

# Brady Corbet

**BRADY CORBET HAS FAST MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS A RISING STAR OF INDEPENDENT CINEMA. 1883 SPEAKS TO THE TALENTED NEW YORKER TO TALK MOVIE ROLES, OSCAR BUZZ AND HIS QUICK ASCENT TO THE TOP.**

There's something different about Brady Corbet. For an actor who mostly stars in indie arthouse movies, he is strangely free of the pretentious airs and graces that usually come with someone of his inclination. Dressed in a dark hoodie over skinny jeans and beat-up blue Vans, he looks like your typical downtown New York kid. "I'm starting to think that everybody is a hipster," he laughs. "Anybody that lives in this city is a hipster."

During an unseasonably warm November day in the East Village, Brady is talkative when faced with questions about his personal life, from dating (he's single) to what's on his iPod (M83 and Beverly Sills). Talk to him about his work and he becomes even more animated, words whizzing from his mouth and hands moving around impatiently.

"I never do something because I want to play a character that's like this, or behaves like that," he says. "Generally it's just about whoever's making the movie. If it's someone that I like, that I think is talented, and if it's a movie that I want to be a part of, then I'm pretty happy to be a part of it in any way that someone wants me to."



jacket CANALI  
shirt HE BY MANGO  
trousers DIOR HOMME  
shoes DIEPPA RESTREPO  
Pocket square  
THOMAS PINK

Born in 1988 in Phoenix, Arizona, Brady moved to Colorado when he was six. The only child of a single mother, his course to becoming an actor was set at a young age when their local paper advertised auditions for Alfonso Cuarón's take on *Great Expectations*. While he wasn't cast, he did score a manager out of the audition process and, in turn, an agent, and he began trekking out to Los Angeles for a couple of months every year. He made his film debut in 2003 as Mason Freeland in *Thirteen*.

"The few times that I've ever dabbled in Hollywood business I haven't obviously walked away very satisfied," he says, referring in part to his role in 2004's *Thunderbirds*. "I did what desperate young actors do and it wasn't the way that I wanted to conduct my life experience, where I'll just take any job because every job is an opportunity, and I sort of realized that every job is not an opportunity, that work doesn't beget work as much as good work begets good work." If I didn't know better, I might guess that I was chatting with a seasoned veteran, rather than a 23-year-old actor. Yet despite his age, he certainly seems to know his way around the business. His past credits include *Two Gates Of Sleep* from Alistair Banks-Griffin, Michael Haneke's thriller *Funny Games*, and Greg Araki's award-winning drama *Mysterious Skin*.

"I've ended up doing quite a few sort of heavy, dark dramas, but it's mostly just because that tends to be slightly meatier material, which is just more fun to sink your teeth into."

True to form, he currently stars in the psychological thriller *Martha Marcy May Marlene*. Written and directed by 29-year-old Sean Durkin, a member of the Brooklyn-based collective Borderline Films, the movie is about the post-traumatic-stress disorder of a young woman who escapes a sexually abusive cult. Martha, played by Elizabeth Olsen, refuses to say where she spent the last two years of her life, and her story is told through a series of flashbacks. "I play someone in the film from this commune and someone who, for whatever reason, seems to be somewhat of an ominous figure for Martha," says Brady. When it first screened at Sundance in early 2011, critics raved, Fox Searchlight paid a reported \$1.6m for the distribution rights, and Sean Durkin won a Best Director award. No surprise then that it attracted an Oscar buzz.

"I've been really thrilled for my friends because they work so hard to make the movies that they make. To see them getting all sorts of attention and getting deals with studios and finally being able to pay their bills — all of that is pretty great I think," says Brady, who has worked with the Borderline boys for a long time.

He also appeared in Lars von Trier's *Melancholia*, alongside Kirsten Dunst and Alexander Skarsgard. Working with Von Trier was a dream come true of sorts for Brady: he credits the director as one of the people who made him want to make movies. He recently wrapped up work on *Simon Killer*, another Borderline affair that was shot without a traditional screenplay and chronicles a young man's unhealthy obsession with a prostitute. And of course he is always working on his own projects that he hopes to someday get around to completing. His writing and directorial debut *Protect You + Me* premiered at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival and he's been pruning an idea for his next film in his spare time.

"I'm really passionate about making movies," he says. "I've definitely been wrapped up in the past few years working on other people's movies and that's extremely satisfying, I've learned a lot and I'll continue to do that for a while, but definitely every year that goes by I get a little itchier."

photography ANTHONY O'DWYER  
stylist ERIN O'KEEFE

Words by Lyndsay McGregor