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JORDAN WHALEN





Jordan Whalen discusses playing Prince William



The US actor stars as the Duke of Cambridge in Lifetime's upcoming Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal

<https://toofab.com/videos/0-5y0ettxt/>

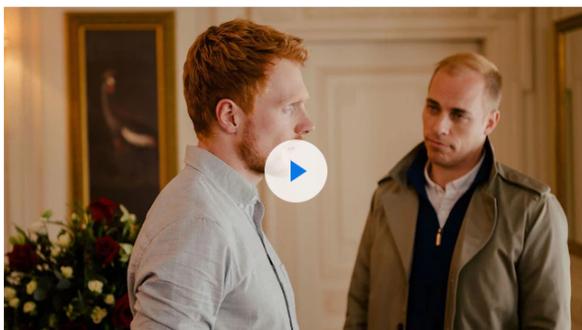
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Charlie Field and Jordan Whalen play royal brothers William and Harry in TV movie



Charlie Field and Jordan Whalen are the actors playing Prince Harry and Prince William in 'Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal'.



Charlie Field and Jordan Whalen are the actors playing Prince Harry and Prince William in 'Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal'.

Their love story always read like a Hollywood script, so it's no great surprise that The Duke and Duchess of Sussex have inspired another film.

Harry and Meghan: Becoming Royal documents the drama leading up to the couple's Windsor wedding and their first year of marriage.

Yesterday we heard from Prince Charles - and today we're joined by his sons - or rather, the actors playing the royal brothers, Harry and William - Charlie Field and Jordan Whalen.

<https://7news.com.au/the-morning-show/charlie-field-and-jordan-whalen-play-royal-brothers-william-and-harry-in-tv-movie-c-148458>

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The Most Surprising Things Jordan Whalen Learned Playing Prince William

by Rachel Epstein
May 27, 2019



A Royal. The drama-filled sequel to the network's *Harry & Meghan: A Royal Romance*, which premiered last year, will focus on the major events that have taken place over the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's first year of marriage.

Naturally, Whalen and the rest of his castmates needed to do as much preparation as possible to nail the very specific roles and mannerisms of the royal family. They worked hard to incorporate real-life royal elements in the film while, of course, following the script that incorporated a bit of...exaggeration.

"I was most familiar with Prince William after the royal wedding in 2011. All of the sudden he's in the news here in America and enough people were like, *Oh my god, you really look like him.* My ears pricked up and I was like, *Oh okay,*" says Whalen. "I started to follow him a little bit more, but when I was cast as him it was like, *Whoa, this is something I really have to work on.*"

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Whalen spent 75 hours watching footage of Prince William to nail elements like his accent and how he interacts with Kate Middleton. Here, Whalen tells MarieClaire.com the most surprising things he learned while studying up on Prince William, and the process of transforming into a royal.



Prince William (left) and actor Jordan Whalen (right).

Getty Images / Jenna Burke

Whalen can repeat Will's real interview answers word-for-word.

Whalen studied dialects in grad school, which helped him transform his lowan accent into a British one. "Often times, it's closing my eyes and listening to him and imagining where his tongue placement is, what's happening with the corners of his mouth," says Whalen.

Most royal men do a simple neck bow while greeting the Queen.

Whalen is used to doing Shakespeare plays. Back then, you bowed differently to royalty. However, he learned modern royal gentleman traditionally simply bow from the neck when greeting the Queen.

William and Kate don't really touch.

Unlike Harry and Meghan, William and Kate don't display much PDA. "I don't know if there's an official rule, but as future King and Queen they can't get away with it as much as Meghan and Harry."



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William does a lot of philanthropy work...

Whalen learned that the Duke of Cambridge focuses on mental health awareness with Harry, Kate, and Meghan. He was also particularly fond of the fact that he visited Grenfell Tower victims with the Queen.



...But there's also more time at home now.

When you have three young children under the age of five, what do you expect?

The Queen eats first. Once her plate is cleared, everybody is done.

Same, to be honest.

William is a bit fidgety...

