

JON



Thom Evans

JÓN visits London's
East End to meet
ex Rugby hottie Thom
and chat about islands
and dancing.

PHOTOGRAPHER KENNETH LAM
STYLIST STEPHEN CONWAY

JUMPER NORSE PROJECTS
TROUSERS TOPMAN



JEANS GAP
T-SHIRT DAVID GANDY FOR AUTOGRAPH M&S



Leigh: Okay, right so can you tell us what you've been up to lately?

Thom: Absolutely! Sort of been getting back into the modeling and done a few editorials and things like that which has been great and also done *Bear Grylls* which comes out in October. It was a good experience!

Leigh: Cool, so tell us more about the *Bear* experience!

Thom: Yeah so it was an island off the coast of Panama, highly populated as you can imagine, no it was literally fourteen of us it was for cancer research - it comes out sort of in October, we had to survive for two weeks with only the clothes on our back, while experiencing multiple insect bites, lack of food, lack of sleep and people who you might not associate yourselves with on the outside world to put it nicely... But it was great and it should be interesting seeing it when it's all put together.

Leigh: So the other people who are on it are other celebrities?

Thom: Yeah, yeah.

Leigh: Can you tell us who or is it a secret?

Thom: I can't, I can't tell you who until they announce it themselves.

Leigh: Uhuh but were some of them really amazing and some of them really irritating?

Thom: Erm I mean...

Leigh: Why were the irritating ones irritating?

Thom: To be honest, like they... I think that to go on a night out with everyone would have been cool and you would have, you know got along happily with everyone but when you're in that situation you know, my brother would have been annoying. Like I said you do not sleep and are constantly being like bitten or having things crawling over your face, like having crabs all over you and ...

Leigh: What like actual sea crabs?!

Thom: Yeah yeah big ones.

Leigh: They climb out of the ocean?

Thom: Yeah yeah.

Leigh: And walk around on you while you're sleeping?

Thom: Yeah Yeah, they sort of, like the island almost comes alive at night. It's pitch black so you can't see anything, you can only feel something.

Leigh: So you don't even have your mobile phone light to have a look.

Thom: And actually that was kind of weird not having your phone or anything just being completely cut off from the world. I quite liked that side of it because it is rare these days. There was nothing and that was kind of the scary part I guess. I was expecting sort of to look at my phone afterwards and there be like a ton of messages, because time seems to go by so slowly on there... but yeah it was it was great certainly an experience.

Leigh: Wow.

*I mean it
was just
completely
exposed*

FULL LOOK M&S





THIS PAGE
FULL LOOK H&M
FACING PAGE
SHORTS VANWOLFF



74







FULL LOOK SCOTCH & SODA



Stephen: Are you worried about your edit, is there anything that you did...

Leigh: Like having a strop?

Thom: I mean, ha ha ha, uumm...

Leigh: Thom SO had a strop.

Thom: I've certainly had a few moments where I had to sort of bite my tongue and go for a little wander into that happy place that I called it.

Leigh + Stephen: *Laughs*

Thom: I mean it was just completely exposed but I like to sort of challenging myself you know when I did *Strictly [Come Dancing]* it was kind of the fear of the unknown. Taking yourself out of that comfort zone is when you really live ... that's my opinion.

Leigh: So you've done other stuff too that you find has been outside the comfort zone

Thom: I'd say either the biggest ones has been *Strictly* I think it was just dancing on live TV and it is that fear of just messing up.

Leigh: Is *Strictly* live?

Thom: Live, yeah.

Leigh: Ouff...did people mess up? Sorry I didn't watch it.

Thom: The funny thing is no one actually messed up terribly badly, like as in people forgot their steps which but it is kind of filmed in a way that you can get away with the odd step, like it shows more on your face

if you mess up... it could still look like you haven't messed up.

Leigh: This issue is our WWW issues, so a lot of things that we've been talking to people about is like how the internet means that you are never alone and I guess sort of do you remember those times before the internet, when it first started did you have it when it first started?

Thom: I did yeah I had like the old brick computer I remember like when the first sort of social media thing that I was on was that Bebo, I don't know if you remember that?

Leigh: Is that a really Scottish thing Bebo?

Thom: It was kind of, I think it no it was it was an everybody thing, I just remember it being it was like you had a couple of pictures and it was and then I just remember when Facebook came out and it was such a mind blowing thing. I just love pictures and the fact that you can go on anyone's page like friends or people you admire or look up to and just check out what their up to is the coolest thing ever but it is hard to remember what it was like before these things were around.

Leigh: What did we do?!

Thom: I know.

Leigh: Someone is late for coffee, what am I just to sit there?!

Stephen: Or read a book??

Thom: I got on the train the other day coming back there's like a group of girls who got on and they must have only been about like 14 and there was probably six of them

and every single one of them were just sat there on their phone, there was no interaction - they were just sat there on their phones for a forty minute journey.

Leigh: How weird is it going to be for those kids that have always had this like constant connectivity?

Thom: Exactly and that was the one thing that everyone said coming off the island even though it was only two weeks there was not one person who actually missed their phone.

Leigh: Have you ever done like online app dating?

Thom: Erm as in like Tinder and things like that, I haven't actually no.

Leigh: I can't imagine you doing like an app dating thing like that, like if I saw your photo I'd be like fuck that is such a fake profile, nobody looks like that!

Thom: That has happened! Some people have asked, are you on Tinder because I've seen this profile, and I'm like no. I'm not. I like quite meeting someone at a bar or any given social situation. I like that feeling of approaching someone, I'm quite old school in the fact that I like to instigate it.

Leigh: How does that go down normally?

Thom: I'm actually pretty shy! Get me on the dance floor and you wouldn't think that, because I love to dance. Put me in a bar where I have to stand and be static, I'm pretty shy so I rarely and go over and approach someone.

Leigh: I mean, that's kinda half the thrill of doing it.

Thom: Yeah!

Leigh: The thrill that it's a good chance that you might get knocked back... Well maybe my chances are better than yours.

Thom: It's the rush of putting yourself outside of that comfort zone and the fear of the unknown, of not knowing if they will be no, I've got a boyfriend or just plain no.

Leigh: Like you said it's that outside the comfort zone thing, which now we're coming less and less outside of.

Thom: Yeah, if someone can just go on a dating app like tinder or something. Friends of mine can meet a different girl every other day so why would you put yourself in that space with that fear of knock back when you have a guarantee this girl had liked your page so it's really set in stone.

Leigh: But then you're not really living are you?

Thom: A lot of people choose that.

Leigh: How can you get people to it? Maybe that's the next app, some sort of insane dare app!

Thom: That's what we need. ♠



SHIRT H&M

GROOMING JOSIE CHAN USING MAC COSMETICS + AMERICAN CREW
SHOT ON LOCATION @ ANDAZ LONDON LIVERPOOL STREET
LONDONLIVERPOOLSTREET.ANDAZ.HYATT.COM