

Game of Thrones star Richard Madden tells how he risked life and limb in new Klondike role

5 Jan 2014 00:01

AVALANCHES, frozen lakes and river rapids were all in a days work for the Scottish actor in the gold rush adventure.

2 Like Share 10



Richard Madden risked life and limb filming Klondike

ACTOR Richard Madden has revealed how he risked life and limb to recreate the Klondike gold rush.

The Scot had to escape an avalanche by running towards it while filming the series, his first in North America.

And he was left hanging off a 9000ft mountain by a rope in a blizzard.

The former Game of Thrones star was thrown into raging rapids as he rafted down a river. And during filming of the epic Klondike, which premieres in the US next week, cameras froze at -38C.

Yesterday Richard, who grew up in Elderslie, Renfrewshire, said: "It's the hardest thing I've ever had to do. Klondike shows humans in the rawest form, where the stakes are literally life or death every day.

"Things are out of your control and how you react defines you as a person."



Richard in the new series

THOUSANDS OF TEENS IN FOSTER CARE WOULD LOVE TO PUT UP WITH YOU

Ad Council AdoptUSKids ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG

SEE MORE STORIES YOU'LL LOVE

Stories shown below are those we think you'll like based on what you've read before. Improve what we show you by logging in with Facebook.

RECOMMENDED ON THE RECORD WHY?



Tulisa Contostavlos
In pictures: Celebrity images of the day, January 9



Celebrity News
Poll: Should Filth star James McAvoy have been nominated for this year's BAFTAs?



ITV
Sheridan Smith set to play victim of Black Widower Malcolm Webster in new TV drama



Airdrie
Tributes following the death of Airdrie baker John Christie



Universities and Colleges
Glasgow University awarded £1.7m to upgrade wind tunnel used for aerospace and aerodynamic research

Richard, 27, plays adventurer Bill Haskell, who escapes life behind a desk to join the 1890s Klondike gold rush to find fortune and love with entrepreneur Belinda Mulrooney, played by Abbie Cornish.

Richard's most frightening moment came as they were filming above the clouds.

He said: "At that altitude, the air is so thin you can't breathe but we were having to run uphill towards an avalanche - for shelter. We were at our limits physically.

"I always try to be as fit as I can but this was definitely the most physical job I have ever had to do."

The actors were roped together, hanging off a mountain and buffeted by a blizzard while saying their lines, .

Richard - who is dating Doctor Who's Jenna-Louise Coleman - said: "As an actor, you don't have to pretend - you are simply in the elements the character is experiencing. We were at the end of our tether.

"The weather has been brutal and there were points when we were on a frozen lake where the cold was intense, reinforced by four huge snow machines - so the snow was really hitting you in the face."

Klondike was shot in Alberta, Canada, and part way through, the location had to be evacuated after flooding.

At one stage, Richard - who is being tipped for Hollywood stardom after winning the part of Prince Charming in Disney's Cinderella opposite Downton Abbey's Lily James - had to throw himself into dangerous river rapids.

The actor, who played Robb Stark in Game of Thrones, said: "I tried to convince myself that it's just a big set and they can turn off these river rapids whenever they wanted."

Executive producer on the six-hour series was Aliens director Ridley Scott. He said: "Shooting at minus 20C and even -38C, it is stultifyingly hard."

Klondike will be shown on the Discovery Channel.

FROM AROUND THE WEB:



[9 Celebrities You Didn't Know Married Each Other](#)
(Celeb Zen)



[How to Turn Your Profile Picture into a Simpsons...](#)
(5dollarblog)



[The Wolf of Wall Street](#)
(Weeknight Movies)



[Nigerian Phishing Scammer Jailed for 3 Years](#)
(EmailExpert.org)

Recommended by Outbrain [?]

COMMENTS

To leave a comment, you need to login via Facebook by clicking the button below



2

10

Like



[Local News](#)
[Starry-eyed Charlie is loving life as panto star in Pinnochio](#)



[The Queen](#)
[Airdrie teacher Wilma Gillooley stunned to receive MBE from the Queen](#)

SEE MORE STORIES YOU'LL LOVE

Stories shown below are those we think you'll like based on what you've read before. Improve what we show you by logging in with Facebook.

RECOMMENDED IN ENTERTAINMENT

[WHY?](#)



[Ford Kiernan](#)
[Tragedy for Still Game star Ford Kiernan as his 12-year-old boy Sonny is found dead at home](#)



[Peter Capaldi](#)
[Video: Scots actor Peter Capaldi 'nervous' before his first full day of Doctor Who filming](#)



[Tulisa Contostavlos](#)
[In pictures: Celebrity images of the day, January 9](#)



[Ford Kiernan](#)
[TV star Ford Kiernan's 12-year-old son found dead at his parents' home in Glasgow](#)



[The Kardashians](#)
[In pictures: Celebrity images of the day, January 8](#)



[Celebrity News](#)
[Video: Union J](#)