"He may not necessarily

be comfortable talking to the press, even though he's been in front of the camera since birth," Whalen points out.

...And he purses his lips a lot.

Whalen thinks it's a nervous tick, though he's unsure if this happens behind closed doors. He may just do that because there's a camera in front of him.

Two words: The Hair.

On set, the crew took about 45 minutes to pluck hairs off the top of Whalen's head and create a "nice bald spot" on the back. Whalen proceeded to "casually weep."

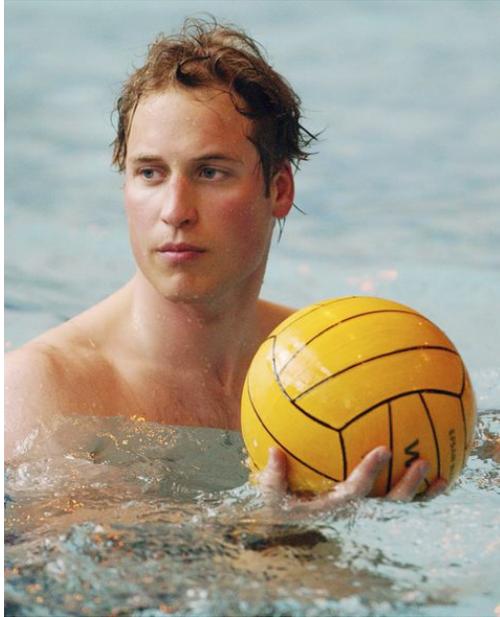
Whalen then had to bleach the top of his head.

The director wanted to make the hair, or lack thereof, more authentic on camera. Sorry, Wills!

He spent as much time as possible with his castmates before filming.

"You have to get comfortable with your wife and your brother and your sister-in-law, so I needed to immediately become familiar with my castmates," says Whalen. "Much of my scenes were with Harry, so we were like, *Let's just hang out and cultivate a familiarity so we can be brothers.*"





Unsurprisingly, William was a heartthrob in college.

Whalen learned Kate reportedly had [pictures of Will on her dorm walls!](#)

At the end of the day, Will's just a normal dude.

"We all come up with our own opinions of what this person is like, but as an actor going behind the scenes and trying to figure out this person, I realized that this is just a person. Everybody's normal in their own way, especially behind closed doors," says Whalen. "Yes, this is the future King of England, but at the end of the day he's a father, a brother, a son. He's a fairly normal guy."

Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal *premieres on Lifetime Monday, May 27 at 8 p.m EST.*

<https://www.marieclaire.com/culture/a27581777/prince-william-jordan-whalen-lifetime-movie-2019/>

###



Jordan Whalen: 'Becoming Royal' turns up 'the volume' on royal conflicts

By:Ben Hooper

May 24 (UPI) -- Actor Jordan Whalen, who plays Prince William in Lifetime's *Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal*, said his first hint that he one day could portray the second in line for the British throne came years ago.



Actor Jordan Whalen said he spent time poring through the "thousands and thousands and thousands of hours" of Prince William interview footage to get the royal's dialect and mannerisms down for the Lifetime movie "Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal." Photo by Jenna Burke

Whalen, whose credits include the films *I Am Wrath* and *The Assassin's Code*, plays the older brother of Prince Harry in the TV movie sequel, which follows Harry (Charlie Field) and Meghan Markle (Tiffany Smith) as they face the challenges of their first year of marriage, including clashes of culture and family.

Whalen said he first learned about his striking resemblance to Harry's brother, William, in 2011.

"Ever since the royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, I started hearing, 'Oh, you sort of remind me of him,'" Whalen told UPI in a recent interview.

The actor said his physical resemblance to William helped land the part, but the Iowa native said it took more than his looks to make the character true to life.

Whalen said the opportunity to review some of the "thousands and thousands and thousands of hours of interviews" William has given helped him master the prince's dialect and mannerisms. The very public life of the possible future monarch also creates specific audience expectations.

"I had an advantage because I had thousands of hours to pore over so I could have the source material there to know exactly what to sound like. But the difficult side of that is then the audience has that expectation in their head, so it kinda works for and against me," he said.

