



LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

# SFX

PLUS  
★ ODYSSEY 5 ★  
★ BUFFY ★ ANGEL  
★ HARRY POTTER

£3.50 #99  
Xmas 2002



OVER  
**120**  
TREK-TASTIC  
MOVIE PHOTOS!

# STAR TREK NEMESIS

"Shockingly **disturbing** and **dark**"

★ ALL THE STARS ★ THE DIRECTOR ★ ON SET ★

TOTAL BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACCESS



# YOUNG BLUE EYES IS BACK

He's 5' 7", is still only 21 and has the eyes that makes women worldwide go "Awww". He's **Elijah Wood** and he is, for the second time, **Frodo Baggins**.

WRITTEN BY SAMANTHA ALTEA

**W**HAT COULD POSSIBLY BE BAD ABOUT SITTING IN a fancy Manhattan hotel room on Madison Avenue, sipping morning coffee, munching bagels, gazing through a huge picture window at frantic New Yorkers hustling on the street below – especially when you're waiting to spend half an hour with one of Hollywood's hottest up and coming stars. Nothing bad about that, unless, of course, the star is fashionably late and the three, now irritated journalists in the room are rapping their fingers on the sleek mahogany table in front of you and bitching about the pending horrors of crosstown traffic *en route* to JFK. Doesn't anyone know they have planes to catch? But one flash of Elijah Wood's baby blues as he comes breezing in with a thousand apologies and the biggest eyes I've ever seen in my life and all is forgiven. He plunks himself down, all smiles and charisma. The nearly 22 year old star is pumped, raving about the clips he's just seen from his upcoming movie, *The Two Towers*.

"The reason we're late," he explains, "is that none of us have seen the movie and we wanted to watch the clips that you guys got to see." He grins mischievously. "Actually, we watched them twice..." He looks like an angel, a cherub almost, but this butter-wouldn't-melt guise is betrayed by the scruff of whiskers defiantly sprouting from his chin. It takes at least a minute or two to compute that his eyes really are that huge and that bright blue, so he continues to gush with excitement before anyone snaps to and asks him a question.

Mature beyond his years, this kid has been in the movie business forever. He's professional, smart as can be, has a strange penchant for horror movies and will hug any New Zealander he meets. But be warned – if you happen to bump into our friendly Frodo and try faking a Kiwi accent for one of those coveted hugs, never, ever mention the word sequel. He explains more than once why *The Two Towers* is not – repeat not – a sequel.

"It's one story. You can't do one without the other two. It was always conceived as three films, a trilogy, because the books take place over a not very long period of time. From the time that Frodo leaves the Shire, and the Fellowship start on their journey, it's only about a year, if that. So it has to be done in real time. There wasn't really an option to film one, see how it does and then go back and do sequels. It's one story, that's the thing. When I signed on to the movie, I signed on to the trilogy."

The making of the trilogy was groundbreaking. All three movies were filmed together, out of sequence, over a period of 16 months. "It was very gruelling, very difficult. An incredible experience, but very difficult." Wood looks almost pained at the thought of it. He then pauses and closes his luminous eyes. A shadow almost seems to fall over the room. It's spooky. Perhaps he really is a Hobbit. Then he looks up and the room is bright and alive as he remembers New Zealand. "It's home, though. I spent so much time

© David Slippert/Katz Pictures

there and I continue to go back. It's beautiful, a beautiful place. This shoot was strenuous and arduous, but I think that had it been shot anywhere else it would have been a much harder experience, much more difficult. We were in New Zealand, and we felt so privileged to be there and to be privy to some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, to see pieces of New Zealand that even New Zealanders haven't seen. I meet more New Zealanders now outside of New Zealand, so when I bump into one it's always a hug. You know, 'Good to see you! How's home?'"

It's just as well that Wood does love New Zealand and is still excited about doing the junket rounds three years in a row. *Lord Of The Rings* isn't going away in a hurry. He doesn't mind a bit, though – even if he hasn't seen the last two movies yet. "We'll still be doing this three years after we filmed. It's great that I've just seen some footage because it brings me back even more. I was back in New Zealand about three months ago, doing some pick-ups and additional work for *The Two Towers*, so it's still fresh in my head. I got myself back into character and got my head around what film two is about. Film two does separate the the stories.

