

Oh no, my husband would be upset... in the books I know you only read up to 5. Eric calls Sookie "my lover" and the fans want to hear you say this in English and Swedish.

My lover? Just those two words?

Okay ... my lover. Min Älskare

Ohuu that was sexy.

That was in Swedish.

See now I know you said it was too early to tell there was a difference between the book and show version, but I think there's some worry that we're not going to get to see the other side of Eric in the show, and so having you say that on the podcast at least we get to hear it on here.

Oh, in a more sensitive side?

A ha... because they're supposed to be in a relationship later on.

Ya well ... no I don't think people have to worry about that. Because you know you're going to get to know all the characters in a more deeper and profoundly than in this season. And of course he's not going to strut around for another 12 episodes being a badass leader. As an actor I wanted to show more sides to his personality and make people understand a his history and who he is you know and why he functions the way he does. So you'll definitely see other aspects and other layers of his personality.

Okay, well that's good to hear... is that like a hint? (giggles) Not dropping any hints. He's just informing. I know, I know ... wishful thinking.

We really appreciate your time. We're actually surprised that you decided to speak with us. Really. Oh no, thank you so much... It was fun.

Thank you.

Alright ladies you have a good day.

Alright- good-bye

Bye.

Thanks for listening. We'll be back on February 7th with our Dead to the world discussion, that's on a Saturday. We will release them every other Saturday and will continue until True Blood comes back in the summer (2009). Before we let you go we wanted to ask you to tell us who you would like us to interview next. So should we try for Sam Trammel, Stephen Moyer, or Rutina Wesley? Email us at SookieStackhouse.com or myspace Facebook page.

Thank you for listening to Last Bite Podcast.com.

There was another question, I was inclined to ask this question...because some of the questions we omitted were in fact marriage proposals to you. At a point that I finally had to post please stop sending marriage proposals- we want real questions. So it made me inclined to ask this question: If we were to put all the women who wished to marry you in a pit, and mind you the pit (and mind you the pit might be the size of the grand canyon), and we order a fight to the death, would you marry the winner?

(chuckles) Well ... ah... if someone is that devoted I don't think I can turn her down I guess.

No I mean would you really want to marry the winner. I mean someone who would fight to the death. Or would you prefer the loser?

Well I'm honestly too scared to say no.

(giggles)

Honestly, I can't turn her down. She goes through that... like ah obviously. (chuckles)

You truly do have some die hard fans out there and for those people we want to just ask you what qualities you look for in a women.

Intelligence and a sense of humor.... and plus of course they're obvious really good at pit fighting.

A lot of fans asked if your Swedish movies were coming to the US, its very difficult to get your Swedish movies out here, and do you know if they will release them here?

Um I promise to bring a couple copies with me when I come back from Sweden

(giggles)

I'll try to bring some copies. I don't know actually I would guess you could find them on the Internet somewhere and order them. You can't?

Well no we're NTSC or PAL or something so we can only access it from like YouTube and or other sites like that. Ya and they don't have subtitles so we're watching this and trying to figure out the dialogue. (giggle)

So when I know when they release them in Sweden they have English subtitles on the Swedish DVDs. But um maybe I don't know maybe it's a different system. That's so stupid isn't it?

It is it's so difficult

[Short discussion about how to use the DVD player to play and decode your DVD so it is a certain type of DVD.]

(giggling)

No but you know I can ask some honestly ... some actual people like the producers in Sweden if they have that or are on some website where you can order it. Or if they sell them somewhere in the states, and um I can... I'll get back to you on that. I have you're email I'll get back to you on that.

Okay the other thing hard thing for me to ask (giggles)

What-will you marry me?

ideas and then throw away about 950 of them, and the ones you really like you hold on to them. That will help you create your character and make him three-dimensional hopefully.

Well do you like the path the character is taking on the show vs. how Eric is in the books? There has been a lot questions by fans about the difference, but difference isn't bad but do you like the path he is taking on the show?

I think it might be too early to say. Because he is, Eric is hardly featured in book one and we just started season two so it's hard to answer that question. We started Season two a week ago and I guess we'll just have to wait and see what happens here.

I guess that leads to the next question then... are we going to see more of the character Eric then in season 2?

Uh – ya.

(giggles)

I hope... to answer thatah ya... ya. Most people read the books so they kinda know what to expect. There's going to be quite a lot more than season 1.

So what is it like on the set? Is it more of a laid back sort of atmosphere or the cast kinda close knit?

It's very laid back. I was very excited to start season two now. Actually we hang out when we're not working as well. I really like the other guys. No it's a very... very great experience.

Has there been any funny moments on the set like practical jokes?

Ah... nothing that I can share with you guys.

Ohhhh... ahhh.

No, honestly, I'm going to sound like a boring cast person. Not that I can think of. Nothing crazy, no pranks like not jokester like.

