

## **AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDREAS WISNIEWSKI, APRIL 26, 2012**

*Interview by Anders Frejdh, Editor of From Sweden with Love.*

### **How did you get into the film business?**

I was working in the theatre and a friend was making a student film in which he offered me the lead role. I had begun to study acting privately because i had become aware that i needed some technique to use my voice on stage.

Soon after that i moved to London and happened to meet Ken Russell who offered me a part in a music video. That was Elton John's Nikita. He then hired me for a tiny part in "Gothic". "The Living Daylight" was next. What made it happen? Luck. Being in the right place at the right time.

### **What advice would you give to anyone getting into the business?**

Good schooling is not enough. It takes luck. Often knowing someone who can get you the first job, quite likely poorly paid. This was then. Quite probably it is harder now. If you love showbiz, by all means try! But have a backup plan. For everyone who gets a foot in the door, many don't.

### **Which are your favourite films?**

My favourite director is Stanley Kubrick. I love all his movies, and my absolute favourite is "2001".

### **Which performances do you like?**

There are so many great actors i couldn't possibly list all fabulous performances. The first time i thought an actor and his performance to be breathtakingly fantastic was Rod Steiger in "The Sergeant". His Napoleon in my opinion has no equal. But - as I said - too many to list.

### **Describe an underrated part of your profession.**

That's easy. GETTING the job. When I was living in Hollywood, someone told me that the hit rate was one job for every 60 auditions! If this is true, that would have included all the under-fives etc. Truly daunting odds!

### **What are your memories of John Glen?**

John was totally professional and easy-going. Inconceivable that he would have been badly tempered!

### **What are your memories of Cubby Broccoli?**

I didn't spend much time with Cubby but I remember him being larger than life. A Hollywood tycoon of the old school and a generous man!

### **What are your memories of Timothy Dalton?**

Tim was friendly but very private. He was taking the part very seriously which I think was definitely the way to go. What a difficult job to make a mark as 007!

### **What do you feel about your involvement with Bond now?**

I am thrilled that it happened. And now, even more for my kids than myself.

### **What do you feel about the current Bond films?**

I really like the way they have developed. For a bit it looked like there were other movies out there topping them in "Bondness", but the more realistic, tougher recalibration works for me.

### **Have you ever read any of the Ian Fleming books?**

Never got around to it!

**What were the challenges of your involvement with Bond?**

All around. I didn't know what the heck i was doing.

**Can you tell us an anecdote, a memory of your time on the film?**

There must have been quite a few worth telling but when asked this question i always recall doing the final fight between Bond and Necros. Dangling in the net hanging out of a half a Hercules plane that had been built on the sound stage in Pinewood Studios in order to match the parachuting stunt which had already been shot, after about half an hour Tim said "I'm knackered already". We had no idea we would be spending three more days right there! Hard work indeed.

**Can you tell us about the differences in the fight with Bill Weston in TLD and the one with Bruce Willis in Die Hard?**

Both were big movies, both had the best professionals on it. Bill was most generous in helping me get it done. Essentially TLD wasn't dangerous for me, though for him it was working with a newbie. In TLD i did all the stunts myself (except the parachuting stunt), in "Die Hard" i had a double doing a bit going down a steep stair case. He ended up dislocating his shoulder and needed to be replaced. Lucky me! Of course, it was a special moment smashing the star's head into a wall!

**I know you are very much into yoga but apart from that, what are your hobbies and how do you relax in between your work commitments?**

I play the cello.

I relax by spending six weeks a year in my monastery (i am a Zen monk).

**Have you ever worked in and/or visited Sweden/Scandinavia for any reason?**

**What did you think about it?**

I have been twice. I visited Helsingborg and Stockholm. Stockholm was great. I am less happy in uptight cities but Stockholm is very open, friendly and relaxed. I have happy memories.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME ANDREAS, VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!**

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