



Stanley Robinson's "Profiles"

~ A look at special persons in the Motion Picture industry ~

"Dakota Fanning: A Rising Star"



The first thing you notice about Dakota Fanning when you meet her in person is her eyes. They're eyes of excitement, wonder, and joy. Her eyes lit up even more when I told her, "I'm a First AD, so it'll be fun". Her reply, "Oh yea?! Cool!"

Dakota's films that come to mind are "I Am Sam" as Sean Penn's daughter, "Taken" as the alien child and narrator of Steven Spielberg's 10 part Sci-Fi mini series, "Man on Fire" as the kidnap victim Denzel Washington traded his life for, Robert De Niro's daughter in the suspense thriller "Hide and Seek" and Tom Cruise's daughter in "War of the Worlds".

Dakota Fanning, the 11 year old actor, is co-starring in her latest movie "Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story", starring Kurt Russell, Kris Kristofferson, and Elisabeth Shue.

In Phoenix, AZ to meet with the press corps, she seemed right at home surrounded by the press, as we settled in to talk about her latest movie...

Q. What would you want people to take away with them after seeing "Dreamer"?

Dakota: This film is one that every one can see, family, and its good for all ages. And, it has so many great messages and people can walk away from the theater feeling good.

Q. How do you choose roles?

Dakota: I think it's all about what's right for that time to do, where I'm at, how old I am, that all goes into it. My character in Dreamer is, with her dad especially, she doesn't have the greatest relationship with him, but deep down they do, and the horse kind of brings them together, and makes their relationship change, for the better I think, I guess. This character is the most like me so far.

Q. What do you do when you're not working on a film?

Dakota: Well, I go to school at my teacher's house, I do that for four hours, come home and play the piano, and I'm learning Spanish, yea...

Q. What was it like working with the director?

Dakota: It was really fun working with John (Gaitins) because he's the writer and director so if you have a question about anything that is written or something like that, you can ask him and he can understand as the writer and director! It was really different for me!

Q. What's it like to see your name above the title along with Kurt's?

Dakota: It's so nice and I'm so proud to be up there with Kurt!

Q. How did you get the role for this movie?

Dakota: After I met with John (the director), I just couldn't wait to do it, I met Kurt and everyone and it all fit together perfectly.

Q. The part was first written for a boy...

Dakota: It was, it was, and it's kind of cool that they kept the same name.

Stan: How did you get ready for Dreamer, what kind of prep did you go through?

Dakota: Well, I learned to ride horses for 10 weeks, I also learned about racing, and saddles, different kinds of horses so that I could feel like I actually knew something about them and I think that helped with my character.



Ben Crane (KURT RUSSELL), Cale Crane (DAKOTA FANNING) and Pop Crane (KRIS KRISTOFFERSON) react to some good news about the future of their racehorse in DreamWorks Pictures' family drama DREAMER: INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY.

Stan: It seems that you and Kris Kristofferson had a great screen relationship. How did that work off screen?

Dakota: I couldn't believe I was going to be working with him, I mean; he's a legend in music and in acting, both, so it was so unbelievable to work with him!

Stan: Is he as crusty as he might appear to be ...*smile*...

Dakota: He's not what you would expect, he's really sweet and really nice and we had the best of time!

Q. Kurt Russell is a former child star. Did he give you any pointers?

Dakota: You know we didn't really talk too much about it; he's someone who will be in my life forever, someone that will always be with me, I'm so lucky I will have him in my life.

Q. What's it like portraying a character in a true story?

Dakota: The true story is the horse part of the story, so the true story is based upon a horse that broke it's leg in the same way that the horse in the movie does, heals back, and raced and won a big race, and so that's the true story. I wasn't actually playing a true character.

Q. Who's been your most important influence in your acting career?

Dakota: The actors I get to work with and the directors, because getting to work with them and learn from them just helps me in so many ways and I'm so blessed to be able to do that.

Q. What actresses would you want to pattern your career on?

Dakota: Well, I love Jodie Foster, I would really love to work with her one day and I love that she's a director and I would love to do that too one day.

Stan: What's was your average day like when your driver dropped you off for work?

Dakota: I love being on the set! It's like the best part of my life, it's like a home away from home, especially on this film because it was a small cast and we all just stuck together.

Q. What advice do you have for other kids your age who want to act?

Dakota: Just follow your dreams and always have fun!

Q. Are most of your friend's child actors?

Dakota: (laughing) none of them!

Q. You say you want to have fun, but as you grow up, there might be a danger that films might not be fun anymore, are you worried about that?

Dakota: I'm not because I wanted to be an actress forever, and so I never think it won't be fun.

Stan: What's with "Gone with the Wind", is it your favorite film?

Dakota: I love "Gone With the Wind", I'm obsessed with it! I started watching it last night at 10 o'clock, and went to bed about 4, I was determined to watch it, all the way through, and it was so great, I love it!

Stan: What's with the knitting?

Dakota: I knit a lot (laughing)! Knitting is so cool!

Stan: Is it therapy (laughing)!

Dakota: It's very relaxing, and it's fun to knit things...

Stan: I heard about the scarves...

Dakota: Oh yea! Kurt go a scarf, Kris Kristofferson has a scarf, John Gaitins (the director of Dreamer) has a scarf, I made one for Steven Spielberg! I would knit you all one but I'm a little short on time ...*laughing*...

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I've had the experience of working with another child actor when he was 12 years old on "The Adventures of Huck Finn", Elijah Wood. There's always something about the way they approach work, the child like fascination they have for what's going on around them on the set, and the gleam in their eyes that gives an indication that they'll make it! Dakota Fanning has that glow of "A Rising Star"...

"Dreamer: Inspired by a true story"
Opens in wide release October 21, 2005

-More-



(Clockwise from bottom left) Lilly Crane (ELISABETH SHUE), Balon (LUIS GUZMÁN), Pop Crane (KRIS KRISTOFFERSON), Ben Crane (KURT RUSSELL) and Cale Crane (DAKOTA FANNING) cheer Soñador on in DreamWorks Pictures' family drama DREAMER: INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY.

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