

TRANSCRIPTED by annakendrickonline.org

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Interview posted October 14, 2009.

Mary Hart first introducing Anna Kendrick to the attendees at an October 13 Los Angeles reception in honor of her receiving the Palm Springs International Film Festival Rising Star Award.

Mary Hart: I am going to introduce to you a very-- truly a wonderful rising star. A great talent. I just saw her newest film, *Up in the Air*, in which she co-stars with George Clooney and Vera Farmiga. But she-- I think you probably will agree with me-- kind of walks away with the movie. I haven't told you that-- but I'd like to introduce now our Rising Star Award Recipient, Anna Kendrick. [crowd applause]

MH: I didn't tell you I would say that. You're wonderful!

AK: Thank you so much.

MH: I'm just going to be a fan.

AK: Thank you, thank you so much for that amazing and flattering introduction. I'm so, so thrilled to be here. And I'm so honored to be chosen and the Palm Springs Festival's Rising Star. I know that I'm in incredible and intimidating company. The list of past honorees is pretty outstanding. [then cut to interview clips]

MH: When I saw you on screen, I just-- I was very, very impressed with your performance. And with the likes of George Clooney, no less. But how do you feel about getting this Rising Star Award?

AK: This is incredible. When I saw the list of past honorees, and knowing that I was getting this -- I knew it was such a big deal. Everybody keeps telling me that the gala is unbelievable, and I'm so excited to go to that in January. It's such an honor, I'm so happy to be here.

MH: Ok, now we have to get to the heart of the matter. Even though she has been acting since she was a young kid, here you are starring opposite George Clooney. How did you react when you heard he was doing that role and you were going to be right up alongside him on that big screen?

AK: I was terrified. I had a few months before we started filming after I found out that I was cast, and it was a few months of the fear building up inside me. But by day four of filming, you're so comfortable around him. He's so charming and so quick witted and fun that it's impossible to be nervous around him. He makes himself seem like such a normal guy.

MH: Actually, what's fun is you kind of get to boss him around. I mean, you really have to be the take-charge person in this movie in a couple of-- in *many* instances.

AK: Yeah, George and my character do not get along very well at first, so-- and it's probably the first time in her life that she feels like she doesn't know *everything*. So it was really fun kind of

going head to head with George Clooney. And having Jason Reitman's words to feel like I had the power to back them up.

MH: Last year *Twilight* took *everybody* by storm. I know even for you actors, it was an overnight sensation and shocker, right?

AK: Yeah, no we had no idea. Like we-- I think on set we were talking about would they bring us back for the sequel if they made it. But we were all sort of assuming that they wouldn't because we just had no idea the kind of magnitude of the success that it was about to have.

MH: So everybody is eagerly anticipating this, and we're not just talking tens of thousands. We're talking millions of people here. Is this one as good as *Twilight*? Is it better? What do you think?

AK: Everybody's going to have their favorite, and you never know if people's favorite is always going to be the first one, but this is amazing and I think definitely lives up to--

[End]