



MAD MAN!

Aussie daredevil Robbie Maddison has jumped Tower Bridge in London and the Corinth Canal in Greece and he recently doubled for dapper Daniel Craig in *Skyfall*. He spoke to Matthew Myers about living dangerously.

DNA: A career as a daredevil sounds pretty cool. Is that how you'd describe yourself?

Robbie Maddison: Yeah, I'd definitely come under that title, but not just as a daredevil. I push myself to be an athlete, too, in the world of freestyle action sports. **You're Daniel Craig's stunt double in *Skyfall*. Do tell!**

It was awesome. I've always dreamed of being in a film and it came true. But to double as James Bond was just amazing. When I was growing up, this was the box at the top of my list and I finally got to tick it! **Was riding along those Istanbul rooftops as scary as it looked?**

Yes! There was a lot of risk involved and it was a crazier than a normal stunt. Those rooftops are so narrow. It was fast and without a helmet. If I had gone over the edge, it would have been all over. **Did you meet Daniel Craig?**

We met on set towards the end of my stay in Istanbul. Daniel shook my hand and thanked me for taking on the role. He said he was a fan of my work and loved my stunts. Later we ran into each other again at the hotel bar and had a drink. He's a very nice guy and it was wonderful to work with him. **Are you a fan of Bond films?**

Yes I am. When I was a teenager I used to play the 007 video games. My favourite Bond film is *Casino Royale*. **One of the most famous daredevils was Evel Knievel. Did you know him?**

Yes, he invited me to ride at the Evel Knievel base. That was a dream come true, but unfortunately I was committed to another event at the time. Sadly, he passed away before the opportunity came around again. I went to his funeral and I'm friends with his family. I remember seeing Matthew McConaughey at his funeral. I think there was talk of him playing Evel in a movie, but apparently Channing Tatum is now up for it. **So who would you like to see play you in a movie?**

Heath Ledger would have been good. I'm a big fan of his work and he was an Aussie, too. Actually, Jesse Spencer from the TV show *House* would be great to play me. He's Aussie and knows the lingo. I've gotten to know him, too, and he's a good bloke. **Do you have a favourite stunt?**

The jump off the Arc De Triomphe replica at Paris Las Vegas was probably my most impressive. It's pretty gruelling being up

that high. That stunt involved facing a lot of fear and it was the most rewarding for me and the most popular of my career. But the craziest one for me was jumping the Corinth Canal in Greece. We had so many dramas with it. Even on the test runs we could tell I wasn't making enough speed to do the jump. My heart was in my mouth because it was pretty much the riskiest I had done. I said I wouldn't do it without a parachute and the parachute never came, but I went ahead with it anyway.

"I'm scared of snakes and dirty women!"

Your motto is "face your fears – live your dreams". Is there anything apart from riding that scares you?

I'm scared of snakes. I'm scared of snakes and dirty women! But to be honest a lot of things scare me. Heights scare me. But I like to work with my fear and I'll walk up to a ledge and look straight over because I know that I'm not going to fall. It's just our minds that hold us back. **Do you have gay mates?**

I do. When I worked on the MTV gig at Dreamworld, one of the dancers there

was gay. He's a super nice guy and we'd hang out at the bar and have a few drinks. I really dig hanging out with gay people. I've been to gay clubs and had a dance. I'm quite comfortable with all that.

If you were gay, who would you go for?

[Laughs] I'd go for one of my hot friends! Some of them are pretty ripped and tanned. In the celebrity world, maybe Tommy Lee. He seems to have a lot of fun. **Who is your diva?**

My wife Amy. But if I had to choose a singer, I'd say Delta Goodrem. **Do you have any tattoos?**

No I don't, but my wife just drew a picture on my arm with a pen. It says, "My wife rocks" and it's a picture of a dick! [Laughs]. But she won't let me get any. I had one drawn up of my grandfather when I was in hospital with meningitis and encephalitis. I lost my vision and was paralysed. I was pretty much on my death bed. My parents had to sign my body over to the hospital for whatever they could do to save me. When my vision came back it was minimal and I drew what I could see in front of me. But I never got the tattoo done, and I'm kind of glad because so many dudes have tattoos now.

Being on your deathbed – did that push you to become who you are today? It took away any hang-ups. I came out with an attitude to live life to the max. Decisions like packing up and leaving everyone to move to the other side of the world became easier to make because you only get one chance. If you think there is a little bit of chance, take it. **Are you a jocks, boxers or freeballing man?**

I have to wear some retainers man. I wear the tight boxers because my balls hang low and I gotta retain those bad boys! [Laughs] Especially in the Californian desert heat. You gotta look after your boys!

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