"I have very little knowledge as to what the rest of the movie is about," he laughs, "because it becomes so myopic. You just hold on to your vision of what you're doing. The worlds don't really intersect. The other actors would be doing scenes from their parts of the story, so I couldn't focus on the story, I couldn't know what was going on. I'd read the scripts, but you don't read their stuff anymore. You read only your things to focus on your world. When

*Continued  
overleaf...*



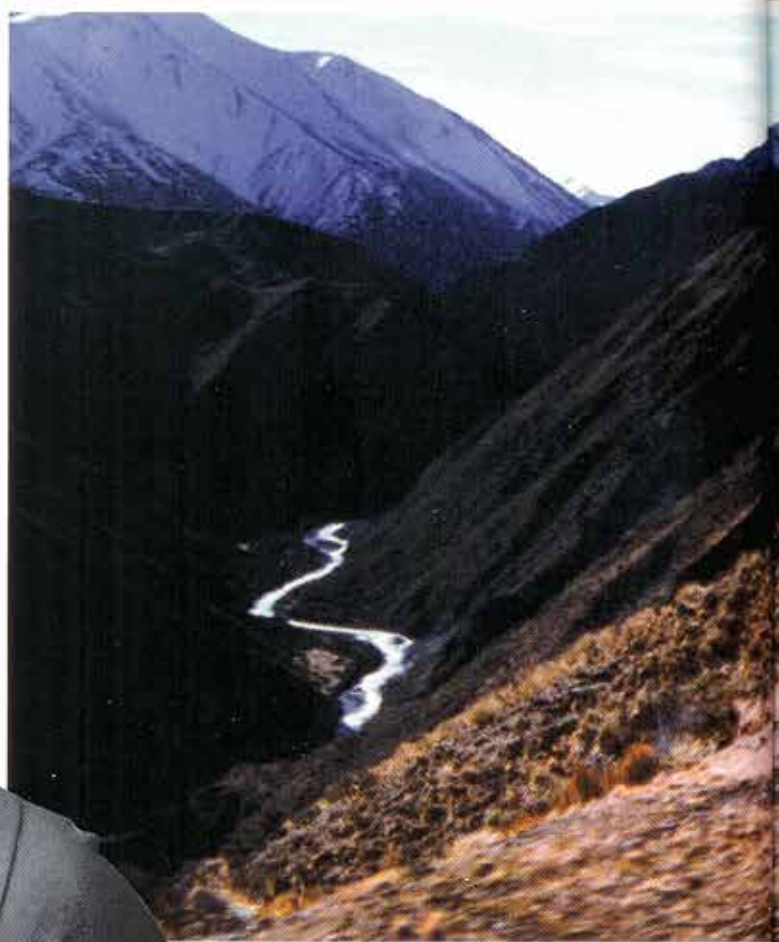
புது





Right:  
Running through the  
countryside. There's  
a lot of this in *The  
Two Towers*.

Below right:  
Arwen washes  
with Tenetel.



I see the movie, I'll essentially be seeing a movie I've never even thought of, in a weird sort of way. It'll be as if I wasn't part of it.

"It's weird – the movie hasn't ended for any of us. So, intermittently, between the last two years we've had either press, or we've done additional filming, or we've done dubbing for the two films. So we've been doing that for essentially three or four months out of the year. I've had time off, though – I did a movie last year called *Ash Wednesday*, and then I did a movie this year called *Try Seventeen*, which opened at the Toronto Film Festival. So I'm working, but taking time off as well, which is really good."

And what does a Hobbit do in his time off, then?

