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## **Harry Potter star in new naked role**

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**30 July, 2006**

## THE ARTICLE

### Harry Potter star in new naked role

Daniel Radcliffe, the boy actor who became famous by playing Harry Potter in four movies, has taken on a completely different role. He will swap his wizard cloaks and scarves for just his bare skin. The 17-year-old, multimillionaire will appear naked in his London stage debut in early 2007. He will star in the erotic drama *Equus*. He'll play a troubled youth who blinds horses and then rides them naked. It is a huge change of direction for Radcliffe. His agent Vanessa Davies said he can't wait for the new challenge. She told reporters: "It is an extraordinary play, and he's very much looking forward to the role." Harry Potter actor Richard Griffiths, who played Harry's uncle, will also star in the play as the youth's analyst.

*Equus* was written by playwright Peter Shaffer. He also wrote *Amadeus* - the life story of Mozart. It is the second time *Equus* will be in London theaters. The initial performance was in 1973. After great reviews in London, it moved to Broadway, where it played 1,200 times. Anthony Hopkins, star of *Silence of the Lambs* and *Hannibal*, helped make it one of the most successful plays in New York theater history. *Equus* gained more international success in 1977, when Hollywood legend Richard Burton starred in the movie version. Radcliffe recently finished shooting an Australian film called *December Boys*. It's about adoption in the 1960s. He finishes making the fifth Harry Potter film later this year.

## WARM-UPS

**1. CHILD ACTOR:** With your partner(s), imagine you are multimillionaire child actors. Talk about acting, your daily life, your friends, what you spend your money on, etc. When you have finished, find a new partner and describe what you talked about.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*Harry Potter / fame / wizards / scarves / bare skin / horses / new challenges / plays / Mozart / London theaters / Broadway / movie stars / international success / boys*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**3. EARLY SUCCESS:** With your partner(s), talk about what life might be like to be 17 and at the top of these professions. Think of three disadvantages for each. Do you know of any real life examples? Change partner(s) and share your disadvantages.

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| • Actor           | • Singer             |
| • Golf player     | • 100-meter sprinter |
| • Chess champion  | • Gamer              |
| • Business person | • Chef               |

**4. QUICK DEBATE:** Students A believe Daniel Radcliffe should not act in the play *Equus*. Students B believe Daniel Radcliffe is making a good move. Debate this with your partners. Change partners often.

**5. OPINIONS:** With your partner(s), talk about the following opinions on the theater. Change partners and share your findings.

- The theater is only for rich and intelligent people.
- The theater is much more entertaining than movies.
- Governments should spend more money to help theaters.
- The theater in my country is an important part of the culture.
- Theater actors have more acting skill than Hollywood actors.
- The theater can tell stories that movies cannot.
- You have to be very brave to get on the stage and act.
- Any Hollywood actor can also do well on the stage.

**6. HARRY POTTER:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with boy wizard Harry Potter. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. The next Harry Potter movie will contain scenes of nudity.           | T / F |
| b. The actor who plays Harry Potter is a multimillionaire.              | T / F |
| c. The actor will star in a play about a boy who rides horses naked.    | T / F |
| d. Harry Potter's real life uncle wants to become a youth psychologist. | T / F |
| e. The Harry Potter star will appear in another play about Mozart.      | T / F |
| f. The same play received wonderful reviews in 1973.                    | T / F |
| g. The Harry Potter star grew up as an orphan in Australia.             | T / F |
| h. Filming on the fifth Harry Potter movie will finish later this year. | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| a. famous     | sixties    |
| b. completely | naked      |
| c. bare       | teenager   |
| d. troubled   | first      |
| e. youth      | filming    |
| f. playwright | totally    |
| g. initial    | writer     |
| h. gained     | well-known |
| i. shooting   | got        |
| j. 1960s      | disturbed  |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| a. the boy actor who became famous        | youth                             |
| b. has taken                              | where it played 1,200 times       |
| c. He'll play a troubled                  | forward to the role               |
| d. It is a huge                           | was in 1973                       |
| e. he's very much looking                 | on a completely different role    |
| f. <i>Equus</i> was written by            | an Australian film                |
| g. The initial performance                | by playing Harry Potter           |
| h. it moved to Broadway,                  | playwright Peter Shaffer          |
| i. <i>Equus</i> gained more international | change of direction for Radcliffe |
| j. Radcliffe recently finished shooting   | success in 1977                   |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