He said another challenge he and his co-stars faced was trying to guess how the famously reserved royals treat each other behind closed doors.

"I have a brother, and I know how I am with my brother, so it was kind of just substituting my relationship with him and projecting it on this relationship between William and Harry," the actor said. "And you've seen it in interviews -- they're kinda playful with each other. So for me and Charlie Field, who plays Harry, that was a lot of the fun of it.

"Whalen said fans of the royal family shouldn't be too concerned about liberties taken with the story, which largely is based on real events that made headlines in the year following the royal wedding.

"We didn't invent an alien landing or anything like that," he joked. "It's just kind of turning up the volume on certain potential conflicts and certain aspects of their relationships, and like any good story, there has to be a conflict.

"Whalen said he is unsure what Prince William would think of the movie.



Actor Jordan Whalen said he channeled his relationship with his own brother when filming scenes as Prince William for Lifetime's "Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal." Photo by Jenna Burke

"I'm fairly certain he will never see this," he said with a laugh. "All I can say is that I hope he would be like, 'Hey, man, you did a pretty good job.'"

Whalen said he had little interest about royal news before taking on the role, but his brush with royalty-by-proxy has increased his curiosity about the real lives of the people portrayed in the film.

"Certainly with Archie, who has just been born on [May 6], that caught my attention a lot more than if I had not played the role of Prince William," Whalen said of Harry and Markle's first-born son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor.

The Iowa State University graduate said he plans next to return to his home state to develop a stage show about politics a little closer to home: the Iowa Caucuses.

UPI

"My goal is to do some interviews and research and then hopefully devise a show out of that -- maybe it's a one-man show, maybe it's with a group of friends here in New York City," he said.

Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal [premieres Monday night](#) at 8 p.m. EDT on Lifetime.



https://www.upi.com/Entertainment_News/2019/05/24/Jordan-Whalen-Becoming-Royal-turns-up-the-volume-on-royal-conflicts/3001558632257/

###



ROYAL ROLE US actor playing Prince William admits he pretended to be posh Brit even after filming new royal movie – and it impressed the ladies

Jordan Whalen is the star of a new TV feature movie Becoming Royal

By Emma Parry, Digital US Correspondent
25 May 2019, 14:26 | Updated: 28 May 2019, 2:18



THE American actor playing Prince William in a new royal movie admitted he would pretend to be a posh Brit even after filming was over - and it was a hit with the ladies.

Jordan Whalen revealed he was so keen to perfect his accent, he spoke in an English accent "morning, noon and night" during the filming of upcoming TV feature film *Becoming Royal* - even when ordering coffee and speaking to his family.



Jordan stars as the Duke of Cambridge in Lifetime's new royal movie Credit: Jenna Burke

Jordan, who was born and raised in Iowa, said he enjoyed pretending to be a Brit as he got more attention from women.

"I worked with a dialect coach on set and she advised me to stay in dialect as long as and as often as you can. So then I thought 'why not just stay in dialect the whole time?' and that's what I did," he said.

"I was speaking to my family, friends, ordering coffee everything and I was really happy with what that did to me.

"I realised people really think being English is charming. Going around as an English

guy I noticed people really did treat me differently - you know people love an English accent over here.

"I was in a fantastic relationship at the time so nothing happened - but I did notice I was getting more female attention.

"People just start to give you a double take, and become more interested in you, asking me, 'Ah are you English, where are you from?'.

"I would play along and say, 'Ah yes I'm from South Ken in London' It was great. I was playing pretend for weeks!"

The Lifetime movie, which will premiere later this month, follows the lives of the young royals over the past 12 months - from Harry and Meghan's wedding to family feuds.

It's been a rollercoaster year for the "fab four", with rumours of a feud between the Cambridges and Sussexes .

Jordan says viewers should expect some drama from the new TV movie, a sequel to the hugely popular *Harry and Meghan: A Royal Love Story*,



Jordan and his castmates in the movie - including *Poldark* star Charlie Field who plays Prince Harry Credit: Courtesy of Lifetime

which was out last May in the lead up to the royal wedding.