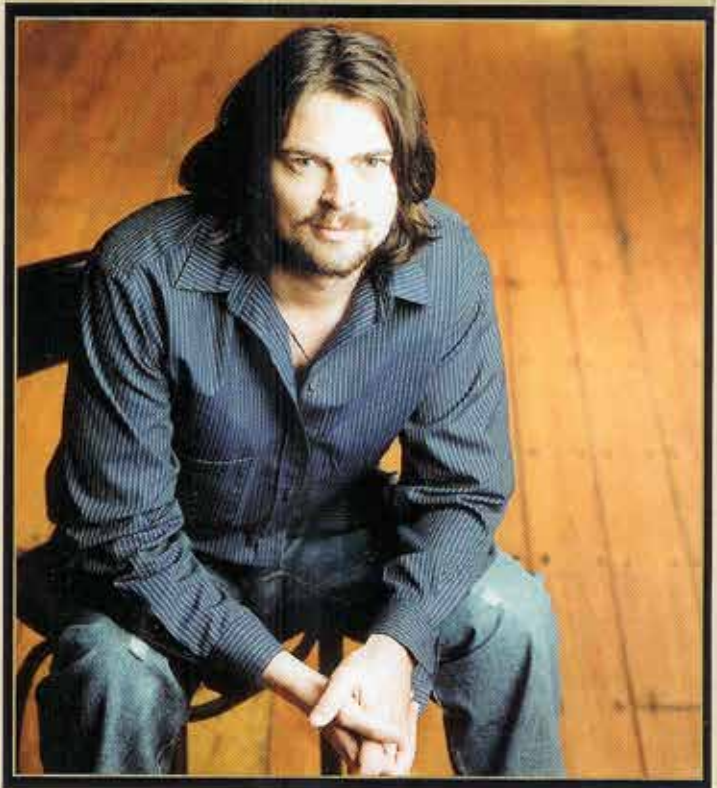
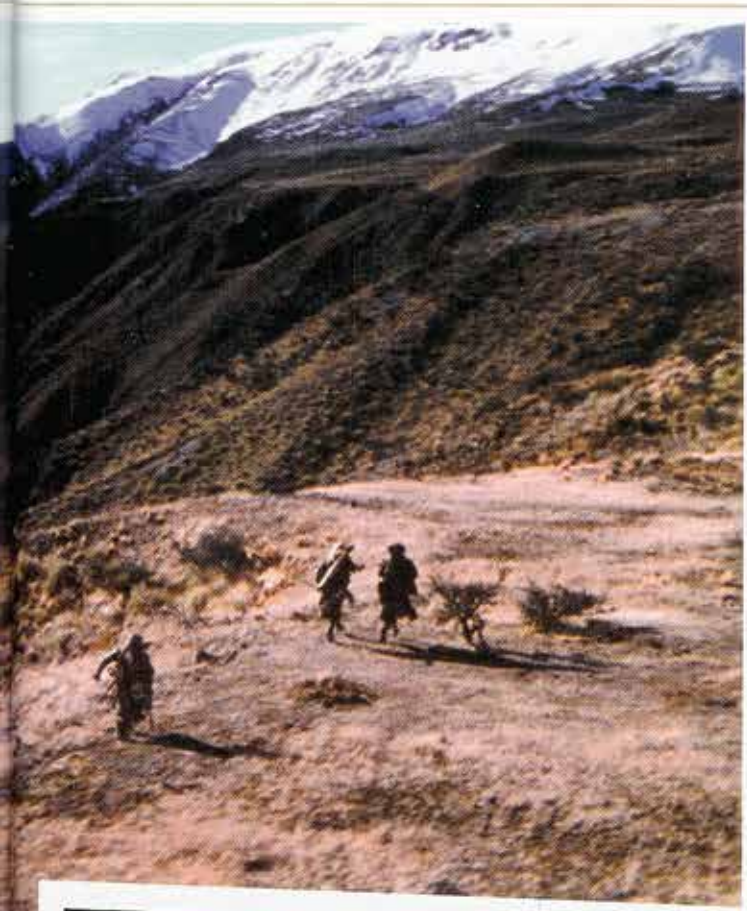
"Horror movies!" His eyes sparkle. "Oh God, I love horror movies. But it's a hard thing to love, because you're so often disappointed. And it's very difficult to make a good one. Some of the most groundbreaking horror movies were made in the '70s. And some of my favourite movies have been ruined by sequels (there's that word again). I mean,

*"I have very LITTLE  
KNOWLEDGE as to what the  
rest of the movie IS ABOUT"*



and again to the young people

# KARL URBAN



## Eómer

Nephew of the king, Eómer has recently become heir to the throne of Rohan following the death of Théoden's son some days before our heroes arrive at Edoras. A headstrong warrior and great leader of men, he would boppily ride to Isengard and vainly try to kick Saruman's wizardly ass, were his hands not tied by his uncle.

### How does it feel to be joining this world with *The Two Towers*?

"Like every other actor in the world, I wanted to be in *Lord Of The Rings*. But it didn't happen for me, and they'd already been shooting for six months. I just thought, 'Well, I've missed that boat.' I thought that was really sad. I really wanted to be part of it. I'd just finished a film with a director called Harry Sinclair, *The Price Of Milk*, and Harry is really good friends with Peter Jackson. He took a rough cut of the film down to show Peter, just when he was trying to think of someone to cast for the role of Eómer. And so Peter offered me the role, and I didn't hesitate to accept. I mean, I couldn't believe it. It came out of the blue. I was at home one day and my agent calls - 'Oh, you know, *Lord Of The Rings* want you?' I thought he was bullshitting me. I thought, 'Oh yeah. Right. Really funny.' And lo and behold, a month later and there I am on set in Helm's Deep, fighting Orcs."

