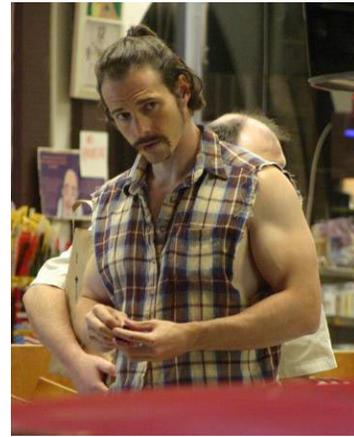


BIG GAME

- 1. The character of Luke in Big Game seems like a real departure for you, but is that only because we're used to seeing you play good guys like George of the Jungle? Was it a conscious decision to try and "shake things up" after George?**

Big Game was such a great opportunity for me and I'll be forever grateful to director Steve Dieveney and producers Gerson & Carina Sanginitto for seeing my inner red neck hoodlum. I'm always trying to expand on the kind of roles I do, but most of the larger production companies don't want to take that kind of risk. It's not that they don't think the actor can play the role, they're worried that the audiences won't accept the new persona portrayed by an actor known as something else.



For me, playing the antagonist was a real workout. When you're beliefs and moral codes differ from those of your character, you have to be constantly vigilant that you're not playing a judgement of the character. I never realized how much I edited my words and behaviour until I got to be someone who doesn't. After spending a lot of time with the character Luke, I discovered a lot of admiration and empathy for him. At the end of the day, he's just your average misunderstood killer.

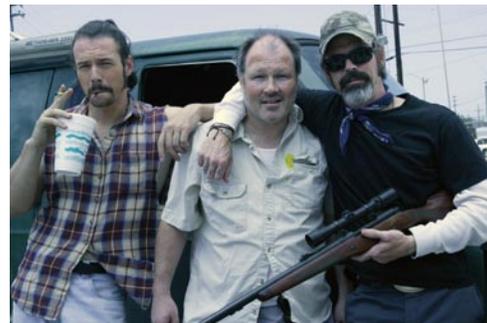
- 2. Tell us about the character of Luke – what drives that guy.**

Luke is a lot like me in a lot of ways. We both grew up in a very economically depressed rural area. We both love to read. Though I'm not a hunter, we both love archery. We both get a little self conscious around beautiful women and men we admire. And finally, we both look a lot like me – except he has mutton chops and a top knot. You know, when you really study the psyche of a hero and then compare it to the psyche of a villain, you come to the uncomfortable realization that there are very few differences that influence the decisions that shape who we are.



- 3. You appear in the film opposite 80s icon C. Thomas Howell. How was Howell to work with? Did he offer any advice?**

I'm sure that anyone who has had the good fortune of working with Tommy will agree with me that he's just an all around good guy. He's fun, funny, affable, down to earth, and interested in other people. He's also becoming a pretty good magician! And though we all remember him from his huge 80's titles like ET, Red Dawn, and The Hitcher, the guy has worked non-stop ever since with over 80 titles to his credit.



The only advice he offered me was after the first scene we shot together he let me know that they were currently hiring at the Burger King down the street.

4. Big Game was originally supposed to film in Griffith Park, but couldn't due to the fires. Was that a huge setback for the film?

Yeah, it was pretty crazy. I had just come back from a meeting/hike with the director. When I got home, I thought someone was barbecuing outside so I went to check it out. This is what I saw:

The smoke is rising up EXACTLY where we were going to start shooting the film. Needless to say, we had to postpone the production date a few days, but to the massive credit of Steve, Gerson, Carina, Rory Walsh, and the rest of the Reef Pictures team, they managed to start shooting less than a single week late.



5. What's the difference between working on a big-budget film like George of the Jungle 2 and a low-budget film like Big Game?

There are of course a lot of differences. Money can change everything. The main thing that I really like about smaller productions is that everyone gets their hands dirty doing everything they can to help make this movie. It's very much a team mentality at that point because we're not there for the pay check so much as we all are really passionate about making great movies, and everyone approached their jobs with a great deal of pride of ownership. Big budget movies have passionate people onboard as well, but the job descriptions are a lot more insulated and you get the feeling you are a very small cog in a very big machine.

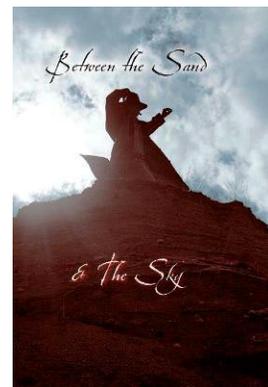
6. Did you do your own stunts?

I actually invented some stunts for myself in Big Game. We shot a river-rapids scene at Kern River in central California. I shot the rapids alone, without a boat, head first. If you've ever tried to swim a rapids, you gain a depth of respect for the power of Mutha Nature. The footage looked great but I don't think it made the final edit.

7. Can you tell us a bit about your upcoming projects, Commander-and-Chief and Between the Sand and the Sky?

Commander-and-Chief is a comedy about a totally fictitious president who alienates the rest of the world and has a funny way of bungling the English language. His name is George W. Bristol and he's played by actor extraordinaire C. Thomas Howl. The other main character is the janitor at the presidential library played by newcomer Ronnie Gene Blevins. I'm barely in this movie. If you blink...oops, wait, you already missed me.

Between the Sand & the Sky is a supernatural western I wrote a few years ago. We currently have a couple of great allies on our side working to get it in front of a mass audience. Keep your fingers crossed! More on that later...



8. What's your diet secret? How do you keep so trim?

My favourite diet secret is summed up on a magnet on my grandmother's fridge: If you want to stay on your diet, don't talk about it. You have to keep your mouth shut!

**9. You were once rumoured for the role of He-Man in the live-action movie.
Were you a big fan of the original series and original movie?**

Honestly I never saw the movie, however, I LOVED the cartoon. I'd watch it after school all the time. Did I just date myself?

10. Would you like to work with C. Thomas Howell again?

Are you kidding? I am constantly looking for ways to trick him into working with me again. Maybe we can get him into Between the Sand & the Sky. You know, before he was a movie star he was a rodeo star – it's true!