



Digby, diamond dog

Craig Henderson interviewed by Steve Hart

Hi Craig Hello again, how's it going?

Good thanks. So I checked your paintings out on your website and I've got to say, I was just stunned. They're amazing.

Thank you. That's really nice of you

You don't look like an artist. You had me fooled!

Thank Christ! That's a good thing right?

Do you still paint?

Not much, it just takes so much time and an easel wouldn't be safe in our house at the moment 'cos Digby just barrels into everything.

Did he enjoy the shoot yesterday?

Could you tell? I think we were all props to my dog really. There's been a disturbing shift in our house since we got him. My girlfriend normally asks how something went but instead it was 'How did Digby do?'

You've had a busy year I understand?

Yeah, well a busy 18 months. Wrapped on *The Toy Box* late last year then did a big commercial campaign with Liz Hurley in Europe. We filmed in Turkey in Spring when it was supposed to be hot but wasn't. They had all these extras in bikinis and shorts turning blue. Then Dublin doing a play called 'Say Sorry' which we'd originally done at the Edinburgh Festival – a three hander about domestic violence and abuse in a gay relationship, so pretty dark, but challenging. We got some good reviews.

And it won best play at the Dublin Theatre Festival didn't it? That must have been satisfying?

Absolutely

Then you had two features in Cannes. How did that go?

Yes, *The Toy Box*, a horror film and *Making Waves*, an indie romantic comedy not quite so intense. The screenings went well and I think there were some deals - I try not to follow the business side. I'm proud of the films. They were two very contrasting roles. I hope they both do well.

Also *The Toy Box* got Best Foreign film at VIFFI?

That's right which was great. And the clip they played at the awards was my best scene – my character's going crazy talking to himself. Paulo (Sedazzari) said let's just have fun but that shoot was dark fun.

So it's been busy in a good way?

Definitely, I've also done another two commercials and two music videos since Cannes this year and I'm supposed to be rewriting a thriller script.

For a feature film?

That's right. I've been clever with this one though – I put a nice juicy lead role for an A-lister in his 40s to 60s. It's an original concept and it turned out well. I got the idea from the time when I was between jobs driving as an unlicensed cabbie.

Where you met your girlfriend?

Where I met my girlfriend.

Where do you want to be this time next year?

I'm really happy working in films. I'd like to do more American work. I played a US astronaut trainer in a docudrama which was fun - all improv. That went out on PBS. I've got to finish this rewrite and get things going on it – or hand it over. But that's always tricky.

Thank you for talking with me Mr Henderson!

My pleasure. Thank you for being there, Stevieboy. ☆