

Sample Interview (Vernon Wells)

Q: You've been labeled one of the baddest bad guys in Hollywood—is that something you're proud of? Tell me about that. Well, tell me about being one of Hollywood's bad guys.

A: Well, I guess it all comes from having done *Mad Max* and *Mad Max* became a cult classic film and I guess the particular villain I played in that—Wez, the mohawked biker—became an icon of bad guys or what bad guys should be. It just went from there. And then from that, doing a send-up of the character, virtually, in *Weird Science*, playing a kind of mohawked biker in a family movie and sending it up was kind of fun. Then I got to do *Commando*, which pitted me against Arnold Schwarzenegger, which just reinforced the bad guy image. From that I went onto *Innerspace* with Dennis Quaid and Meg Ryan, and once again playing the villain even if it was inside Martin Short's body. So, in most of my career, I've played villains. I wouldn't say I'm proud of villains, but I'm very proud of what I've been able to give back to the industry in terms of being able to portray something that people consider to be one of the best examples of that particular character. I feel very lucky and blessed that I was able to do that.

Q: Do you feel typecast sometimes, or do you see it as being...that it's

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stereotypical because it's something you're very good at?

A: No, I feel I'm typecast all the time. I think Hollywood has a bad habit of doing that, that they tend to pigeonhole you because it's much easier than actually trying to find out what you can do. If somebody's good at something, then they automatically put that label on them, that they're a villain. And, therefore, if you're up for any other role, people don't look in that cast. They look at you and go, "No, no, no, he was the villain in *Road Warrior*, or in *Commando*, or in something else. No, he could never be a father with two children and a wife. It just won't play." I feel at times it's very frustrating because...I mean, the word is "actor" not "villain," so I don't go out portraying myself as a villain; I go out portraying myself as an actor. I get very insulted when people refuse to look past the stigma of being the villain. I feel sometimes they miss out on something that I could give. It's just the way it goes. You have to live with it.

Q: So you've done a couple of G-rated movies or television stuff, like *Power Rangers*, where you played Ransik. Is preparing for a role for kids any different than a role for an adult movie or even an R-rated movie?

A: You know, the funny thing was when I first got the role of Ransik on *Power Rangers*, I at no time believed I would get it because there were so many