

# The Freddie Highmore Chronicles

Freddie Highmore already has acted alongside some of the biggest stars in the movie business, including Johnny Depp, Robin Williams, Russell Crowe, Helena Bonham Carter, Dustin Hoffman . . . and Freddie Highmore.

That last one was the most challenging.

Freddie plays twins Jared and Simon in “The Spiderwick Chronicles.” The brothers look alike, but they handle things in different ways. And they have a lot to handle: Their parents’ marriage is in trouble, and the boys have moved with their mother and older sister to an old, spooky house where they are confronted with violent, fantastical creatures.

## On-Screen Split Personality

“It was quite interesting,” Freddie says of being cast as twins, “because genetically they are the same person. But they have grown apart as different changes have affected them and how they react to different situations, like the splitting of the family and the divorce. For me it was also important that Simon didn’t get [overlooked] behind Jared . . . who smashes things up and is quite the extrovert.”

In real life, Freddie has a heavy London accent, but he successfully makes the boys sound as if they are from New England — and even a bit different from each other.

Costuming completes the effect: Angry Jared wears jeans and lots of black and red; quiet Simon favors green or brown.

How do they appear on screen at the same time? Special effects, stunt doubles and stand-ins.

“It was great to play the twins opposite myself. I didn’t get along with the other guy [himself] too well,” Freddie jokes. “There was a lot of friction on the set.”

## It’s a Job, But What a Job!

Freddie turned 16 last week. He looks younger but acts older. “I spend time



Freddie Highmore plays twins Jared, center, and Simon in “The Spiderwick Chronicles.”

with adults, and being with them you become more mature. Especially on a [movie] set, you can’t mess around. It doesn’t seem like a job, but it really is.”

He enjoys the work, however. Acting

has taken him to interesting places, including a memorable visit to Cambodia during the filming of “Two Brothers.”

“We went off to deserted beaches and took a boat out for a day, caught fish



No hogging the spotlight: Freddie has worked with many notable actors, including Hogsqueal (voiced by Seth Rogen).

### Freddie on future roles:

“It would be fun to play a bad guy — a really nasty person, someone everyone hates. You wouldn’t expect it to be me. You’d think: He’s a sweet little kid.”

### Freddie on the differences between the “Spiderwick” books and the movie:

“There’s always difficulties making a book into a film — not everything will work. . . . We tried to retain as much as possible — definitely the unseen world; all those creatures are almost taken directly from the books.”

### Freddie on being recognized:

“If you don’t stand there and say, ‘Hey, look at me!’ and point it out, no one notices it too much. Especially in London; it’s always raining, and everyone is hiding under umbrellas and . . . looking down, trying to avoid the next puddle.”

and cooked on the beach. It’s such a beautiful place. I’m not sure if I’ll ever have an opportunity again to go to one of the only places on Earth where there are real tigers, and people really go around on elephants.”

— Scott Moore

## Meet Freddie Highmore

**Biography:** Born Feb. 14, 1992, in London, England. His father, Edward, is an actor (both had small roles in “Jack and the Beanstalk: The Real Story”). His mother, Sue Latimer, is a talent agent. His brother, Bertie, is 13.



“AUGUST RUSH”



“CHARLIE”



“ARTHUR”



“NEVERLAND”

### Where else you’ve seen him:

“August Rush,” “Arthur and the Invisibles,” “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “Finding Neverland.” He also was the voice of Pantalaimon in “The Golden Compass.”

**Favorite pizza topping:** “Maybe ham and pineapple. Or Margherita or cheese and ‘tomah-to.’”

**On his iPod:** “I like all sorts of music. Sarah [Bolger, who plays the sister in “Spiderwick”] got me into Simon and Garfunkel.”

**Favorite sports team:** Arsenal, a North London soccer club. “I’ve always supported them since I was a kid. My family passed it down. I have season tickets, so I go to a game every week or so.”