



Andrew Garfield

'The Amazing Spiderman'

By Sian Edwards

VIVA PRESS 2012

He hit the jackpot when he landed the role in *The Social Network*, and now Andrew Garfield, 28, is in the leading role in *The Amazing Spider-man*. Without question, the unassuming actor is Hollywood's next big action hero. The American-born, British-raised actor is starring opposite his alleged off-screen girlfriend, Emma Stone, who plays his romantic interest, Gwen Stacy. In person, he's low key, quietly spoken, and isn't like most of his brash Hollywood counterparts.

Q: How's life? Do you have to walk around in disguise yet?

Not yet. I can walk around still. I have started talking to paparazzi. If I see them and try to form a relationship that's of human to human it might be better than the alternative. You get defensive when you see someone. It's kind of violating. You feel violated so you get defensive especially if you're with people that haven't entered that business and you want to protect that. It creates a very animal response as you've seen in the history of the world of paparazzi versus the people they shoot. There is that very famous photo of Sean Penn like punching the guy. That is an example for us all forever – to be careful of that animal response and try and get up from that unconscious which is hard. You have those instincts especially if I'm with my nephews. I will kill someone if those kids are harmed in any way. You can quote me on that. That's a tough thing but they're doing a job I guess. They're doing that job because people want those pictures and there is a market for it. It appeals to a part of us. As people, we want to see that. I'm trying to have as deep an understanding of it as possible so that I can be at peace with it. But to be on that other side of it is hard. It's just hard. It's difficult as well because you don't feel like you can say anything about it either. You're an actor and this is the world we live in. I knew that this would be an element. I didn't know to what degree. I didn't know how I would react to it. But I'm finding it very tender. It's tender.

Q: Are you a tech geek?

No, no. I'm more a build a cabin in the woods kind of guy.

Q: How different is Peter Parker this time from the other incarnations? Can you make that judgment of what you did versus Tobey?

No. (laughter) No, really because I'm so close to it. Like, I can't explain. I don't know what it is I did. I can't describe what I did, I can only say that it was personal to me, and I love Tobey (Maguire), and I loved what he did and I don't want to compare or contrast or say what's different. I think the point is that it's just another chapter and we've brought our own personal relationship to it.

Q: What kind of training did you have to do and also in terms of the harness and in terms of the swinging are you an expert now? Can you Cirque du Soleil?

No, I wish. I got pretty good at it. I enjoyed it a lot, and it was just like being in a playground. It was just pure fun but the guys I was working with are experts and geniuses, and technical geniuses and physical geniuses, and thank God for them, you know? And they allowed me to play with it and be in as much of it as I could manage and as much they wanted me to do and we split the difference. We all split the responsibility and we owed it as much to each other as the three other stunt guys.

Q: Were you eating a lot of bad food?

Oh yeah, that was rubbish, that was tough. It was a lot of bland food and existential dilemmas with weights in my hands; it was a confusing time in my life. (laughter)

Q: How much per day did you work out?

For four months prior we did seven hours a day for four months. Like two hours was body work, and then like the next three or four hours was all the other stuff like the harness stuff and the gymnastics and the Parkour training, wirework and all that. So it was like summer camp. It was like circus school, it was just pure fun.

Q: What does that make you feel now when you look at your body?

Oh, now I've let myself go. Like, now I am back into my life. No, I've sustained it a little bit, but at the time, you get high on yourself. You really get high on yourself, you can't help it, because it doesn't belong to you. You've never associated yourself with having a body, for me anyway, I was always just a skinny kid and then when you realise you can manipulate your body, it's empowering. But it takes so much work and you are like, 'Fuck, I don't want to do that ever again, I'd rather eat donuts,' (laughs) like we all would.

Q: And you are going to have to do it over again? You signed yourself up for more..

(sighs) Yeah. (laughs) But you know, it's not a terrible thing for someone to employ you and say that your job is to get in shape. I can't really complain about that too much.

Q: So what was the first thing you ate when you could like let it go?

That's a good question. I remember what it was, I remember it was something very specific, it was a Tres Leche cake, from Animal, which is my favorite restaurant in Los Angeles. It's the most beautiful cake you have ever witnessed, and it's covered in caramel and it's just pure heaven and I remember it very well.

Q: What music were you listening to when you were working out? What was in your iPod or what's in your iPod now?

