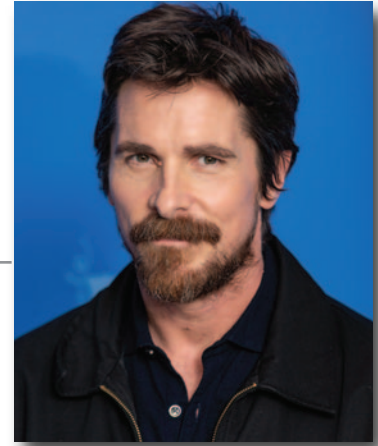


5 Minutes with...

“Vice” star Christian Bale



Harald Krichel

How important was it to be Oscar-nominated?

I'm delighted. I'm incredibly grateful. It brings more eyes on the film. Hopefully, you'll get more people viewing the film. I'm realistic, as well. I recognize that, hey, I can't tell the difference between what I did in ones that I've been nominated for and ones that I haven't. I recognize that there's a whole host of actors out there who are just as deserving as myself—Rami [Malek] or Willem [Dafoe] or Viggo [Mortensen] or any other people nominated, all of whom are fantastic. But, you know—*god*—let's not be cynical about it. Enjoy it. It's a celebration, right?

Is there a politician you admire?

I was brought up to not admire politicians, in honesty, in my household. I was brought up under Maggie Thatcher and we didn't much admire her. So I have to admit to a certain cynicism about it. But I also do believe that there are many who are there for the right reasons...idealists who hopefully will act out of the common good.

Was there anything about Dick Cheney that you liked?

I don't see how anyone could dislike the fact that, without hesitation, he supported his daughter Mary when she came out—even though that was anathema to his political party at that time. By all accounts, from people I did speak with and what I read about, he was a very devoted father and husband. Which makes it all the more heartbreaking when you do see what happened later with the very public feud between the two daughters.

What do you think Dick Cheney thinks of *Vice*?

I don't know if he'll ever bother watching it. I don't

know if he's going to have an interest or not. I think he's thick-skinned, but probably dismissive. That line that we put in, where he says, "If you want to be popular, go be a movie star." When he says it, it's always with a slight dismissive notion. I don't know. He's a thick-skinned individual but I can't imagine that he would want to admit to giving us the time of day in watching it. I can't imagine that. I'd be very surprised if I heard that he had watched it.

Maybe one day he'll call you up and ask you to go for a drink.

That would be an interesting drink.

You met Donald Trump once, as Batman, right?

Yeah, I did. I was dressed as Bruce Wayne, which is very sort of Trumpian. I had on a red tie, my hair was all slicked back—I think I looked a bit like Don Jr.—we were filming at Trump Tower and we changed it to Wayne Tower. He invited me up and the producers all said, "Can you please go, because he could kick us out otherwise." I was like, "Yeah alright, I'll go."

How did you find him?

He has lots of gold everywhere. And taller than you'd imagine.

Do your children like watching your Batman moves?

They've never seen them!

Why Not?

We just don't spend our time watching me! [laughs]

EDGE

Editor's Note: This Q&A was conducted by journalist Jason Adams of The Interview People.