### Harry Potter star in new naked role

Daniel Radcliffe, the boy actor who became famous by \_\_\_\_\_ Harry Potter in four movies, has taken on a \_\_\_\_\_ different role. He will swap his wizard cloaks and scarves for \_\_\_\_\_ his bare skin. The 17-year-old, multimillionaire will appear \_\_\_\_\_ in his London stage debut in early 2007. He will star in the erotic drama *Equus*. He'll play a troubled \_\_\_\_\_ who blinds horses and then rides them naked. It is a huge \_\_\_\_\_ of direction for Radcliffe. His agent Vanessa Davies said he can't wait for the new challenge. She told reporters: "It is an extraordinary play, and he's very much looking \_\_\_\_\_ to the role." Harry Potter actor Richard Griffiths, who played Harry's uncle, will also star in the play as the youth's \_\_\_\_\_.

*change*  
*naked*  
*completely*  
*analyst*  
*playing*  
*forward*  
*just*  
*youth*

*Equus* was \_\_\_\_\_ by playwright Peter Shaffer. He also wrote *Amadeus* - the life \_\_\_\_\_ of Mozart. It is the second time *Equus* will be in London theaters. The \_\_\_\_\_ performance was in 1973. After great \_\_\_\_\_ in London, it moved to Broadway, where it played 1,200 times. Anthony Hopkins, star of *Silence of the Lambs* and *Hannibal*, helped make it one of the \_\_\_\_\_ successful plays in New York theater history. *Equus* gained more international success in 1977, when Hollywood legend Richard Burton starred in the movie \_\_\_\_\_. Radcliffe recently finished \_\_\_\_\_ an Australian film called *December Boys*. It's about adoption in the 1960s. He finishes making the fifth Harry Potter film \_\_\_\_\_ this year.

*version*  
*reviews*  
*story*  
*later*  
*most*  
*written*  
*shooting*  
*initial*

## LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

### Harry Potter star in new naked role

Daniel Radcliffe, the \_\_\_\_\_ who became famous by playing Harry Potter in four movies, has taken on a completely different role. He will swap his wizard cloaks and scarves for just his \_\_\_\_\_. The 17-year-old, multimillionaire \_\_\_\_\_ naked in his London stage debut in early 2007. He will star in the erotic drama *Equus*. He'll play a troubled youth who blinds horses and then rides them naked. It is a huge change of direction for Radcliffe. His agent Vanessa Davies said he \_\_\_\_\_ for the new challenge. She told reporters: "It is an extraordinary play, and he's very \_\_\_\_\_ forward to the role." Harry Potter actor Richard Griffiths, who played Harry's uncle, will also \_\_\_\_\_ the play as the youth's analyst.

*Equus* was written by playwright Peter Shaffer. He \_\_\_\_\_ *Amadeus* - the life story of Mozart. It is the second time *Equus* will be in London theaters. \_\_\_\_\_ performance was in 1973. After great reviews in London, it moved to Broadway, where it played 1,200 times. Anthony Hopkins, star of *Silence of the Lambs* and *Hannibal*, helped make it \_\_\_\_\_ most successful plays in New York theater history. *Equus* gained more international success in 1977, when Hollywood legend Richard Burton starred in the \_\_\_\_\_. Radcliffe recently finished shooting an Australian film called *December Boys*. It's about adoption in \_\_\_\_\_. He finishes making the fifth Harry Potter film \_\_\_\_\_ year.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**bare**' and '**skin**'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. STUDENT "HARRY POTTER" SURVEY:** In pairs / groups, write down questions about Daniel Radcliffe and the Harry Potter movies.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

