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Forget that romantically challenged neat freak from *Friends*. Courteney Cox Arquette married the man of her dreams—and their home life is something wild.

BY JAMIE DIAMOND

ANDREW SOUTHAM, STYLING: EDITION; MAKEUP: BELL, HAIR BY EDWARDS; STYLING: GEORGIA; MAKEUP BY BETHANEE; MAKEUP BY JILL THOMAS; ALL FOR FRED SOCIAL AGENCY; GROOMING: LOBBE; DRESS: LOBBE; NECKLACE

Friend and Lover

PULL INTO THE DRIVEWAY OF THE SECLUDED BRENTWOOD home Courteney Cox Arquette shares with her husband, David, and the cars parked there say it all. There's hers, the universally acknowledged ride of the rich and prestigious: a Porsche Carrera. And there's his I-hate-status symbol: a vintage hot rod with a dead battery. Judging purely on automotive terms, opposites attract in this marriage. You might think she's the traditionalist who lives by the book and he's the individualist—an anarchist in Brentwood—who breaks the mold. But, in reality, Cox Arquette would not be in a position to own a Porsche if it weren't for her affinity for taking risks.

She enters the living room of her sprawling ranch house conservatively dressed in a black nylon jogging suit. Her handshake is firm, her manner brisk. As we exchange pleasantries (she talks so fast her word-per-minute count is off the charts), I take a quick look around. The room is—how can I describe it politely? Let's just say that neither Monica Geller (the neat freak Cox plays on *Friends*) nor Gale Weathers (the monomaniacally ambitious reporter she plays in the *Scream* movies, the third of which opens this month) would put up with the disorder for even two seconds.

21st century
Cox: She's hot
for David at
home—and
in *Scream 3*

Still, there's something quirkily appealing about a living room that's frankly a work in progress. "I used to be into modern, but I found that looked too cold," says Cox Arquette, glancing around at an aquarium, a pool table and a huge crate for a new puppy. "I'm so fickle when it comes to decorating. Now I'm into Asian-meets-Art Deco... meets Arquette. Somehow she's found room for David's five-foot-tall plastic toothbrush and his child-size statue of the Mad Hatter. "He likes large, kitschy things, and I incorporated them."

So that's how she handles blending two personal styles into one wild and crazy living room. But what about larger issues of incorporation? How does a disciplined, self-reliant 35-year-old TV star work out a marriage with a 28-year-old multi-tattooed indie actor who's given to wearing dog collars? Does she plan on taming him? Playing the indulgent mother to his rebellious man-child? Nothing could be further from the truth. "I am older," says Cox Arquette, "but you could only call me a Mom to David insofar as I listen to him. He takes care of me. He provides my stability. As crazy or goofy as people think David is, he's the one who likes to know that things are going to stay the same. I'm much more impulsive; I'm the one who gets bored. That's why I'm always redecorating—I need change."

Cox Arquette, the youngest in a family of four (plus nine half-siblings), first showed up on the radar in 1984 when Bruce Springsteen pulled her out of a crowd to dance with him in his video "Dancing in the Dark." Three years later, the Alabama native was pulled into the limelight again, playing Michael J. Fox's perky girlfriend in *Family Ties*. After that show ended—and while she was in a long-term relationship with Michael Keaton, 12 years her senior—she took acting lessons and worked in a string of mediocre films (*Mr. Destiny*, *Blue Desert*, *Shaking the Tree*). She bought houses, fixed them up and sold them. Then in 1994 came the TV show about six friends who do a whole lot of hanging out. Good-bye, anonymity.

After two years of playing the sharing and caring Monica, Cox got to sink her teeth into *Scream*'s Gale Weathers, the reporter with the sensitivity of a steel door. Cool move: Not only was she in a successful film franchise, she also fell in love with her leading man. She says their relationship in *Scream 3* is like real life: "We can't stop being attracted to each other."

An Immodest Proposal "It was a total surprise when David asked to marry me. We'd gone down to Florida for the opening of my brother's patio-furniture store. Afterward, David was very clingy. I'm surprised I didn't say, 'You've got to leave me alone!' Someone suggested, 'Let's



The girl-next-door who is so much more: After playing the girlfriend (and the most girlish friend), Cox Arquette has finally broken the babe mold. In the *Scream* trilogy, she's the femme fatale we love to hate

go walk on the beach.' And I went, 'This is odd. My family doesn't go walking on the beach as a unit.' There were all these fireworks going off on a barge—and I still didn't get it. I thought, 'Wow, my brother really went all-out for his furniture store.' The next thing I knew, David said, 'This is all for you.' And he got down on one knee and proposed."

What They Have In Common "We're emotionally very similar. We're both the youngest in our families. We laugh at the same things. Yes, he has more color in his closet than I do in the whole house—he has everything from chicken outfits to beautiful suits. But clothes just happen not to be my priority. Wearing clothes for him is like

decorating houses for me."

Older, Schmolder "Before David, I'd only been attracted to older men. I think there was something about them seeming wiser than me. But I look up to David. In many ways, he's smarter than me. Sure, the age thing is scary. But David loves older women—always has. Obviously! Everyone knows who he's been out with [i.e., Ellen Barkin]."

Flying High "I got my need for speed from Dad: He's kind of a daredevil. His passion was planes. Every weekend we'd fly someplace. Then times would get tough, Mom would

say, 'We have priorities,' and he'd have to sell a plane."

She Works To Live "Being the youngest, I always had hand-me-downs. My mom would say, 'You can have these pants, they were your sister's.' But I wanted exactly what I wanted, so I got my first job at 13. I'd call people out of the phone book and try to make them give donations to a foundation for the mentally retarded. When I was 16, I went into a work-study program and worked at a pool-supply store 40 hours a week. It was a challenge, but high school was an even bigger challenge; I wasn't part of the cool group or the druggie group or the jocks. The job I liked best, though, was modeling in New York for young-adult book covers. You didn't have to be the prettiest or the thinnest or the tallest. If the book was called *Who's Under the Stairs?*, I'd hold a flashlight and look scared. It was the only kind of modeling I felt comfortable doing."

Movies Befitting A Scream Queen "When I was ten and my parents were getting divorced, I went by myself to see *The Way We Were*. I was crying so hard, the usher had to take me out of the theater. Later, I went to see *The Exorcist* with a friend. She left as soon as Linda Blair started flopping around. But I stayed—there was something about being scared that I loved." |

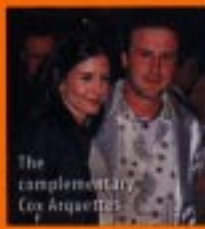
WHAT MAKES THIS HOLLYWOOD MARRIAGE WORK?

Three Things She's Learned About Dealing With David

- "He does not like to be told what to do. He'll do the exact opposite of what I say. He's a man. They're all like that, I think—at least the ones I've dated. So it's important to say 'Will you do this?' instead of 'Do this.'"
- "When he wants to be heard, I have to listen, and not try to fix everything, which is my first impulse."
- "I don't tell David how to drive. I want to say, 'That way is faster.' Or 'You're driving the car like it's a boat.' But I don't."

Three Things She Knows She Needs From David

- "A real opinion. I don't want to hear 'I don't know.'"
- "Sympathy. I like him to say 'That's a drag.' I don't need him to fix things, either."
- "Indulgence for my crazy schemes. If they don't work, I won't crumble. I promise I'll get up."



The complement: Cox Arquette and David Spade

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Before she was Monica Geller, she played Lauren Miller on *Family Ties*. View the episode guide at: www.sitcomsonline.com/familyties.html