### What did you make of *Middle-earth*, then?

"It was so surreal. I'm used to doing little independent New Zealand films, a crew of 30 and a couple of actors. And then suddenly I'm in Helm's Deep, with 300 Orcs, 200 guys on horseback... rock-hard warriors in front of a 1/8 scale of Helm's Deep in this quarry and a mess of lights, practically a city of support, vehicles and tents and what not. God, I was so nervous. I remember I was just about to go for the first take, and I looked over to the monitor where Pete's sitting. I'm trying to contain my nervous energy and just relax. I look over and Ian McKellen and Liv Tyler have come over and stood behind Pete to watch my very first shot. As if I wasn't nervous enough. I don't need that pressure! [Laughs]. But they came up to me afterwards and said, 'That was really good.' They really made me feel very welcome, made me feel like part of the family. I was also fortunate in that the New Zealand film industry is relatively small, so I'd actually worked with most of the crew before."

### Did you realise that this was such a big deal when you were cast? A lot of the other actors have mentioned that they thought this was just going to be a small New Zealand film...

"Well, yeah - I actually didn't really realise the full scale of what I was part of until I watched what had happened to the cast of the first film after it was released. Just the craziness, the whole phenomenon. That's when it struck me. But for me it was the opportunity to work with Peter and with such a great cast and crew. It helps lift your game. I'd watch him do take after take, see the little differences in inflection. He was in command of it all every day. Peter would sit in front of seven monitors and not only was he directing the unit in front of him but he was also receiving satellite from three or four other units in the vicinity, and he'd be directing them by cell phone or radio. And you could still go up to him with a question, and he would answer you. I never once saw him lose his cool or blow his top. His attitude really permeated the set."

the last *Halloween* movie... Did you see it? It was absolutely rubbish. It was sad. I had a tear in my eye." He has the sensibility of a 40 year old, but one not even born in the '70s. "How could you do that with that movie?"

Now he's away. "I love all movies. Dramas... comedies... I love comedies, although comedies are, again, a very difficult thing to do well. I love comedies, but there are very few good comedies. Hmmm. Everything! I love everything! There isn't a favourite genre. I go to horror movies because I like to have fun and they're fun to watch. Actually, I recently saw one which is now one of my favourite films ever, and I just have to tell everybody about this because they only released it for a day in the States because it's so controversial.

"It's this Japanese movie called *Battle Royale*." He begins to giggle. "The concept is essentially that it's a time in the not too distant future in Japan where the students - 9th Grade students - are rising up against the government. Because of the unruliness of the children they enact this

*Continued overleaf...*





## PETER JACKSON

Director **Peter Jackson** talks *The Two Towers*. "It's an epic battle movie," he tells **Todd Baesen**

STUDIOS LIKE SEQUELS TO BE MORE OF THE SAME. THAT'S WHEN THE DIRECTOR USUALLY THROWS HIS ARMS up in the air and yells, "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not gonna take this anymore!" But Peter Jackson was lucky. By shooting all three *Lord Of The Rings* movies back-to-back he could make the pictures he wanted, without studio pressure to repeat the stylistic strong points of the first one.

"But, since we shot them all together, it's much more difficult to change it later on," says Jackson. "As a result, *The Two Towers* is much more of an epic battle movie, while *The Fellowship Of The Ring* dealt more with fantasy. It centered on Hobbits, Elves and Dwarves, while this film is very much more about the race of humans. The countries of Rohan and Gondor play a bigger role in *The Two Towers*, and they are both countries inhabited by human beings. We also tried to stay true to Tolkien's book, but we did push some of his ideas a bit, so now, in a way, it's a story of genocide, as these two evil forces, Sauron and Saruman, join together in an attempt to eliminate mankind from the face of Middle-earth — including all the women and children."

Thus, when Rohan comes under attack, all its citizens flee to Helm's Deep, which is not so much a strategic castle, as it is a refuge. "The people go there in times of war for protection," says Jackson. "And Saruman sends this vast army of Uruk-hai soldiers against Helm's Deep, with the intent of killing every human being within."

Helm's Deep is the major action setpiece in the movie, with Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli, joining a cohort of King Theoden's Rohan horse soldiers in a plucky attempt to ward off the overwhelming forces of the enemy. "It's interesting," reflects Jackson, "because there's this huge wall, which makes Helm's Deep a nearly impenetrable fortress. There's really no way for the enemy to get in. And with our CGI technology, we have created these huge armies, where we can show 10,000 Uruk-hai marching down the valley towards the castle. We'll also have about 5,000 digital horses with riders on them, coming down a slope and attacking. They really look incredible, because we're cutting from live-action actors to close-ups of computer generated Uruk-hai soldiers, and the camera is right at head level with them."

