

BON APETIT! The Astrology of Julia Child

By John Marchesella

Before we even set eyes on the natal chart of Julia Child, we might assume to see a big, fat Moon, the planet of food and nurturance. But no! Astrological assumptions are always dangerous.

POW! Look at that Uranus! Talk about surprises! He's the singleton of a bucket chart. In His own sign. Ruling an angle, the MC. But it also makes perfect sense.

Uranus is television. He symbolizes a one-of-a-kind phenomenon. Innovation.

And His placement in the 9th house indicates her connection with foreign countries, and of course, publishing.

The high count of air is not what we'd typically associate with her luscious recipes, but it does further explain her luck with writing and broadcasting. It gave her that remarkable wit too, and added to her physical height (especially with Saturn on the Ascendant).

When our eyes move to the 2nd quadrant, then our expectations are met more predictably.

Cooking is represented by more than just the Moon and Cancer. Yes, they do represent food as the experience of nurturance. However, Leo is the presentation of food, i.e., the dinner party, the celebration with food, the fun of food. And Virgo is the skill of culinary, not just the well-organized recipe, but also the innate knowledge that a pinch more salt will do the trick.

Of course, not only does she have plenty of planets in the Cancer-like 4th house, but those three signs are so prominent in the horoscope along with a Libra Moon, which appreciates the finer things in life. It also gave her taste and sophistication although it did not spare her from being a klutz. The T-square with Venus/Ascendant, Saturn and Jupiter accounts for her infamous clumsiness and the necessary humor to go with it.

And Cancer on the 3rd house cusp is so apt for her writing about food, at first, tenaciously, and eventually, prolifically.

Her iconic *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* was first published in 1961, and not long thereafter, her first television series was broadcast on February 11, 1963. Her transits and progressions indicate how she swept from one to the other to legendary impact.

Just as the book came to publication, transiting Pluto in Virgo made the last pass over the aforementioned mutable T-square, certainly representing a rebirth. And hot on its heels was transiting Uranus in Virgo, making for a lightning-like rise before the public. Transiting Saturn moved through the 9th house for the book's publication and culminated at her MC for the television premiere.

The eclipses were moving through houses 10 and 9 during these years too, again emphasizing publication, the international influences and her professional reputation.

However, the "readiness" for the happening of trends and events always lie in the secondary progressions. In this instance, her progressed MC passed through the trine to natal Jupiter, reiterating the themes of publishing, foreign matters and just good old-fashioned good luck in the Jupiter style, a welcomed change after years of thwarts in getting the book taken seriously by publishers.

Even more effective were the joining of the progressed Sun and Mercury conjoined on the natal Moon in Libra in 5th house.

And most effective was the nearness of progressed Uranus's station from retrograde to direct, emphasizing the ability to go forward with broadcasting, her popularity and all the potential power of that natal Uranus!

Then, on August 7, 2009, Julia and her famous Boeuf Bourguignon enjoyed another round of popularity with a new generation with the release of the semi-bio-pic, "Julie & Julia."

Mind you, this film came after her death, but nevertheless, her transits and progressions are still revealing.

Transiting Pluto was approaching his station on her 8th house cusp. Talk about coming back from the dead!

Neptune was transiting her natal 10th house in opposition to the Sun, i.e., a ghostly glamorization of her life and creativity?

Transiting Saturn made a fast forward moving sweep over her natal Mars, through her 5th house, and square her natal Pluto, giving new manifestation to her life work.

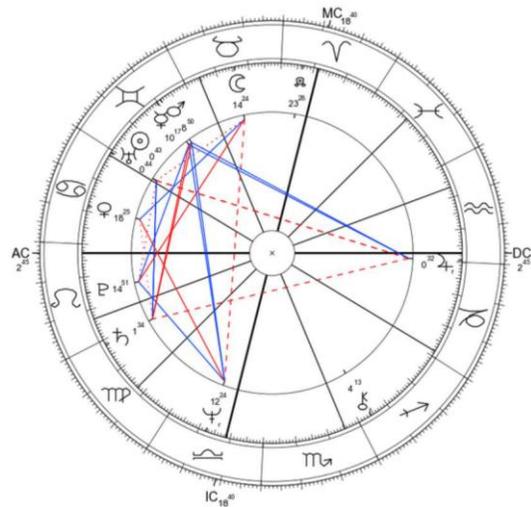
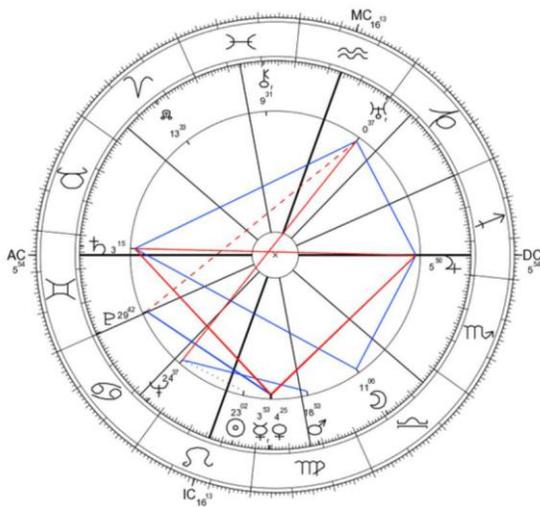
Again, lucky Jupiter approached a station on her MC in Aquarius, making for the unexpected critical and financial success. And to boot, in the week of the film's opening, there was a lunar eclipse on her MC too, "bringing things to light".



Julia Child
August 15, 1912
11:30 P.M. PST
Pasadena, CA,
118W09 34N09



Meryl Streep
June 22, 1949
8:05 A.M. EDT
Summit, NJ
74W22 40N43



Even the secondary progressions are meaningful after death. Her progressed Sun was moving into the last degree of Scorpio. The progressed MC passed through a square to her natal Sun. And progressed Mars, ruler of the natal 12th house, also squared the natal Sun from the sign of Scorpio and moved through the trine to natal Neptune. Altogether, there is plenty of symbolism of a rise from the dead in a very popular movie.

And who better to play the great chef, but Meryl Streep, not because she can master any role, but because of her astrological connections with Julia. (As you read this, remember these women never met).

Exactly where Julia's singleton Uranus is, namely at 0 Aquarius, Streep has her Jupiter, the singleton of her bucket chart!

And just where Julia has the square between her Venus in Virgo and Saturn in Gemini, Streep has the complementary square between Mars in Gemini and Saturn in Virgo. It's further significant that Julia's Ascendant, i.e. identity, is involved in this synastry.

Streep's natal conjunction of the North Node and her MC in Aries is not far off from Julia's North Node (7 degrees in orb and 3 degrees in orb, respectively). So whether or not they shared a past life, future generations will see them merged.

Last but not least (unless we loosen our orbs and get lots more synastry), Julia's Moon in Libra is conjoined Streep's Neptune, which by the way was stationary-direct on her day of birth, explaining her remarkable talent. And what better synastry than a Moon-Neptune conjunction to make for such an enjoyable portrayal.

Bon appetit!

John Marchesella loves astrology and the movies, and he makes a mean guacamole.