

Dzień Dobry TVN – Breakfast TV, Poland

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Anna: First of all thank you for being a part of this movie because apart from the landscape you were the nicest element to look at, because it's full of monsters and ugly creatures.

RA: Thank you very much. As a hairy 5 foot 2 guy, it's a compliment.

Anna: Yes, it was a compliment. Is it hard to make a commitment to a movie like this one that's extended in time in terms of shooting and it also has three premieres, so you can stick to the story and the character for a long time?

RA: They didn't even get to the end of the sentence of offering me the role before I said yes, so absolutely not. There was absolutely no doubt in my mind. I was a huge fan of the *Lord of the Rings*, I saw what Peter had done with that story and those characters and I just couldn't say fast enough, so...it was still...the film wasn't green lit so I was having to make negotiations with other pieces of work and the possibility of seeing another actor play that role was just, was just...

Anna: Dreadful?

RA: Dreadful, yeah. I couldn't ever have lived with myself. I remember getting there and saying to Peter, if this is the last piece of work I ever do, I'll be happy because it's such a complicated, interesting role in an amazing story, it's every actor's dream really.

Anna: So how did the sentence go, the one that they offered you the role, which they didn't get to finish?

RA: My agent said Peter would like to offer you the role of Thorin, and I was like YEA he said, but, the film wasn't green lit, so there were obstacles to jump over, and I remember getting a call, actually I heard it on the radio, I was in Los Angeles and I heard on the radio that the film had been green lit and I stopped the car and I was like woah we're going to do it.

Anna: Who did you call first when you found out?

RA: Er I think I called my Mum...yeah I phoned my Mum.

Anna: How many months did you spend in New Zealand and how... (unclear)

RA: We started in about February 2011 and I left at the end of July 2012 so yeah 18 months, but a few breaks in the middle but yeah it was a lot of fun. New Zealand is the most incredible place I've ever been to and it really is Middle-earth and so being in Middle-earth.

Anna: The movie is really encouraging. It's like a postcard from New Zealand.

RA: It is, and that format, when you see the sweeping landscapes at 48 frames in 3D it's like you're there.

Anna: I've heard you're a method actor and you try to sort of imagine everything in this situation, is it a little bit difficult in the world of CGI?

RA: It's sort of essential in the world of CGI, I mean method is ... I don't understand what it means. I know that I need a lot of concentration all day to do what we do, or what I do. It doesn't mean I can't have a chat or go and have lunch, but I'm always thinking about what's going to be happening in the scene. You do engage your imagination a lot more, working with CGI, but Peter has a great skill at describing to me what it was I was seeing. The concept artists would show you pictures, so your head is filled with all these images, and all you have to do is imagine. You just have to be a little bit of a child in your mind.

Anna: Which is nice!

RA: Which is great

Anna: One more thing I need to ask you. I've read on the internet that you joined the circus in Budapest. Is that right, because it sounds like a made-up story?

RA: No, it's true. When I was 17 I needed an Equity card and I got sent to the circus, so yeah it's true.

Anna: Interesting, I'd like to know more about that!

RA: I'll tell you. Nice to meet you.

End of interview