

THE LANGLEYS

Erich aims for Hollywood glory

by **MICHAEL PICKARD**

WITH his blond hair, blue eyes and native German accent, actor Erich Redman is well rehearsed at playing Eastern Europeans, Russians and Nazis.

But for the softly spoken Abbots Langley resident, these roles are just a stepping stone to his big break and a one-way ticket to Hollywood.

During his 17-year career, Erich, in his "late-30s", has shared screen time with Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock and Matthew McConaughey and taken direction from Steven Spielberg in *Saving Private Ryan* and *Schindler's List*.

His latest picture, *The Flying Scotsman* – the story of Scottish world champion cyclist Graeme Obree – is out now.

Erich said: "It was good fun. We did a one-day shoot in Glasgow and a week in Dusseldorf and Cologne. I was working with Steven Berkoff. He was the bad guy and I was his funny sidekick and that was very enjoyable. I like playing fun guys."

Born and raised in Germany by Russian parents, Erich moved to London in 1990 to try his hand in the movie business. He now appears in up to six English and German-language films a year and also earns his living from radio plays and voiceovers for language tapes and computer games.

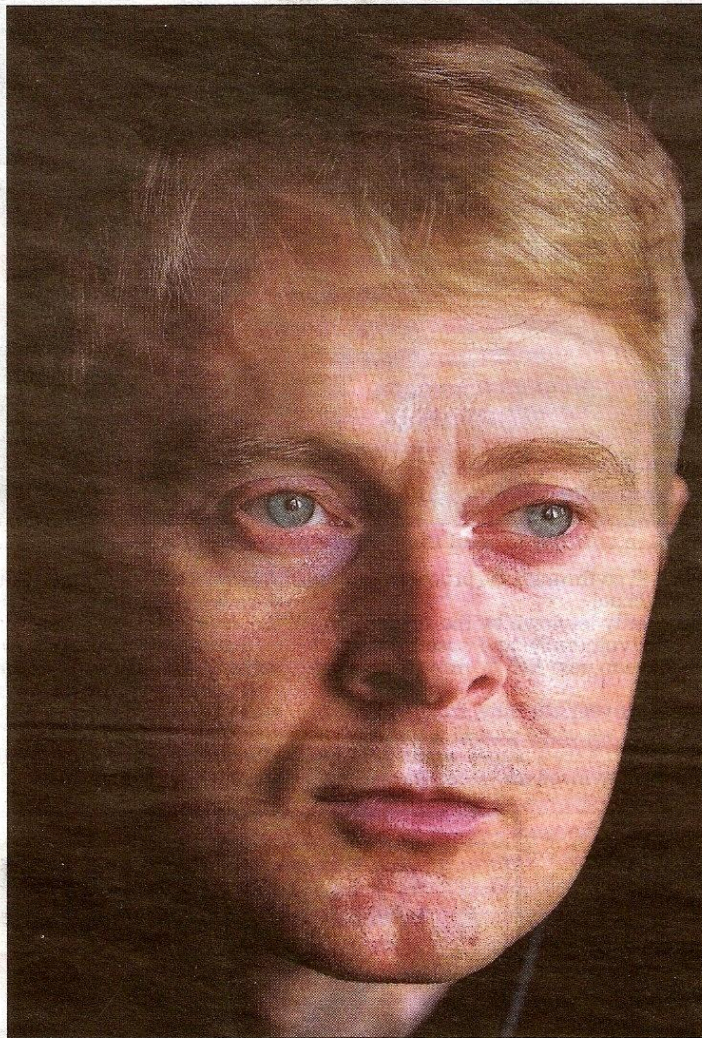
"Acting is very exciting," Erich said. "I went into business for a couple of years. It was very dreary and very boring."

"By accident I came into acting. It blew my mind. I can afford to be other people – murderers, clowns, popes. You can really live out your fantasies being an actor."

"I would love to play a nice protagonist like a leading man or a love interest who gets the girl, rather than get shot. It would be nice to play a responsible father, just the good guy for a change."

"I'd also like to play a cockney cab driver; that would be fantastic."

Erich's most high-profile role came in the 2006 Oscar-winning



Erich Redman has eyes on Hollywood.

Picture 27B2911: SIMON DE TREY-WHITE

film *United 93*, where he played a German passenger aboard a hijacked plane on 9/11.

He said: "It was a really important picture but it wasn't fun. Normally between takes actors tell jokes but this work was very sobering."

"We had women in tears and quite a few men as well, but we did have contact with the families who lost loved ones and they were

giving us support. It was good to do it for them and the people who died themselves."

"It's my most rewarding and most critically acclaimed film so far."

"I just need a film where I get a bit more to say and more close-ups. Then I will go to Hollywood and try to make my luck. Hollywood still rules when it comes to commercial success."