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Efron happy to be a musical guy **Renner up for Hawkeye standalone movie**



Zac Efron is happy to be known as a "musical guy". The 30-year-old actor shot to fame in the 'High School Musical' franchise as well as starring in the movie adaptation of 'Hairspray' but although Efron loves the superhero genre, he admitted he is a "different kind of guy". When asked if he is eyeing a role in a superhero movie, Efron told Collider: "Not yet. In the superhero world, I think you got to earn those suits so to speak. I'm happy to be in musicals. I'm the musical guy. "I'm a different kind of guy. There's no suits or masks involved and I'm not fighting crime but we are flying around and we are telling people really important messages and being brave." Efron is currently starring alongside Hugh Jackman, 49, and Zendaya, 21, in Michael Gracey's new musical movie 'The Greatest Showman'. The film tells the story of P.T. Barnum - an American showman, politician, and businessman remembered for promoting celebrated hoaxes and for founding the Barnum & Bailey Circus - who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. Jackman stars as the ring master and recently revealed he went against doctor's orders to sing at his audition - just a day after he underwent a skin cancer operation on his nose. He said: "I thought there's about a one in 10 chance this movie happens. But we're going for it. My doctor had said, 'Do not sing, you've just had 80 stitches in your nose. They really could split apart, you could get an infection', which I'd had before in a similar operation. "So I was like, 'Don't worry I'm not going to risk that, I'm just going to speak it and someone else will sing it.' But the emotion of the song and the moment took over me."



Jeremy Renner is up for a Hawkeye standalone movie but wants to do it sooner rather than later. The 46-year-old actor has portrayed master archer Clint Barton aka Hawkeye in three Marvel Cinematic Universe movies so far - as well as a brief cameo in 'Thor' - and is set to reprise the role in 'Avengers: Infinity War' and 'Avengers 4'. As one of the few Avengers without a standalone movie, Renner has admitted he's keen to take title billing but he doesn't want to do it in "50s in tights". Speaking to South China Morning Post newspaper, Renner said: "It would be a wonderful thing. Just don't wait too long! I don't want to be in my 50s in tights." 'Avengers: Infinity War' will see the hero squad - Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen), Vision (Paul Bettany), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Hawkeye (Renner) - join forces with the Guardians of the Galaxy to save the Earth. The two teams will have to work together to fight intergalactic tyrant Thanos, with some help from newcomers Spider-Man (Tom Holland), Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman) and the screen debut of Captain Marvel (Brie Larson). Although a standalone Hawkeye movie hasn't been announced yet, Marvel Studios boss Kevin Feige confirmed there will be 20 more films in the MCU. In an interview with Vanity Fair, Feige said: "Marvel is 22 movies in and we've got another 20 movies on the docket that are completely different from anything that's come before - intentionally. "Avengers 4' will bring things you've never seen in superhero films: a finale. There will be two distinct periods. Everything before 'Avengers 4' and everything after. I know it will not be in ways people are expecting. Everything after." 'Avengers 4' will be the last outing for Evans, Downey Jr, Hemsworth, Johansson, Ruffalo and Renner as their contracts are ending.

Kelly Marie Tran:
Rian Johnson is perfect new Star Wars trilogy

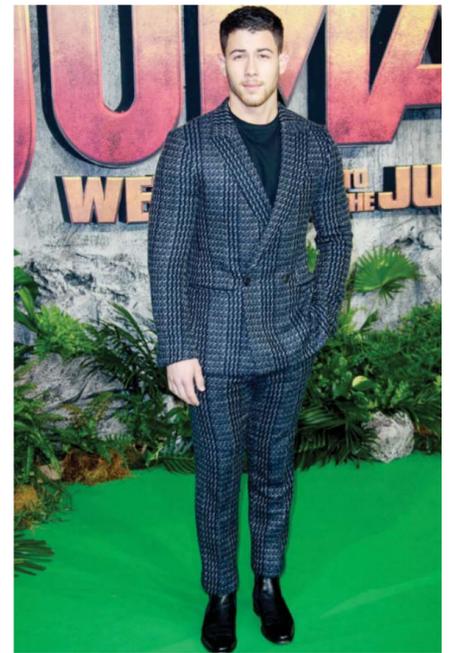
Kelly Marie Tran thinks Rian Johnson is the "perfect person" to helm a new 'Star Wars' trilogy. The 43-year-old filmmaker took control of the eighth installment of the hit sci-fi franchise, 'The Last Jedi', and was recently announced to be creating a new trilogy outside of the current Skywalker saga. Now Tran, who stars as newcomer Rose Tico in the latest movie, said she cannot think of a better person to helm the new trilogy and she is excited to see what Johnson does. Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight', Tran said: "I think that Rian isn't afraid to do something that's different and I think that's really hard with something that has been established and something that people love so much. ['The Last Jedi'] really feels like it's a standalone film, if that makes any sense. There are great action sequences, there are great characters - but every single character has an arc, every character [has] some sort of a mental, physical or emotional challenge that they're going through, and it's pretty incredible to kind of see what he's done with it. I think that there's not a more perfect person to make something new in that universe and I can't wait to see that new trilogy." 'The Last Jedi' sees the return of 'Star Wars' legends Mark Hamill as Jedi Master Luke Skywalker and Carrie Fisher as General Leia Organa.

