



# Secrets of **INTERVIEW** WITH THE VAMPIRE

We take a deep dive behind the scenes to celebrate the vampire flick's 30th birthday

From the haunted Cullens to the brooding Salvatores, hot vampires have stalked our screens – and our imaginations – for as long as we can remember. And turning 30 years old this month, there’s no denying *Interview With The Vampire* has stood the test of time. Neil Jordan’s outrageous 1994 film might be dark stuff, but it was good enough to secure both Golden Globe and Oscar nominations. Tom Cruise, now 61, led the all-star cast as Lestat, a vampire who befriends suicidal plantation owner Louis (Brad Pitt) and persuades him to choose bloodsucking immortality over death. But while these two dudes were brewing a supernatural bromance on-screen, the off-screen reality was very different, as perhaps more infamous than the film itself is the rumoured feud between its two leading men. Initially, Brad never expected Tom to play his two-fanged counterpart. The actor was already big news thanks to his role in *Top Gun*, but while Tom was great at leaping out of planes, many worried otherworldly beings may not be in his repertoire. It’s been reported Lestat was originally intended for Daniel Day-Lewis, who read the role and turned it down. Brad later revealed that Tom’s always chipper personality ‘bugged’ him, revealing, ‘There came a point during filming where I started really resenting him. He’s North Pole, I’m South. There was this underlying competition that got in the way of any real conversation.’ Fast-forward to 2009, and Brad still hadn’t learned to bite his tongue. Both men were starring in World War 2 dramas – Brad in *Inglorious Basterds* and Tom in *Valkyrie* – however, Brad allegedly branded *Valkyrie* a ‘ridiculous movie.’ His team later denied the jibe, insisting it was a misunderstanding after the interview was printed in a German magazine. Oh mein Gott. And this summer, there were rumours once more that their feud had reignited with the release of Brad’s racing film *FI*. In some ways, *FI* crept into an area that Tom had dominated – a need for speed, sports, and stunts. The fallout was furthered when Tom was noticeably missing from the summer’s British Grand Prix – an event, like Ant & Dec at the NTAs, he famously never misses – while Brad dominated instead. Despite their chequered history, we have high hopes the actors will put their past behind them. After all, it is the era of the sequel and we’re well up for *Interview With The Vampire 2*...





Still pretty, even when he's unhappy

## FILMING WAS THE PITTS

Although Brad's Louis was every bit the perfect portrayal of the broody vampire, there's a good chance it wasn't all acting. Brad admitted the film's gloomy vibe got him pretty down. 'I am miserable. Six months in the dark,' he said.

From lengthy make-up sessions to night shoots, the star was left so down in the dumps, he tried to quit the film. Unsurprisingly, he stayed put after learning it would cost him \$40million to welch out on his contract. Yowzers.



It's a vampire sausage fest

I could have been Cher!

## VAMPIRE QUEENS

Louis and Lestat's bromance is staked into our memories – but what if we told you it was almost Lucy and Leslie? At one point, movie bosses considered switching their leading men to leading ladies. According to reports, there were serious discussions of casting the legendary Cher and Anjelica Huston in the main roles. The idea never came to fruition because die-hard fans of the book were less than impressed with the idea. Personally, we'd have loved the girl power...



Lock up your zebras

## CALL OF THE WILD

It's well known that actors love to go OTT when prepping for their roles. Robert De Niro became a NYC cabbie while researching his part in *Taxi Driver*, while Jared Leto reportedly gifted Margot Robbie a live rat while prepping to be Joker in *Suicide Squad*. Apparently, becoming a

vampire requires some unusual research skills. Mastering the art of the hunter, Tom got his inspo for Lestat through watching nature documentaries – specifically, lions attacking zebras. Slightly less weird, he also made sure to master the harpsichord for his role as the music-loving vamp.

## OPRAH'S WALK-OUT

Don't invite Oprah to your spooky movie marathons. Despite being one of Tom's biggest fans, Oprah has admitted she initially walked out in the middle of the movie after getting the heebie-jeebies. She explained, 'I believe there are forces of light and darkness in the world, and I don't want to be a contributor to the force of darkness.' Given that 'vampire' features in the title, we can't help but think that might have been a hint as to what would unfold onscreen.



I thought it sucked. Literally.



Looks quite swanky to us

## HAUNTED HOUSE

Vampires on set are creepy enough, but there were also actual supernatural happenings taking place. The mansion that served as Louis' home in the blockbuster movie is a real plantation – and a haunted one, at that. According to those living and working near the Oak Valley Plantation, Louisiana, strange happenings are a regular occurrence. One tour group witnessed a candlestick flying across the room, while others have reported sightings of an eerie woman with long hair haunting the halls.

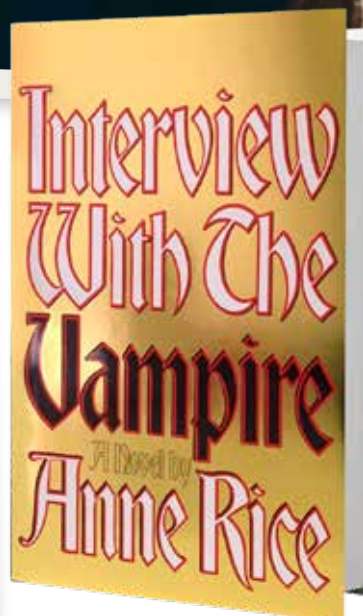


You couldn't get away with it these days. Thank goodness

Er, this is all kinds of wrong

## ICKY PDA

Most actors don't have their first smooch until they're at least teens, but Kirsten Dunst's first kiss came while starring as Claudia at just 11 years old – with the then 31-year-old Brad Pitt. Opening up about the scene later, Kirsten shared, 'Brad was just a hippie-ish, cool dude. Everyone at the time was like, "You're so lucky you kissed Brad Pitt," but I thought it was disgusting. I didn't kiss anyone else until I was 16, I think. I was a late bloomer.'



## IMMORTAL STORY

It's a good thing these characters were immortal, because it took a lifetime to make this movie. Author Anne Rice originally sold the rights back in 1976, months before her book was published. However, the script would remain in development for years. The film may never have seen the light of day if it weren't for Warner Bros – who picked up the project in 1992 and set about creating the film. About time.



He gave his \$250k salary to charity

## TRAGIC ROLE

The role of reporter David Malloy didn't always belong to Christian Slater. In fact, the role was originally given to actor River Phoenix – who sadly passed away before filming for the big-budget film began. *Heathers* star Christian stepped into the role, saying, 'It was tragic, and it was really awkward to be stepping into that kind of scenario. But I think I eased my own discomfort by not accepting money for it and donating my salary.'



'F\*\*k you, R-Pattz!'

## FANG FAVE

With its mix of high-camp and melodrama, viewers embraced *Interview With The Vampire*. The film hit number one during its opening weekend, going on to gross an incredible \$224million worldwide. In fact, it's almost as immortal as its leading men. Today, it's still the tenth most popular vampire film of all time. Although, given the *Twilight Saga* takes up the first five spots and *Hotel Transylvania* bags the next four, it's technically the third...