



WonderMan

Is it the new Melrose Place, No 96 or Friends? Either way, apartment drama *Wonderland* isn't short of hunks. Matthew Myers caught up with one them, Tim Ross.

DNA: You've had a few roles in television, but *Wonderland* is a big break. What was the 'sliding door' moment for you?

Tim Ross: There were a number of factors including what was going on in my life, plus luck, a new agent, maturity and, quite frankly, not giving a shit what people thought of me! I had a strange feeling that this was going to be the year. I had struggled for so long, and then in the space of 24 hours I was offered *Wonderland* and also three years on another television series, which I had to turn down. When it rains it pours!

You're hot. Do guys ever come onto you?

I get that now and again and it doesn't bother me. In fact, I almost find it more of a compliment than when a female does. A lot of my gay friends are quite fussy so to know they approve is somewhat flattering.

If you were gay, who would you lust after?

My *Wonderland* co-star Ben Mingay, in the hope he'll stop pestering me for it! [Laughing] I'd also say Bear Grylls as I love the wilderness,

Blondie... in her prime.

In this issue, DNA is talking to men in uniform. Have you ever worn one?

Funny enough, I played a gay soldier in a stage production a few years back and wore an army uniform. I had a scene where my partner and I ran around in our undies, flicking each other with wet towels. So you could say that any gay men in the audience had the best of both worlds [laughs].

What's your porn name (your first pet and the street you grew up on)?

Sebastian Paul. It has a French ring to it, doesn't it? Maybe I'll make that my stage name so there is no more confusion with Rosso.

Have you ever pulled an on-set prank?

Actually, I had a prank go wrong on *Hamlet*. I thought it would be funny to spike the entire cast's fake wine with Tabasco sauce, and I mean lots of it! But Garry McDonald ended up having a coughing fit and could barely talk. When the stage management found out, they tore strips

similarities lie with the drama unfolding in an apartment building, but I think *Wonderland* has more comedy.

You've done quite a few Shakespearean roles – any favourites?

The Melbourne Theatre Company production of *Hamlet* back in 2011 was my first main stage show and I had an absolute ball. I played Laertes and worked with some great actors I looked up to, like Garry McDonald and Ewen Leslie.

Laertes is a great role!

Yeah, he has a pretty rough trot. Hamlet kills Laertes' father, which makes his sister Ophelia go mad and she consequently drowns herself in the river. Being told your sister has drowned every night for six weeks and having to pull off a convincing reaction is quite taxing! That's the thing with acting – your mind knows it's not real but your body doesn't. Becoming that distressed and crying every night for that long is utterly exhausting. Hamlet and I also had the big fight to the death scene, that was cool. I learnt how to fence and it gave us a chance to release the frustration built up throughout the play.

What do you like about being part of Generation Y?

Technology. We now carry a universe of knowledge in the palm of our hands, and can listen to any song from any era in seconds. The other thing I love is how open minded we are with issues, such as gay marriage.

What don't you like?

Knowledge and wisdom have lost their significance. Kids no longer ask their parents and grandparents about the meaning of life, because Google provides six million pages of opinions. Another thing I despise is the consensus that we are lazy, ungrateful, rude and self-indulgent and that bothers me mainly because a lot of the time I agree! Half of Gen Y doesn't appreciate how good we have it. I mean, try being sent off to war at the age of 19, against your will and without an iPhone! But I also know a hell of a lot of driven Gen Y's who work around the clock and love life. I guess every generation has its flaws, legends and fuckwits.

Are you a jocks man, boxers or freeball?

Ninety per cent of the time I go for briefs, but every now and then I'll toss in a freeball just for the hell of it. Like it says, it's freeing!

more: *Wonderland* screens 8.30pm Wednesdays on Network Ten

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What's the campiest TV show you watch?

I don't watch a lot of TV, but when I was in primary school I was obsessed with *Sister Act 2!* I knew every word on the soundtrack and I'd crank it up and mime along as I washed my mum's car. I've never told anyone else that! Will you print this? [Laughs]

Do people confuse you with comedian Tim Ross from Merrick And Rosso?

Constantly! I went up from Melbourne to do a spot on his breakfast show and we've since had a bit of a battle on who is the real Tim Ross. I've even had extras on *Wonderland* come up to me saying they were expecting to see Rosso and were somewhat disappointed to meet me! Sorry guys.

Who is your diva?

I'm a sucker for Pink. Her voice is incredible and what she brings to a performance is unreal. I also have a thing for Debbie Harry from

off me. Apparently I hadn't considered someone could be allergic... imagine if I had killed Norman Gunston!

Who do you look up to in the industry?

I respect and admire actors who continually include stage in their careers. For me, this says it's more about craft than fame. Sir Ian McKellen is a big one. He takes the work seriously, but not himself. Also Bryan Cranston has a phenomenal range and is utterly convincing.

Tell us about your character Steve on *Wonderland*.

Steve grew up in Toowoomba, Queensland with his mate Tom, who he lives with in the *Wonderland* building. He's a genuine and loving husband and also a caring brother to his sister Miranda. He has a heart of gold.

Comparisons are already being made to *Melrose Place*. Do you see that?

I didn't see much of *Melrose Place* growing up, as I was probably a little too young. I guess the