Glenn Close:

Glenn Close : I Have Texas in My Blood

Glenn Close has never been to Dallas. But all that changes next week when the award winning actress --- she’s been nominated five times for an [Oscar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award), and has won three [Tonys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Awards), an [Obie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obie_Award), three [Emmys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmy_Award), two [Golden Globes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globes), and a [Screen Actors Guild Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screen_Actors_Guild_Award) -- lands in Big D for the first time. She’s coming to give a part of herself to our theater arts schools, do a little “bidness”, and get some major Dallas cash in her next venture. Glenn is meeting with investors who want to help finance the very first feature film she has ever produced, a project she and her producer, Dallas native Bonnie Curtis, affectionately call “Nobbs.” *The Singular Life of Albert Nobbs*, is an adaptation of [George Moore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Moore)'s Irish short story about a woman in 1898 who disguised herself as a man to gain employment, to survive. Glenn says when she played the role of \_\_\_\_ off Broadway twenty years ago, she felt a connection that never left her. The story, she says, blindsided her. And it will blindside everyone who sees it.

“It’s a story about what people do to survive,” she says, “About what faces we put on to survive… and there’s an element of redemption.”

It could well be, she says in that famous Glenn Close voice, one of the greatest characters I’ll ever play.

The production of artistic films has almost become a dying art -- Hollywood producers step over artistic films for blood, guts and gore. Independent films of great integrity and originality are dying, says Glenn. But the interest and support she’s had from the film-loving community in Dallas has been, well, *amazing.* Dallas, she says, is a very generous city when it comes to supporting the arts. Nobbs will start rolling in November.

“Dallas, well Texas, is really going to make this film happen,” says Glenn.

And while she’s here, the Fatal Attraction femme fatale is going to raise money and teach a class at the Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual and Performing Arts, and lead master theater classes at SMU.

“ Booker T. is on the world’s artistic map,” says Glenn. “Booker T. is in People Magazine.”

Her visit culminates with a private cocktail party and reception at the White Rock Lake home of Theresa and John Amend, also known as Mt. Vernon. It turns out that Theresa Amend is the aunt of Bonnie Curtis, who was raised in North Dallas right over there on Blairview Drive, went to Baylor, little time in Abilene, then ran off to LA in 1988 to work for Steven Spielberg. Now she has her own production company (name?) Glenn will pose for photographs from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., and the Amends have even opened up their famous bowling alley ‘till the wee hours of the night.

I’ve known Glenn since 2006. She’s almost like family, with her patrician east-coast upbringing, her physician father who operated a clinic in the Belgian Congo. So I was surprised when I asked her what she would be thinking of next week as her jet approached D/FW.

“My grandmother,” she told me.

Turns out Glenn’s paternal grandmother was born in Galveston, Texas and survived the great hurricane of 1900. After the floods, she moved to Houston and lived down the road from Howard Hughes. Then came World War I, and her grandmother fled to New York City.

“She wanted to drive an ambulance,” says Glen. “But there she was, penniless, and she didn’t understand it was the society women who were driving the ambulances. So she got a job at Morgan Bank.”

Which is where she met Glenn’s paternal grandfather, Edward Bennett Close, a stockbroker and director of the American Hospital Association.

And now, full circle: the granddaughter returns to the land of her Lone Star genes to finalize her greatest artistic achievement.

(If you would like to attend the cocktail benefit for Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual and Performing Arts, call