

REFOLD

CROWE

Crowe explains his alterable temperament in terms of his work ethic and his chameleon-like ability to adapt to all situations that present themselves: "I'm work-obsessed. I don't conform, but I get on with what is required. And I do have an opinion... which may be a problem. But if people take the job seriously, there is no trouble with me. And I mean taking the job seriously, not taking myself seriously. It's not arrogance: It's honesty." And his approach seems to be working: not only do directors appreciate the results of the tantrum-prone actor's full-on involvement in each and every one of his roles, but ticket-buyers are showing up in droves to witness the dynamic New Zealander in action. Sir Anthony Hopkins, who appeared alongside Crowe in *The Efficiency Expert* (1992), remarked of his churlish co-star, "He reminds me of myself as a young actor."

Crowe's chameleon appeal no doubt stems from his rather unconventional upbringing. Born in New Zealand to Jocelyn and Alex Crowe, his great-grandmother in his mother's side was Maori, incidentally, little Russell called Sydney, Australia, home after the age of 4. His parents were roving types, who made their living as innkeepers at set caterers. Sinobille was the last unit, in fact, in Crowe was 14 years old by the time he came to live in his house. From the age on, Russell started accompanying his parents to their catering film and television sets, which eventually led to his acting in a number of extra roles, the first of which was playing an orphan on the Australian TV series *Spyforce*.

Despite his auspicious and early start in show business, Crowe first learned what performance was all about by playing in rock bands. Styling himself as Russ Le Roc at the age of 15, he took to the stage to earn extra money in between his other paying-the-bills jobs as a waiter, bartender and lounge-number caller. The closest Crowe came to acting during this era of musical ferment was a rather

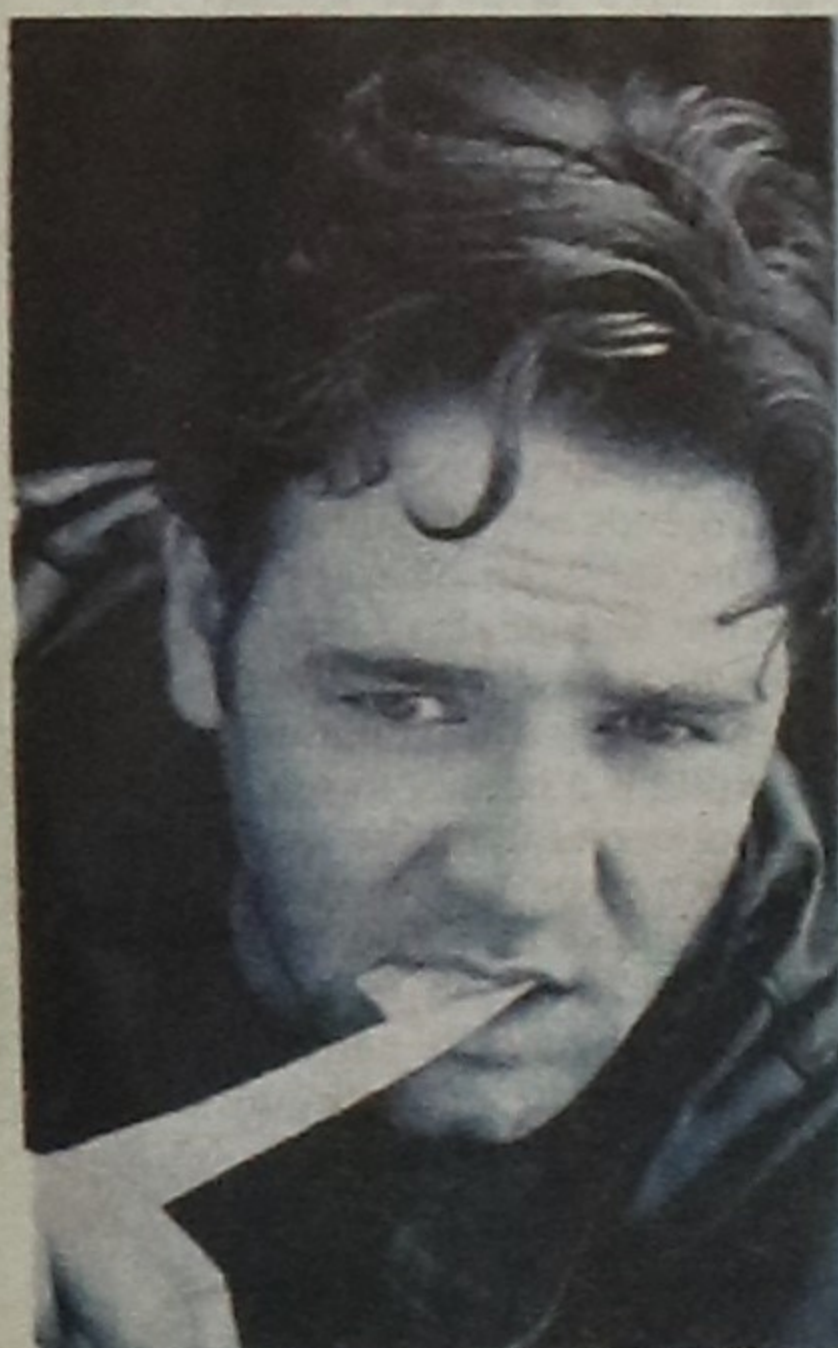
prophetic single he recorded in 1980 called "I Want To Be Like Marlon Brando." He formed a band called Roman Antix with a fellow native New Zealander; the group eventually evolved into 30 Odd Foot of Grunts, a rock-and-roll outfit for which Crowe still sings, plays guitar, and writes lyrics. After Mr. Le Roc finally got around to replacing a tooth that had been knocked out during a football match when he was 10, his acting career got liftoff with roles in the 1990 features *Blood Oath* and *Prisoners of the Sun*. He was 25 years old.

