

PSYCHO SEXY

Studly thespian Matt Riddlehoover exposes all in his outrageous new movie.



BY JONAH P. DAVIES

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In his first film, *To a Tee*, Matt Riddlehoover was a playwright stubbornly attracted to the wrong type of guy. For his second time at bat, he plays the ultimate wrong type of guy: an egomaniac with an excessive fondness for masturbation and a murderous streak that eventually climaxes with the abduction and assassination of Britney Spears.

Watch Out is a terrifying black comedy that's fielding comparisons to *American Psycho*. The role of Jonathan Barrows required Riddlehoover to drop trou several times, act out sexual scenarios that include all kinds of things one should never try at home, including having sex with a blow-up doll fashioned in his own likeness.

Riddlehoover brushes off any comparisons to his character ("I would never handle any of the situations like Jonathan does," he states), but says that he did find elements that he could empathize with. "Someone that is alone like that must really want a lot of attention. Who can't relate to that? That, and I like looking at my penis—especially if it's looking up at me."

We caught up with Matt to get his take on cinematic masturbation and how the hot straight guys on the set helped him out.

Hi, Matt. Ready to get dirty with us?

You know it, buddy. I love it dirty. By the way, sorry for the noise. I'm chewing ice. Some people say it's because I'm sexually frustrated, but we'll see during the interview.

Your character thinks he is so hot that he only wants to have sex with himself. Did you hang out in West Hollywood for research?

[Laughs] No, but I did hang out at the gym. You get the same show there in a smaller dose.

The movie is based on Joseph Suglia's book, which mixes sex with defecation, vomiting, and murder. And the author insisted you had to play the lead. Flattering or scary?

A bit of both! [Laughs] At first he and [director Steve Balderson] came to that decision from a purely physical standpoint. Steve also picked me because he liked my comic timing, but we were all unsure whether I'd be able to go to certain places. I sent an e-mail to Steve with "I am Jonathan Barrows" in the subject line. He called back and said, "Really? You can't do this. I saw your first movie, and you didn't even take your shirt off! We're talking semen, we're talking erection!" And I was, like, "Sure! Let's go!" [Laughs]

I almost hate to ask: What attracted you to this particular role?

It seemed so out there and different. I always play characters close to myself, so I was ready to do

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something that would let me completely jump into somebody else's skin.

Pretty strange skin...

Steve told me to think about *Serial Mom*, but I thought more about Nicole Kidman in *To Die For*—someone that is capable of doing anything, but is so prim and proper about it. I'm not method by any means; method acting is bullshit. Acting is just lying and being really good at pretending.

Did you relate to facets of the character?

Kind of. What he does is outrageous, but there are things that he thinks about society and organized religion and marriage that I agree with. I almost look up to him in a way. If we could all just say, "Hey, I don't care about what you're saying. Could you please just shut the fuck up?" then maybe we wouldn't waste so much time with certain people. God, that sounds horrible. [Laughs] I take it back.

Barrows masturbates constantly. How well could you relate to that?

[Laughs] I don't really need to pump my handle, so to speak, nearly as often. I'm more like a three- or four-times-a-week kinda guy.

There are *Shortbus*-esque scenes of you loving yourself...

[Laughs] Yeah. I'm just one step away from porn, baby.

Have you warned your mother about it?

Oh, yeah. She'll see it with some girlfriends, and they'll cover her eyes at the, um, appropriate parts. It's no big thang. My best friends are actually the ones who

are telling me how weird it will be for them seeing certain parts of me.

Were you stressed about being naked?

I knew I'd have to become comfortable looking at myself—which is hard because I'm very self-critical. So for three months, I ate right and did push-ups and crunches and got religious about the whole thing. There was one day where I was naked the entire time. At one point, Steve said, "OK, we're breaking for five minutes. You can put your towel on." But by then I was, like, "What's the point?"



And the "action" scenes?

We had a small crew who were so cool. By the time we shot anything sexual, we'd spent so much time together it felt silly to be nervous. It was more like, "OK, my pants are coming down! Here we go!" We shot one scene in this bath-

room where there was nothing that could remotely turn me on, so I had to think about a couple of the hot straight guys on the crew for inspiration. [Laughs]

What inspiration do you use at home?

I'm a very visual thinker, so I create my own mental porn scenarios.

If you took shots of your own penis like Barrows does, what style would you use?

I did take pictures of it! But I destroyed them afterward.

No! You could have sold those on eBay!

Well, that's what the blow-up doll is for. You just know that somebody's gonna want that! [Laughs]

Did you actually have sex with the doll?

Not until after the shoot was over.

[Laughs] No, it's impossible to have sex with that doll. You can't do anything with it when it's fully inflated, because it's not flexible at all. Trust me, I tried!

If you could've had the doll fashioned in someone else's likeness, who would it be?

George Clooney!

That was quick.

Yeah, well, first, I'd be able to see what he looks like naked, and then I'd be able to do whatever I wanted to him, wherever I wanted, whenever I wanted. And I'd box him up so he'd follow me everywhere I go—the way it should be. [Laughs]

Other than George, what type of guys do you get into?

Someone who isn't high-maintenance and who has an incredible sense of humor. I like guys who don't care what their hair looks like and who can fix things. That's hot to me.

Do you think you'll get more or less action after this movie comes out?

I don't know. That's hard to say. I just started dating someone who I think is pretty incredible, so we'll see.

I'd be scared if he was more into you after seeing the movie.

To each his own. [Laughs] I'm not one to judge anyone for their turn-ons.

What's the craziest sex you've had?

Hmm, I think I'm too boring for the crazy stuff. But the craziest place I ever had sex was on this gazebo-type dock that was way, way out in the marsh. It was fun. I didn't get any splinters, but I did get lots of mosquito bites.

You've gone from directing and starring in a sweet romantic comedy to playing a sociopath. What's next?

I'm writing a feature made up of 12 short films about each month of the year. They're all different genres, although a few characters overlap. And I'm looking forward to doing more acting for other people. I miss being on the set every day.

So what does it take—besides playing onanistic killers—to get you unzipped?

Oh, I go really crazy when there is any contact of any kind with lips or tongue in the ear region. I don't know what it is about the ear, but as soon as that happens I'm, like, "OK, here we go!" ■

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