

## The Latest News

# The Faerie Queen At 44



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By Alexander Baron



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Last month, the actress Sandra Bullock was named the [World's Most Beautiful Woman](#) by an American magazine. Miss Bullock is in great shape for a woman of 50, and a genuinely nice person; she is humble too, because she laughed it off. There is though one woman some would say has an even greater claim to that accolade.



*Candice on stage in 1997*

In 1989, Candice Night was a teenage music fan when she met the already legendary guitarist **Ritchie Blackmore** at a charity football match in New York. In spite of their age difference, she would go on to become Mrs Ritchie Blackmore – after a 14 year engagement! They started working together in the early 1990s, at one point Candice was singing backing vocals for his band **Deep Purple**, but when Ritchie decided he wanted a change of direction, Candice went with him.



*Golden girl Candice performing Cartouche in 2004*

It isn't difficult to understand what he saw in her, stunningly attractive, soft spoken, and as time has shown, a formidable musical talent in her own right. They went on to forge a new musical genre, recording critically acclaimed albums and building an international following. Candice is lead vocalist and lyricist for the band. A multi-instrumentalist and occasional songwriter, four years ago she released a solo album of her own material.



*Candice performing in 2004 for Castles & Dreams*

In 2010, she gave birth to their daughter Autumn, and in February 2012 her son; Ritchie already has a son by his first marriage, who was born nearly half a century earlier! Last month Ritchie

celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday; on May 8, Candice celebrated her 44<sup>th</sup>, and difficult though it is to believe, beautiful as she was when **Blackmore's Night** was formed, she is even lovelier today.



*Candice performing in Paris, 2006*

In 2006, Blackmore's Night recorded a song called *Faerie Queen*, which is what she truly is. Like her husband, she says she would rather live in the Mediaeval world than the modern one, but only with central heating and all mod cons, something many people forget about when they dream of a **mythical golden age** in the distant past. Her compromise is to live in a castle, and she really does dress like that much of the time. When most men fantasise about women, they mentally undress them, but a girl who has this much class looks great however she dresses.



*Ritchie Blackmore can be seen playing acoustic guitar behind and to her left. 2009*

It remains to be seen what the future holds for Candice, though no one could blame her for sitting back and enjoying family life for at least awhile. In July though, she and Ritchie will be on tour in Europe, mostly in Germany. So if you want to see a real life Faerie Queen in the flesh...



*The Faerie Queen is now a proud mother of two:  
daughter Autumn Esmeralda was born in 2010 and son  
Rory Dartanyan in 2012*

The following subjective list makes up the top ten tracks from Candice Night:



10 *Dangerous Smile* – from her solo album, a solo composition in an alien style showing the lady can do it all.

9 *Shadow Of The Moon* – the song that introduced Blackmore's Night to the world; they haven't looked back since.

8 *Village On The Sand* – the live version is best.

7 *Ghost Of A Rose* – a tribute song to the tragic Jacqueline du Pré. Quite beautiful.

6 *The Clock Ticks On* – a Mediaeval melody adapted by Ritchie with lyrics by Candice; the second track from their debut album.

5 *Just Call My Name (I'll Be There)* – co-written with Ritchie as ever, and there is no doubt of whom she was thinking here.

4 *The Storm* – another original song, one that combines old style music with hard rock.

3 *I Guess It Doesn't Matter Anymore* – an original song about a modern ghost story.

2 *The Circle* – an original song from the 2008 *Secret Voyage* album – the live version is even better.

1 *Locked Within The Crystal Ball* – a great track live but the studio version is truly awesome;

Candice plays shawm on this. The song is based on the 14<sup>th</sup> Century chant *Stellar Splendens*.



A Blackmore's Night poster advertising the current tour.

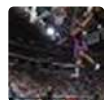
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Astonishingly beautiful. Way to go Ritchie.

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