"It covers some of the things that happened in the last year such as Harry and Meghan getting married, and getting pregnant but it's a dramatic script so it does pore a little gasoline on certain flames - and trying to wring some conflict out of those," he said.

"We do see confrontation between the brothers. Relationships evolve, especially as marriage can change the family dynamic.



Jordan starred alongside actress Laura Mitchell who plays Kate. Credit: Courtesy of Lifetime

said it was a big challenge playing someone as recognisable as William.

The 36-year-old said he'd never been mistaken for the royal but said he spent a lot of time learning about the 36-year-old future king.

"It was a lot of pressure for me as an actor because of everyone's expectations," he said.

"It was a great challenge to play a real life person - like 'how good could I be?'

"I tried to inhabit him and understand what his conflicts and duties are and play it as honestly as I could - but we'll see how it turns out."

Unlike his American counterpart Meghan, who

ditched her acting career to become a member of the royal family, Jordan says he doesn't think he'd cope with the pressures of being royal.

"I sincerely would never want to," he said. "[Meghan] had a choice to join this world - William and Harry did not - but she did and she chose yes.

"But with William and Kate having to focus more on acting the part of future King and Queen, there is a bit of friction between Harry and Meghan, especially with Meghan's outspoken stance on many issues.

"They have to be sure to remain politically neutral in the public sphere, so this causes some stress in the family so we do get to explore how this changes William and Harry's relationship."

The new movie stars American actress Tiffany Smith as Meghan and Poldark star Charlie Field plays Prince Harry.

Although the cast has changed since from the first movie - the only member of the "fab four" to return for the sequel is Laura Mitchell who plays Kate Middleton - producers are hoping it will be just as big a hit with US viewers keen to get an inside glimpse of the royal family.

Jordan, who has a background in theatre,



The movie will give viewers a glimpse into royal life. Credit: Courtesy of Lifetime

"It's going to change her life inside and outside - it's interesting but not for me."



The movie covers all the drama of the Harry and Meghan's royal wedding credit: Courtesy of Lifetime

For now Jordan plans to go back home to Iowa and spend time with family and he hopes that the royal family - particularly the Prince William - will watch the new movie.

"I would love for them to watch and I hope they enjoy it. It's kind of a crazy thing to think about," Jordan said.

"I would like William to watch it and then immediately be able to chat to him and ask him 'how did I do?'"

"Maybe he'd be pleased or maybe he'd be like 'No what are you doing here this is not me!'"

"All we are doing here is taking educating guesses - we see them in public but we

have no idea what they are like behind closed doors.

"These are real people - I have a brother and I can't imagine William and Harry are drastically different from the brother-brother relationship we have."

Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal will air on Lifetime TV on May 27.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/tvandshowbiz/9124967/prince-william-actor-pretended-to-be-posh-brit/>

###



Lifetime's Prince William, Jordan Whalen, on Stepping Into Royal Shoes

Carissa Pavlica
May 23, 2019



On Monday, May 27, you'll have the opportunity to tune into Lifetime's original movie, *Harry & Meghan: A Royal Romance*.

Jordan Whalen is a young actor who got to step into the shoes of Prince William, Harry's brother and Meghan's brother-in-law. Married to Kate Middleton, Prince William has spent his entire life in the public eye.

We chatted with Whalen about what it was like to take on the role of someone so beloved and well known. Enjoy our interview below.

What can you tell me about Harry and Meghan becoming royal, and how you got involved?

Well, how did I get involved? You know I suppose, like most other actors, it's just an audition to come down to shoot and it's something I threw on tape and recorded and sent out.

About a week later, I heard that I was their guy, and about five days after that I was flying to Vancouver, and then a few days after that, I was filming. So, it's pretty crazy for such a short turnaround and then again from completing filming to having it premiere two weeks from yesterday.

But it was just a lovely process; everybody on set was amazing. Getting to take a little peek at the royal family and pull back the curtain and make choices about what they're like behind closed doors was great fun.