Hamill had 'fundamental differences' with Johnson



Mark Hamill has claimed he had "fundamental differences" with Rian Johnson whilst filming 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi'. The 66-year-old actor has been starring as Luke Skywalker for 40 years, and has revealed he was unhappy with the direction the director took his character in during the recently released eighth installment of the sci-fi franchise as Luke seemingly "gives up", something which Mark doesn't believe a Jedi would ever do. Speaking about his role in the new movie, Mark said: "I said to Rian, 'Jedis don't give up.' I mean, even if he had a problem, he would maybe take a year to try and regroup. But if he made a mistake, he would try and right that wrong. So, right there we had a fundamental difference, but it's not my story anymore. It's somebody else's story - and Rian needed me to be a certain way to make the ending effective. That's the crux of my problem. Luke would never say that. I'm sorry." Mark went on to state that 73-year-old franchise creator George Lucas - who sold the franchise to Disney along with production company Lucasfilm in 2012 - would have handled Luke's story in a different way, and said he no longer feels like the role is "his Luke Skywalker" any more. He added: "Well, in this version, see I'm talking about the George Lucas Star Wars. This is the next generation of Star Wars, so I almost had to think of Luke as another character. Maybe he's Jake Skywalker. He's not my Luke Skywalker, but I had to do what Rian wanted me to do because it serves the story well." The star "still hasn't accepted" the changes Rian, 44, made to Luke's character, but insists he still believes the director was the "exact man" the franchise needed to helm the project. In an interview uploaded to YouTube by user Jar Jar Abrams, Mark said: "But listen, I still haven't accepted it completely. But it's only a movie. I hope people like it. I hope they don't get upset, and I came to really believe that Rian was the exact man that they need for this job."

Nick Jonas dreams of winning an Oscar



Nick Jonas dreams of winning an Oscar. The 25-year-old star is focusing on his acting at the moment and leaving his pop ambitions for now and can currently be seen in 'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle' and he has also been cast in Doug Liman's sci-fi thriller 'Chaos Walking'. Nick admits he does have ambitions of taking home a prize from the Academy Awards but his main focus is finding parts he is passionate about. When asked if he would ever want to win an Oscar, Jonas said: "Winning an Oscar? Nah. I have no interest. I'm kidding. Yeah, I mean that'd be amazing. I think right now, for me, it's about finding projects that I'm passionate about. Things that help me grow and working with great creative teams. Those awards season movies are hard to come by. I think it's just about staying prudent, finding great stuff and trying to grow." In the new 'Jumanji' sequel, Jonas stars alongside Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan and Jack Black in the Jake Kasdan-directed action movie. Unlike the original 1995 Robin Williams-starring movie, the new film follows four high school teenagers who discover an old video game console and are transported into the game's jungle setting, becoming the adult avatars they chose. The four must work together to survive in the jungle and beat the game in order to return to the real world or they will be stuck forever. And Jonas said he joined the film because he "fell in love with all these characters" when reading the script. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, Jonas said: "I was obviously a huge fan of the original. Robin Williams' performance is brilliant. The film as a whole is one of my favorites so to be able to be part of something like this that has a legacy like that, is something special."



Tarantino's Star Trek adds a writer

Quentin Tarantino's 'Star Trek' movie has hired Mark L. Smith to write the script. Paramount is said to have signed Smith up to the role after he took part in a writer's room with the Hollywood director, who recently shared his idea for the next Starship Enterprise story with J.J. Abrams. According to Deadline, Paramount and Abrams have become huge fans of Smith after he penned World War II thriller 'Overlord'. Smith was said to be in consideration for the screenwriting duty after Tarantino recently spent several hours discussing plot ideas with him, 'Godzilla vs. Kong' writer Lindsey Beer, and 'Iron Man 3' scribe Drew Pearce. Tarantino is keen to direct the project and was recently said to have insisted on an R rating, which Paramount and Abrams have agreed on. His movies have mostly been R rated - which means at least a 15 certificate in the UK - due to their use of extreme profanity and violence. Smith is due to work on the script while Tarantino focuses on his next motion picture, a film about Charles Manson, which he had begun work on before the cult leader died in November this year. Margot Robbie and Jennifer Lawrence are among the actresses he is said to have approached to play Sharon Tate, the pregnant wife of director Roman Polanski who was stabbed to death by members of the Manson Family commune in August 1969. Tom Cruise, Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt are all said to have been in discussions for two male lead roles.



Rian Johnson responds to Star Wars: The Last Jedi backlash

Rian Johnson has hit back at criticism of 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi'. The 44-year-old filmmaker's effort has divided opinions among fans, but Johnson has insisted it's important to move the franchise "forward". Asked on Twitter whether it's good that the movie is so "polarizing", he wrote on the micro-blogging website: "The goal is never to divide or make people upset, but I do think the conversations that are happening were going to have to happen at some point if sw is going to grow, move forward and stay vital. (sic)" 'The Last Jedi' sees the return of 'Star Wars' legends Mark Hamill as Jedi Master Luke Skywalker and the late Carrie Fisher as General Leia Organa. The new movie marks Fisher's last outing as the iconic character from the original trilogy after she passed away last December. Although the actress had shot all the scenes for 'The Last Jedi' before her death, Johnson was unsure about whether to change the movie's plot follow-

ing her passing, because she would no longer be able to be part of 'Episode IX'. Speaking to Entertainment Weekly, Johnson said: "That was the very first conversation I had with Lucasfilm head Kathleen Kennedy after we came back, after New Year's. I kind of looked through the footage. That was the very first question. "I felt really strongly that what we have here is so beautiful and the way that the character develops, the way it's paid off, and not only that, the horror of trying to manufacture something that - I don't even know what it would have been, but something for the end of this movie that leaves it in a place where the transition is easier, the idea of, 'Oh God, how would you fake something like that and how would it not be terrible?' "Given that we have a beautiful, complete performance from her that I think audiences deserve to see, and I think it will mean a lot for them, that ray of hope from Leia."—Bang Showbiz

