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The many facets of Ryan

A slender but muscular, tall, blue-eyed, dishwater blonde man in his expensive, form fitted and tailored suit asks an older man, who is dressed in a department store suit and new balance sneakers, to take a seat at his table. The



younger man after an elaborate and comical conversation proceeds to offer him his services on how to get women. This may sound familiar to some of you as a scene from the Romantic

Gosling talking to Carrell in the film "Crazy, Stupid, Love."

Comedy film titled "Crazy, Stupid, Love." starring Steve Carrell and Ryan Gosling.

For most of us it is a familiar setting and understanding of what the actor Ryan Gosling does for a living, but it also gives us a false sense of knowing who he is as a person. I am writing this paper to give a better understanding of Ryan's

background, his interests and various other pursuits.



Gosling at age 12

Ryan Gosling is a 32 year-old, Canadian actor, director, writer and musician. He began his career on the TV show Mickey Mouse Club at the age of 12 and has since produced many

widely recognized films such as: “The Notebook”, “Half Nelson”, “Blue Valentine”, “Drive”, “Crazy, Stupid, Love.”, and the most recently released film “Gangster Squad.” He has also pursued other avenues.

Gosling is part of a band called Dead Man’s Bones which began in 2008. He was dating Rachel McAdams at the time and her sister’s boyfriend Zach Shields had a strong passion for ghost stories like he did. This led to jam sessions and soon their first album was recorded. The last that has been done with this band was in 2010 when they produced music videos. (Maio 1) He has also opened up a restaurant with a friend of his.



Ryan with band “Dead Man’s Bones”

Ryan co-owns a Moroccan restaurant called Tagine located in Beverly Hills, CA. His head chef, Chef Benameur was catering in Hollywood for several



Tagine Restaurant in Beverly Hills, CA

celebrities and Gosling had to know who he was. He was extremely impressed with his talent and he stated his food was “food he would eat every day for the rest of his life.” They both became friends and decided that L.A. was missing a sort of place that had food that made you feel warm and satisfied, so they opened up Tagine. (Tagine 1) He also has an unlikely hobby, we see few men pursue.

In an interview published in *The Independent* by Lesley O'Toole, it tells of Ryan's interest in Ballet. He takes amateur Ballet lessons at a public center in New York with various other regular people, having to do bar work with alongside the 7 year-old girls. He states "A lot of the students are young girls so they're there with their mums but they just kind of watch and tell me to keep it up. I don't even know what I like about it but it's like acting, I'm just compelled to do it and I do it to find out why. **The not knowing is interesting.**" So even though Gosling knows he isn't that great of a ballet dancer, he keeps doing it because of his interest in it. The article states that he was raised by his mother and sister, home-schooled for a while and took ballet when he was younger so he was constantly surrounded by females and so he believes himself to think like a girl, he thinks. Something he seems to be open about and comfortable embracing. Now-a-days with Gosling's increased demand in film, most of his energy is spent starring in films.

In an interview Ryan Gosling had with Steve Carrell published in *Interview* magazine, he tells about the process of making a film, specifically *Blue Valentine*. Ryan stated "the thing that's so exciting when you're making a film is that it can be anything and there are no limitations on it." So this limitless idea of a movie makes for the finished product to be a little disappointing to him. There are so many scenes and aspects to the movie that don't end up in the film and he feels that the people watching the movie are sort of missing out on all of its glory. "It's hard to let go of that, but at the same time, even if they don't find their way into the movie in scene form, I do think those things wind up in the fabric of the film,"

stated Gosling. He felt like even though a huge portion of what is made doesn't make it into the theatrical version, it still can feel a part of the film because the actors have lived it. Because Gosling has this eagerness to create movies it can come as a surprise that it sometimes is slowed down by his lack of confidence.

Even though Ryan Gosling appears to have a very confident, lady killer type personality, while filming all of the scenes picking up women in "Crazy, Stupid, Love" he actually felt very uncomfortable, as noted by fellow cast mate Steve Carrell in an interview he did with PopSugar "...at one point Ryan is doing all of these scenes where there is sort of a montage of woman after woman, just succumbing to his charms and Ryan could not have been less comfortable in doing that because he's just not that guy at all." Carrell was so stunned to see someone who seems to have every tool at his disposal: the looks, the charm and personality feeling uncomfortable flirting with a bunch of women. Unfortunately this hasn't been the only instance where he wasn't feeling that great about his role.

Gosling has also found himself in a situation where he realized he was too young for the part he was asked to play. In 2007, he was cast as a father in the film *Lovely Bones*. He had put on 60 pounds and had grown a full beard for the role, but he felt that it just wasn't old enough



Gosling +60 lbs.

(he was 26 at the time) to be the father of the teenage girl, so he was replaced by Mark Wahlberg. When he was asked in The Guardian magazine if this experience will make him reassess how he approaches offers, he replied "Yeah, I think so. It was nice to be believed in that much, but it was also an important realization for me: not to let your ego get involved. It's OK to be too young for a role."

Even with the various obstacles Ryan has faced, he has still been able to find plenty of work. With three films being released this year and having approx 20 films and 14 TV shows under his belt, Ryan is still as popular as ever with no end in sight.*



*Note 5/1/13: on March 21, 2013 Ryan stated to the Associated Press that he has decided to take a break from acting for the time being. He is currently working on directing his first feature film.

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