And how much did you know about Prince William before taking on the role?

Seventeen percent. [laughs] You know I didn't know a ton about him off camera, but I heard I looked like Prince William just started after he married Kate Middleton. Then your ears prick up with your thing, but beyond that, being an American, I did not know a lot about them.

Whereas, I think pretty much every Brit knows a little more about them just because it's part of their culture and heritage. There's really no American equivalent to the royal family. You know we have our celebrities that enjoy their time in the limelight, but there's something different about royalty.

It's still an evolution for me, and I'm still learning about it. Obviously, now I have a little bit more of a connection and I'm learning more, but walking into it, I didn't know tons about him other than just broad facts about his life.

Was there anybody on set that knew the royal family or had insider information to help you prepare?

Other than the script, written by Scarlett Lacey, which like any script that kind of becomes your

Bible, and that becomes your source. Beyond that, it was talking to the British people that were on set and

the director, who is British. Charlie Field who plays Prince Harry, he's from London. Same goes for James Dreyfus who was in it as well.

So you kind of pick up some clues from them, but other than that, it's just on me to do the research and figure out the family tree. That's just homework though, and so that's why I didn't feel like, "Oh man, this is a disservice," or anything. That's my job to kind of figure it out. You try to talk to people that you can, but it's on me to ultimately do it.

And I have that as a question. How did you prepare for it? What kind of research did you do?

Well, I was watching lots of interview with him and really just trying to get what he's like as a person behind closed doors, off camera, because you know he's been prepped for this, you know from day one.

There's hours and hours of footage of this guy and what you get from that is, you get a very careful presentation of a person. And I don't mean that's not him. You're kind of on guard when you're talking to a complete or semi-stranger in front of a camera, and you've got to be careful what you

say, especially for royalty who, as constitutional monarchs, have to remain as politically neutral as possible.

But what was really helpful for me was just finding interviews panning out from him. Like a closeup, because there's a few interviews that I've watched where you know can see his hands, and he fidgets with them, which to me is an indication that the guy's not terribly comfortable being on camera here.

And there's an energy that is running through his body that he is shielding people from seeing, but sometimes unconsciously, fingers and thumbs moving. He also purses his lips a lot; that's just something else that I kind of picked up on and then I'm trying to take a guess on what it means for somebody to do that and then how does that translate if he's not in front of the camera, which for this movie is most of it. So we're taking some educated guesses on that.

And what was something that you found out about him as a person that you found really surprising?

Mmmmm, I don't know if I really found anything too surprising. I guess from his interviews that he seemed to be keeping a watchful eye, a very watchful eye on what the current Queen, Elizabeth II, his grandmother, is doing.

As second in line behind his father, I think he's just trying to see how she rules and what has been successful for her. So, first off, she does not seem to really be taking him aside and saying, "listen, here's how it's done." So I think it comes down to him trying to intuit.

And then he's also then making his own decisions on how political he can be, how much in the limelight he should be, how much of his family he should bring out, just by virtue of them doing interviews one-on-one. I don't think Queen Elizabeth II really does many of those if any.



So it's not surprising, but that was just something that was illuminating for me to see him break from certain traditions as it's more of a modern monarch.

You did a lot of research, that's impressive.

Well yeah. Like I've been saying, it's a great advantage to have thousands and thousands of hours from the actual person that I'm portraying, but it's also a bit intimidating because there's thousands of hours of this figure, and people know him, and they know what he sounds like, they know what he looks like, they know how he moves and certain things like that.

There's an expectation that, as the actor, you try to give your all and do your best, but with the short turnaround from being cast to getting the dialect down and as an American, you don't want to just come out with a terribly unconvincing dialect. So that's where a lot of the interviews were really helpful.

And I have that as a question too. How hard was it to perfect your British accent in his dialect, and what was your process to do that? How short of a turnaround was it?

I think I had nine days...

Oh wow.

