

CELEBS celebs

Nicolas Cage doesn't consider himself an actor

IANS | Los Angeles

Academy Award winner Nicolas Cage manages to surprise and find completely original ways to approach roles and yet he doesn't prefer the term "actor".

"For me it always implies, 'Oh, he's a great actor, therefore he's a great liar,'" Cage said, reports variety.com.

"So with the risk of sounding like a pretentious asshole, I like the word 'thespian' because thespian means you're going into your heart, or you're going into your imagination, or your memories or your dreams, and you're bringing something back to communicate with the audience."

Cage speaks extensively about his career on the latest episode of Variety's Awards Circuit podcast, from being born into a family of artists (his uncle is Francis Ford Coppola) to his current

film, 'Pig'.

He knows that his unique acting choices can sometimes be perceived as broad.

When asked about the term "over the top", he replies, "Well, when they say that to me, I say, 'You tell me where the top is and I'll tell you whether or not I'm over it.'"

Cage notes that his choices have been by design -- trying to break form with what audiences have been used to seeing.

"It was my aunt Talia Shire who first said to me, 'Naturalism is a style,'" he said.

"And I was also a

big believer in arts synchronicity, and that what you could do with one art form you could do and another meaning. You know, in painting, for example, you can get abstract, you can get photorealistic, you can get impressionistic, why not try that with film performance?"

Cage continued: "Stanislavski said the worst thing an actor can do is imitate. Being a bit of a rebel, I wanted to break that rule. So I tried with 'Wild at Heart,' a Warhol-like approach to the Sailor Ripley character.

"In movies, like 'Prisoners of the Ghost Land' or even 'Face/



Nicolas Cage

YOU KNOW WHAT

Nicolas Cage notes that his choices have been by design -- trying to break form with what audiences have been used to seeing

Off' or 'Vampire's Kiss,' I was experimenting with what I would like to call Western Kabuki or more Baroque or operatic style of film performance. Break free from naturalism, so to speak, and express a larger way of performance."

The actor admits he was looking to return to a more subtle style.

Emma Watson recalls considering leaving 'Harry Potter' franchise

Fox | Los Angeles

The "Harry Potter" franchise could have looked very differently if Emma Watson had ducked out about halfway through, as she considered doing.

The actress, along with several of her co-stars, skyrocketed to fame at a young age in 2001 when they appeared in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

While Watson and her co-stars have parlayed their early stardom into successful careers in Hollywood, it wasn't an easy go for them.

Watson, now 31, appeared in HBO Max's "Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts" special, which saw her

and others involved with the franchise recall their time working together.

In the reunion special, director David Yates mentioned that Watson considered leaving the franchise shortly after he agreed to direct "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," the fifth film out of eight.

"I think I was scared," Watson says in the special, recalling an old diary entry in which she mentioned feeling lonely, per People magazine. "I don't know if you ever felt like it got to a tipping point where you were like, 'This is kind of forever now.'"

She added: "The fame thing had finally hit home in a big way."



Emma Watson

Jessica Chastain says prosthetics gave her 'energy' to perform

IANS | Los Angeles

Hollywood star Jessica Chastain found wearing prosthetics in her new movie 'The Eyes of Tammy Faye' made her bring "more energy" to her performance.

The 44-year-old star shared that the wig, fake teeth and other physical changes she needed to play the lead role in 'The Eyes of Tammy Faye' made it "difficult" to connect with the audience but they also had the benefit of making her work harder to avoid being "upstaged" by her own appearance, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told Total Film magazine: "It's very helpful because you look so much like the character. But it's also difficult because you have to act

through it, right? How are you going to reach people through all of that stuff? How are people going to see behind my eyes when my eyes are the only things exposed, you know?"

Chastain added: "But I think it actually helped free me in



a way. It made me aware that I needed to bring a lot more energy than I thought was humanly possible because I couldn't walk into a room and then just get upstaged by the look."

The actress thinks her approach helped as it made her more like the real TV evangelist Tammy Faye Bakker.

