

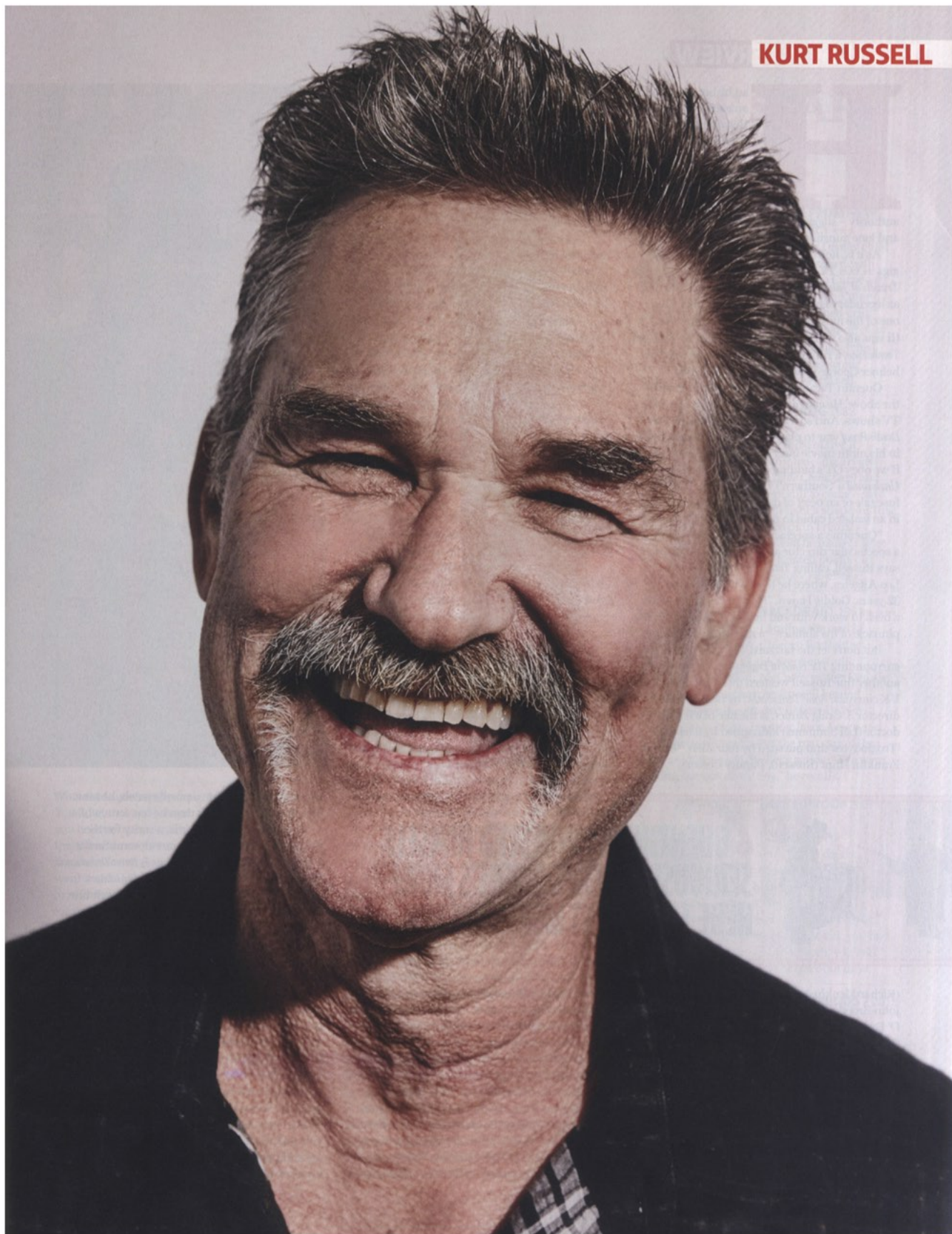
**HE'S A CULT ICON AND HE'S MAKING  
A COMEBACK WITH THE FAST & FURIOUS  
FRANCHISE AND WESTERNS BONE  
TOMAHAWK AND THE HATEFUL EIGHT.**

**“I'M REALLY PROUD,” SAYS**

# **KURT RUSSELL**

**“I'M DRAWN TO THESE ‘WHOA, WHAT THE  
F\*\*K AM I SEEING?!’ MOVIES. YOU GET  
A PRETTY SWEET BOXSET OUT OF ME.”**

**KURT RUSSELL**



## THE FILM INTERVIEW

**H**ad he been born in an earlier era, Kurt Russell might have been a star of westerns, his stocky build, craggy face and mane of hair – to say nothing of his air of authority – suggesting a line of sheriffs, ranchers and lone gunslingers would have come his way.

As it is, he's done well by the genre, landing gigs in '60s TV shows *Sugarfoot*, *Gunsmoke* and *The Travels of Jaimie McPheeters* as a kid, and starring as legendary lawman Wyatt Earp in *Tombstone*, one of the most high-profile oaters of the '90s. (It was also whispered that Russell ghost-directed *Tombstone*, a rumour he confirmed after credited helmer George P. Cosmatos died in 2005.)

Quentin Tarantino, of course, has seen all of the above. He can quote passages from Russell's TV shows. And so it was that QT turned to his *Death Proof* star to play John 'The Hangman' Ruth in his ninth movie (and second western – or first if we obey QT's bidding and consider *Django Unchained* a 'Southern') *The Hateful Eight*, the lit-fuse tale of an octet of danger-strangers holed up in an isolated cabin in post-Civil War Wyoming.

"Quentin's a spectacular human being and a spectacular director and writer and filmmaker," says Russell, calling *Total Film* from his home in Los Angeles, where he lives with his partner of 32 years, Goldie Hawn. "He's just a savant who's a blast to work with and he was absolutely at the pinnacle of his abilities – a master in his prime."

But don't let the blizzard of excitement surrounding *The Hateful Eight* distract you from another fine Russell western that's galloping into UK cinemas. *Bone Tomahawk*, by debut writer/director S. Craig Zahler, is the tale of a female doctor (Lili Simmons) kidnapped by a tribe of 'Troglydotes' and pursued by four men – Sheriff Franklin Hunt (Russell), Deputy Chicory



**QUENTIN HAS INVESTED HIMSELF SERIOUSLY IN THIS. THERE'S MORE HERE THAN FIRST MEETS THE EYE**

(Richard Jenkins), mustachioed gunslinger

John Carpenter (himself a huge fan of westerns)

him then parlay it into a purple patch, he now feels hungrier for work than he has for a while.

Russell weighs his words, a rarity for the 64-year-old actor who's as garrulous as Snake Plissken is terse. "*Fast & Furious 7*, *Bone Tomahawk*, *The Hateful Eight*, *Fast & Furious 8* [due to start shooting in March]," he says, savouring each title. "I consider that a comeback."

*Bone Tomahawk* successfully melds the western with the horror movie...

I refer to this as a graphic western [laughs].

It gets graphic and it gives me a feeling of

*Deliverance*. I never heard anybody try to refer

to *Deliverance* as a horror film. What I'm finding

[to read the full story please click here](#)