Well the music I was listening to was linked to the character and linked to what I wanted the character to be. I wanted a feeling of what I wanted the character to have and I was listening to a lot of Arcade Fire, I was listening to a lot of Sleigh Bells, I was listening to Odd Future Collectors, those guys are crazy. And then a lot of melancholy stuff like Ryan Adams and Bright Eyes and then a lot of hip hop like Nas, and the Pharcyde, an eclectic array of stuff. A lot of modern stuff, usually I listen to old stuff more, like I'm listening to Cat Stevens at the moment and Neil Young and John Lennon and Duke Ellington. But at that time, because he's such a kid, he's bursting inside, and especially that Arcade Fire and Sleigh Bells and all of that, it felt appropriate.

Q: Who gave you the music? Mark Webb?

No, that was me. It was just what I felt, yeah.

Q: Do you watch TV or do you prefer reading?

Oh man, I wish I could say reading, but when I am working, which I'm doing at the moment, I haven't really had that much time to myself to read, but I'm working on something intense. Like, this was intense to work on, believe it or not, but I'm doing a play at the moment which is very intense, so whenever I'm not on stage, I want to watch reality television. (laughs) I want to watch The Voice, or The Bachelor...

Q: The Bachelor? Really?

Don't be surprised by that, (laughter) that's the greatest show on TV. And I really enjoy, there's a new show about to come on called, it's really feminine, and it's called "Girls." Have you see it?

Q: Yes.

Lena is a genius, and she directed it, she's a genius.

Q: And the writing is so good and she's so young, 24, brilliant...

Unbelievable, it's sickening, goddamn her! (laughter) She's brilliant, so I'm going to get into that show. That's a bit too high art for me at the moment; I just want to swing completely mindless and stupid.

Q: Do you have any other guilty pleasures?

Oh yeah, plenty, (laughs). I love stupid movies, I love stupid everything, and I need a lot of stupidity in my life maybe because I work with very serious, austere stuff, but stupid stuff is my favorite.

Q: How hard was it using the mask?

You can see out of it, yeah, the vision is difficult, but it's not terrible. It's restricted, but it's fine. I got claustrophobic one day, there was a scene with water and I dipped my face in it stupidly because I needed to get the suit wet, so I just rolled around in it, I got water in it and I couldn't breathe. That was tough.

Q: You water boarded yourself.

I water boarded myself. It was the most terrifying thing in the world! Yes, that's what the stunt coordinator said, Andy said, 'You just water boarded yourself, you fucking moron!' (laughs) And the suit takes so long to get out of, and I was like suffocating for a good minute, it was awful. It was tough.

Q: How long did it take to dress in the entire suit?

20 minutes. Stupid. (Laughter)

Q: Do you ever think now, would Spiderman do? Just in your everyday life

No I don't. At the time, I was only thinking in that way, I was like, every room I would go into, I would be like, 'I could do that, I could do that,' or every street I would be on. But no, I try to let it go. It was a long time we were shooting. We were shooting it for a good year really, pretty much on and off, or even longer.

Q: How was it in high school for you and how was your first crush? Was it as awkward?

It was awful, it was awful, it was awful. Sarah Cowley, I'll name her, (laughter) I name her with love, she's a fantastic, fantastic, girl, (laughter) and I was pretty gone for a while. We dated for four hours, and I was her proud boyfriend for four hours, and it ended, it was rough. I was like 13, 14, and she was gorgeous and it was tough.

Q: Why did you break up after four hours?

I'm not going to get into that, but yeah, I fell pretty hard and that's funny. But we became really good friends and she's a fantastic person. It's funny to talk about, (laughter) it's nice to talk about; it's like how long ago was that? It was like 14 years ago. And she has a kid now. (laughter)

Q: You are the Godfather?

No. (laughs) Nowhere near, nowhere near.

Q: And you are the big movie star now, she's probably crying.

No, no, no, she's happy as Larry and I'm happy for her.

Q: Speaking of super heroes, Henry Cavill is playing Superman, so that's two Brits playing two American icons. Do you think something about being British, the outsider to the Americans, enhances it somehow?

I don't know. I'm American, so I don't really know. I was born in America, but I was raised in England. No, I don't think so. For me, I connect with the character and I feel American in a lot of ways, and I feel British in a lot of ways because I've had equal influences in my life. So no, not for me, not for me. I think Henry Cavill just looks like Superman, right? And he's a great actor. I don't know anything about him but he just seems like a really good actor, and he looks the part. So that's that.

Q: So you haven't swapped stories about suits then?

Oh no. I know there's a lot to talk about it out there. I didn't think about that.

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