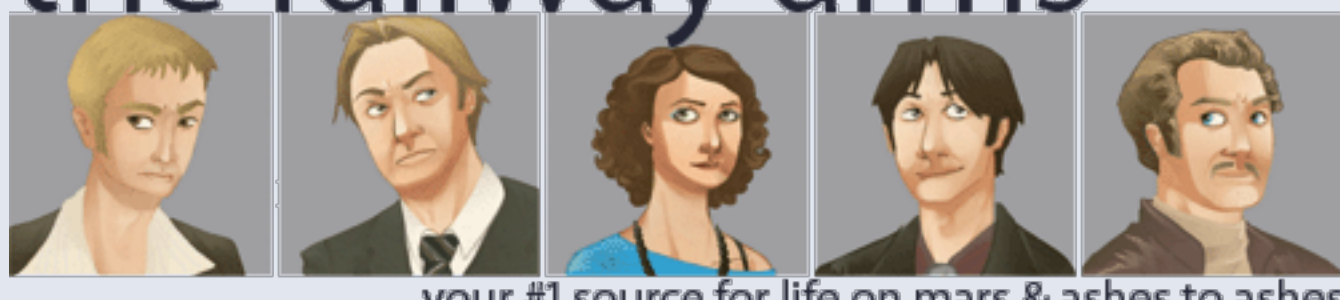


# the railway arms



your #1 source for life on mars & ashes to ashes

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**LoM LINKS**

LifeOnMars.com  
 John Simm L2 Community  
 Official Philip Glenister Site  
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**KEY STATS**

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- General Discussion
- Announcements
- Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\*

**Author** **Topic: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\* (Read 7026 times)**

**ohmygodfathers**  
 DCI

Offline

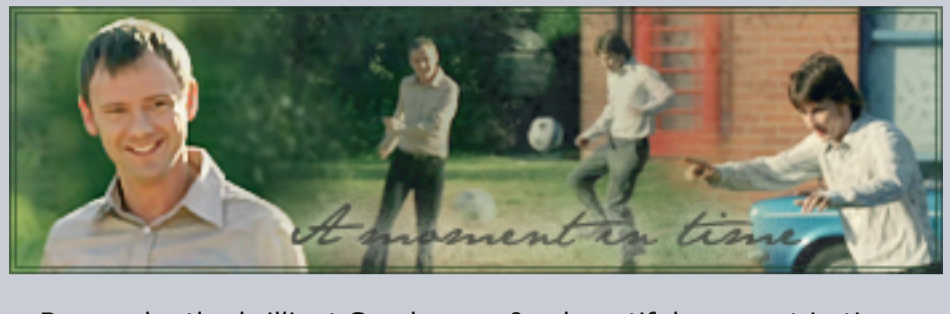
Gender:   
 Posts: 1,214

Icon thanks to notrinjastyle

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #15 on: January 24, 2007, 08:45 PM »

Like we weren't big enough fans already - now this! Thanks a bunch for sharing your time with us John!

I think we were all less than thrilled that State of Play was going to be turned into an American production 😊 (why mess with perfection?), but I was wondering, if something else you've done was turned into an American production and all the team involved in making it; writers, directors, producers, etc. were quality and they asked YOU to recreate your role as an American (accent and all), would that be something you would be interested in or even consider?



Banner by the brilliant Sundowner & a beautiful moment in time.  
 "Life On Mars - forever in my heart!"  
 "Its in my head, its always something" - Magic Alex (the band, not the person)

**acquitaine 33**  
 Member  
 DCI

Offline

Gender:   
 Posts: 1,216

Blasphy made this INTENSE Gene.

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #16 on: January 24, 2007, 09:44 PM »

Hi from a big fan in Canada, John!

When you were acting in Life on Mars, did you have freedom to suggest changes to the script as the filming progressed, or was the script rigidly adhered to? (I would love to know if the wonderful actors were able to make suggestions and "elaborate" on the story as written, and if so, was this frequently done?) It all seems so natural on film, and the most magical moments in the episodes have such an air of spontaneity, that this question has nagged at me for some time.

Thanks so much for answering...your work in this series had gleaned worldwide respect, so anything you can tell us will be of interest.

**tregina12000**  
 DCI

Offline

Gender:   
 Posts: 1,131

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #17 on: January 24, 2007, 10:17 PM »

Quote from: bluestocking on January 24, 2007, 08:21 PM

Dear John,  
 Have you ever wanted to have your own action figure? (Everyone seems to have one these days).

Bwah hahahaha, I'm so glad you wrote that. I had really really wanted to ask that, but I got embarrassed.

I reject your reality and substitute my own. - Adam Savage, *Mythbusters*

**Loz**  
 Member  
 Detective Inspector

Offline

Gender:   
 Posts: 849

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #18 on: January 25, 2007, 12:02 AM »

Hi John,

Do you incorporate method techniques (or the Stanislavsky system) into your preparation as an actor or is it more a play by ear kind of thing [right, big sobbing scene coming up - time to trap my hand in the door.]

Thank you so much for taking the time to do this, it's greatly appreciated.



**SuburbanBird**  
 Detective Constable

Offline

Gender:   
 Posts: 36

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #19 on: January 25, 2007, 01:34 AM »

Hi John,

Thank you for your kindness in taking time to do this.

I'd like to know a little bit about the research and/or preparation you did for playing Vincent Van Gogh in Yellow House. Were there challenges in portraying such a legendary artist?

Thank you!

