



A HALF-HOUR WITH...

ROB LOWE

The Hollywood heartthrob talks fame and family life – and shares his impressions of the royal couple

In his youth, teenager Rob Lowe lived the glamorous life, counting fellow teen stars Emilio Estevez, Charlie Sheen and Robert Downey Jr. as his closest friends. The star of *St. Elmo's Fire* even enjoyed a high-profile romance with Monaco royal Princess Stephanie.

Although he currently stars in the popular series *Parks and Recreation* on television, he is also focused on family. Rob plans to pass the holidays quietly, surfing with his wife of 21 years, Sheryl, and their two sons, Matthew, 19, and John Owen, 17.

While in Toronto to host the P&G Beauty & Grooming Awards, the 48-year-old star sat down with *Hello!* for a friendly chat.

How are you enjoying Toronto? I love being here! I have so many memories from when I first came here in 1984 to do a movie, *Youngblood*, so it's great to come back.

You became well-known in your teens. Do you have any advice for today's teenage stars?

It's such a different world – it moves so much quicker than when I was starting out. But some things still have value. Consistency wins the race. Those looking to have a long career [need to] know that there will be ups and downs. You can't always be the hottest guy on the list.

You and your wife, Sheryl, have been married for more than two decades. How do you keep the magic alive? I think the first thing to know is that there is no such thing as a perfect marriage. And

there is no easy answer. Once you know that, then when it gets tough you are not looking for the exits. On top of that, it's like [asking] what is the key to a successful movie. Casting! If you marry the right person, your fate is sealed. If it's your best friend, then you did.

Do your sons ever come to you for dating advice? They would no sooner take dating advice from me than they would jump off the CN Tower! [Laughs] To them, I am the last person who knows anything about anything. They are teenagers; they don't want to hear from Dad! But as they get older, they are starting to listen a little more to me.

What have you tried to teach your boys about life? Other than to work hard, get good grades and challenge themselves, I want them to do what makes them happy. There is that great cliché: if you find something you love, you'll never have to work a day in your life. They know that is my number one message. And if that's all they learn from me, I will be thrilled.

The world is abuzz with the royal baby news. Are you a fan of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge? I went to a [2011 polo match] they were at in Santa Barbara, Calif. Prince William was so charming. He was amazing – he just gets it. And Kate was gorgeous! I'm a huge fan. What I took away from it was those two had it figured out.

What are your family's plans for the holidays? I think we're going somewhere warm, somewhere we can surf. That's what we have been doing for the past five or six years. But it's about being together; it's just a time to be a family. We haven't decided where to go yet. Any ideas? [Laughs] **H**

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