**6. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| • boy       | • life     |
| • bare      | • initial  |
| • rides     | • 1,200    |
| • direction | • history  |
| • agent     | • legend   |
| • uncle     | • shooting |

## DISCUSSION

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. What do you think of Harry Potter?
- c. Which do you think is best, the book, the movie or the play?
- d. What do you think of Daniel Radcliffe's new role?
- e. Would you like to change places with Daniel Radcliffe?
- f. Would you like to go and see the play *Equus*?
- g. How lucky do you think Daniel Radcliffe is?
- h. Are you interested in the theater?
- i. What do you think of the word "challenge"?
- j. What kind of life would be a change of direction for you?

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. Do you think nudity in theater plays is wrong?
- d. Would you prefer to be a movie actor or an actor on stage?
- e. What do you think are the differences between onscreen and onstage acting?
- f. What kind of theater is there in your country?
- g. What do you think life would be like to be a multimillionaire at the age of 17?
- h. Do you think London's theater or New York's Broadway is best?
- i. Do you look forward to new and challenging roles?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

**AFTER DISCUSSION:** Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b. Was there a question you didn't like?
- c. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d. What did you like talking about?
- e. Which was the most difficult question?



## SPEAKING

You are a playwright. With your playwright partners, decide on the story of a new play. You must use the following words (in this order). Write ideas for the story next to each word. Decide on a name for the play.

	Ideas
Cloak	
Scarf	
Bare skin	
Multimillionaire	
Troubled youth	
Horses	
Uncle	
Mozart	
Broadway	
1977	
Shooting	
Orphans	

Change partners and tell each other your stories. Decide which is the best story. Talk about which actors you think would be best to play the parts in your plays. Rehearse the plays and put them on for the rest of the class.

## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on the play *Equus* and the playwright Peter Shaffer. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. POSTER:** Make a poster about Harry Potter – the books, the movies and its international success. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson.

**4. LETTER:** Write a letter to Daniel Radcliffe. Tell him what you think of his new role. Give him advice on what he should do from now. Ask him three questions. Read your letter to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions. Which letter did you like best and why?

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F      b. T      c. T      d. F      e. F      f. T      g. F      h. F

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| a. famous     | well-known |
| b. completely | totally    |
| c. bare       | naked      |
| d. troubled   | disturbed  |
| e. youth      | teenager   |
| f. playwright | writer     |
| g. initial    | first      |
| h. gained     | got        |
| i. shooting   | filming    |
| j. 1960s      | sixties    |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| a. the boy actor who became famous        | by playing Harry Potter           |
| b. has taken                              | on a completely different role    |
| c. He'll play a troubled                  | youth                             |
| d. It is a huge                           | change of direction for Radcliffe |
| e. he's very much looking                 | forward to the role               |
| f. <i>Equus</i> was written by            | playwright Peter Shaffer          |
| g. The initial performance                | was in 1973                       |
| h. it moved to Broadway,                  | where it played 1,200 times       |
| i. <i>Equus</i> gained more international | success in 1977                   |
| j. Radcliffe recently finished shooting   | an Australian film                |

### GAP FILL:

#### Harry Potter star in new naked role

Daniel Radcliffe, the boy actor who became famous by **playing** Harry Potter in four movies, has taken on a **completely** different role. He will swap his wizard cloaks and scarves for **just** his bare skin. The 17-year-old, multimillionaire will appear **naked** in his London stage debut in early 2007. He will star in the erotic drama *Equus*. He'll play a troubled **youth** who blinds horses and then rides them naked. It is a huge **change** of direction for Radcliffe. His agent Vanessa Davies said he can't wait for the new challenge. She told reporters: "It is an extraordinary play, and he's very much looking **forward** to the role." Harry Potter actor Richard Griffiths, who played Harry's uncle, will also star in the play as the youth's **analyst**.

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