



ACTOR, 39

# RYAN REYNOLDS

*The sarcastic superhero on having a licence to thrill, his Aussie mates and why he loves being a dad*

join the Groundlings, an improv comedy troupe. Every door that opened for me was because of self-deprecating humour; it was my bread and butter.

**It's been a long process to bring this movie from the original comic book to the screen. Is it cathartic to be**

**talking about it now?** It is. It was six years in the making for the core creative group. The only reason we got to make it was the test footage leaked, and the fans spoke up and said they wanted this movie. It was a moment of celebration, then it was tackling the first problem: making a suit that looked like it was ripped straight out of the comic.

**In the film, you got to speak to the audience, as the print character does.**

It's a ticket to ride – it's so much fun when you get to break the fourth wall and be self-aware. It's fine shooting a big action sequence that fans are going to love, but it's really next-level to stop in the middle and turn straight to camera and address the audience. The first thing they tell you as an actor is: "Don't look into the camera." So for the first five years, all you want to do is look into the camera. It was like scratching an itch that was 25 years old for me.

**Do you ever watch your own films?**

No, no. If one's on and I'm flipping through the channels, I might watch a scene or two, but I'm not good at watching myself. It's weird. And nothing captures a moment in your life more clearly than moving images, so you suddenly recall everything that was

going on in your life at the time. So it's a time warp, and I'm not that fond of time warps sometimes. Some can be a little hard, other times it's pretty benign.

**Would you want to walk in any of your previous characters' shoes for a day?**

Well, I did a movie with Ben Mendelsohn called *Mississippi Grind*, which I'm really proud of. I could definitely handle being that guy for a few more weeks [Reynolds played a charming, successful gambler].

**Ben Mendelsohn's an Aussie icon.**

As he should be. He's one of the most exceptional actors I've ever worked with. You guys have two of my favourites, Hugh [Jackman] and Ben. I've been lucky to work with those guys and call them friends.

**How's fatherhood?** I love it, it's so great. Being a parent is one of the most common things in the world, but it doesn't ever feel like that for the person who's involved in it.

**So, hypothetically, what would you say to convince somebody's reluctant partner they should have a baby?**

**Asking for a friend...** [Laughs] Wow, that sounds really wrong. Start with the collected works of Sade, and then... I don't know why guys are complaining; they're not the ones where the human being needs to exit their womb. The woman's doing the hard work. If he wants to have a baby through his penis, I imagine he'll be in a great deal of pain... Sorry. I don't know if you can use that.

**I'll just tell him you recommend parenthood.** Yes. Wow. **HANNAH JAMES**

*Deadpool is out February 11.*

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**You've been in Australia for a while...**

Yeah, my wife's shooting here [Blake Lively has been filming *The Shallows* in Queensland]. I'm here, just hanging out and being a husband and dad [to daughter James, 13 months].

**Do you trade off parenting duties like Brad and Angelina?** Well, they have 144 kids, so I imagine there's going to be some trading-off done. With us, we don't work at the same time, as that splits everybody up.

**Are you enjoying it here?** When I come to Australia, I feel a little like I'm home. It's the self-deprecation – it's a big-time Aussie trait, and it's very much a Canadian trait. I think that's why these two countries seem to like each other so much.

**And self-deprecating humour is a big part of your new movie *Deadpool*.**

**[Reynolds plays the titular antihero, who has superpowers and a very foul mouth.]** I think if you're going to be mean in your comedy, make sure it's mean towards yourself – don't attack other people. So for every joke in the movie about someone else, there's always one or two about me. I always made fun of myself; it's how my career began. I grew up in Vancouver and moved to LA to

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## MY SUNDAY STYLE / MATT DAY *My ideal Sunday, from sunrise to sunset*



Matt is currently starring in *North by Northwest* at the Arts Centre Melbourne.

**8am** Breakfast at Little Jean in [Sydney's] Double Bay, then on to Bondi Beach for a swim while my two kids burn some energy at Nippers.



**12pm** Drive up to Potts Point and, by some miracle, find a parking spot outside Bourke Street Bakery. Load up on lamb and almond sausage rolls.

**3pm** Take the kids to Murray Rose Pool [in Double Bay] and spend a few hours throwing them off the pontoons before dragging them home screaming.



**5pm** Ice-cream from French Riviera in nearby Knox St. The kids call the owner "Blue Man" because he always wears denim.

