

The Twilight Lexicon's interview with Solomon Trimble, cast as Sam Uley in the movie adaptation of the film Twilight by Stephenie Meyer. Interview conducted by Cocoa.

I would like to thank Solomon Trimble for taking this time with us, away from his incredibly busy schedule. We begin this interview by laying to rest any outstanding issues with regards to initial interviews conducted on Solomon's behalf.

Lexicon: Clearing the air:

Solomon: *When you come into the eye of the media, being misquoted/misrepresented is just part of the game and that's something I will just have to get used to. This whole thing has been a huge learning experience. I'd just like to say "Thank you" to twilightlexicon for this opportunity.*

Lexicon: What are your aspirations for after college?

Solomon: *Before I was cast in the role of Sam, I was deciding between graduate school (Public School Administration) or Lewis & Clark Law School. I was interested in becoming an attorney focusing on Native American causes. I love teaching math and have been a student teacher for K-12 kids for the last 3 years. I have always been an advocate for Native American rights and I feel that I needed a break to decide. I was debating which path to take. So to answer your question, I'm still undecided as to what I really want to do. I guess being a movie star will have to do till then ;)*

Lexicon: You mentioned in the article that your earnings from the movie would go toward paying off your mother and sister's houses, what was their reaction when you told them?

Solomon: Their reaction to me getting the part, or the reaction to my offering to pay off the mortgages? In regards to the mortgages, well my family has never had much money, but money was never an important issue in our lives. Family always came first; I just want to give back to them for being so supportive of me. It was not something they expected or even needed, but I feel it's important that my family's well-being is put first. As for telling them about getting the part, I called my sister on the phone, and she said she was very proud of me. My mother just chanted in disbelief, "no you didn't, no you didn't!"

Lexicon: How is your brother taking your casting in the movie?

Solomon: He still doesn't know. I'm not intentionally keeping it from him, it's just that he lives on a reservation and doesn't have much access to internet nor a phone, so I haven't told him yet. Can you keep a secret?

Lexicon: How would you describe your music taste? Any favorite songs or groups right now?

Solomon: My main staple is Fugees-Metallica-Zeppelin, as of late I like Gnarl's Barkley, Justice and the White Stripes. There will always be room in heart for Bone-Thugs, Tupac and Snoop, but as a former music major (guitar) I have a sad affinity for 80's big-hair band guitar solos.

Lexicon: Judging from your Myspace comments, your friends seem to have a pretty good sense of humor about this, how have they reacted? Any "Remember us when you're a big star" comments?

Solomon: There's been a few "remember me when" comments, mostly comments are "you lucky bastard" or "how much money are you making"... In general, everyone's happy for me, I have been invited to some "Twilight" parties on campus which I have not attended... I have been focused on graduating.

Lexicon: Are you interested in continuing acting? If yes, what types of roles would you be interested in? If not, why?

Solomon: I've always been interested in acting; my background is in stage acting and dance. This is a blessing, all my work in this past has been on indie projects. I would love to continue, I'd like to be selective in my roles and choose characters that have depth.

Lexicon: Your Native American culture is very important to you; can you tell us what it means to you to have such a strong sense of culture in your life?

Solomon: I've written many college papers on this topic and I could take all day to answer this question. Being an "Urban Indian", my family chose to sacrifice a portion of our cultural identity for a chance to have education and more opportunities than are available on the Rez. I spend most of my free time connecting with Elders who live in the city and learning traditional songs. I'm a part of most of the Native American ceremonies that happen in the Portland area, and I tutor Native American youth in math and culture to try and cushion the culture shock between the city and the Rez.

Lexicon: Have you had time to read Twilight yet? Who is your favorite character? Why?

Solomon: Yes, of course. I read it in one sitting...and OBVIOUSLY Sam is my favorite character. I finished Eclipse today, I couldn't put it down! The reason why Sam is my favorite is not just because I'm playing him, but because he is respected in his tribe and is adamant about preserving his culture. (Although that doesn't show up so much in Twilight, it is more obvious in New Moon).

Lexicon: Who is your favorite actor? Why?

Solomon: It's really a four way tie: Johnny Depp, John Malkovich, Willem Dafoe, and Sidney Poitier. Depp has keen sense on how to pick the right film and does such an amazing job. I think Malkovich's intensity is convincing in any role he plays. I like how versatile Willem Dafoe is for example the difference between his characters in Shadow of the Vampire vs. The Life Aquatic. As for Sidney Poitier, I just admire all his work and his status as a pioneer for actors of color.

Lexicon: You seem to have greatly impressed the director, can you tell us about your audition process?

