

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

EDITOR: VALERIE STEIKER

Growing up," says **Joel Edgerton** of his childhood in small-town Australia, "Hollywood seemed so far away—we had to drive half an hour just to see *Return of the Jedi*. It wasn't easy to have big dreams."

One imagines it's gotten easier. Although the 38-year-old actor is best known for playing two-fisted characters—a charismatic gangster in *Animal Kingdom*, Tom Hardy's battling brother in the underappreciated *Warrior*—Edgerton's surface toughness actually hides deep reservoirs of humor, decency, and vulnerability. He can play everything from the awe-struck father of a magical boy in Peter Hedges's comic fantasy *The Odd Life of Timothy Green* (out this month) to a military man stalking Osama

bin Laden in Kathryn Bigelow's *Zero Dark Thirty*.

For Edgerton, the only downside to acting is that "there's a ton of just sitting around on a chair. You can put that time to better use." He writes screenplays—including the acclaimed 2008 noir thriller *The Square*—and, though he says the idea scares him, plans to start directing. But acting still comes first, which is why he was so excited to land the plum role of spoiled, thuggish Tom Buchanan in Baz Luhrmann's much-anticipated version of *The Great Gatsby*.

"Joel's at that wonderful moment in his career," says Luhrmann on the phone

from Sydney, "when he's blossomed into his full potential as an actor. He's magic to work with because he approaches things with a director's mind—he thinks about the whole film, not only himself."

It's a good thing, too. "On *Gatsby*," he says, "I was completely pampered. On Kathryn's movie, if I wanted to take a nap, I had to lie down in the dust along with the scorpions." —JOHN POWERS

STRONG SUIT
THE ACTOR, IN
AN YVES SAINT
LAURENT SUIT AND
A PRADA SHIRT.

TALENT

MAN POWER

WITH STARRING ROLES IN THREE BIG NEW FILMS, JOEL EDGERTON PROVES HE'S AN ACTOR FOR ALL SEASONS.



DESIGN

NATURAL SELECTION

For its latest wallpaper collection, **Hermès** introduces fourteen patterns, each created by a different designer and largely inspired by the company's archival designs for silk scarves. From Hugo Grygkar's trompe l'oeil bookshelves to Jean-Louis Clerc's day at the races, "this collection reveals the passion Hermès has for telling stories," says Florence Lafarge, creative director of Art de Vivre. Equateur, designed by naturalist painter Robert Dallet in the 1980s, features an exotic array of flora and fauna. As Lafarge observes, "The strength of the details allows us to travel through this wild and mysterious world." —MONIKA BIEGLER EYERS

INTO THE WILD
HERMÈS'S EQUATEUR WALLPAPER, DESIGNED BY ROBERT DALLEY.

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