

Royal as the dwarf Thorin, this unknown actor is THE discovery of « The Hobbit ». In Peter Jackson's film we only see him as he is...

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Photo : Claire Newman-Williams

#### BEWITCHING

His bio on the Internet Movie Database - the movie database - assigns him two trademarks: crystal blue eyes and a baritone voice. We will not say otherwise, the look and tone of this man are magnetic. Even hidden under the mask and wig of Thorin, the heir to the dwarfs' throne, the actor lends his face in *The Hobbit*. It's quite simple, opposite the legendary Gandalf, played by the equally mythical Ian McKellen, we only see and hear him.

#### INTRIGUING

If Richard Armitage is well known in his native England, where he shot many BBC productions including *North and South* (2004), *Robin Hood* (2006-2009) and *Spooks* (2009), the guy is unknown on this side of the Channel. Just a few geeks have spotted him as a Naboo pilot in *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*. Or last year as a nazi in *Captain America*. Never mind: in 2014 (the last episode of the trilogy *The Hobbit* is scheduled for July), he will be in demand in Hollywood. You bet ?

#### ELEGANT

Taking coverage away from himself, he said that his profession is a team effort. We do not expect less humility on the part of an actor trained in circus school and theatre, who was hired by the prestigious Royal Shakespeare Company and who played *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *Death of a salesman*.

That's classy, we're telling you.

Where to see him ?

In « The Hobbit » by Peter Jackson, currently in theatre.

Translation by Isabelle Wyss (April73 on blogs)