

During a stop in the interview, DiCaprio points at a tan older gentleman combing his luxurious silver hair on a balcony in a nearby high-rise.

"Look at that guy," says DiCaprio. "He has no idea what is going on." DiCaprio watches him with fascination for a moment and then makes a joke. "He probably knows that he'll be dead soon and won't have to worry about it." He glumly says goodbye to the mayor, and tosses his swag of Miami Beach caps and cuff links into his trunk.

He settles into the back of the Tesla. "The Bahamas, did you hear that?"

The conversation turns to places like Bangladesh that don't have the

ing? Perhaps, but DiCaprio was and is single, and you can see skeezy womanizing at Buffalo Wild Wings on a Thursday night. There has been some twisted comeuppance; in 2005, DiCaprio had to get more than a dozen stitches to his billion-dollar face after a Hollywood Hills party when a former model slashed him with broken glass, a shot that may have been intended for someone else.

Beneath that reputation has been an actor devoted to his craft since his early tweens. DiCaprio was partially raised by an underground artist, his father, George DiCaprio, a comic-book author and distributor. Leo grew up in Los Angeles, but not the Los Angeles of Hollywoodland.

Maguire. "I've got plenty of new friends through the years, too, but I've held on to some of them for 25 years now," says DiCaprio. "There's an inherent comfort level that can't be duplicated and can't be manufactured. You don't have to do catch-up interviews – they're up-to-date."

There was a part on the 1990s ABC sitcom *Growing Pains*, in the classic ratings-booster role of boy without a home. But it all changed when he beat out Maguire and others for the lead in an adaptation of Tobias Wolff's *This Boy's Life*, starring opposite Robert De Niro. DiCaprio's father had taken his boy to a screening of De Niro's *Midnight Run* a few years earlier and told him if he wanted to be an actor, De Niro

was the one to watch. DiCaprio thought he blew the audition by screaming his lines, but De Niro liked his intensity.

De Niro recommended DiCaprio to Scorsese, and when the actor and director worked together for the first time, on 2002's *Gangs of New York*, it was a 26-year-old DiCaprio who was dispatched to Daniel Day-Lewis' New York brownstone to try to lure him out of retirement, sitting with him on a Central Park bench and silently waiting for him to make the first move.

DiCaprio is cagey about his next film, but he's been casting about for a project that speaks to his politics. He dreams of releasing his documentary in tandem with *The*

Revenant's video release, and he has already optioned an unwritten book on the Volkswagen emissions scandal. There's a great narrative film to be made about the environment, insists DiCaprio – it's just a matter of finding the right project.

"I don't know how to crack this yet, but I would love to do something that isn't about waves crashing on the Empire State Building," he says.

We're eating at a posh Miami restaurant, and a stray little girl wanders by, with no clue that she is eyeing one of the world's most famous movie stars. DiCaprio takes off his sunglasses and offers a long *aww*. I ask him if he sees time in his life for a family. He responds abruptly, the only time in our two days together.

"Do you mean do I want to bring children into a world like this?" says DiCaprio. "If it happens, it happens. I'd prefer not to get into specifics about it, just because then it becomes something that is misquoted. But, yeah." He shifts uncomfortably in his chair. "I don't know. To articulate how I feel about it [Cont. on 64]



money to deal with the rising waters. "The story of climate change is gonna be places with the most military power to protect their own resources," says DiCaprio, hitting the vape pipe. "The billions of people that haven't contributed to this problem are gonna be the first to suffer."

Above, the sun tries to break through morning clouds and shine light through the Tesla's opaque roof. It is not successful.

THE IMAGE OF DICAPRIO AS an empty libertine gorging in his own garden of earthly delights – which has stuck since he rolled with a traveling pack of ruffians derisively labeled the Pussy Posse back in the 1990s – isn't any more true or false than it was with leading-man predecessors like Redford and George Clooney. (DiCaprio recently ended his relationship with model Kelly Rohrbach, according to reports; before that, the best rumor was of a casual liaison with Rihanna.) Has there been skeezy womaniz-

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"I was a bit of a loudmouth, and I was in an environment where the elements aligned to have kids smack the hell outta me once in a while," DiCaprio tells me with a smile.

DiCaprio found refuge in drama classes and started hitting auditions, driven by his mother, Irmelin, his most patient supporter and critic. (She's been known to critique the wardrobe authenticity in his films.) There were cattle calls, a Matchbox commercial and a year when he wasn't cast in anything. Instead, he took to his room and spent a year watching movies with his father's guidance, developing a taste for films like *East of Eden* and *A Face in the Crowd*.

He knew acting was what he wanted to do and started making friends at auditions with other dreamers, like Tobey