

Erich's back in uniform to take on Captain America

Abbots Langley actor returns to screens in new blockbuster movie release

by Tom Foster

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AN actor from Abbots Langley is starring in a new big-budget Hollywood blockbuster that has just reached cinemas across the UK.

Erich Redman plays Schneider in Captain America: The First Avenger, which hit screens on Friday.

The character is one of a handful of Nazi bad guys, and Erich stars on screen alongside Matrix actor Hugo Weaving, who plays the main villain The Red Skull.

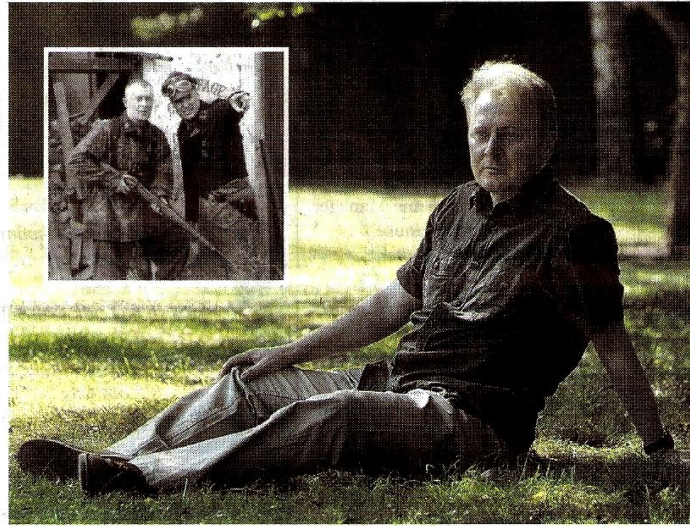
Erich, 45, has had parts in a number of box office hits including Saving Private Ryan, The Illusionist, U-571 and United 93 to name but a few.

He has shared the screen with top Hollywood names including Tom Hanks, Cate Blanchett, Matthew McConaughey, Matt Damon, Edward Norton, Steven Berkoff and Sandra Bullock.

Erich was born in Russia, before his family moved to Germany where he was brought up.

He moved to the UK in the late 1980s to study and has lived in Abbots Langley since 2001.

Because of his childhood in Germany, which has left Erich with



Silver screen: Erich Redman today, and as his character in Saving Private Ryan, top left.

a slight accent, he has often been cast as a German in a number of films ranging from Saving Private Ryan to his latest endeavour.

He said: "Obviously it's always a bit of a shame that Germans are presented in quite a black and white manner in a number of films.

"But the film is good entertainment... it's not just CGI and

presents more of a human story."

Despite appearing in so many well-known films, Erich revealed how it is still difficult to get cast in new films.

He said: "It's still not easy... in fact it can be quite difficult, especially for the blockbusters. You can end up going in front of almost a committee who will decide whether they want you in a role.

"Having said that, if you land the part it is exciting to be part of such a big production.

"Getting picked up in a nice limo and being called Mr Redman is all good fun."

Despite his portfolio of work built up over 17 years in the film industry, Erich said he does feel disappointed at times that he hasn't always been given bigger parts.

He said: "I've had an interesting career but I've always hoped for bigger parts. Now that I'm getting older I have to be cast as a more senior figure, such as a higher ranking officer.

But he has come a long way after first getting his taste for acting in a Haagen Dazs test commercial following his completion of a business degree and time spent working as a copywriter.

Erich was also a regular in the BBC sitcom TLC playing German anaesthetist The Gasman.

Captain America sees Steve Rogers, played by Hollywood star Chris Evans, become a superhero thanks to a radical medical treatment in 1941. With superhuman strength he then leads the fight against evil Nazi scientist Johann Schmidt, known as The Red Skull.

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