

JEFFREY HUNTER, AN ACTOR WHO SPEAKS LITTLE OF HIMSELF

“To be successful you must believe in yourself, in your own strength,” says actor Jeffrey Hunter. “I mean, you’ve got to be self confident, and have faith in what you can achieve.”

That’s the thinking of this actor who, following his initial film roles, was thought of as one of the most promising actors of his time. Though successful, he keeps working to further his career as an actor.

People often inquire about the secret of his success. The answer was given by a talent scout, who once said about him, “Hunter has that air of mystery you can see in the top movie stars.” He has class and dignity, and he’s a worldly man, too.

A lot has been written about him throughout his career, praising his talent. About this, he says, “We must not let positive reviews go to our heads. In Hollywood, flattery can make us lose touch with reality. Being an actor is very difficult, because we have to fight not only with the problems around us daily, but also with ourselves.”

Jeffrey Hunter speaks with the wisdom of a man who has lived his life intently. He’s always been even-tempered, even from his youth, and too serious-minded. He’s a little bit shy, and enjoys the company of his loved ones.

No wonder he’s thought of as one of the few actors who have become successful thanks to their talent, and not because of publicity. A well-known journalist said about him at the beginning of his career, “We usually run into practically unknown actors who look down on everyone else once their names have appeared in the gossip column. Luckily, that’s not true of Jeffrey. He’s a nice guy, who has class and talent, and doesn’t get influenced by flattery. There should be at least a dozen like him”.

That’s the image he gives to the audience. In private, he has a good sense of humor and makes friends easily; he has a genuine interest in people, no matter their status.

Hunter has always been reluctant to talk about his private life. He might talk for hours to interviewers about his job, but he’s on the defensive whenever a very personal question comes along.

That’s why we decided to talk about issues of lesser importance. For instance, we asked him about women.

“Would you like to talk about women?”

“Well...it depends, because when you’re willing to talk about a particular woman that’s because you love her. However, when you say, “I’d rather not to talk about that woman,” that might be because she has hurt you in some way. But, I cannot deny that women and love are always interesting subjects.”

“What is your ideal woman like?”

“I think that there is no ideal woman. We usually don’t fall in love with a woman whose qualities we have idealized, but with someone we meet by chance who somehow awakens love in us.”

“In your opinion, in which movie did you give your best performance?”

He paused a long time before answering.

“I don’t want to come across as overly self-critical, but I have never felt completely satisfied with any of my performances so far. I must confess, after I watch myself on the screen, I always hear an inner voice saying, ‘you could have done better.’”

Speaking like that, Hunter shows his sincerity and desire to continue to improve his skills as an actor. Despite his success, he strives to go even higher in the film industry.