

Monsoon Tide

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Interview Transcript – Ben Richards

Ben Richards Charles is a complex character - you're sort of introduced to him and you're not really sure much about him, about how he is. He seems like a fairly complex person. You follow this lovely love story between him and Kate, but there always seems to be a slight dark side to him, and then, when we see him later on in life there's a... very much he's... he's socially inept.. looks like he's hiding some kind of big secret.

We've... it, honestly, I could write a whole book about the filming of this film. It's taken everything to film it. I mean it's... you need to speak to Nick, to Steve, it's taken all strength, it's been the most challenging, probably one of the most challenging things I've ever done.

Physically, mentally, emotionally... phew. It's a very, very complex story. It's an amazingly ambitious project with very limited funds, which then puts so much pressure on the cast, the small crew we have, and yet no-one's complained, we've got on with it and, so far I'm really, really proud of the results.

We've done things that you just look at it and go, well you need millions of pounds to make this, and yet we haven't and yet somehow we've done it. I don't know how! (Laughs.) But, the proof's in the pudding, it's going to be, you know, the final edit, and I can't wait to see it.

But it has been so challenging, some days I've been doing so many different jobs, including playing the lead, but, I'll walk away from this film having learnt so much about myself, having learnt so much about film-making.

We've got a great D.O.P., he's amazing... we've got a great cast, we've got a great crew... they're not the biggest in, the biggest crew but they're fantastic and everyone literally puts in a day's shift, a massive day's shift every day, and every day we've been filming everyone,

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Interview Transcript – Ben Richards (continued)

there's, no-one's been, been carried in this movie. Everyone's really worked hard and I'm very proud to be in it.

Ben Richards The stuff that she's been delivering, the emotional level that we've put her to has been really high. We've cranked it up and up and up and up and she keeps delivering...

Interviewer Cool.

Ben Richards ... and she's quite fascinating, you know fascinating to work with, a joy to work with and, if ever I get a chance to work with her again I'd jump at it. She's a joy.

Interviewer OK.

Ben Richards I hope and believe that audiences are going to love this story. It's a film that ha... a type of film that hasn't been made for a long time. It's beautiful, it's sad, ah, it's got intrigue and quite scary at times, but ah, I think that most of all it's got heart, it's got a lot of heart and it's not big flashy stunt sequences we've got, it's about good storyline, good acting, good performances, and a, a great, a great film I think and hope.

I mean, again when you're doing a film, you know you believe in it, you're believe in the script and you're loving doing it, um, the proof is in the pudding so we wait for that final edit and we hope that people see what we see when we're doing it, and enjoy it and feel for these characters and, um, and follow their journey and, and go on the emotional journey that we go on and we take them on, and hopefully love it.

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