Although Saruman sends the entire might of his army against Helm's Deep, he himself remains secluded in the relative safety of his dark tower at Isengard. Jackson notes that one of the dramatic problems he faced in adapting the book was that Saruman never strays far from the Tower Of Orthanc, leaving him completely out of the battle of Helm's Deep. It was a problem Jackson overcame by bringing the battle to Saruman, with a spectacular effects sequence, which shows Isengard being deluged by a flood of Cecil B DeMille proportions. "We built a huge miniature, with a big dam bursting," explains Jackson. "There's about 25 shots in the sequence, which was mostly done with practical water, filmed at high speed using these big dump tanks, so we could get all the background shots we needed."

*The Two Towers* will also be far less linear than the first film, as three separate narratives unfold, after the Fellowship breaks up. The Hobbits Frodo and Sam are now on their way to Mordor, while Pippin and Merry manage to escape from their Orc captors, and then encounter Treebeard in the mysterious Fangorn Forest. "Frodo's story with Sam and Gollum has very little action," says Jackson. "It's really more of a psychological narrative, with Gollum engaging Frodo in these mind games. Gollum is this freaky little guy, who's become completely corrupted by the power of the ring. He's really a tortured character, who we've created entirely in CGI. And Frodo, although he never once puts the ring on, as he did in the first movie, is becoming more and more affected by the ring. To a degree he's becoming more like Gollum."



'Battle Royale', which is essentially different classes randomly chosen and taken to an island where the kids are given weapons to kill each other. It's basically a game. They all have to kill each other off. The person that survives, wins. They don't know what weapon they're going to get. So they could get something terrible, like a tin pot!" This amuses him immensely. "It's awesome! I mean, it's terrible exploitation really, but they've got these kind of necklace things on so that if they go out of bounds they'll explode." His eyes are huge as saucers now and he grins. "It's horribly violent and truly delightful! But it's so extreme that it can't be real. You can't relate it to real life, because it's so outside the boundaries of reality. That's why it's *sooo* enjoyable..."

Listening to this reminds you that Wood is only 21. Frankly, if he didn't have such a baby face you'd swear he was 31 instead. Perhaps it's because he seems completely grounded, and has been in rehearsal for stardom since he was a small child. He assures us that fame won't go to his head. "The reason I say that is because my mom raised me in this industry, and I've gradually had to deal with a certain level of fame over a period of time. That's kind of accelerated, and obviously *Rings* has taken it to a completely different level. But she raised me to deal with all this... this atmosphere. So in essence her work is done, you know what I mean? I'm almost 22, and I think that she worked extremely hard to ingrain the attitude in me that she has. Oh no, it will never get to me. But it's all those years of

*"We also tried to STAY TRUE to Tolkien's book, but we did PUSH SOME OF HIS IDEAS a bit"*



al 'arjio b pul yinawc pa pa'ayc

# MIRANDA OTTO



© Wireimage.com



## Éowyn

Éowyn is the niece of King Theoden. An accomplished wordswoman and horse rider, she is frustrated by her father's inability to see the true threat of Sauron's armies. Exped on-screen sparks as the flaxen-haired lovely flirts with Aragorn, attempting to wrest his heart away from Arwen.

**You're now part of *The Lord Of The Rings*. Are you prepared for the inevitable attention?**

"People keep saying to me, 'This is going to be huge for you!' I think I'll just see what happens. I get worried about buying into all that, and expecting things to be huge for me. People keep trying to build this up - not the film, but its effect on me, that this is all going to have some huge effect on my life. Erm, I really like my life the way it is. I hope it doesn't change anything in a bad way. I feel very much that the film is the star. If the film's success means that I get to work with more really terrific people on great projects, then that's what I would hope for. The other things make me a little bit nervous."

**You're new to *The Lord Of The Rings*, but *The Two Towers* filmed at the same time as the first movie. How did you feel when the first film came out and started winning all those accolades?**

"I was excited from the moment I first saw what they were doing in New Zealand. I saw some of the footage when I first arrived. I always thought that this film will be huge. It'll be huge but it's also going to be incredible, and I'll be excited to watch people experience it for the first time in the way that I experienced it when I first walked in and saw footage and looked at the sets. I was just amazed. And then I saw the first film, and I loved the way that Peter had put it all together, with the score and everything else."