It's a serious business all the time.

No. We actually do have a lot of fun. And it is – it is a lot of fun. But no practical jokes or anything like that.

Will you be participating in the Paley Center Festival that will be honoring True Blood and the French in April?

I don't know-I haven't heard.

Oh really? Hmmm

No I didn't know that.

Interesting... well we're happy to give you the information.

What is that?

Its like... um... they're honoring True Blood and Fringe Ballet and their having a Q & A and showing some episodes of the shows. I'm guessing some cast will be there.

Okay. No one told me.

It's in April mark it on your calendar.

Well if not I'll go there as a fan.

No, not... I mean I read ... when... I was you know right before we started I was doing research and I read the first 5 books. Ya and I realized that he was, ...it a big... he was one of the major characters, but I didn't know how popular he was.

Yes... (Giggle) he has a huge fan base.

Ya, I've um, I've kind of realized that people like him. Which is ...um. I kind of realized that after we started shooting that actually. Which I think is good, ...cause I'm glad I didn't know that when I was finding the character and developing him. Not having to worry about that pressure you know.

Ya, Exactly. So have you not read all 8 books?

No, I read the first 5.

What was your favorite of those?

I like the living dead in Dallas. That's the one we're working on right now. Ya I like that one.

That is a good book. What made you want to take on the role of Eric? Because you know you said you like to find something within the character that you can relate to. So made you want to take the role?

Ya I think you have to. You have to find ... the character has to be born within you otherwise I'm not going to be able to do a good job if I'm not connected to him. Um and like I mentioned before it's all about the script. But actually in this case it wasn't it was more about Alan Ball. I met with him two years ago and um... just by... after that meeting I obviously knew about his work – American Beauty and 6 Feet under... that I just think are amazing and he's such a talented man.

To me it was mostly a chance to work with someone that interesting and that talented. I kind of felt like alright I could just make coffee on set as long as I work with this guy. No I'm exaggerating a bit but I was very excited about working with him and it didn't really, at that point it was just, obviously he told me about Eric the character about who he was a bit about his history. What can I say I of course was very excited about it. I liked the idea of who the character was and also like I say working with Alan.

So what sort of research did you do besides the books did you do to prepare for this character of Eric?

Well I went back and re-watched all the old classic vampire movies, like Dracula with Bela Lugosi, the old Murnau movie which is a classic, and old Nosferatu movie from the late 20's, and the Werner Herzog movie with Klaus Kinski which I think is pretty amazing. I was just curious to watch other actors and other directors take on the genre. I also read a bit, a couple books about it, like John Polidori who kinda wrote about 60 years before Dracula in the 1820's who kinda wrote the first modern day vampire story. Where I think the vampire in Polidori's book was loosely based on Lord Byron. That was a friend of his. That was actually the first time you see kind of a flamboyant and in a way a kind of human vampire. In the old folk tales the vampires were quite different. So... like 95% of it is me on my couch reading the script and letting my fantasy go. And coming up with about a 1,000

stage or in front of the cameras. Or, I don't know. I understand that people are... they have an idol and they want to know everything about him or her, but they're human beings and I think it's important to remember that. And sometimes... back off a bit and give them some privacy.

I totally agree. With that said do you like living in the US I mean since it sounds like its crazier here than what it sounds like in Sweden.

Ya, I uh I'm It is crazier here than in Sweden but I'm kind of, I'm quite restless and quite active so I like it in a way you know. I just spent a month and a half in NY City and you know it's amazing. There's so much culture and so much going on. There's always something you can do you know like go to a play or a show or an art gallery and bars and restaurants. There's just such a diversity of things and people its... I just think its very inspiring to be in a place like that.

Obviously you can speak Swedish and English have there been any other languages you've been able to pick up along the way?

Well... I speak a little French and German. I mean a little... I'm not very good but a little bit.

Like hello and goodbye and thank you.

Ya- (chuckles) maybe a few more sentences than that.

Well I have to say your English is very good. I would never have known you were not an American.

Thank you. We traveled a lot when I was a kid. Because my father is a freelancing actor he works all over the world. So I went to an American school in Budapest when I was a kid for about 6 months. And 6 months is not a long time, but when you're 12 or 13, you know because all the teachers were from the states or Canada. So you know when you're that young you pick up the accent quite easily. And then also when I did Generation Kill- on that show I played a US marine. You can't really get away with an accent. I played a real guy who is out there and from San Diego so I couldn't really get away with an accent. So I worked a lot with a dialogue coach for that.

