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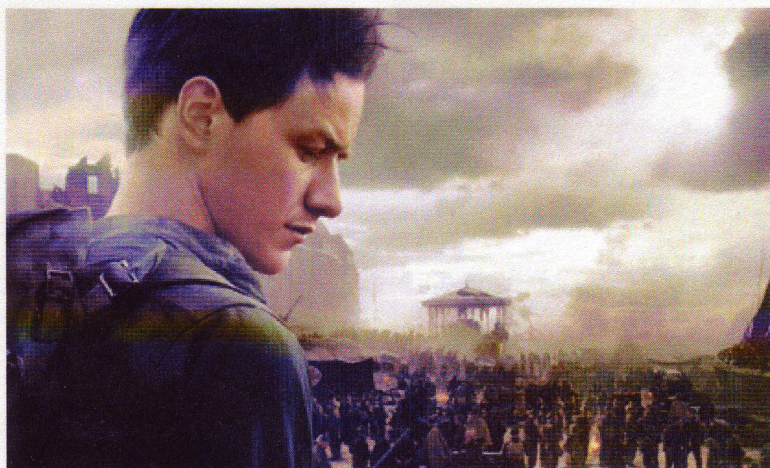
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James McAvoy Unrehearsed

By Julie Jacobs

Considering that James McAvoy won the first British Academy of Film and Television Arts' Orange Rising Star Award in 2006, and was named Breakthrough Actor of the Year by Studio Magazine/Chopard at last year's Cannes Film Festival, it's a safe bet that the Glasgow-born thespian is poised to join the next generation of leading men in the movies. Ever since he played doctor to Forest Whitaker's Idi Amin in *The Last King of Scotland*, McAvoy has gained greater notoriety among filmmakers and filmgoers alike.

It's been a steady climb for McAvoy, who graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in 2000 and then began accruing a solid roster of theater, TV and film roles. His first big break in the United States came with the HBO miniseries "Band of Brothers," which he followed up with the SciFi Channel's "Children of Dune" and such movies as *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Wimbledon*; and the Tom Hanks-produced *Starter for Ten*. Last summer, he wooed Anne Hathaway's Jane Austen on the big screen in *Becoming Jane*, shortly after wrapping the action thriller *Wanted* with Morgan Freeman and Angelina Jolie. And now he's starring opposite Keira Knightley in *Atonement*, a tragic love story adapted from the Ian McEwan novel of the same name that moves from the English countryside just before World War II to the Battle of Dunkirk in 1940.

Moving Pictures caught up with McAvoy during a well-needed respite from role playing.

***Moving Pictures:* Growing up, you lived with your grandparents, who instilled in you an unconventional take on pursuing one's dreams.**

James McAvoy: Yah, the idea that you can be whatever you want to be - I think that's unrealistic. But you should be allowed to try. They always told me I could try to be whatever I wanted to be, and that's just as positive. I think that, as a result, I'm quite a realistic person about my expectations and the future.

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