**You're part of a phenomenon now.**

"I want to be a part of something that will last. You do theatre and it's gone. You do films and they might be popular at the time, but people forget about them. This is the sort of film that people will remember. I'll be able to show it to my children, and share it with them. That's exciting."

**Éowyn is a powerful woman, isn't she?**

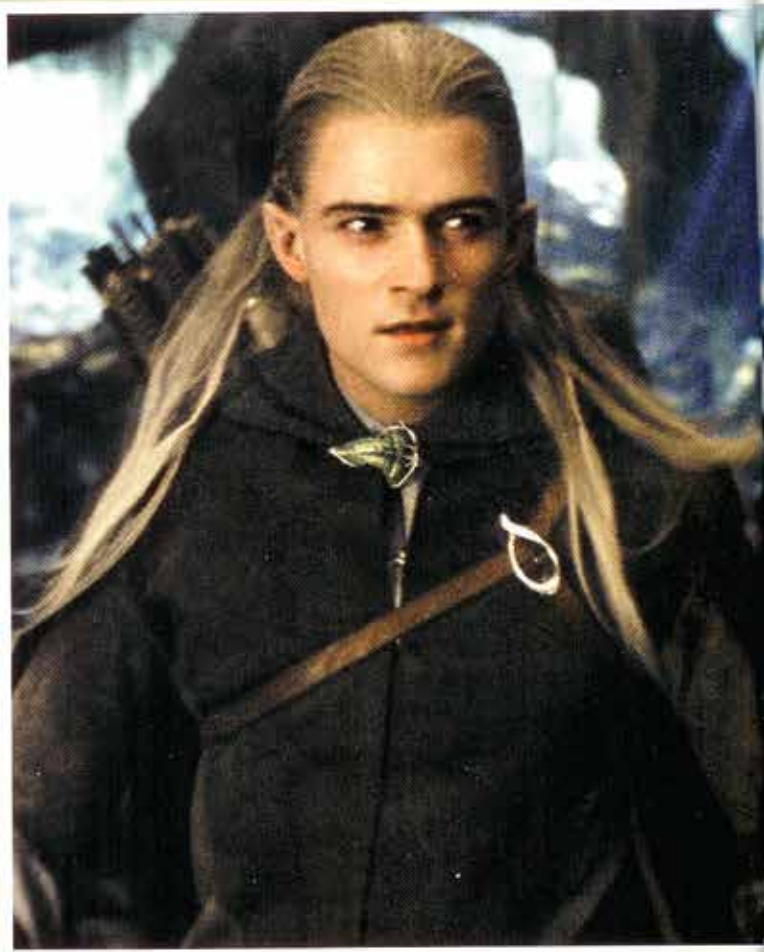
"Yes, she is. She's a warrior - but it's not until the third film that you get into that aspect of it, of going to war. But you certainly get the sense in this film that she's a woman who's extremely capable with a sword, and that she's an excellent horsewoman. But she's continually thwarted because she's a woman. She's not allowed to go forward and do those things. She's living in a kingdom that's fallen into decay. She would like to act and do something about that, but it's very difficult for her to act because everyone wants to hold her back, because she's a woman. They want her to stay home and not get killed; they want to protect her. But she's grown up in a world of men. She lost her father and then her mother died of grief, so there's no real woman around her. I don't know exactly what's in the film, but I do know that we certainly shot some things that explore my character more. I like the idea of giving the women more of a presence."

her working to ground me so that if something like this ever did happen, I'd be okay."

Certainly *The Fellowship Of The Ring* gave him a taste of fame. According to Wood, the next one is going to be even better (but don't hold him to it). *The Two Towers* also unveils Peter Jackson's new CG character, Gollum, a hot favourite with the young thesp. "*The Two Towers* is much more epic than the first one. The scale is larger. It covers more ground. It's darker, to a certain degree. I think the stakes are a little bit higher in terms of what's set against the characters that you're familiar with from the first film. Oddly enough, it's grander and more epic, but it also gets more intimate in terms of the individual characters. It splits the stories up. I mean, with the first one you had the Fellowship, and the whole movie was the Fellowship. It's difficult to get involved in each of their individual storylines and journeys, because it's about the kind of cohesive grouping of these people.

