

5 Minutes with...

"Deadwood" star Timothy Olyphant



Anders Krusberg

How did you react when you heard they wanted to turn the series into a movie?

I thought *this could* work. I love High School reunions, but I am not interested in repeating myself over and over. So, for me it was important that we didn't just repeat what we had done already. I wanted to know what the value of this exercise really is.

Was it fun to go back? Was it difficult to revisit Seth Bullock, a character that made you famous?

Well, of course. It's not every day that you can go back to something you started ten years ago. It's a trip! It's a very rewarding process. You like to think you are better today than you were ten years ago, right? All those thoughts were going through my mind. You are trying to figure out how to do the job better and still honor the things you created originally. It's not that easy.

How did Bullock evolve?

That's one of the central questions of the movie. Does he still have that rage? Has he gained any wisdom? Which road will he go down? That's the central question of the piece. I don't really want to give that away. The show has always been interested in the morality and the community. And to some degree, my character's road is where he takes the community with him. His moral compass is vital to the heartbeat of the film.

There is a lot of social commentary that comes with *Deadwood*, corruption being one of those commentaries.

The story is rather timeless and can really take place at any time. It is essentially about the passage of time, how change to the community is going to bring conflict, and how the community handles that kind of change. It feels like a very modern story to me.

Westerns never really go out of fashion...what do you think the secret is?

They are modern plays of morality. Most stories you can't remember. But the best Westerns keep you up at night. I think they resonate with people.

If you could go back to that era and live in those times, would you?

No, I wouldn't. I am very fond of where we are today. I like the comfort I have. Nobody wants to take off those dresses. It's a lot of work. **EDGE**

Editor's Note: Suzy Maloy of The Interview People conducted this Q&A. She has interviewed some of the entertainment industry's most notable figures, including Robert Redford, Goldie Hawn and Don Henley. Timothy Olyphant was nominated for a SAG Award for his work in *Deadwood* and was nominated for an Emmy for the FX series *Justified*. *Deadwood*—the 2019 movie and the three-season series—is available now on HBO.