To be prepared, I studied the RP dialect which stands for received pronunciation. But that's more of the classic, you know, how they sound on *The Crown*, the Netflix series *The Crown*. You know, Claire Foy and everybody with that stiff upper lip.



But you listen to William, and he's not that. He's relaxed. He has a more relaxed dialect, a dialect they call posh, but also not too posh.

So I met and worked with the wonderful dialect coach on set, Anna Galvin, and a couple of days before we started filming, she came in, and we went through all my lines, and as a midwestern American, I had to really work on rounding certain words, but also getting the cadence right for the flat way that they speak compared to the classical drawing room comedies or something like that.

So, she suggested to me to stay in dialect as often as you can. I thought, well, there's really no point in me not staying in dialect the entire time, so for the next four weeks I stayed in dialect. Even when I was talking to my parents to catch them up on how filming went, I was in British

dialect. I wasn't walking around having everybody call me Prince William, so I wasn't really method acting, but it was just really helpful.

You know, it's like learning a new language; you just immerse yourself in the language and what you do with that is that your mind is always kind of working and sharpening for the sounds that differ from general American.

So, that's what I did, and you know you kind of mirror when you're talking to the director or Harry or James, these guys who are British, and that really helped.

Do you think you'll be able to pick up other British accents easily now that you've done one, or do you think that you'll always kind of stick with that one dialect? They have so many dialects, that's why I find it so interesting.

They do, and honestly, this really helps sharpen my ear to that. I think we're all first exposed to the British by TV shows or movies, and so you say "Harry Potter" and you think, "oh, that's a pretty good British style."

There are like you just said, so many different dialects that you know somebody from Manchester versus somebody from Leeds versus somebody from even *within* London have different dialects there.

I think this really helped to sharpen my ear to an extent, but the next role I work on if it's a character set in Birmingham, you know that's going to be another challenge all on its own. But I'm better equipped to handle that challenge because I went through the rigors of this dialect.

And you did it so fast!

Well, let's hope I did it so fast. I was pretty happy with where it ended up. You know, as an actor, you always kind of kick yourself after a show and wish, "oh, I wish I would've had longer," but it is what it is, and you do your best.

When did you find out you got the role? It sounds like it's only been a couple of months?

Yeah, I don't have a date, but I mean I found out I got the role and then nine days later we were filming.

And you just finished filming, is that right?

We just finished filming; my last day was March 22nd.

Wow.

Yeah and this is a quick, quick turnaround. You know, I've done other movies and other projects where you've had a year or two sometimes until you actually see the finished product, so it's really exciting to have it so fresh and then get to see the finished product just a few months later.

Given how much you look like Prince William, does it worry you at all that you might get typecast, or do you want to be typecast? I don't know, maybe that could be a good thing.

No. I don't want to be typecast, and that's not knocking Prince William, but my greater ambitions are to be able to play a wide array of characters from different backgrounds and different countries and explore different parts of my creativity with that.

Those who know choose Mexico's No 1 Premium Tequila, the one Don Julio Gonzalez crafted with an unrivaled passion 75 years ago.



I don't think I'm like a twin of Prince William. I don't ever get passed in the street and it's like, "oh my gosh, hey Prince William." I think people obviously would know enough that Prince William's not just gonna be chilling on 51st Street in New York City,

But, I'm lucky enough to look enough like a guy who's famous enough that they made a movie about him in 2019, and I'm



physically happy with it. I can go back to my life and not feel like, oh, now I will only play Prince William.

Or princes, you know, maybe you could end up on the Hallmark Channel as any prince, they have a lot of movies with princes, and they're all filmed in Canada, so you got that down.

I know. So much films in Vancouver, like 80 things at any one time are filmed in Vancouver; it's fantastic.

I know it's crazy. Well what do you want to say to everybody who's going to watch? Do you have a selling point other than the obvious, which is it's the royal family and everybody loves them?

Well, you combine Lifetime, which has a huge following and then combine that with the royal family, which has a massive following, and you've already got a lot of interest right there. You know people I haven't heard of since high school are like, "Oh my Gosh, I went to high school with that guy." It's just kind of humbling.