*Continued overleaf...*





*Right: Legolas suspects Gimli of dropping one.*

*Middle right: Orcs burn down houses. They're not very nice, really.*

*Bottom right: The soldiers of Gondor. Or is it a Levens' concert?*

"With this movie, everyone separates. You get a better idea of who everyone is and what their individual journeys are. So in that way it's a lot more intimate, and people who aren't necessarily familiar with the book, that didn't necessarily understand who the individual characters were and what their roles were, will have a better understanding of them with this movie. I'm pretty confident that it'll be better received than the first movie. But it's a weird thing to compare chapter two with chapter one, seeing as how you need chapter one to get to chapter two, and chapter two can't necessarily be related to the first because it's... different! See what I mean? It's a continuation!" Not a sequel, then... "Obviously people will make comparisons, but I'm pretty confident that it'll be better received. Of course, you'll all throw this back at me and I'll be eating my words..." He

laughs knowingly and mimics a room of jourmos. "You said it was gonna be better! I haven't seen it yet, so don't hold me to it."

Asked if he feels nervous about tackling a character from such a popular book, Wood is all business. "People who have read the book time and time again have got such a clear vision of what the characters are meant to be and how they're meant to look and all of that. So when I first started the movie that was definitely on my mind, and I definitely had that feeling of trepidation. You know, 'Am I going to be the right person for this? Am I going to do it justice?' And ultimately, once we decided where the character was meant to go, and once I felt comfortable with my understanding of the character, and once I felt comfortable playing the character, we started filming.

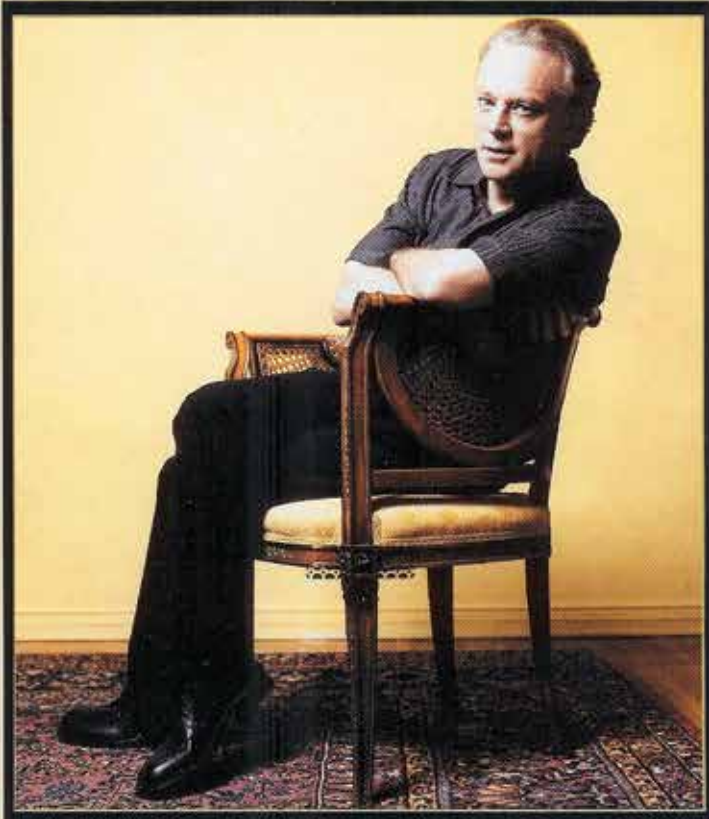
And I just sort of let those fears fall to the

*Continued overleaf...*



# BRAD DOURIF

*"People will make  
COMPARISONS,  
but I'm pretty  
CONFIDENT  
it'll be better  
recieved"*



## Grima Wormtongue

"Urn! Heep" is a name that springs almost unbidden to people's lips when they speak about Wormtongue, a greasy, dirty (and/or agent) of Saruman. Having wormed his way into Theoden's inner circle, he has excluded all his other advisers, keeping the king ill and inactive as Saruman embarks on his war of genocide.

### How did you approach the deliciously slimy character of Wormtongue?

"When I first got on the shoot, Fran and Philippa (Walsh and Boyens, writers) and I sat down and figured out what to do with this guy. Wormtongue is someone human who's turned evil. All the story on a human level is very important, because he is evil. My feeling about him is that he's basically someone who has been turned by Saruman because he's come to the conclusion that the end of the world is coming. What do you do about that? It's really about his own personal pain. What makes him a great adviser to the king is that he's ugly, and that he's always been ugly. He was very much a part of things but never included the way he would like to be included. He was probably picked on when he was young. His defence was to learn how to read people well. When you're being picked on you're always two steps ahead of the game. He has a very good mind and so he became very good at it, which made him perfect for the king. He figures out what people are going to do. That's what a king needs."

