



November 2017 Newsletter

Celebrities with Vision Problems

Eye-related diseases affect more than 90 million people in the United States alone. Whether you are a famous celebrity, or a neighborhood local, you run the risk of developing a vision-related condition.

The National Eye Institute reports that almost 24 million people are battling vision loss from cataract, more than 7 million have eye disease as a result of diabetes, and more than 11 million seniors are affected by macular degeneration. That number is expected to double in the next decade.

John Goodman, the well-known actor, underwent surgery when he was around 60 years old to remove cataracts. He took a break from his acting career to have the surgery, saying that he realized his vision problem was not going to go away.

His TV wife on the 80s show, *Roseanne*, comedian Roseanne Barr, also faces serious vision problems. She suffers from both

glaucoma (which robs peripheral vision) and age-related macular degeneration (which results in loss of central vision). Barr has several risk factors for developing AMD including her age – she is 65 year old – her light skin, blue eyes, and being female. Her father also had advanced AMD. Roseanne’s history of smoking and obesity are additional risk factors. In an interview with *People* magazine, Roseanne revealed her strategy for dealing with AMD, “You do what you have to do. I just try and enjoy vision as much as possible – y’know, living it up.”

Bono, the lead singer of the band U2 is known for his trademark sunglasses. They not only reinforce his rock star ‘cool’, he revealed a few years ago that he was diagnosed with glaucoma in his 30s, and suffers from light sensitivity.

Finally, Oscar winner Dame Judi Dench starred as “M”, the chief of MI6 in seven James Bond movies. Despite being 80+ years old, Dench is still working in films, including the just released, *Murder on the Orient Express*. Six years ago, she revealed that she has AMD and asks for her scripts to be printed with enlarged typeface so she can read them. “So, if six of us were coming in to read, they’d all have one piece of paper and I’d have two or three. They’d think, ‘why does she have a bigger part?’ when it’s all the same!”