But main selling point is, we've put a lot of hard work and effort into this, so come and see what we've been able to create, May 27th, Memorial Day at 8/7c.

<https://www.tvfanatic.com/2019/05/lifetimes-prince-william-jordan-whalen-on-stepping-into-royal-sh/>

###

INSIDER

The actor who plays Prince William in the new Lifetime movie said he added a bald patch to his head and pursed his lips to get into character



There are no lengths that some actors won't go to in order to secure their dream role.

For Jordan Whalen, who plays [Prince William](#) in "Harry and Meghan: Becoming Royal," this included "adding a bald patch" to his head and "pursing his lips" like the British royal.

The film, which premiered on Lifetime on Monday, tells the story of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's first year of marriage.

Whalen flew to Vancouver where the movie was filmed only five days after being told he had the part. His first priority upon arrival was a trip to the hair and make-up department, so they could "add a bald patch" to make him look more like the prince.

"I got to experience life as someone who is balding," Whalen told INSIDER.

"Going to a restaurant when I wasn't filming was a little different. There's a paranoia that comes with that, wondering if your hairline is receding — and thankfully I didn't have to worry about that.

"It helps you as an actor, like putting on a new pair of shoes," he explained. "You've got to do whatever you can to give yourself permission to play that character."

When asked if there were any particular mannerisms he picked up from the prince, Whalen replied: "He purses his lips a lot.

"It's one thing to see it, and another to try and understand why he does it. It's an unconscious thing — we all have them. But you wonder, was he uncomfortable, or was he reminding himself of etiquette in that moment?"

INSIDER

"All of the times he has been seen doing it has been in the public eye, like during the walkabout with the Queen at Grenfell Tower, or when talking to the press."

Charlie Field, who played Prince Harry in the film, was born in England and had no problem mastering his character's accent.

But Whalen, who is from Iowa, had to work with a dialect coach during the first two days on set. The star said he found it easier to continue to speak in the accent, even when the cameras weren't rolling.

"While on location in Vancouver I stayed in the accent all the time, even when just talking with the hair and make-up department," he said.

"I even managed to fool a couple of the Brits on set, who didn't realise it wasn't my actual accent.

"But the most helpful thing was hanging out with Charlie, who plays Harry, because he's from Britain. He doesn't have the same dialect as William, but it was still helpful being able to speak with him and mirror certain sounds.



The Duke of Cambridge in 2017. Max Mumby/ Indigo/ Getty Images.

"Eventually, even my thoughts changed dialect," he added.

The film recently faced criticism from Meghan Markle's father, Thomas Markle, who said that it is nothing but "dumb fiction."

According to [TMZ](#), Markle told the publication that he was "incredibly disappointed in how the Lifetime TV flick portrayed the Markle family drama leading up to last year's royal wedding, and [he] feels personally attacked by the network. "

But despite the media attention the movie has received, Whalen said he refuses to read reviews on his performance.

"I don't read reviews by the general public, or by critics. My job's over, I can't go back and change anything about the performance now.

"Hopefully people liked it," he added.

<https://www.insider.com/harry-and-meghan-lifetime-movie-prince-william-jordan-whalen-2019-5>

###



Actor Jordan Whalen says he watched numerous clips of Prince William to play the royal in 'Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal'

Jordan's striking resemblance to Prince William makes it easy to see why the Iowa star was cast in the highly-anticipated film 'Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal'

By Vidisha Joshi
Jun 7, 2019



Actor Jordan Whalen's striking resemblance to Prince William makes it easy to see why the Iowa star was cast in the highly-anticipated film, 'Harry & Meghan: Becoming Royal'. In light of the royal couples' first wedding anniversary, the Lifetime movie, which premiered on Monday, May 27, follows the love story of newlyweds Prince Harry and American actress Meghan Markle.

Jordan, who was born and raised in Iowa, first discovered his passion for the arts at an early age in theatre. He received the certificate of Advanced Theatre Training from the prestigious Moscow Art



Theatre School for the Stanislavsky Summer School program, which opened up greater avenues for the young boy. Jordan's extensive training allowed him to perform in many classic and iconic theatre productions such as 'The Glass Menagerie', 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Pride and Prejudice', and 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf', to name a few.