Crowe credits Sharon Stone's benefaction as the reason why his acting career finally turned on a dime, both in Australia and in the States. Stone had been galvanized by his riveting, daring performance in *Romper Stomper* and knew that he could hold his ground against her as a leading man: "... I thought

Russell was not only charismatic, attractive, and talented but also fearless. And I find fearlessness very attractive. I was convinced I wouldn't scare him." And she was right: Crowe ended up investing the lifeless Western with its only truly mesmerizing moments, despite the fact that his part was eventually scaled down to a mere thumbnail of its original size. Crowe now jokes that the reception of the film might have been markedly better in the States had director Sam Raimi left in a particular hot scene he did with Stone, apparently, the Australian version of the film, which contains the sizzling footage, has done a very brisk video-rental trade. Not that his career hasn't delivered up a fair share of spicy love matchups with some of Hollywood's most entrancing leading ladies: for the New Age romance *Rough Magic*, Crowe and

Bridget Fonda filmed a levitating hot scene; L.A. Confidential offered plenty of carnal knowledge about Kim Basinger; and the indie venture *Breaking Up* matched him in rocky romance with the lyrically lovely Salma Hayek.

In 1999, Crowe co-starred with Burt Reynolds in David E. Kelley's *Mystery Alaska*, a comedy about a sheriff of a small Alaskan town who leads a local hockey team against the NHL's New York Rangers. Later in the year, he co-starred opposite Al Pacino in Michael



Occupation: Actor, Musician, Singer, Songwriter
Date of Birth: April 7, 1964
Place of Birth: New Zealand
Sign: Sun in Aries, Moon in Aquarius
Relations: Mother: Jocelyn Crowe (set caterer); father: Alex Crowe (set caterer, former hotel manager)
Fan Mail: C/O International Creative Management - UK Oxford Hse 76 Oxford St. London, W1N 0AX United Kingdom



Mann's *The Insider*, a film about a 60 Minutes producer (Pacino) who coaxes the scoop out of a reluctant tobacco-industry whistle-blower (a nearly unrecognizable Crowe). The portrayal garnered Crowe an Oscar nomination for Best Actor. Crowe next ushered in the summer 2000 moviegoing season with Ridley Scott's blockbuster epic *Gladiator*, in which he portrayed a wronged Roman general.

Though Crowe would have no problem gaining entrée into Hollywood high society after all, he counts among his closest friends Tinseltown royals, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, whom Crowe knows from his stage-acting days in Australia. He prefers to retreat to his farm in the Australian bush between projects, and makes no bones about shunning life in Lotus Land: "I'd move to Los Angeles if Australia and New Zealand were swallowed up by a huge tidal wave, if there was a bubonic plague in Europe, and if the continent of Africa disappeared from some Martian attack." The down-to-earth, straight-shooting actor prefers the honest interactions he has back home to those he has with Hollywood glitterati: "In Australia, they treat you like a piece of furniture. Your mates are your mates and the folks who hate you dark and bloody guts, they don't change their minds. That's why I love it, I s'pose."

CHEATS

Age of Empires

From Atif Hafizuddin

To use these cheats, press enter, type it, then press enter again.

CTRL-C - Rolls Credits
 Pepperoni Pizza - Gives you 1000 food
 Woodstock - Gives you 1000 wood
 Quarry - Gives you 1000 stone
 Coinage - Gives you 1000 gold
 Steroids - Everything builds instantly.

