

Glamour magazine interview with Richard Armitage

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Were you surprised to be cast for the part?

I went in to audition for a different character and read for Thorin. I didn't realise that they were going to take me seriously because it was to play a dwarf, and I figure at six foot three you don't often get cast as a dwarf, so I thought of course it would be the role that I'd read for and it wasn't it was for Thorin and I had to pick myself up off the floor.

What special skills did you learn?

First of all we had to learn to move like dwarves because we're heavier and it's as if we're made of stone so we had to learn to walk differently, run differently. All our gestures were different because we've got big prosthetic hands on, so that took quite a few months. And then the swordfighting, so I had to learn to fight with a two-handed sword and then try and use that heavy sword with one hand so I did a lot of wrist exercises to get that arm strong.

Do you have a go-to red-carpet outfit?

I do have a go-to red-carpet outfit and it's a suit that I've worn before because it's Tom Ford and it's a classic black suit, so you can't fail with something like that.

Are you a high- or low-maintenance guy?

When I'm getting ready to go down a red carpet I tend to be as minimal as possible. I like to throw some wax in my hair and maybe not even shave, but I will wash my armpits!