

LOS ANGELES MOVIE



Ryan Gosling: actor by vocation,  
sex symbol by chance,  
Stallone fan by perversion

# SOMEBODY IS PERFECT

TEXT ROBERTO CROCI



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**A SOPHISTICATED BIKER'S LOOK, TIGHT T-SHIRT SHOWING OFF MUSCLES AND TATTOOS, (PLENTY OF) HAIR AND THREE DAY OLD BEARD TIMED TO PERFECTION.** Ryan Gosling knows that he is perfect for the screen and it is not by chance that Nicolas Winding Refn – winner of Best Director at Cannes with whom he has shot the film Drive – defined him as a modern Humphrey Bogart, cool like Brando, sensitive like Dean, sexy like Alain Delon, macho like Charles Bronson, intense like James Stewart and easy going and seductive like Marcello Mastroianni.

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## HOW DID YOU GET TO HOLLYWOOD?

“Even before I became an actor, I always believed that I lived in film, in a reality TV. Once, as a child, after watching Rambo, I went to school with a set of knives stolen from my mom’s kitchen and I started throwing them at my school friends pumping up my chest like Stallone! I was still living in the reality of the movie I had just seen, thankfully I have a shit aim and I thank God that I haven’t hurt anyone. The same happened after I watched Rocky, afterwards I was beaten up (fuck it hurt!) because I thought I was able to throw a few punches. Or, after watching Singin’ in the Rain, I thought I could dance the tip tap. This dreamy

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way of being is also the reason why I didn't do well at school, my nickname was Trouble, the one that always kicked off and made trouble. I hated being a child, I wanted to grow up quickly and become an adult".

Born and bred in Canada, at 12 he was given some small parts in Canadian TV, then he moved to Florida after he was picked to be part of The Mickey Mouse Club, next to Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake, the latter a brotherly friend all throughout the show. After the success of The Notebook alongside Rachel McAdams, the film that crowed him as the new emerging sex symbol, he decided to interpret more and more eclectic parts in truly independent movies which allowed him to get into the most disparate of characters; crack smoker in Half Nelson, loser who falls in love with an inflatable doll in Lars And The Real Girl, redneck husband facing a crisis in Blue Valentine, stuntman that turns into a criminal's driver in Drive, professional bachelor in Crazy, Stupid, Love and young idealist that discovers dirty politics in The Ides of March, directed and interpreted by George Clooney (it will surely be nominated for an Oscar), in cinemas in Italy from the 16th December.

## HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO FIND INTERESTING PARTS?

"Always difficult, even though now I have a lot more choice. Let's say that over 50 parts, I am interested in one or two. When I choose a part, it is almost always the character that makes me decide (its evolution, its path), others it is the director. But for sure, it has to be a part that I can learn something from, that lets me grow as an actor. I'm not good enough to be a specific person, I take from personal experience, from some of my traits. And then, it's just a question of getting rid of what I don't need. I know plenty of actors that can turn into the character they are interpreting, I have always wondered how they do it, this is why I have always used up all my energy in the many parts I have interpreted. Now, I am a lot more creative, able to let myself go regardless of the circumstances, always telling the truth".

## HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO CREATE SUCH INTENSE AND AT THE SAME TIME EMOTIONALLY DETACHED CHARACTERS?

"I always think as if each film I make was the last one. I know it's a bit of a dramatic answer, but it is important for me to close a cycle, like watching a film and think that what happens it is NOT my life but someone else's, even though each emotion I feel are true, real, they leave a mark. I try and live in the future, bringing along all past experiences. I am attracted by parts that have an important female counterpart, I was brought up amongst women, many aspects of my personality have a feminine sensitivity, I was programmed to think with the most emotional side of my personality".



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**THE IDES OF MARCH: STEPHEN, YOUR CHARACTER, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FILM IS AN OPTIMIST, ALMOST NAIVE WHEREAS TOWARDS THE END HE IS PRETTY DISILLUSIONED. IN YOUR OPINION, DO YOU THINK IT REFLECTS PEOPLE'S OPINIONS TOWARDS THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES?**

“Even though it is a film set in the world of politics, I don’t think it is a political film, I think it deals with the problem of separating your mind from your heart and the consequences of doing so. It could be a film that could spark a dialogue, but it does not have any messages in the political sense, let’s say it gives us an idea of what it means to belong to that sort of world”.

**AND THE CHOICE OF WORKING WITH GEORGE CLOONEY?**

“It’s important for me to understand why a director wants to do a particular film. Besides being one of my favourite actors, George has a very clear idea of what he want to achieve, watching him direct it’s a bit like watching Michael Jackson’s This Is It video, when he tries to explain its crew how to visually perform a specific song. It’s like Bugs Bunny, great at everything and never misses his focus”.

**HAVE YOU EVER HAD A MENTOR?**

“Henry Bean, the writer to one of my favourite films, The Believer. Henry has paved my career, thanks to him I have had the right frame of mind to make the decisions I make today. And then, Sylvester Stallone, equally as an actor but also as a writer and producer. I have inherited from him the toothpick he uses in the film Cobra. Did you know that it was him who created projected films of 120 minutes? Just so that cinemas could add to their rotation an additional film. Not at a bad brain”.



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## **OTHER PASSION; MUSIC AND YOUR BAND, DEAD MAN'S BONES. WHEN YOU ARE NOT WORKING, WHAT DO YOU DO, DO YOU PLAY? ?**

“I play because music is life, movement, criticism. Music is keeping up with feelings. I can’t stay still. I play, I visit the Magic Castle in Hollywood, a legendary venue in LA where you watch magic shows, and every now and again I work at my restaurant, Tagine, in Beverly Hills: I am a foodie, I love eating and cooking”.

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MAKE MUSIC TODAY?**

“Interesting times, because anyone who has a record label needs to think about how to make a living. We are living in times where everything is still open, with new rules, where thinking of being free is still possible. Those who are still trying to make it, they are doing it because they want to be part of this new frontier, for the creativity it brings, not just for an economic gain. Creatively, this is a time of discovery, exciting, where old rules that worked in the past are no longer applicable. Who knows, it could be the same for the future of cinema...”●