Zeus - All your units become invincible. (It didn't work for me though)

E=MC2 trooper - Gives you a nuke trooper which fires nuclear missiles if you have a town center.

Photon Man - Give you a another cool trooper, which fires laser beams if you have a town center.

Bigdaddy - Gives you a car with a guy which fires guided-missiles, only if you have town center.

Dark rain - Your archers become trees when they don't move (and someone told me they can walk on water).

Medusa - Your villagers become Medusas, and when they die (in combat), they become Black Riders, then a Heavy Catapult.

Jack be nimble - Your catapult-type weapons now fire villagers, and sometimes cows.

Big Bertha - Your catapult-type weapons becomes Big Berthas (Better statistics)

ICBM - Your ballistic weapons can now have range 100.

Flying Dutchman - Your Juggernauts become Flying Dutchmen (they now can travel on land).

Hoyohoyo - Priest's hitpoints increase to 600, and they now move like its the end of the world (Super fast).

Black Rider - Horsed-based archers now become Black Riders (Better statistics).

Gala - You can control animals, but lose control of your units, and this cheat cannot be disabled, I think.

Reveal Map - Reveals the entire map (You don't see it, but the fogs still there).

No Fog - You can see the map as if there was no fog, but you cannot click on enemy units out of your unit's/building's sight.

diediedie - All opponents die in a non-multiplayer game. (Watch the CAPS)

DIEDIEDIE - All players lose in a non-multiplayer game. (Watch the CAPS)

Harl Karl - You lose

Resign - You Resign the game

Home Run - You win

KillX - Kills player "X" in a non-multiplayer game.

Timesayscheat - Turns off the cheats (not sure if it works. Never tried it!)

1590 COLUMN

By the \$al-Man

OK. You should end up with a gray glow around your text (Picture 8).

1590

Picture 8

7. Now, choose the Move tool (press V), and drag the shadow away from the text - traditionally you drag down and to the right.

8. Again, if you're using an old version of Photoshop which doesn't create new layers for text, this is where you paste the text you copied in step 3. After pasting, drag the newly pasted text away from the shadow.

9. You're done (Picture 9).

Now, how do you use these 2 techniques? Obviously, on their own they're nothing spectacular. Specially the glow - unless you do something interesting to the text, it sucks quite badly. Next week I'll cover things you can do to

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Picture 9

spice up text (this used one of my favourite pastimes).

Instead of doing all this stuff manually, you can use Photoshop 5's layer effects (under the Layer menu) to add glows and shadows automatically. Or you can use Eye Candy filters - this was actually the first manual drop shadow I've done in 2-3 years. I usually use Eye Candy's drop shadow filter.

But I don't like Eye Candy's Glow effect. I prefer to do that manually. Then you do it manually, you also have a lot more control - you can intensify the glow in certain regions, change the color in others, etc. And it's usually a very

good idea to keep the text and the glow (or the shadow) on different layers (oh yeah, I'd better write a column on the many wonders of layers...).

That's all for this week. Mail me with any questions or comments or insults - alien-angel@the-pentagon.com.

(* Editor's note: We know why you should know how to use these effects manually. 1. You improve your basic Photo editing skills and artistic abilities as you get to interact with the software more intensely. 2. You can CONTROL the effects anyway you like when you do it manually. 3. Put a human and different touch to your works and finally, 4. It's just a basic challenge which you should be able to face.)

MAKE YOUR OWN STUFFS!

By Monzur Morshed

Do you want to make your own screensaver or themes? Don't know how to make them? Here, I'll tell you about some programmes which will help you to make your own stuffs without much effort.

1. Winamp Skin Creators:

* Skinner 1.2: This one lets you create winamp skins with Equalizer & Playlist tool. But you'll have to register first. Why not, here's the code: Name - Monzur Morshed. Code - 6850785. Url: http://members.tripod.com/alje_g/skinner.htm

2. Screensaver Creators:

* ASSB: Active Screensaver builder is the best for the Pros (like me). You'll have to put everything manually. You can put images, sounds, coloured texts and some other things in your screensaver. Url: www.xemico.com/ssb/assb.zip

* WSSB: Webshot Screensaver Toolkit is the easiest software to make screensavers with changing images & midi sound.

