



{ MOVIES }

On His Own

With a string of successes and a starring role in this month's big-screen interpretation of *Les Misérables*, **EDDIE REDMAYNE** is poised to break out.

IT'S 5 P.M. IN LONDON, AND EDDIE Redmayne is surrounded by boxes waiting to be unpacked. He's putting down roots in a new apartment, just months before the release of *Les Misérables*, the highly anticipated big-screen version of the same-named Victor Hugo novel and long-running play. Redmayne plays Marius Pontmercy, a soldier in 19th-century France, and joins a stellar cast that includes Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe and Anne Hathaway.

In addition to learning how to fire and reload a musket, Redmayne's technical preparation for the role involved extensive vocal training. "It was beyond nerve-wracking. It was terrifying, even for the guys who were my mates in the film and come from musical theater," he remembers. "We recorded live, which gave us great freedom, but we had to do many takes, so it was hard on our voices."

With *Les Mis*, Redmayne adds another credit to an already colorful career filled with period pieces like *Birdsong* and book adaptations like *The Pillars of the Earth*,

along with numerous stage and Shakespeare productions. While he never saw *Les Mis* on Broadway, he made his own mark on the Great White Way in 2010 in *Red*, debuting as a studio assistant to Alfred Molina's egomaniacal artist. His performance earned him a Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Play. And in 2011, he became even more familiar to American audiences with his turn opposite three-time Oscar nominee Michelle Williams in *My Week with Marilyn*.

One of five children, Redmayne grew up in London and began acting at age 12 in a theater rendition of *Oliver!* Having turned 30 this year, he admits his freckled, youthful countenance has, at times, been an impediment to landing more-mature roles. But he knows not to look a gift horse in the mouth. "I'm very lucky I get to play younger parts for a while," he offers, then laughs. "I'm sure that will change in an instant and I'll go gray and suddenly look 80."

—JULIE JACOBS



LOOKING BACK

Tootsie

When Emmy-winning actor **DABNEY COLEMAN** (center) was filming *Tootsie*, the comedy starring a cross-dressing Dustin Hoffman, he was sure it wasn't working. "We knew it was going to be a bomb," Coleman says. "We were all looking at each other, like, 'So, how's your career going?'" When the film was released, however, scoring awards and \$177 million in

box-office returns, Coleman, who played soap opera director Ron Carlisle, had to give director Sydney Pollack credit. "It was incredibly funny," he says. "And I'm a tough laugh."

Thirty years after its debut, *Tootsie* is still regarded as one of cinema's best comedies. Coleman remembers the first day on set as Hoffman struggled to make a convincing woman.

"The first day on set was the first day I saw Dustin dressed as Tootsie. We had to call off the day of shooting because Dustin had too much beard. Work as they had in makeup — *months* of preparation — they put Dustin out there in front of the camera and the cameraman said, 'This is not going to work. At all.' So we scrapped the entire day. We closed down and went home. You tell me, did we finally get it right? All I know is *Tootsie* is one of the best movies I've ever been involved in, and one of the best comedies maybe ever." —J. RENTILLY



AW EXCLUSIVE! To celebrate the Blu-ray/DVD release of Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight Rises* (Warner Bros. Home Entertainment, \$36), we're giving away **copies of the film** along with a **Blu-ray player**. Enter to win at www.americanwaymag.com/promotions