

Channing Tatum: The 'Magic Mike' Interview

By Kam Williams
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Channing Matthew Tatum was born in Cullman, Ala., on April 26, 1980. A mix of Irish, French, German and Native-American ancestry, he was raised mostly in Mississippi and then Florida before starting out in showbiz as a fashion model and as a dancer in music videos.

He recently co-starred opposite Jonah Hill in the hit comedy "21 Jump Street." The two also served as executive producers on the project, which has grossed \$200 million at the box-office worldwide, with a sequel currently in development.

Earlier this year, Channing co-starred opposite Rachel McAdams in "The Vow," a romantic drama that grossed \$200 million, too. Additionally, he starred in Steven Soderbergh's spy thriller "Haywire," and will soon be seen in "Ten Year," a film he produced in collaboration with Reid Carolin and Iron Horse Entertainment. The film's ensemble

cast includes Channing's wife, Jenna Dewan, along with Rosario Dawson, Lynn Collins, Kate Mara, Anna Faris, Brian Geraghty, Justin Long and Chris Pratt, and will be released on September 21st.

Tatum is currently in production on the Steven Soderbergh crime drama "Bitter Pill" with Rooney Mara, Jude Law and Catherine Zeta-Jones which is set to hit theaters next February. Also set for 2013 is "G.I. Joe 2: Retaliation," where he stars alongside Bruce Willis and Dwayne Johnson.

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His prior film credits include "The Son of No One," "The Eagle," "Dear John," "G.I. Joe," "Fighting" and "Stop/Loss." In 2006, he received an Independent Spirit Award nomination and a Gotham Award nomination for his spellbinding performance in the powerful, coming-of-age drama, "A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints."

That same year, the versatile thespian starred opposite



'Magic Mike'

Amanda Bynes in the romantic comedy "She's the Man," as well as in the surprise hit "Step Up." Here, Channing, who lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Jenna, talks about producing and playing the title role in the semi-autobiographical "Magic Mike."

Kam Williams: Hi Channing, thanks for the interview.

Channing Tatum: What's up, Kam? How are you doing, brother?

KW: I'm great, thanks. Let me say right off the bat, Channing, that I really was pleasantly surprised by Magic Mike. I wasn't expecting such an emotionally-involving, character-driven film. I thought it was just going to be one of those superficial dance flicks.

CT: That's cool, man. Thank you very much. I know that they're selling the "Showgirls" aspect of it, but it's not just about men stripping. There's a little bit of a story there, too.

KW: I have a lot of questions sent in by fans who knew I'd be interviewing you. Legist/editor Patricia Turnier asks: What interested you in making a movie about male strippers?

CT: I had a little experience in this world and, to be honest, I had never seen it on film. So, when [director] Steven Soderbergh and I started talking about it, we discussed some classics like "Boogie Nights," "Shampoo" and "Saturday Night Fever," and decided we ought to be able to make a memorable movie about a subject that's never been covered cinematically before.

KW: Harriet Pakula Teweles says she read in Wikipedia that you spent some time as a stripper. She's wondering whether that just might have been a joke that somebody posted there.

CT: No, I did do it for about eight months of my life, which is a relatively short period of time. It's not like I made a career out of it or anything. This movie is really a bit of an explanation of my brief experience in that world. I represented a new generation of strippers where it was no longer about the long hair and all that, but about hip-hop and kinda doing your own thing. When I went in at 18, all

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