3. Photoshop Filter Creators:

* FilterFormula: FilterFormula is an Adobe-compatible meta-plugin filter for PCs that allows you to create image filters by using a syntax similar to "C". Url: www.vienna.com/graphics/formula.zip

4. Desktop Theme Creators:

* Theme Weaver: www.relia.net/~bravhaart/VB/files/weaver.zip
 * Desktop Architect 2: <http://prime-fe1.ivcm.com/rebel/da/da20.exe>

5. Help File Creator: * Webtwin 1.1: Webtwin is a very simple software to make help files out of a directory containing HTMLs with pics, texts etc. Url: www.webtwin.com/ftp/webtwin/webtwin.exe

Linus: An Inspiring Story=2

b. New Baby In the Horizon

In 1991, Linus Benedict Torvalds was a second year student of Computer Science at the University of Helsinki and a self-taught hacker. The 21 year old

sandy haired soft-spoken Finn loved to tinker with the power of the computers and the limits to which the system can be pushed. But all that was lacking was an operating system that could meet the demands of the professionals. MINIX was good, but still it was simply an operating system for the students, designed as a teaching tool rather than an industry strength one.

At that time, programmers worldwide were greatly inspired by the GNU project by Richard Stallman, a software movement to provide free and quality software. The much awaited GNU C compiler was available by then, but there was still no operating system. Even MINIX had to be licensed. Work was going the GNU kernel HURD, but that was not supposed to come out within a few years.

That was too much of a delay for Linus. In August 25, 1991 the historic post was sent to the MINIX news group by Linus.

From: torvalds@klaava.helsinki.fi (Linus Benedict Torvalds)

Newsgroups: comp.os.minix
 Subject: What would you like to see most in minix?
 Summary: small poll for my new operating system
 Message-ID: <1991Aug25.205708.9541@klaava.helsinki.fi>

Date: 25 Aug 91 20:57:08 GMT
 Organization: University of Helsinki

Hello everybody out there using minix - I'm doing a (free) operating system (just a hobby, won't be big and professional like gnu) for 386(486) AT clones. This has been brewing since April, and is starting to get ready. I'd like any feedback on things people like/dislike in minix, as my OS resembles it somewhat (same physical layout of the file-system (due to practical reasons) among other things). I've currently ported bash(1.08) and gcc(1.40), and things seem to work. This implies that I'll get something practical within a few months, and I'd like to know what features most people would want. Any suggestions are welcome, but I won't promise I'll implement them:-)

Linus (torvalds@kruuna.helsinki.fi)
 PS. Yes - it's free of any Minix code, and it has a multi-threaded fs. It is NOT portable (uses 386 task switching etc), and it probably never will support anything other than AT-hard disks, as that's all I have :-).

As it is apparent from the posting, Linus himself didn't believe that his creation was going to be big enough to change computing forever. Linux version 0.01 was released by mid September 1991, and was put on the net. Enthusiasm gathered around this new kid on the block, and codes were downloaded, tested, tweaked, and returned to Linus. 0.02 came on October 5th, along with this famous declaration from Linus:

From: torvalds@klaava.helsinki.fi (Linus Benedict Torvalds)

Newsgroups: comp.os.minix
 Subject: Free minix-like kernel sources for 386 - AT Message-ID: <1991Oct5.054106.4647@klaava.helsinki.fi>

Date: 5 Oct 91 05:41:06 GMT
 Organization: University of Helsinki

Do you pine for the nice days of minix-1.1, when men were men and wrote their own device drivers? Are you without a nice project and just dying to cut your teeth on a OS you can try to modify for your needs? Are you finding it frustrating when everything works on minix? No more all-nighters to get a nifty program working? Then this post might be just for you:-)

As I mentioned a month(?) ago, I'm working on a free version of a minix-lookalike for AT-386 computers. It has finally reached the stage where it's even usable (though may not be depending on what you want), and I am willing to put out the sources for wider distribution. It is just version 0.02 (+1 (very small) patch already), but I've successfully run bash/gcc/gnu-make/gnu-sed/compress etc under it.

Sources for this pet project of mine can be found at nic.funet.fi (128.214.6.100) in the directory /pub/OS/Linux.

The directory also contains some README-file and a couple of binaries to work under Linux (bash, update and gcc, what more can you ask for :-). Full kernel source is provided, as no Minix code has been used. Library sources are only partially free, so that cannot be distributed currently. The system is able to compile "as-is" and has been known to work. Heh. Sources to the binaries (bash and gcc) can be found at the same place in /pub/gnu.

Linux version 0.03 came with in a few weeks. By December came version 0.10. Still Linux was little more than in skeletal form. It had only support for AT hard disks, had no login (booted directly to bash). Version 0.11 was much better with support for multilingual keyboards, floppy disk drivers, support for VGA/EGA, Hercules etc. The version numbers went directly from 0.12 to 0.95 and 0.96 and so on. Soon the code went worldwide via ftp sites at Finland and elsewhere.