

**The Twilight Lexicon's interview with Jackson Rathbone cast as Jasper Cullen in the film adaptation of Twilight by Stephenie Meyer. Interview conducted by Cocoa.**

**I would like to thank Jackson's management who played an integral part in our getting this interview.**

**Lexicon** - Do you prefer stage, film, or television? Why?

**Jackson** - Film these days, however the stage gave me my start and I still love to perform in front of a live audience

**Lexicon** - What would you consider to be your penultimate acting role?

**Jackson** - Playing opposite Jack Nicholson in a film directed by Clint Eastwood and written by David Mamet, playing a misanthropic, drug-addled libertine rock singer.

**Lexicon** - What actors inspire you?

**Jackson** - Jack Nicholson is my idol.

**Lexicon** - You are incredibly well traveled, is there anywhere you haven't gone that you would love to visit?

**Jackson** - Kellan Lutz has been describing South Africa rather warmly. Perhaps there.

**Lexicon** - I hear from your manager that you are a very talented musician. Would you like to pursue a career in music someday? Do you play other instruments other than the guitar?

**Jackson** - Hassil Atkins was able to play guitar and drums at the same time while singing. I can play harmonica and guitar a la Bob Dylan, and thanks to modern looping technology, I can overdub the drums, banjo, keys, and ukulele. It's fun stuff.

**Lexicon** - What type/s of music do you compose?

**Jackson** - Our band makes music across the board, with influences spanning from Robert Johnson, to the Kinks, and most modernly, Man Man. My roommate, Ben Graupner and I have a few different bands that we record with in our home studio. Our main project these days is a band we like to call 100Monkeys.

**Lexicon** - Do you have any favorite songs or groups? Who is playing on your iPod right now?

**Jackson** - All I listen to these days is The Stevedores album Tamuawok. [www.myspace.com/thestevedores](http://www.myspace.com/thestevedores) (FYI - Spencer Bell, the lead singer, taught me how to play the soprano ukulele.)

**Lexicon** - Can you tell us a little about your audition for the film?

**Jackson** - I walked to and from the audition playing my guitar to calm me, so to achieve a stoic over-one-hundred-years-old demeanor. And maybe a handout or two. Okay, one. One person gave me money. To stop playing... Ha.

**Lexicon** - What is Catherine Harkwicke like to work with as a director?

**Jackson** - Catherine is a bundle of focused energy. She knows what she wants and draws on her years of experience as a production designer to make sure every shot looks beautiful. Her directing approach is to make everything as real as possible, which compliments my views on acting. I loved working with Catherine and I hope we will work together again someday soon.

**Lexicon** - We have heard a tremendous amount about the training for the baseball scenes. What other types of training have you undergone?

**Jackson** - I had to learn to bat left-handed, so I tried for a week to do everything left-handed to get used to it. I was bumping elbows with people sitting next to me, it was impossible to write with spiral notebooks, the binding got in the way. I must say, I gained a lot of respect for you south-paws, it's difficult to do everything left handed.

**Lexicon** - To the degree that you are allowed to tell us, how do you simulate Jasper's power in the film?

**Jackson** - I don't know how much I can say about that...we tried to make it subtle. It's all in the eyes.

**Lexicon** - What's it like playing a vampire? Particularly Jasper whose blood-lust is not as controlled as the others. How do you prepare for a role with that intensity?

**Jackson** - To prepare, I've been getting in touch with my anger. I see Jasper fighting with himself a lot to live a life of newfound morality. His love for Alice is all that keeps him from being a vampire like James.

**Lexicon** - What has been your favorite scene to shoot so far? Why?

**Jackson** - Alice and I got to run around treetops. She reveled in the wildflowers. I found solace in her beauty.

**Lexicon** - How would you describe Jasper's character?

**Jackson** - Forged in war, born of death, saved by love.

**Lexicon** - Alice and Jasper have arguably the most spiritual connection of all the couples in the book. In your view what is the essence of their relationship?

**Jackson** - Serenity.

**Lexicon** - Let's talk hair. You went from a brunette to a blonde, how has that adjustment been for you? How long did it take you to get used to it?

**Jackson** - I've tried to make all of the characters I play as different looking as possible. Now, I can add blonde to the list.

**Lexicon** - Where did you learn how to box?

**Jackson** - When I was in elementary school, I was picked on by this kid a year older every morning at the bus stop. On picture day, he pushed me down so I jumped on his back and got into a scrape. My father taught me to box after that day.

**Lexicon** - Assuming you have read the books, who is your favorite character and why?

**Jackson** - Victoria would be my favorite. I always had a thing for redheads.

**Lexicon** - If film series continues, Jasper's role grows exponentially. What scenes in later books would you most look forward to filming?

**Jackson** - The beginning of the next film would include Jasper attacking Bella. That would be extremely fun, to give in to bloodlust for one moment. I can get scary when I'm angry, I've been told.

**Lexicon** - We hear that Edi Gathegi had some fun prank calling your cell phone, any chance you got even? Has there been any more high-jinx on set?

**Jackson** - Edi has got a voice like a woman on the phone. I think he has a career in that somewhere. I never got him back. Sigh.

**Lexicon** - Can you tell us a little about meeting Stephenie Meyer?

**Jackson** - I was nervous, but she is sweet and extremely approachable. She gave me some insight to Jasper that will come about in books to come, so I came

away from meeting Stephenie all the wiser. I know secrets. Sorry, can't say a thing... but, it will be cool.

**Lexicon** - Are you surprised by the hype surrounding this film? Are the fans treating you well?

**Jackson** - It's blown me away. All the websites dedicated to the Cullens and the family... I must say, some of these fans are extremely talented! Making movie posters, trailers, photoshopping pictures together... I am extremely impressed.

**Lexicon** - There is now a new fan site dedicated to you, ([www.jackson-rathbone.org](http://www.jackson-rathbone.org)). With the popularity of this film, how has your life changed over the last year?

**Jackson** - The creators of [jackson-rathbone.org](http://jackson-rathbone.org) have my blessings and utmost respect. I hope not to have my life change too drastically, I'm a fairly introverted artist, and I prefer the quiet life spent with good friends and family.

**Lexicon** - Are there any other upcoming projects we can look forward to seeing you in?

**Jackson** - I did a Rob Schneider film that should be coming out in September, so look for BIG STAN!

**Lexicon** - The Twilight fans always want to know the actors relationship status. So on that note, are you single?

**Jackson** - Hehehe... I'm single and loving it.

**Thank you, Jackson, for taking this time with us. We wish you all the best in your career both in film and in music. You truly have an artist's soul.**

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