

OUR STRAIGHT MATES

With Matthew Myers

Bad boy

From hearts on *Home And Away* to ribs on *Power Rangers*, Daniel Éwing is breaking into the big-time. He tells Matt Myers about hitting the gay circuit and those Hollywood rumours.

DNA: You were first noticed on *Home And Away* as Reuben, and he was a bad boy!

Daniel Ewing: To be honest with you, one of the first times I was recognised was at my local shopping mall and a four-year-old girl threw her milkshake over me. Her mum came running over and said, "She loves you but she's just upset that you broke up Rick and Matilda!" I started to think the job was a little more hazardous than I had thought.

Bad boys are good characters...

Well I've played another bad boy more recently in *Power Rangers*, but it's always fun to play bad boys, especially the ones with a bit of heart and soul behind them, because, as an actor, it gives you something to go to.

Tell us more about your character Dillon, the Black Wolf Ranger.

Dillon was a mix of Mad Max and Wolverine. One of the producers even sent me some old Kurt Russell movies like *Escape From New York* to get the movements and speech down. Bad boys have attitude and don't often have a lot to say!

With a name like Ewing, do you ever get JR Ewing and Dallas jokes?

Oh, plenty! It's a little before my time but I

And you both trained at the National Institute Of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

After *Home And Away* I got a scholarship to one of their open courses, but three-quarters through the year I got offered the *Power Rangers* job. When the producers told me it was an eight-month shoot in New Zealand with combat training, an American voice coach, nutritionist, personal trainer and all, it was an opportunity hard to refuse. But NIDA did a great write-up on me. I went back there and gave a talk and photo shoot before I left. I didn't want to leave but it was a great opportunity.

You're a pretty hot looking guy. Do guys ever hit you on?

I've got so many gay friends and I'm not afraid to say that I'm quite frequently at Arq, Homosexual and the Midnight Shift. I've pretty much been to every gay bar in Sydney! I love my gay friends just as much as I love my straight friends. They are beautiful people and if I get hit on, it's a compliment.

Who would you turn gay for?

I'll say Shaquille O'Neal. I'm curious. I mean, the guy is seven-foot-two with size 22 feet and, well... guys get asked this question and it's usually Brad Pitt or George Clooney, but

getting Lady Gaga. He has pop stars tattooed all over his body!

What is the campest song on your iPod?

Mariah Carey's Christmas album!

Sam Worthington and Chris and Liam Hemsworth are making it big in Hollywood.

Do you think there is a secret to their success?

The Hemsworth brothers are kicking ass! I think it's the Aussie blokeyness. Hollywood loves it and the Australian male actors seem to have a real presence. Aussie actors are not used to being pandered to and the budgets on our shows are much lower. Over in the States you have a stand in, for instance, where here you have to work a lot harder for a lot less. It's just an Australian thing. Russell Crowe, Hugh Jackman and Eric Bana have all paved the way and made our jobs so much easier.

If you could have a beer with any famous person, living or dead, who would you choose?

Hugh Jackman, without a doubt. He's a gentleman and appreciates people. In New Zealand, where we shot *Power Rangers*, they also shot *Wolverine*. Every single Friday, without fail, Hugh Jackman would get a giant roll of scratchies and give them out to the cast and crew. But on top of that he works hard. You can't have a better idol for a young male Australian actor.

Boxers, jocks or freeballs?

I'm a fitted boxer sports brief guy. I do a lot of sports, so you have to have your boys well protected. You've got to have them tight in there – you can't have any Shirvo action happening! I think freeballing is a bit dangerous, but I do the loose boxers at night.

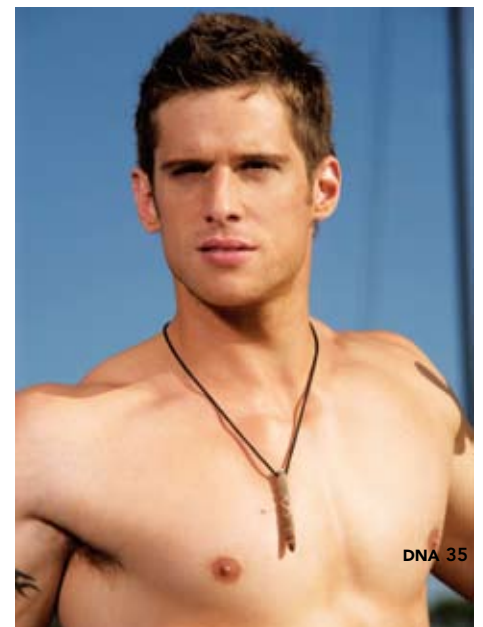
What about under your Power Ranger suit?

Under there we have to wear a mankini, which is the equivalent of a G-string. It has a Ken doll effect and takes all the shape away from your manhood!

From what I've heard, it would take a lot to suppress yours!

[Laughs] Those damn Hollywood rumours!

Power Rangers RPM returns soon to the Disney Channel.



"I'd go gay for Shaquille O'Neal. If you're going to do it, you might as well find out what Shaq's packing!"

used to get people coming up and saying, "Who shot you?" I had no idea what they were on about and my dad had to explain it to me. I think he copped quite a bit of it, too. I also play representative basketball and there's a former NBA player called Patrick Ewing. I used to get that as well. I pushed for my younger brother to be named Patrick and he was! But he's not a seven-foot-tall African-American!

You had a role in *Superman Returns*. How did that come about?

That was my very first movie role. I had been doing stand-up extra work and had never been on a film set in my life. While I was on the *Superman Returns* set I was picked out with five others and told, "Come with us." I thought I'd done something wrong. But it turns out they had set up a shot with rubble falling in Metropolis and I had to push a girl out of the way to save her. You can't see my face but I know it's me because it was my first acting job.

Ian Roberts was also in that film. Did you cross paths?

No, but I think he's an amazingly talented guy. To go from professional footballer to professional actor is not an easy thing. I'd really like to work with him one day, but hopefully not on the receiving end of a fight scene! At the end of *Superman Returns*, he's actually dragging one of the stunt guys by the face!

I think if you're going to do it, you might as well find out one of the big questions – what's Shaquille O'Neal packing!

This topic came up in the interview we did with Matt Shirvington.

[Laughs] He went to my school at Marist College in North Sydney. He was a few years above me and trained me in athletics. I think the sports channels shoot him from the waist up because they get a few of the old dears curling over!

Do you have any tattoos?

Yes, I have the Southern Cross on my right forearm. It has five stars, which also symbolises the five people in my family. I also have a band around my bicep area that says "*carpe diem*", which means "seize the day" in Latin. But I interpret it in Australian as "have a crack".

Kylie, Madonna, Britney or Pink?

I saw both Pink and Britney in concert and I've never been a huge Kylie fan. Madonna is timeless but I'll go Pink. She's a phenomenal performer. She's the complete package. The biggest thing for me is her connection with the audience. I wasn't a fan of her music until I saw her live. A good friend of mine is Ryan Goodman [model in #DNA 100], who is well known in the Sydney gay scene, and he has "Britney bitch" tattooed on his forearm! He's got Kylie, Mariah and I'm pretty sure he's