Jessica Chastain

Zoe Kravitz reveals her cat co-stars in 'The Batman' were the biggest divas

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Actress Zoe Kravitz, who plays Selina Kyle and her alter ego Catwoman in Matt Reeves' upcoming 'The Batman', said working alongside the fidgety cats was harder than any of the car stunts and chases because they had a mind of their own and the actors had to wait around for them to play ball.

'The Batman' stars Robert Pattinson as Bruce Wayne and the Caped Crusader.

Kravitz told BuzzFeed: "The funniest



Zoe Kravitz

thing would be us getting ready to shoot and we'd have these cat wranglers come in who had these toys to make the cats stay on their marks, and it would kinda work, but not really. So, it ended up that we were always waiting for the cats - like we'd be ready to go, but then the cat would decide to

"It was pretty funny because, at the end of the day, you cannot tell a cat what to do. Like, after all the car flips and fights and chases, one of the hardest things to do on set was getting the cats to stay put"

ZOE KRAVITZ

move. "People would have to hide behind the cabinets or in the corners, so me and Rob (Pattinson) would be doing a scene and there are these cat ladies tucked away and pretending not to be there. It was pretty funny because, at the end of the day, you cannot tell a cat what to do. Like, after all the car flips and

fights and chases, one of the hardest things to do on set was getting the cats to stay put."

The 'Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald' star is well aware of the animal's traits as she recently revealed she studied lions and cats for the role, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



Becky Hill

Becky Hill wants to work with Calvin Harris

IANS | Los Angeles

British singer-songwriter Becky Hill wants to work with "amazing" Scottish DJ Calvin Harris because he's always been a big influence on her.

The 'Wish You Well' singer said the 'Acceptable in the 80s' hitmaker has been a big influence on her career so

she'd jump at the chance to get into the studio with him.

She said: "I'd love to work with Calvin Harris, I think he's amazing. He's always been around in me growing up and has been a huge influence in my dance music career and I'd love to sit with him and pick his brain and write a song with him."

Hill recently performed at Capital's

'Jingle Bell Ball' and the gig marked a major milestone for her because she was booked as a solo artiste in her own right.

Hill first found fame when she competed on 'The Voice' and she would love to return to the singing competition next year.

SUDOKU

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How to play
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD

Across
1- Similar; 5- FedEx rival; 8- Helper; Abbr.; 12- New Haven students; 13- Wool source; 15- Garbage boat; 16- Nair rival; 17- Conger catcher; 18- Wife of Shiva; 19- Promotion in rank; 22- The French word for "no"; 23- Tasteless items, junk; 24- They're charged; 26- Fix beforehand; 29- Sine; 31- It may come before long; 32- Shady spot; 34- Paddled; 36- Separate by a sieve; 38- Water wheel; 40- Fuzzy fruit; 41- Tending to a definite end; 43- Ark; 45- Tankard filler; 46- Bristly; 48- Lethal; 50- Gezer; 51- 100 square meters; 52- Bran source; 54- Plan beforehand; 61- Thrifty competitor; 63- Vinegary prefix; 64- Pearl Buck heroine; 65- Possess; 66- Pier; 67- ... arms (angry); 68- Consumer; 69- United; 70- It may be landed;

Down
1- Actress Olin; 2- ... Three Lives; 3- Capital of the Ukraine; 4- Fancy home; 5- Peter Fonda title role; 6- Conceal, as a card; 7- "Peter Pan" pirate; 8- Pop the question; 9- Adapted for climbing; 10- Han ... was a "Star Wars" character; 11- Matching; 13- Desk with slanted top; 14- Golfer with an army; 20- American space agency; 21- ... avall; 25- Mont. neighbor; 26- Gets nosy; 27- Thoughtful; 28- Steak order; 29- Common chord; 30- In a fresh manner; 31- Part of i.e.; 33- Guadalupe gold; 35- Casino cube; 37- Bandleader Puente; 39- Leading; 42- Poultry enclosure; 44- Delhi wrap; 47- Dry stalks; 49- Circuitous way; 52- Island of Hawaii; 53- Gardner and others; 55- Repeat; 56- Intend; 57- French 101 infinitive; 58- Iams alternative; 59- Follow; 60- Feminine ending; 62- Sun. talk;

Yesterday's solution

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