(Photographer: Jenna Burke)

Clearly a man of many talents, Jordan has been able to move in and out of the big screen as well as maintain a presence in the theatre. In an exclusive interview with MEA WorldWide (MEAWW), Jordan opened up about his experience playing Prince William on the new movie and also dished on how he prepared for the difficult role.

While talking about his preparations prior to facing the camera, Jordan said, "Much of my research consisted of watching the countless interviews with Prince William. That's one of the luxuries of playing a real person. There's no shortage of footage of him. From those clips, I could start to build my understanding of him based upon how he answered a question or what his hands were doing while he answered."



In light of the royal couples' first wedding anniversary, the Lifetime movie, which premiered on Monday, May 27, follows the love story of Prince Harry and American actress Meghan Markle

He elaborated, "As an American, I focused a lot of my time on his dialect to get that as sharp as possible. I had studied the British dialect in school but he has a very specific dialect. I made the decision to stay in dialect the entire month while we were filming, even when I was off the clock talking to my family or having drinks with the cast. Spending all that time sharpening it made a big difference for me so when it came time to film I was able to let go of all that homework and just focus on being in the moment."

For a lot of people in the States, the British Royal Family isn't on their list of priorities when it comes to celebrity following. Which is why even Jordan admitted he had to brush up on his knowledge of the royals and their various traditions and protocols to be able to do justice to his role. "I had to brush



up quite a bit. I had a basic knowledge of the family from the news but I suppose I really started following William more after his royal wedding in 2011. That's when I started to get a lot of, 'Hey you know you look like Prince William?'"



Jordan, who was born and raised in Iowa, first discovered his passion for the arts at an early age in musical theatre. (Photographer: Jenna Burke)

He continued, "But this is a very specific family and there's lots of protocol that I had to become accustomed to. There are specific rules on how to act around the Queen and the proper way to eat so those took a little getting used to. If you see William and Kate in public very rarely do you see them touching at all. And as constitutional monarchs, they have to be very careful to remain politically neutral. I think that really informs who William is. As future King and Queen, he and Kate have to behave in a certain way, whereas his brother and Meghan can be a little looser with the rules."

However, when one thinks of anything to do with the British royals, especially a movie, it is a genuine question as to what parts of it are fictional and how much of the whole thing is inspired from actual events, after all. Thankfully, Jordan cleared it for all of us: "Well it's a movie so all of it is fiction I suppose. The film focuses on this one year of their lives. Most of the big life events are in the film, but other than a few moments that really happened we're dramatizing the lives of the royal family."



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He added, "This is our best guess as to how these events affected their lives. Any good story must have conflict so we kind of decided which fire to pour gasoline on to find our drama. It was a lot of the fun to imagine how the events of the past year played out behind the scenes."

The talented actor, who received his big break when he submitted a self-tape, also admitted in the interview that his only regret was not being able to meet Prince William in person and get a few tips from him. "I would've loved to have met William, but alas, no I did not. I'm guessing he has a lot more important things to do than chat with an actor about playing him. But I think through watching interviews and watching him interact in public, I got a window into who this person is. Again, it's just the best guess, but it's an educated guess."



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Speaking about his future plans, Jordan dished, "I have a theater background and I love politics. Because of Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses, almost any politician that has ambitions to become president has to spend a lot of time there. So this summer I'm planning on doing some field research by interviewing prospective voters (and hopefully a few candidates) and just everyday people about their political beliefs and which candidate appeals to them."

He explained, "I think we're in a fascinating time politically and I'm really interested in exploring that. From those interviews, my goal is to create a piece of theatre that I can produce around the country and hopefully around the world. It's still in the developmental phase so I don't know what it will be in the end but this is a subject I've been interested in for many years now."

<https://meaww.com/actor-jordan-whalen-play-prince-william-harry-and-meghan-becoming-royal-movie>

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