

Baitzy: The Cappuchino Years

July 2, 2003:

Sitting down with Baitzy (as Noah plays with a kitten), I can tell he's taking these interview questions more seriously than Ian had.

It is the nearing the early hours of the morning, and despite have to get up for work tomorrow, Chris is still going strong. As I try to go as easy on him as I can, he is still accommodating, answering everything honestly and wonderfully.

I start by asking him the usual questions, which include nicknames. Oddly enough, for him, these include "Juliet".

'Please don't write that down,' he begs, but of course, I do.

"I see a silhouette of me with a question mark in front of it."

Chris is amazingly like he is in the stories, but doesn't quite realize it.

'I like my character. He's more intelligent- but cool[er]- than I am,' he says with a laugh. It's easy to see why he would think that, since Savannah idolizes him to the point of naming all apparently-perfect men after him (the *Maleus superious baitzis* subspecies). Maybe it's this adoration that boosts the ego and makes him consider Savannah one of his favourite characters in the stories (maybe he's also trying to kiss ass). He also considers Keithy a great character, at which I roll my eyes, since

Keithy is just another of the *baitzis* genre.

With all seriousness aside, Chris does have his silly side (not as silly as Noah's, but, honestly, who's is?). He admits to saying dumb things quite often (even though I've never heard any of this... except for maybe the "You can wash it off" incident, which is denied an explanation here, sorry).

As well, who could forget the "Baitzy Screaming" desktop wallpaper Jason is creating (look for it soon!), which combines all the pictures (and I guess there are a lot) of Chris screaming at... something.

Tongue-in-cheek, I asked him to take a guess at how many illegitimate children he had. He answered: 'Two-fifths.'

I followed this up with, 'In ten years?'

'Zero,' he replies, grinning, 'The two-fifths died, sadly.'

Like I said, Chris does have his wacky, silly side, but it perfectly balanced with the serious, studious, responsible, polite Chris Baitz that his character is modelled after.

His biggest regret about being in the stories is that his role is not a large as he would like, as well as he doesn't get to live in the apartment with Savannah, Jason and Jon. The upside, however, is that he gets a lot of pictures of himself on the internet. I guess you win some, you lose some, eh?

In full display of his studious,

intellectual side, he counts his arch nemesis as tuition-raising BC premier Gordon Campbell ('Everything he says is wrong.'). and blames his lack of success on the public school system. However, I convince him it's just a matter of time until success leaps upon him- let's face it, he has so much going for him- and he would credit that to 'my parents'.

In junior high, he was voted 'Most Likely to [be the] Next Bill Gates'.

If that is to be true for Chris, then my Nostradamous-like ability to eerily predict our futures through the stories might have some weight.



BAITZY

The only thing Chris thinks he'll have in common with his character when he reaches that age is 'a good job. That's about it.'

However, he also predicts that, 'Sadly, I think Jon might fit his bill... I'm not ruling it out either.' As for the success of other characters: 'I wanna say Michelle. [But] of anyone, Justine. Anil- definitely not.' Luckily for Anil.

As he counts *Moulin Rouge* as his favourite movie, he also says he would most like to see Ewan MacGregor make an appearance in the stories. I can only

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assume that's just because he would like to star opposite him- or just meet him.

Got that? Apparently, "between 40 and 60" people have the 'next Bill Gates' naked (this is just an estimate), but Ewan MacGregor is NOT one of them.

'Is there anything we could be surprised about if we saw you naked?' I asked.

With a fearful laugh, Chris answers, 'Dear God, I hope not!'

Like everyone (I'm working on it!), Chris wants to see Wash World written into the stories (his motto: 'WASHWORLD RULES!'), and, in addition, 'A wedding' would be nice.

He appears reluctant to say which wedding, but a wedding nevertheless.

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Chris admits he is eagerly awaiting more stories, such as his favourite (which hasn't even been written yet) **BYOB: Bring Your Own Baitzy**, because, 'It's titled after me!' As well, it also includes his favourite real incident to be immortalized in the stories: Frampy grabbing a fly out of thin air only to realize seconds later it was a bee.

When *Spiderman* was released last year, several of us reached the conclusion that Chris looks a hell of a lot like Tobey Maguire. I'll let you decide for yourself. So, naturally, that's who Chris used to answer my question:

'If anyone could play you in a movie of your life, who would it be?' A close second was Noah, who giggles, still playing with the kitten, while I'm conducting this interview.

Chris laughs, shaking his head, 'Oh God,' and I can tell that his feelings on this whole Tobey Maguire thing are a little mixed. One the one hand, Maguire plays Peter Parker, a known "geek", but on the other hand, he's, well, Spiderman.

When it comes to the whole "geek" subject, I remember Chris once saying, 'I know what I am, so call me what you will.' That sounds like good advice to me. I admire him for it.

Chris is a very admirable guy. He has given me some interesting answers to some simple- if not, boring- questions.

For instance, he would prefer to die in a 'somehow non-imposing' way. Go figure. As well, he would want to be reincarnated a 'a phoenix'. I'll just ignore all obvious Harry Potter references (all of which he's read).

Then... the other end of the spectrum: Complete this phrase, Chris: 'Never touch...'

'... Another man's penis,' he replies instantly. This throws me off a little. We're getting a little bit of the serious/silly mixture going on again.

'Okay,' I reply, 'next question. For the record, how many times have you cross-dressed?'

Chris grins, knowing that I've

seen him dressed as a woman at least once... and it was even my clothes he was wearing.

'I lose track after five,' he finally answers, after struggling with a mental tally.

The final question I ask him, which is really more out of my own curiosity, or even my own need to know that I am not alone, is: 'How many times, also for the record, have you woken up at the Crack of Jon?'

Again, he answers, 'Again, I lose track after five.' But he assures me it is at least ten.

At least we now know we are not



alone. Chris is like the proverbial Everyman. He has the seriousness and the silliness we all have; the ability to know when to care and when not to; that likeability that draws people to him; and that all-around niceness (for lack of a better word) that makes me write him as the *Maleus superious baitzis* we've all come to know and love. Whether he likes it not, he does have that Peter Parker quality to him. Everyone likes Spiderman because they identify with him, and I can't help but think that's the same with Baitzy.