Solomon: Well as abstract and misquoted as I've been, the truth of it is, I've done a lot of public speaking in my life and my roots are in slam poetry. Though I'm not going to tell you what part of the script I was reading for, there was a time Catherine Hardwicke let me improv and I think that had to most impact during the audition.

Lexicon: What do you feel Sam's underlying characteristics are?

Solomon: He seems to never crack under the pressure, anything is manageable for him. He feels a tremendous responsibility in preserving his cultural heritage. And I believe he has deep remorse for what he did to Emily, even more than what is illustrated...

Lexicon: What characteristics do you share with Sam?

Solomon: Sam is head of the wolf pack and a leader in his tribe, and I've always tried to be a role model for Native youth in the area by staying in school, being a student teacher, and also by participating in ceremony. I pride myself on being clean and sober, which is one of the major characteristics of Sam.

Lexicon: What do you feel is Sam's role in this first movie?

Solomon: I think this is a clever way of asking how big of a role I play in the first film...we'll see!

Lexicon: Your lines in the movie are arguably the most important lines in the whole book because they lead to Bella's discovery of Edward's true nature; have you ever felt the burden of a secret like Sam carries in Twilight? How did it affect you?

Solomon: I don't think Sam carried the burden of a secret; the fact that he said anything makes it clear that he's more interested in protecting his people and upholding the treaty than in protecting the "secret" of the Cullen family. Besides, can the pot call the kettle black? As for me, I never kiss and tell.

Lexicon: Who are you most looking forward to meeting/working with? Why?

Solomon: I'm really looking forward to working with Catherine Hardwicke, she's done some really hip and gritty work in the past, like Thirteen. Even though it is stipulated to be PG-13 film, I think Catherine will not make it a sappy teen love story, but give it the depth and realism that Stephenie Meyer intended.

Lexicon: Let's talk hair. You have amazingly beautiful hair. How long have you been growing it, and is there a cultural significance behind it?

Solomon: Thank you. I've never had short hair in my life, and have no idea how it will look short. There is cultural significance behind having long hair. However, I can't elaborate on whether I'll be cutting mine, we'll see.

Lexicon: Bear in mind I think you shouldn't cut your hair, but the number one question we are getting from fans is: Are you planning on cutting your hair for the film?

Solomon: The length of my hair represents the health of my family, when a family member passes away; I cut length from my hair that being said I am dedicated to playing this role.

Lexicon: You mention you are athletic, what types of sports/athletics do you enjoy?

Solomon: Native American grass dance, long distance running, and basketball (more specifically Rez-ball, if you don't know what that means, it's more like Rugby with hoops)

Lexicon: Have the fans been treating you well? Any Twilight fan encounters?

Solomon: Actually, just today I was on my way from a Philosophy final, a well-dressed emo girl hugged me unannounced and said: "you'll make a good Sam" and walked away without another word... There's lots of blogs online that either love or hate me, mostly about my terrible picture from the Vanguard article or so my agent tells me... I'm not reading them; I'm more focused on finals and prepping for the role.

Lexicon: Were you surprised at the large following the books have? How are you handling the pressure to produce a film that lives up to the books?

Solomon: A few days after the auditions, I received a script and a copy of the book... it was then, staring at the book that I realized what I was in for. At the audition I didn't link the script to the book. The only stipulation for the casting call was that they were looking for native actors. After staring at the book for a few

seconds I remembered that my sister hosted a book club featuring Twilight, I called her and she shrieked in horror. She quickly responded: "Please tell me you're not playing Jacob" I told her I was Sam and she said: "I can see that..." The gravity of the situation did not hit me until the Vanguard article came out I had to delete my Facebook account because it got overloaded the very same day. I just want to live up to Stephenie Meyer's expectations because she is the creator of this world, and I want to give Catherine Hardwicke the best performance I can. The fans of this series are so avid, that it is futile to try and live up to everyone's expectations.

Lexicon: Are you a vampire/werewolf movie/book fan? Do you have any book recommendations?

Solomon: Last summer I took a course "Vampirism in Film" where I presented the oral history of Native American supernatural beings, I actually focused on shapeshifters, more specifically wolves. If only I knew then... My favorite Vampire movies are "Interview with the Vampire" and the Nicholas Cage film "Vampire's Kiss". I'm actually about to sit down and watch "Underworld" right now. As for books, in the last five years, my focus has primarily been math and philosophy, so I'd have to recommend the philosopher Nietzsche, and for the math nerds try reading Euclid's Elements, both will suck the marrow from your bones.

Lexicon: The Twilight fans always want to know...Are you single?

Solomon: Yes, I am single...

Thank you again, Solomon for taking the time to answer a few questions from the Twilight fandom! And for allowing us the opportunity to get to know you and your vision of Sam Uley better. You will, no doubt, bring Stephenie's dream to life.

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