And that all- was a bit of a problem when I started True Blood because I had spent 7 months on Generation Kill with Jerome Butler this amazing dialogue coach, working just to get rid of all this... you know get rid of every single trace of Swedish in there. Then we started the first day of shooting True Blood they were like... ah you sound a bit too American. This dialogue coach comes up to me and says 'can you say this word with a bit more of an EEE or Uuu... it would sound a bit more Scandinavian. I had to go back and back track a bit at that moment and... my brain was like overheated on that and I had to stop for a moment and go back and unlearn what I'd just learned.

Did you know that Eric was one of the most anticipated characters to be on the show of the fans of True Blood from the books?

a few years ago and was kind of planning to direct it in Sweden two years ago but then Generation Kill came up. We shot that in Africa for about 7 months so it kinda... so you know I wasn't able to do the Swedish project. I'm still hoping to do that whenever I have time. But it's a very Swedish project so it's not something I can just translate to English and shoot in the states. So you know, it's something I want to go back to Europe and shoot at there. Maybe later down the line... I don't know- you know... I'm interested in it. I'm definitely interested in working behind the camera. So it might be something I want to pursue later.

So you're just trying to keep your options open?

Yeah, ... yeah I don't know we'll see what happens.

We know that you've been a sex symbol and were made sexiest man of Sweden, named sexiest man like 5 times, I think I'm correct in saying that. So how do you feel about being a sex symbol in America?

Ah... (chuckles) I don't know- ah. What can I... flattering I guess.

(Giggles) Have you been followed- like around?

No, I mean that means I'm definitely not a sex symbol here. People don't even recognize me from the show. I look very different. I look quite different in real life.

So you don't have people following you around then.. or stalking you or anything?

No, no... not at all. I've - uh.

That's very good. You have your privacy then.

I've actually met people at parties and stuff and they are very excited about True blood and the show. It takes them like 25 minutes to realize that I'm actually on the show.

(Giggles).

So I'm very much incognito which is... which is quite nice.

I think it would be. Are the fans and paparazzi crazier here than in Sweden?

Well I wouldn't know because... People don't recognize me here so... I don't know. But I do know there is a difference. I mean its... in Sweden... I mean we don't even have paparazzi in Sweden.

Oh we didn't know that.

Ya- it's very nice. No matter how famous you are in Sweden you can walk down the street without being like chased down and harassed.

Ya I think its like a little ridiculous over here, and I don't care that much... I mean the actors its just like any other profession and they have they're own lives- like, but to be stalked and followed you know it's kind of creepy.

Ya it's.. I kind of feel sorry for some people. It's not something, definitely not something I want to experience. Like I'm going to be followed if I go get a coffee down the street or something. Ah... no I just think its way too ridiculous. Sometimes it feels like people are more interested in... in the singers and the actors the private lives then what they do on

So how do you pick you projects?

It's all about the script I would say. So it's about y'know what I would say is what I feel a strong connection to the character. Or it's a story that appeal to me and I think that it's worth being told then that's obviously how it starts. You know. You need that to be creative and start having fun with it and creating your character. If I don't feel or have that then I know I'm not going to do a very good job if I don't feel a connection to the character. It's definitely all about the script.

Can you tell us about you upcoming projects?

Metropia is an animated movie, it's kind of like a Gestopia~ Europe at some time in the future where a subway system links all major cities and it's corporations running things not the government running the city/world. These corporations can manipulate their citizens and without them knowing and basically tell them what to buy and when to by it and the citizens will think it's their own thoughts. It's really weird and very dark but I'm excited about it. It should come out some time this year (2009}. Ya and its about this guy and he finds out about it that something is wrong and wants to get to the bottom of it and find out what's going on.

Beyond the pole is a British comedy- we shot it like a year and half ago on Greenland actually which was amazing. It's a comedy actually about 2 British guys who walk to the North Pole and on the way there they meet two Norwegians explorers, and I play one of them. I was just there for two weeks. It was an amazing experience and it's something I wanted to do for a long long time. Just to experience that vastness and the silence up there it's really spectacular. If you ever get a chance to go up there I would truly recommend it.

13 Is a remake of the French film called 13 Tzameti, by a French Jordan director called Gela Babluani and he's is directing he's making a remake of his own movie actually. We've just been shooting that up in Yonkers in NY.

That's my neck of the woods (giggle)

Is it really?

I live in the Bronx- so...

Oh yeah, yeah it's just north of the Bronx. It's about Russian roulette.

Hmmm

Yeah, (chuckles) it's a pretty cool project. So and... yeah.

Is there anything coming down the pike?

I don't know we just started season two of True Blood. We'll be shooting that for the next 5 or 6 months. So I'm not sure what I'm going to do after. We'll be done by June or July I guess. It takes a while.

We know you've directed movies in Sweden are you interested in directing here in the US... or is that just something you'll pursue later on?

Probably later on, I don't have an agenda. It's not really a plan that I would direct movies in the states. Yes I have directed movies in Sweden. I have another idea. I have a script I wrote

something I pursued and that it was something I would become an actor when I was a grown up.

