

# Select

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Jordan Bolger







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Jordan Bolger



MR FOG

## ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

Actor Jordan Bolger tells Radhika Seth all about his strategy for success.  
 Photograph by Misan Harrim  
 Styling by Dena Giannini

I see my career as a kind of chess game. I know what I want to achieve, and I have to demonstrate that I can do everything." The charismatic 26-year-old, born in Coventry, based in London, certainly can. He's gone from playing the part of a street preacher in *Peaky Blinders* to part in the BBC adaptation of Andrea Levy's *The Long Song*, sci-fi show *The 100* and the Open Windy-produced series *David Makes Money*. Next, you'll see him opposite Chloë Grace Moretz in his first major studio film, *Tom & Jerry*, a live-action and animation hybrid reinventing the cat-and-mouse caper. *Tom and Jerry* was my granddad's favourite show grows the actor. "I don't want to be soppy or say that I did it for him, but I know that he were here, he'd be ecstatic."

Bolger's first creative outlet was dance "breakdancing, hip-hop, ballet" - which won him a scholarship to the prestigious Titmuss Park School for the Performing Arts. "I had to code switch," he admits. "To go from an industrial town to a place where people came from multimillionaire families was a shock to my system, but it fine-tuned my acting skills - I had to make out like I was comfortable around things that I'd never been exposed to."

When injury derailed Bolger's dance class, a friend put him in touch with an agent, who kept him busy until he recovered. He began booking jobs, and then heard about the role of Isaiah Jesus in *Peaky Blinders*. Being watching the first season in preparation for his role hooked. "I'd never heard an accent so close to home on TV before," he says. "The resulting exposure brought a flood of offers."

Although his decision to leave the show after the fourth season was a difficult one, Bolger doesn't regret it. "With my background and complexion, it's easy to be pigeonholed into only playing gangster characters," he explains. "There are so many different sides to me."

Chabertine jacket, £1,490. Cotton shirt, £245. Tie, £165. Chabertine trousers, £735. All Prada. Leather shoes, £970. Louis Vuitton. Socks, £19. Folkie, at Subculture. Earrings, Jordan's own. Chronograph, Rolex. Ring, and Visconti. Theodora

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## Jordan Bolger

Inside Talent 2 Jordan Bolger Rollcoaster 5524



### 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

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