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(Juniorscave.com)

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Music Now Exclusive: Mark Hildreth

For those of you who don't know Mark Hildreth (which should only be a few people), he is an extremely talented and gifted young actor and equally gifted musician. He began his acting career playing Bradley Ryder in *Love Is Never Silent* (1985) (TV) and has never stopped since then.

Equally impressive is that this very handsome young man can really sing his heart out. When one listens to his voice his lyrics, one can actually feel his pain his joy his emotions. And that is why I am thinking that Mark has all the right spices in his music. Recently, I had the honor to correspond with him via email. We were able to set up this online interview for Junior's Cave. It is my pleasure to introduce him in our magazine for September.

Isaac-Joseph: Mark, you have been very busy as of late with both music and movies. You have been recently seen filming *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*. How was that experience for you?

Mark: Shooting 'Pirates' was one of the most enjoyable acting experiences of my life! Working on a big-budget project like that one was truly awesome, the cast was great, and the lushness of the production really blew me away. When you're on a set and you look around and even the EXTRAS look AMAZING, you know the production has a lot going for it. More than anything, the experience of working with Gore Verbinski, who directed the films, was a real honor. In my experience, he is such a professional, he never lost his cool, even with 5 or 6 other department directors milling around him, and he was relaxed and joyful despite the chaos of such a big movie. Talk about trying to ride a wild elephant!!

Isaac-Joseph: Who would you say Mark Hildreth is in a couple of words?

Mark: Two words I would use to describe myself? Learning and growing.

Isaac-Joseph: Many people may know you more for your acting. How has the experience been crossing between making music and your acting been for you?

Mark: I taught myself to play the piano and started singing when I was about 10 years old. But in the last few years, I've been pouring my assets from acting into my music career. It is a tough climb, since in many ways I am starting right from square one. But when you are doing something you love, something that allows a pure expression of your essence as a person, the rewards outweigh the difficulties. In fact, I am learning that the struggle in an endeavor is often actually what makes it interesting!

Isaac-Joseph: Mark, your music seems to come from your heart. Explain to the readers of this magazine what it is like when you are singing?

Mark: It's a challenge to sing honestly, just as it's a challenge to live honestly. There's a process I learned as an actor where you do your homework, learn your lines, find your character history, your back story, your intentions, your sub-text, and you do all this discovery and learning...and then you forget it all when you play it on the stage or for the camera. You must be completely present in the moment of performance, or else you're just showing us your homework, not living truthfully in that moment. I bring my understanding of this process when I sing, and in some ways it is easier, since I am not only the player of all of those things, but also the author. It is such a joyous experience to sing like I mean it, and not just to try to sound good. And the irony is, when I try to sound good, I tend not to, and when I just try to sing like I mean, I tend to sound pretty awesome!

Isaac-Joseph: Many people today want that overnight success. What are you ultimately hoping to gain from your experience of making music?

Mark: I want to have a lasting career as a musician, and to move the world forward through music by using it as a vehicle to effect positive change in the world. I have a hypothesis that real change comes on an individual level; that when individual people choose to live mindfully and make choices that are integrous with an ideology and are ethical, that the effect is peace, love and the building of value in the world. These are things I explore in my songwriting, and discover and understand for myself as I do it. So, I gain first, and then try to share my gain with others!

Isaac-Joseph: I read on your homepage that your song *Ready to Fall* was chosen as the winner of the 2006 New Generation Song Contest. Explain your thoughts after winning this contest:

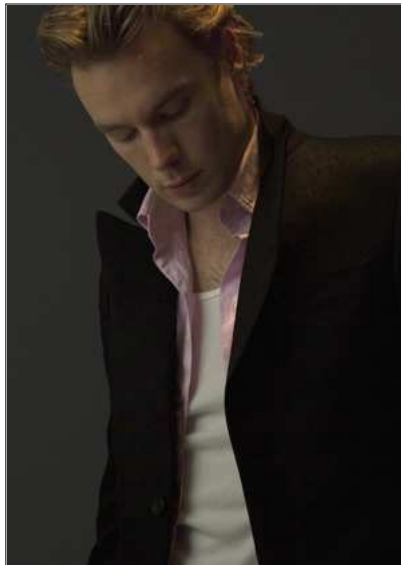
Mark: It is a pleasure to be recognized by others for my work, and I am honored to receive recognition by anyone for the products of my efforts.

Isaac-Joseph: If you had a choice and you could only choose between one, would it be acting or music? Why would one outweigh the other?

Mark: I have been asked this many many times in my life, since I've been doing both since such a young age. If I HAD to choose one, I think it would be music, since I have the privilege of expressing myself in both mediums, but with music, the stories are my own. But acting has certain nobility to it, in recreating the life of a person in imaginary circumstances, and I don't think I could give that up!

Isaac-Joseph: What can the fans of Mark Hildreth look forward to in the months ahead?

Mark: I am currently finishing a new record, called "Complex State Of Attachment," which is due to be released in Spring '08. We will break some of those songs in the Internet in the coming months, so people can check in at www.myspace.com/mhildreth, or at my website, www.mark-hildreth.com. I'm also working on a couple of new films, "PVT. Wars", based on the award-winning play by James McClure, and another untitled film that has



Mark Hildreth



just gone into pre-production.

Isaac-Joseph: You have named some of your influences as Stevie Wonder, Elton John, and John Lennon. These are all great icons. What do you hope that your music will bring that their music have bought us in the past?

Mark: Elton John remains my first and biggest musical influence. He was the one who really inspired me to become a songwriter in my own right. And since then, I have been really following the Stevie Wonder school of music, in the sense that I want to write songs that come from a place of and promote compassion. I can't think of a single Stevie song that promotes suffering or destruction, as so many of the songs we hear in popular music do today. I think he is truly a revolutionary artist because, aside from being a truly gifted and skillful musician, he seems to have a perspective about himself and the world that can inspire others to live more joyously and that is a most powerful thing. That is what I hope to continue in his legacy, in my own way.

Isaac-Joseph: Describe how has your upbringing and environment play in the current decisions to do movies and make music?

Mark: I was very lucky to have the parents and siblings that I have, they have always kept my feet on the ground, and have truly done their best to help me be the best person I can possibly be. It is supremely important to parent children integrously, I don't think I can overstate that. A person's primitive understanding of reality is formed in those fragile years when we are children, and having had parents who raised me the way I was raised has been a blessing I cannot over-value. As well, looking around at the world we are creating and living in, it seems to me that the human race as a whole could afford to live more mindfully and compassionately with one another, and would benefit greatly from a better understanding of introspection and self-knowledge. There are so many problems in this world that, it seems to me, have their basis in fear and a lack of sense of self and self-esteem. Seeing and understanding how I embody the things I dislike most about the world and the people around me influence my song-writing in a remarkable way.

Isaac-Joseph: Mark, this is your time to let all the dirt out. We would like to know anything that you would like to divulge to Junior's Cave:

Mark: Well, it's not really dirt, but I would like to leave your readers with a final thought: "Inner honesty and integrity are the highest human values, and the foundation of the human psychology. All other values arise from them." A great man I know once said this, and I think it bears repeating in as many forms as possible!

Isaac-Joseph: Final thoughts as we part ways:

Mark: Your questions have been insightful and engaging. Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my thoughts and feelings with you! I feel so much love for the people of this world and, to quote a GREAT band, it's getting better all the time!

It has been a pleasure emailing you these questions and I hope will you find them to your liking.

Isaac-Joseph: I have. This has been a great experience only to be topped if I were to meet you in person.

Photos used in this story were provided by Mark Hildreth.

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