



JACYLN SMITH



FARRAH FAWCETT

LATE 1970s
Smith and Fawcett
as the hair-swinging,
come-fighting goddess
girls of *Charlie's Angels*

DOUBLE TAKE

Back in the 70s we all wanted to look like Jaclyn Smith or Farrah Fawcett in the original *Charlie's Angels*. We ask the experts on their take on how these celebrities look now

Words Victoria Meppem

Being a celebrity with all the fame and money in the world is no guarantee you're going to get it right when it comes to plastic surgery. Hollywood, according to Melbourne plastic surgeon Dr Bryan Mendelson, "is no different to anywhere else when it comes to the difficulty of selecting the correct plastic surgeon. There is hype about the celebrity status of the surgeon and a lot of promises made about quick recoveries and so on. Shopping around for the promise of a good result with a quick recovery, like the 'lunchtime' facelift, is naive and asking for problems." We spoke to Mendelson and two other leading Australian plastic surgeons on how Farrah Fawcett's and Jaclyn Smith's looks compare today.

DR WARWICK NETTLE

"When I initially saw the photographs of Jaclyn Smith and Farrah Fawcett I was struck by the difference between softness and hardness, between a youthful fullness of the face versus a very drawn and tight face. To

me, Farrah Fawcett clearly looks as if she has had a large amount of surgery over many years. The evidence for surgery is the extremely sharp jawline, the absence of wrinkles around the mouth, the drawn or pulled look to the skin, the twisted nose with nostril rim retraction, the elevated eyebrows, the high forehead with receding hairline, the downward slope of the lower lids, and the general tightness and absence of upper eyelid fat. She reminds me of the skin-tightening surgery that was done for many years prior to an understanding that facial rejuvenation is all about returning youthful volume and proportion rather than skin tightening.

"In contrast, Jaclyn Smith looks fantastic. She has retained the relatively soft skin of youth, whether through good genes or by treating her skin well both by avoiding excesses of sun and lifestyle and the judicious use of cosmetic medical and surgical services. Jaclyn Smith is an excellent example of the fact that a youthful look is brought about by the retention of and promotion of youthful

contours, volume, proportion and padding of the skin rather than tightening of the skin. She looks as if she may have had well-performed upper and lower eyelid surgery. The softness of the creases around her nose and lips suggest augmentation with facial fillers like collagen.

"It's highly likely that she achieves her relatively wrinkle-free look around the eyes and between the eyebrows with the use of Botox. Her skin texture looks great and it is very likely that Smith may have had a series of light peels. She may have even had an extremely well-performed and gentle facelift, as evidenced by the use of the large earrings, the sit of the ears and her neck and jawline, which is not normal even in the best of circumstances for a woman older than 45. This is the sort of facelift that I strive for and this is the sort of soft, gentle look which is almost always achievable through a combination of good surgery, good genetics, a healthy lifestyle and the judicious use of muscle relaxants, fillers and skincare."

DR BRYAN MENDELSON

"The dramatic comparison between the current 'look' of Farrah Fawcett compared to Jaclyn Smith shows quite starkly the long-term consequences of the different qualities of cosmetic surgery.

"The most telling abnormalities regarding Farrah Fawcett are around the eyes, the ▶



“If there is any message ... it is that plastic surgery can be overdone ... you can end up with a grossly abnormal appearance”

nose and the upper lip. Her eyebrows are unnaturally high, whereas in Jaclyn Smith they remain youthfully low. Traditional thinking has been that lifting the brows is a way to make a person look more youthful. However, if you study pictures of most young women their brows are in quite a low position. Stretching the brows higher, while it might smooth the forehead, actually makes a person look older.

“To have a natural depth of the eyelid crease between the lashes and the brow there needs to be sufficient skin. There comes a point when there is not sufficient skin available, not only for a deep crease but also to fully close the eyes, such as in blinking or in sleep. Farrah’s face shows extremely tight skin without natural expression. The natural fold from the side of the nose down past the lips has been completely removed by excessive skin tension and the shape of the face is no longer natural, having insufficient projection of fullness over her cheekbones as she did when younger.

“Old facelifts are about stretching the skin tight to erase wrinkles (Farrah), whereas a modern, internal-support facelift restores youthful shape (Jaclyn).

“The nose is a separate issue. On Farrah it looks as if the bridge has been excessively lowered so that the nose now looks too broad. There has been excessive removal of the cartilages which provide support to the tip and the nostril rims so that the nostril rims have retracted up on either side, almost like a horse. However, the face and upper eyelids and brows look as if they have been permanently overdone.

“The fact that Jaclyn Smith looks similar to what she did in her golden years but has aged gently and softly should be a source of comfort to people who also wish to minimise the consequences of the ageing process on facial appearance. Fillers, Botox and threads do have a place, but not as a substitute for quality cosmetic surgery.”

DR ALFRED LEWIS

“When you compare the two photographs of Jaclyn Smith and Farrah Fawcett it seems evident that Farrah has had excessive correctional surgery at least in the upper part of her face. The result has been to elevate the entire brow area from the mid line to the outer sides of the eyes. This would have been done to try to reverse the natural ageing process of the face that

allows the eyebrows to fall downwards and the outer sides of the brow to fall inwards towards the nose, to produce the characteristically hooded look of an older person. This has the secondary effect of producing an apparent excess of skin in the upper eyelids as well.

“A browlift operation is designed to allow some elevation of these structures. If done incorrectly it produces an appearance of surprise or even consternation instead of a rejuvenated look, as possibly in Farrah’s case. She might have had other surgery on her face but this isn’t obvious.

“I suspect she may have had some upper eyelid skin removed and possibly some surgery on her lower lids involving lifting up the corner of the eyes in a procedure called canthoplasty, which is considered in America to be a rejuvenating operation.

“The overall end result is to produce a caricature of a face with a totally fabricated, unbalanced appearance which the observer sees as unnatural and therefore unattractive. The nice balance between Jaclyn Smith’s features demonstrates all the advantages of leaving well alone. If there is any message in Farrah’s dilemma it is that plastic surgery can be overdone and by attempting to overcome some natural and not necessarily unattractive wrinkling or sagging in certain parts of the face you can instead end up with a grossly abnormal appearance which draws attention to the face in an adverse way.” ■