### Bernard Hill said he found Tolkien a hard read. Was this true for you?

"No, I didn't find it excruciatingly difficult. I love to read books about physics, so this was relatively light for me (laughs)."

### Did you ever think that *Lord Of The Rings* might not work?

"Of course. Man, God knows I've been in... I don't know how many... movies that have been really high budget, big, big undertakings, and I haven't been in one that's ever succeeded. Every single big, big film I've been in has lost money."

### So what's going to happen with this film?

"Well, I haven't managed to screw it up yet. The Dourif curse doesn't seem to have penetrated it so far."



# BERNARD HILL



## King Théoden

King of the Viking-inspired horsemen of Rohan, Théoden is a man old before his time, prematurely aged by the magic of Saruman. Gandalf must convince him to rise up and throw off Saruman's spells and Wormtongue's ill-counsel, as it is only Théoden who stands between Saruman's army and the total destruction of the Rohirrim people.

We just interviewed Elijah. You just saw the clips for the first time, right? Elijah was saying he couldn't wait to see the movie – is that how you feel?

"Exactly, yeah. I love the way it's been put together. It looks like it's episodic, so you get the sense that these are just little pieces taken out of it. Little vignettes."

What was it like being king?

"Not easy." (Smiles)

It doesn't come naturally?

"(Laughs) No, it didn't, because he's not a simple king, is he? When we first come across him he's not a king he's a wreck, a wreck, under the prison of Saruman and manipulated by Wormtongue. But that's what's very attractive about the role. There's a wonderful kind of arc that he takes. His journey is quite extraordinary. He's like 150 years old and he's born again, he gets resurrected. And then, of course, he's still kind of reticent, his adventurous spirit's gone. He's full of self-doubt and self-blame and he's looking for something. He finds out his son has died, so there's a kind of a journey that he has to go through, from the grave, back to life. For me that was really quite interesting and not easy, because you have to be paced quite well."

Ever read Tolkien?

"My working book was printed in 1977, so that was when I first read it. I can't admit to having read it in the meantime. It's certainly not a book I went through regularly (laughs). It's a tough read. You get halfway through it and kind of think, 'Wow, there are other things I could be doing...' But when this was coming out I went through it again. The best thing is to go and see the film – that's the short-cut version! The book is this massive kind of meandering fairytale. There's a lot of whirly in the book, because Tolkien wouldn't allow editors to have any kind of control over it. It's a shame. It should have been cut. But Peter and the writers have taken the essence of the book and put it into a kind of condensed form, and then improved it. They've clipped the basic elements of the story into dehydrated sections – little pots of dehydrated story, if you like, and then they added water to it and it kind of exploded into the script. And we were all very closely involved in how much water to add, and what kind of water it should be. That was a good process, and not common in film-making. I must say – where you actually have that amount of input, right at the very source of the material."

pal ɔyɪn ʃo pul ɣɪmɔʊɛ pa ʃaɪɛ

Desolate palace, ex-home of the Kings of Rohan. Stables, great hall, open fire. 45 gold pieces.



*"I love HORROR MOVIES. But it's a hard thing to LOVE, because you're so often DISAPPOINTED"*

side. It's weird. I think something just happened where I felt comfortable. Peter and Fran [Walsh, Jackson's partner] were happy with what was going on, and I just let it go and let the character take me on that journey."

One journey that Frodo took Wood on was all the way to the Oscars. "It was great, but bizarre. Very exciting, but really surreal. I rode with Peter and Fran and everyone to the Oscars and we got out on the red carpet. I looked at him and said, 'This is truly strange, Peter.' It was strange, but it felt so right too, because we'd worked so hard and it was such a justification and a validation of the work that we'd done, and the amount of time that Peter had spent on the film. And even not winning it didn't really matter. The fact that we were there and were acknowledged in some way was pretty extraordinary, especially since, typically, fantasy movies aren't acknowledged in that way."

Let's see if Frodo makes it up that red carpet again this year. One thing's for sure, though. Wood has his electric blue eyes set in front of and behind the camera for some time to come. "I love movies and I love being a part of them. As an actor, I just don't feel like someone who arrives on set and gets in front of the camera and says lines. I like to feel I'm part of the fabric of the film, and I enjoy that process. I've been lucky enough to work quite a lot from when I was really young, so essentially I've been going to film school over the last 15 years. So I appreciate every aspect of film-making, and at some point I'll do something else. I can't imagine that I'll be wholly and completely satisfied by acting forever. I love films too much." **SFX**



The borders of Saruman pop round to borrow a cup of sugar.