**rupertsdrop**  
 Detective Sergeant

Offline

Posts: 226

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #20 on: January 25, 2007, 01:56 AM »

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions! I hope that it's OK that my question actually has four parts... 😊 I had a very hard time boiling it down to a single question.

Is it difficult working on a dramatic series knowing that important background character information could be made up by the writers as series progresses? This is probably naive, but do writers ever confer with actors on background information added later on in the series?

For example, at the end of LOM's first series we learn that Sam's father abandoned his family... did you know that at the beginning of the series? If not, do you feel like that knowledge may have changed the way you approached the character?

Throughout the series Sam begs the voices he hears not to leave him... those scenes seem more poignant knowing that someone important to him actually did leave.....

Thanks again! I really admire all of your work!

*It's normal to vomit when you have children.*  
 Eiling

**Yayster**  
 Administrator  
 Superintendent

TRA-TEAM

Offline

Gender:   
 Posts: 3,116

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #21 on: January 25, 2007, 01:59 AM »

EDIT: This question is by bluesky who was away (it's question number 20). You don't have to answer it if you don't want to, but she asked if I could put it here. 😊

Could you share any practical advice for the young actor attempting to enter the professional world? Knowing there are no easy roads to get there, do you have any advice on how to enter an audition -for example, should you dress the part or be yourself until entering the character?

Okay, I think we'll wrap it up there as that is about 20 questions! Thank you for your input everybody! 😊



DI Tyler wants you to read the Community Rules - follow standard forum procedure!  
 Thanks to artbox for the avatar and signature!  
 Please PM me if you have any forum issues.

**John S**  
 Detective Constable

Offline

Posts: 23

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #22 on: January 25, 2007, 01:13 PM »

Hello everybody,  
 Nice questions! Please forgive the length of time it's gonna take me to get through them all, i'm not great at typing! So i'll keep coming back and will eventually get 'em all answered. Before we start... the answer is 'Boxers', Ducky.  
 OK, first one. 'dianewc'.  
 These days i would rather be holding a well written script. Family to feed! Also, well written scripts are very rare, and to be honest i've hardly played guitar since the band split 2 years ago.

**ducky one**  
 Administrator  
 DCI

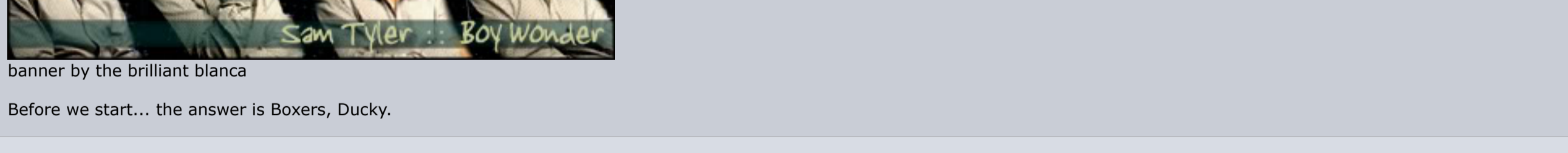
TRA-TEAM

Offline

Gender:   
 Posts: 1,974

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #23 on: January 25, 2007, 01:20 PM »

Oh God, excuse me while I crawl under my desk.



banner by the brilliant blanca  
 Before we start... the answer is Boxers, Ducky.

**John S**  
 Detective Constable

Offline

Posts: 23

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #24 on: January 25, 2007, 01:52 PM »

Question 2, Ducky one.  
 I suppose the roles that broke the 'conflicted teen/angry young man' thing were Human Traffic and Wonderland. (which, incidentally, is my favourite of all the movies i've done. Regardless of my performance, i just think Wonderland is a great film)

**John S**  
 Detective Constable

Offline

Posts: 23

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #25 on: January 25, 2007, 02:24 PM »

Question 3, V23474.  
 I would like to direct a film. I was going to direct an ep of LOM for this series, but it soon became apparent that the workload would be impossible. In fact, having witnessed first hand the pressure involved in directing a TV show like this, it's put me off directing on television for good!

**John S**  
 Detective Constable

Offline

Posts: 23

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #26 on: January 25, 2007, 02:49 PM »

Question 4, Blanca.  
 I think the puppets are great. Me and Phil watched the clip together for the first time and we honestly just fell about laughing. I like the fact they're very simple but you can tell exactly who they are supposed to be. They gave us a framed pic of them when we finished, and we are both very honoured to be Camberwick green puppets!

**John S**  
 Detective Constable

Offline

Posts: 23

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #27 on: January 25, 2007, 03:00 PM »

Question 5, Yayster.  
 The fan reaction to LOM has been overwhelming to tell the truth. The nearest thing i can think of is the reaction to Human Traffic, which eventually stopped me going clubbing. (which was a good thing!) But i've never done anything as mainstream as this, so the reaction shocked me. But in a good way...!

**John S**  
 Detective Constable

Offline

Posts: 23

**Re: Questions for John Simm \*READ FIRST POST\***  
 « Reply #28 on: January 25, 2007, 03:20 PM »

Question 6, Emmie.  
 My favourite role was 'Raskolnikov' in 'Crime and punishment'. I hope the Beeb will one day release it on dvd! It's my favourite book, so it was a dream come true to play him.  
 Other than that, i have a soft spot for 'Danny' in 'The Lakes. As you can tell, i like 'em dark! Also, i cant remember ever enjoying my job as much as i did whilst playing 'Van Gogh'.  
 So, probably those 3. (sorry, Sam fans!)