

# The Telegraph

## Jude Law admits ‘chocolate-box cottage’ in *The Holiday* is fake

Actor apologises for ‘bursting the bubble’ on the house that inspired the hit romcom

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*The quintessentially English cottage in *The Holiday* was dreamt up by the film's director Credit: Simon Mein*

Jude Law has revealed that the idyllic cottage in the Christmas film *The Holiday* is fake.

The actor starred in the 2006 film about a house swap between a British woman and an American, played respectively by Kate Winslet and Cameron Diaz, which has become a festive favourite.

Winslet's character Iris, who is a Daily Telegraph journalist, lives in "Rosegill Cottage", a quaint stone building in Surrey. It appears to be at the end of a lane and is entirely devoid of neighbours.



*Jude Law plays Cameron Diaz's love interest in the 2006 film Credit: BENJAMIN CREMEL/AFP via Getty Images*

Despite reports in recent years that the cottage had come up for sale and become available on Airbnb, Law confirmed that the property does not exist in real life.

Instead, the exterior shots were filmed at a fake frontage built in a field and the cottage dubbed the “real Rosehill Cottage” was merely inspiration. Called Honeysuckle Cottage, it is in the village of Holmbury St Mary and has neighbours on either side.

Speaking on Radio 2, Law, 51, shocked the host Zoe Ball when he said: “That cottage doesn’t exist.”

He added: “The director, she’s a bit of a perfectionist ... and didn’t quite find the chocolate-box cottage she was looking for, so she just... drew it and had someone build it.



“If you watch it, we were shooting it in the winter here and every time I went in that door, we cut, and we shot the interiors in LA about three months later.

“I’ve just burst the bubble, sorry.”

The Holiday has become a Christmas staple since its release 18 years ago. It tells the story of disillusioned career women played by Diaz and Winslet, who swap houses for the festive period.

Diaz, arriving at the idyllic cottage, has a romance with Law’s character, who is Iris’s brother. Winslet, arriving in Los Angeles, begins a relationship with a character played by Jack Black.

The popularity of the romcom led to a demand among holiday renters for quaint cottages.

In 2018, Honeysuckle Cottage was put up for sale for £650,000.



*The interior scenes starring Diaz were shot in a Los Angeles studio Credit: United Archives GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo*

It has a picket fence and arched porch, and inside is an inglenook fireplace, exposed timber beams and a rustic kitchen.

In 2022, the new owners Jon Bromley, 58, and his wife, Cressida, 52, offered the house as a holiday rental on Airbnb for £295 a night.

The couple admitted they had been unaware of its movie credentials until fans started turning up and taking pictures outside.

The Los Angeles home featured in the on-screen house swap – which is a real property – was put on the market for \$10.78 million in 2018.

The mansion, in the suburb of San Marino, was built in 1928 by the architect Wallace Neff, who helped develop a unique Californian style.

Nancy Meyers, director of *The Holiday*, has previously referred to the building of a fake cottage, which was constructed with a perimeter wall, trees and a road leading up to it in a matter of days.

While the cottage is not real, other aspects of the film were, including the snow that fell during filming in Surrey.

Exterior shots were also filmed in the Surrey villages of Shere and Godalming, which were decked out with Christmas decorations for the shoot.

The pub visited by Law and Diaz's characters, the White Horse, is also real.

Shere has been used as a location in other romcoms, including *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*, and *The Wedding Date*.

The seasonable difference in filming outside in the winter in England, and then shooting interiors in Los Angeles, created continuity issues for Law.

Reprising his role

Speaking in 2020, the actor explained that he tans quickly and became bronzed during filming for the interior shots in California.

This means that while he appears pasty white in exterior shots in England, as soon as his character walks inside a cottage or a pub – scenes filmed later and after tanning – he looks far more brown.

Law has previously supported the idea of a sequel to *The Holiday*, and spoken of reprising his role as Graham.

However, Nancy Meyers said of the suggestion: "It's not true."

Winslet also said at the time: "I promise you not an agent or a representative or anyone from the first one around has had any conversation with me about that. Hand on heart, that's never come up."