

**RICHARD ARMITAGE ALIAS THORIN – De Zondag, Sunday 21 April 2013**

**Thorin is a complex character. What do you think drives / motivates him?**

He wishes to restore his family's honour and create a new future for his people. Thorin carries a heavy burden. Little by little he grows as a leader. The dangers the group face make him stronger.

**Because of the success of the LOTR-trilogy The Hobbit had a reputation to uphold. How did you – as a group - deal with that?**

You have to let it go. Everybody knows the book and the movies. As an actor you have to trust your own interpretation of a character. Besides, we had Peter Jackson, the best person to guide us through Middle-earth.

**At the beginning of the movie Thorin sings a sad song. You can sing pretty deep / low.**

*(laughs)* Luckily good software exists these days to camouflage certain things. There was some criticism about the songs, but they're in the book so... Songs are ideal to show a character's deeper feelings. As far as I'm concerned they belong in the movie. They are part of Tolkien's vision of the Middle-earth people.

**Everyone is anxious to see what the dragon Smaug looks like in the upcoming movie. Have you seen him yet?**

No, I haven't, even though I begged real hard *(laughs)*. But I approve the cloud of mystery surrounding it. It heightens the anticipation.