Kiss Me Kate: Britain's Prince William Hits 30

LONDON (AP) — The man who once was among the world's most eligible bachelors has turned 30 — but things are not so bad for Prince William as he celebrates his birthday with family and friends.

Palace officials say William will mark the milestone in private with his wife, the former Kate Middleton, and perhaps some close friends.

William has been pursuing a military career as a search-andrescue helicopter pilot while easing into married life and taking on more royal duties.

He and his wife have made a number of public appearances in recent weeks, often representing his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, at events to mark her Diamond Jubilee.

William is second in line for the throne behind his father, Prince Charles.

Lincoln

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ducers Tim Burton and Jim Lemley contacted him with the idea of turning it into a film, and he expressed interest in writing the screenplay.

They agreed, which was great news for the author, though he found himself in an interesting creative conundrum: "I was writing the book knowing that I was going to be writing the movie after I wrote the book," he said by phone. "That was weird."

Burton told the Los Angeles Times last year that he immediately sparked to the idea for the film. "Something hit me inside that said I just wanted to see that movie," Burton said. "I don't know why. I grew up on weird perverse movies, and it just seemed like one of those kind of movies that tapped into my subconscious."

The three, together with director Timur Bekmambetov, agreed that camp had no place in the adaptation. Over the course of 18 months and a number of drafts, they hit upon the idea of creating a central villain, Adam, played by Rufus Sewell. (In the book, Lincoln has just one specific enemy who's dispatched fairly early on; for the bulk of the story, he's fighting against vampires as a collective.)

"It was very late in the process when we all sort of came to this realization ... that it would really serve the movie if there was a bad guy, which seems like such a simple thing, but when you are starting with source material you're trying to balance being faithful with being compelling," Grahame-Smith said.

Another dilemma, finding the right actor to head a cast of characters heavily populated with historical figures — Alan Tudyk plays Stephen Douglas, Mary Elizabeth Winstead plays Mary Todd Lincoln

Standing over 6 feet tall, the 29year-old Walker had the right sort of physicality, but to win the role, the Georgia native had to spend six hours with makeup artist Greg Cannom, who transformed the actor into the elder, bearded Lincoln; Walker then had to deliver the Gettsyburg Address. "I like to imagine I was just as nervous as Lincoln would have been at the moment," Walker said.

"I think there's an immediate assumption when you hear Tim Burton and you hear Timur Bekmambetov is that it's going to be 'Alice in Wonderland' with axes," said production designer Francois Audouy. "The historical nature of it is sort of the foundation that everything else is built upon. We're telling the story as if it really happened. In order for the audience to be completely immersed in this conceit, everything has to be completely believable," he added of the reportedly \$65-million production.

For the 50-year-old director of the 2008 action flick "Wanted" and a pair of Russian vampire films, "Night Watch" and "Day Watch," blending history and genre was a draw. He was excited, he said, by the "chance to make a superhero movie about a real historical figure"

torical figure."

"I think the Civil War still continues, the problems (Lincoln)
was trying to fix still exist," Bekmambetov said. "Maybe one of
the greatest ideas he had was
until everyone is free, we're all
slaves. For me, it's not about slavery, it's not about racial inequality, it's about freedom. We're not
free because we live in fear."

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