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Jordan Bolger



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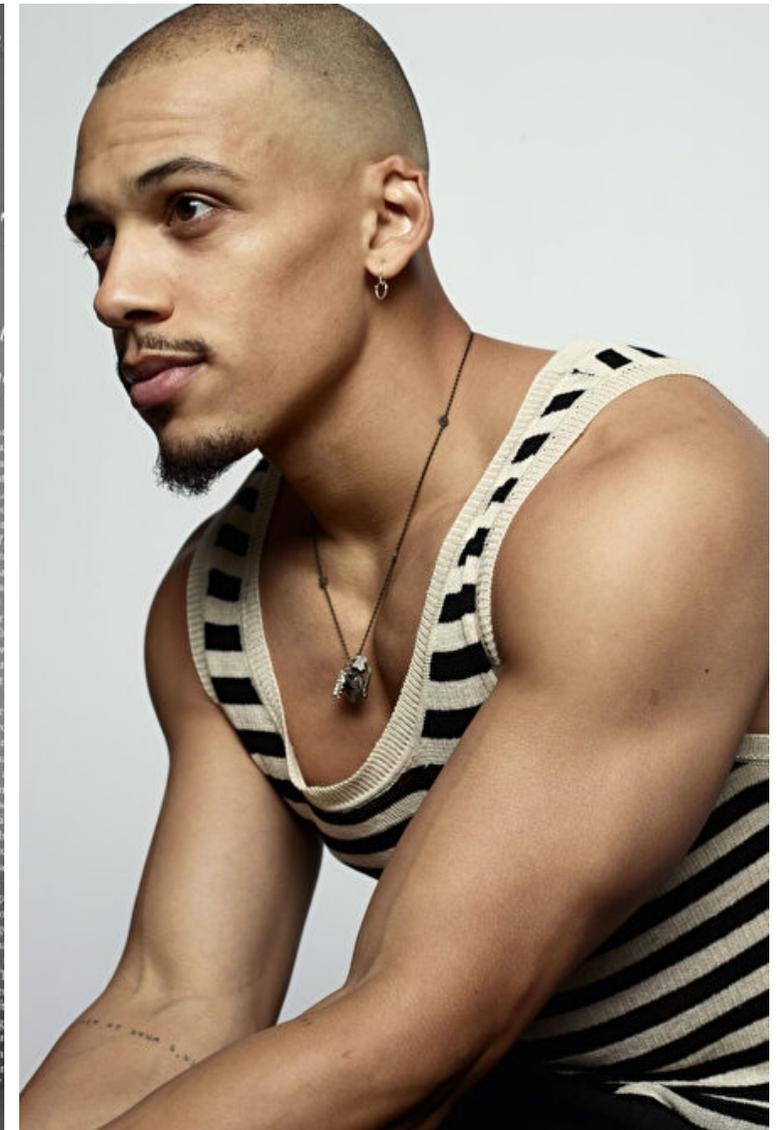
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### JORDAN BOLGER

[11-16]  
Words By Ben Tibbitts

As he rises through the British acting ranks, Jordan Bolger takes some time away from the camera to chat about the impact of *Peaky Blinders* and its directory pillar Steven Knight, his increasingly diverse acting portfolio and stepping into the limelight for his role as 1980s-set music drama, *The Zoo*.

Thank god for Steven Knight. The Birmingham-born and-raised director has given us *Peaky Blinders* and more recently *This Town*, he's championed the often overlooked West Midlands and he's gifted us Jordan Bolger.

Jordan has had a peculiar pathway to acting. The Coventry-born 29-year-old trained as a dancer with the aim of pursuing a career under the guise of said discipline, before an unfortunate injury ended those dreams prematurely. Through a twist of fate, he acquired a new craft and delved into the world of acting fortuitously, auditioning on a whim for the seminal BBC gangster saga, *Peaky Blinders*—a show that has had an emphatic influence on TV and culture since. He picked up a recurring role at the epicentre of the critically acclaimed show across its second, third and fourth series (in other words the best ones—coincidence? I think not), appearing alongside Cillian Murphy and co across the three seasons under the stringent direction of Knight, an acting education more evocative and valuable than any you're likely to amass at drama school.

Substantial roles in shows such as *The 100*, *David Makes Man* and *The Book of Boba Fett* ensued, with Bolger chiselling his boundedly improving craft.

The rising thespian was then granted his fully-fledged breakthrough role — by the same man who gave him his first acting opportunity — Steven Knight. "We have a relationship that developed by spending time together over *Peaky Blinders*," he says of the bond between the two Midlandsers. The director saw enough throughout Jordan's *Blinders* tenure to convince him to cast the actor in one of the leading roles of his latest creative endeavour, BBC drama *This Town*.

Another Birmingham-set outing that documents a troubled time in Knight's eponymous birthplace, *This Town* tackles the social and political intricacies and adversities of the second city in the 1980s, whilst celebrating the rise of impactful musical genres like ska and two-tone in the process. Jordan plays Gregory Williams, a British soldier forced to go undercover, who becomes encompassed in the happenings of the city, its music, its culture and family dramas. It's the actor's career-best performance, seamlessly stepping into a frontal role, lowering and endearing as the conflicted Williams.

With the acting world at his doorstep, Jordan takes a quick breather to chat *Peaky Blinders*, Steven Knight, *This Town*, and future plans and endeavours.



Top: Calvin Klein Jeans Gant Socks and Jewellery: Stylist's Own