



STAR
ATTRACTION

Cartier's prominent role in *Ocean's 8* comes on the back of its past silver screen appearances and a long heritage of jewellers dressing leading ladies in film. discovers ZARA ZHUANG

HEADLINED BY AN ensemble cast including Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Rihanna and more, the all-female heist flick *Ocean's 8* brought in an impressive US\$44 million in the US over its opening weekend in early June.

But in this spin-off to the *Ocean's* trilogy of crime comedies (fronted by George Clooney, Matt Damon, Brad Pitt and more), it could be said that what truly — excuse the pun — stole the show was the magnificent Jeanne Toussaint necklace at the centre of the plot, a creation that Bullock and her band of thieves set out to nick during the annual Met Gala.

Specially created by the film's exclusive jewellery partner, Cartier, the work of art is named after its creative director in the 1930s — Jeanne Toussaint, who was known for her fondness for the opulent style of jewellery beloved by Indian royals, and is credited with solidifying the panther's place as the symbol of the House.

The design of the Jeanne Toussaint necklace has strong links to Cartier's heritage, too. It's based on a similar piece Jacques Cartier drew up in 1931 for the Maharaja of Nawanager, a necklace the former called "a superb realisation of a connoisseur's dream", which was set with a cascade of coloured diamonds including the 136.25-ct blue-white Queen of Holland diamond.

Though the 1931 jewel no longer exists, archival drawings and photographs were referred to and adapted, with the piece (originally intended for a man) sized down by 15 to 20 percent to fit Hathaway's frame. And despite



FROM TOP: JEANNE TOUSSAINT; A SKETCH OF THE COLLIER NAWANAGAR THAT JACQUES CARTIER DESIGNED FOR THE MAHARAJA OF NAWANAGAR

OPPOSITE PAGE: ANNE HATHAWAY WEARING THE JEANNE TOUSSAINT NECKLACE IN *OCEAN'S 8*



being described in *Ocean's 8* as a diamond necklace worth US\$150 million, the actual item was made out of white gold and set with zirconium oxide, designed to withstand frequent handling during filming. Craftsmen in Cartier's high jewellery workshops on Rue de la Paix in Paris completed the Jeanne Toussaint necklace in just eight weeks, after which it was flown to New York to join the *Ocean's 8* cast.

On top of providing the Jeanne Toussaint necklace, Cartier also loaned Cartier Collection pieces, current high jewellery, watches and accessories to the cast and the host of celebrities who made cameos. The Cartier Mansion on Fifth Avenue received substantial screen time as well — filming was done over two days in its salons.

Ocean's 8 is far from Cartier's first collaboration with movie projects. For the 2014 biopic *Grace of Monaco* starring Nicole Kidman,

the jeweller created five replicas of Grace Kelly's best-loved jewels from the brand — her engagement ring (Kelly proudly wore her 10.47-ct emerald-cut diamond Cartier engagement ring on the set of the 1956 musical comedy *High Society*), two figurative brooches, a tiara and a necklace. And for the 1974 version of *The Great Gatsby* starring Robert Redford and Mia Farrow, Cartier stepped in with art deco historical pieces and inspired reproductions, including a Love Birds brooch, a pearl-and-emerald sautoir, and an unmissable marquise-cut engagement ring.

With this much star power on screen, only heavyweight jewellery with substantial visual impact can hold its own. **P**

HOW BRILLIANT

Cartier isn't the only jewellery house making appearances in film. Here are other spectacular creations that have graced the silver screen



Pretty Woman (1990)

The ruby-and-diamond necklace that Julia Roberts reaches for — and Richard Gere snaps the jewellery case closed on — was designed by Fred in 1989 and reportedly cost US\$250,000.

Moulin Rouge (2001)

Designed by Stefano Canturi, the platinum necklace set with more than 1,000 diamonds worn by Nicole Kidman was expected to fetch more than £660,000. But Canturi withdrew the lot when he decided he couldn't part with it.

Anna Karenina (2012)

Chanel loaned its ambassador Keira Knightley US\$2 million of jewellery for the film adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's novel, including a triple-strand white gold-and-diamond necklace befitting of the film's socialite heroine.

Diana (2013)

This Princess of Wales biopic featured Chopard's watches, bags and jewellery from its Happy Diamonds and high jewellery collections, including a three-row necklace of 92 pear- and cushion-cut diamonds.



The Great Gatsby (2013)

Tiffany & Co. teamed up with the film's costume designer to design Jazz Age jewels, such as the Savoy diamond-and-pearl headpiece that adorned Carey Mulligan's bob. The House then launched the Ziegfeld Collection, based on archival designs from the 1920s.