So was this acting just something you missed doing and you missed it when you were older?

When I went back into acting you mean?

Yes.

Like I said I quit when I was 13 and I think for any kid that's really a weird age and to hit puberty and its kind of weird to read about yourself in newspapers and to see what people are talking about and your personal like and what you like. You know when you're 13 you have no idea who you are and what you want. You're changing a lot and it made me very uncomfortable and very self-conscious. The reason I went back into acting was because, I took 7 years off and did lots of other things and then when I was 20, like most people in their late teens/early 20's you have all these thoughts. About what do you want to do with your life?

Quite naturally maybe because of my father, and I had acted quite a bit as I was a kid~ you know that thought came up and I realized that I missed working- y'know I missed being an actor.

The reason I left acting at 13 had nothing to do with acting ya-know, like I said it had everything with had to do around it. So I figured maybe I'm a bit older and the things around it- I'm more secure and can handle that better now.

So would you say you're comfortable with the attention now?

Um- Oh yah- definitely much more so than when I was 13. I also want to say when I was 20, it wasn't like I woke up one morning and thought I have to pursue this. But I didn't know what to do so I went to NY and studied acting in theater school and tried it out just to see if I liked it. So basically it was just to see how I felt about it and to explore that to see how I felt about it. If for nothing else I wanted to see realize that okay this is not for me and shut that door and move on.

But immediately when I started at theater school I realized I missed it a lot.

We've seen lots of you work; we were wondering what you liked more light hearted material... the dog trick or Zoolander vs. serious material like Gen Kill

Uh.. (Laughs) have you guys seen the dog trick? (Giggles yes- some did)

Ya- I guess most haven't seen it- it's a Swedish movie and a comedy I did about 6 or 7 years ago. It's hard to compare anything I've done to something like Gen Kill, because it is one of the... it is the project I'm most proud of and being a part of. I think that (its) something that in 40 years from now I'll be proud of, and still remember it and proudly talk about my experience on while working on Gen Kill. That's something that definitely profoundly moved me and meant a lot to me. That being said I had a blast on shooting the dog trick. I thought the script was hilarious and I had a lot of fun with the character. Cause he's so far out there you know. He was very flamboyant you know and all about himself you know. (Laughs at that) No I did enjoy that but it's not really fair to compare it to something like generation Kill.

Hi this is Alexander Skarsgard and you're listening to a Last Bite podcast

This is Last Bite podcast Episode 21; this is titled who is Bill or Steven the interview you asked for. (Giggles this is the Alexander Skarsgard interview) I'm Maria, I'm Tamra, I'm Pamela... and I like Bill or Stephen. More giggles. Before they start they disclaim any affiliation with HBO, True Blood, or the C Harris books. We hope you get a kick out of this pod cast... We have received over 200 questions. We stopped counting after that, (but) we do want you to know that we know you want to hear from Alex. We want to thank those that submitted a question via email, facebook and myspace. We won't be able to say who submitted the questions because so many sent the same questions, and we wanted more time to interview the man behind Eric. So thanks again for the questions

Hey

Hi Good Morning (1/25/09)

Good Morning. Can you guys hear me?

Yes, you sound good

Good. I hear you guys well.

So Mr. Skarsgard—I'm Maria, I'm Pamela, I'm Tamra.

Hey Maria how are you, hey Pamela hey, hello Samara

Thanks for taking time out of your busy day to let us interview you.

Of course!

Great we have a couple questions:

Okay our first question is what made you pursue acting at such a young age? I mean was this because your father was a huge influence on you, or what made you really decide to become an actor? You sound like you were really hesitant at the beginning from reading your biography?

Ya, I actually didn't pursue it when I was a kid. I was a child actor back in Scandinavia, um, but, I never... this kind of sounds strange maybe but because my dad's an actor but I never saw it as a profession, at the time I uh never pursued it that way~ I did get a movie when I was seven and then it was like one thing lead to another. I did that and got and then 6 months later I got called and then I did another movie and then a play and some television.

That went on for a couple of years on and off, and um I don't know it's not like I was running around with my head shot and you know crazy parents trying to book movies for me. It=ah-I went to school obviously and this was just a fun little thing on the side. I did that until I was 13 and at that point I probably realized, this, to me, it got to me a bit out of hand. Because, um it was... the reason I quit at 13 was because I didn't see it as a profession. It wasn't a hard decisions to quit because.. um... I did a movie in '89 and when I was 13 and it was quite successful in Sweden and suddenly people recognized me and... it made me very uncomfortable. I didn't like that at all.

So are you saying you saw it more like a hobby?

Ya, definitely nothing I pursued. If someone called and asked I'd say ya it sounds like fun. I did it and then I went back to school and 6 months or a year would go by and then something else would come up and... It was just a fun thing on the side- definitely not