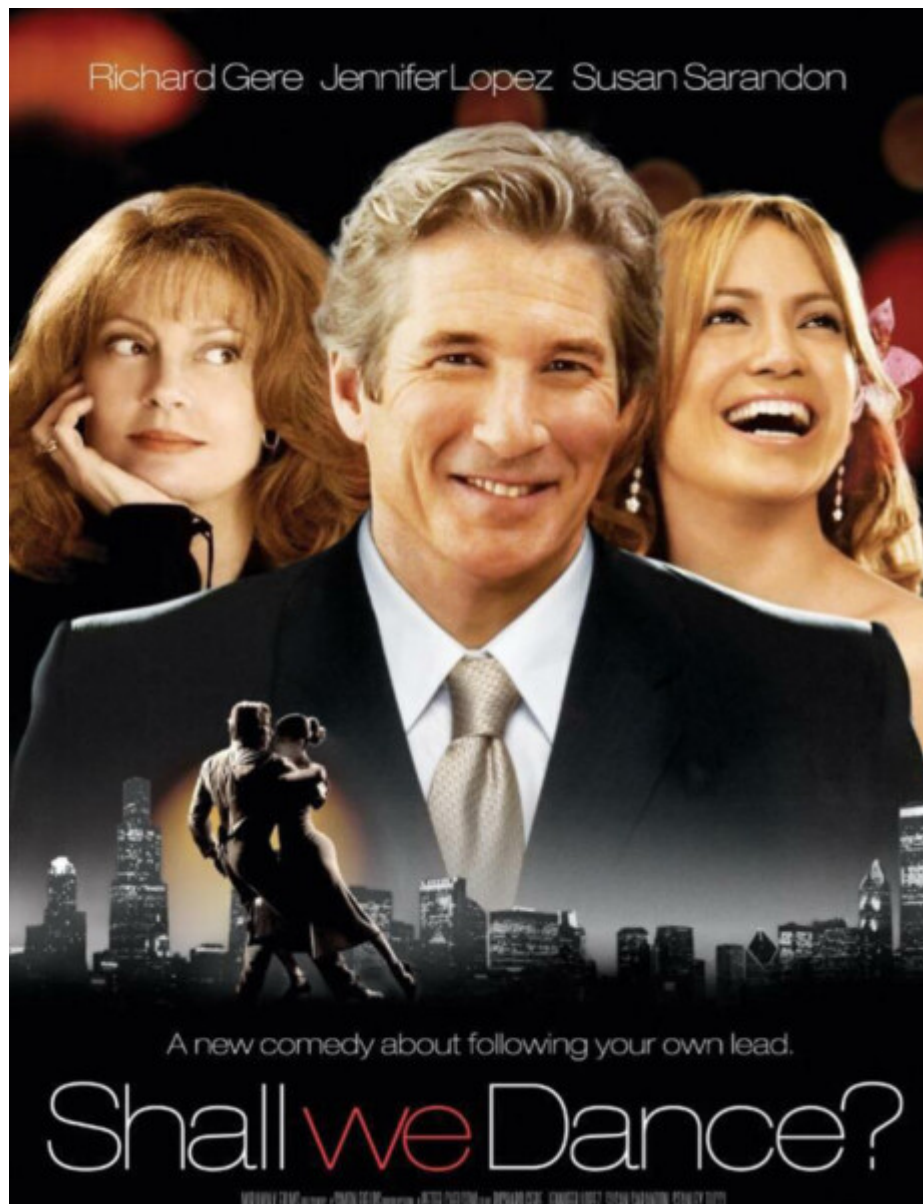


In 2000 I wrote for Marie Claire an interview with Sarandon about *Anywhere But Here* (1999).

In 2002 was my pleasure to write a Face to Face interview for Gioia featuring Susan Sarandon with her daughter *Eva Amurri*, whose father is Italian director Franco Amurri. They talked about *The Banger Sisters* costarring Goldie Hawn. [See it here.](#)



I loved the way a terminally ill Sarandon asked her sons to help her die in *Igby Goes Down* (2002).



I interviewed Susan Sarandon many more times, for movies like *Shall We Dance* (2004) with Richard Gere, *Bernard and Doris* (2008) with Ralph Fiennes, *Tammy* (2014) with Melissa McCarthy, *The Meddler* (2015) with Rose Byrne, and several others.



I even liked her in her latest film *Nonnas* (2025), because I identified with her character, as an Italian “nonna” (grandmother) myself, custodian of my family’s recipes.

I am looking forward to Sarandon’s performances in *The Accompanist* and *The Echo Chamber*.

When this last movie premiered at the Venice film festival on September 6, her tall sons stood proudly next to their mother.



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As for her activism, Susan Sarandon never stopped.

On June 14, 2025 she participated in the “No Kings” march against Trump.

On September 24, 2026 she was arrested at a demonstration against Netanyahu.



Elisa Leonelli, Susan Sarandon © 2009 HFPA

If you're ready to cry, as she does, [watch here](#) what Sarandon said about Gaza on March 22, 2025, quoting Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*.

“To be hopeful in bad times is not foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage and kindness.

“If we do act in however small a way, in defiance of all that is bad around us, that is in itself a marvelous victory.”



Susan Sarandon © HFPA 1992

Susan Sarandon turned 80 on October 4. Happy Birthday!

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