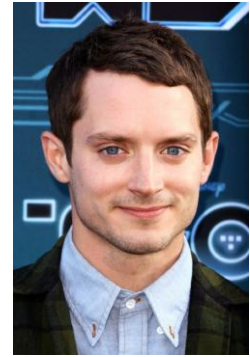


# IMTA ALUM ELIJAH WOOD IS ON *AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY*



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*The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* opens nationwide Friday, December 14

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*“My philosophy has always been to try to put myself into roles and films that are different. That intensified after Lord of the Rings because it was so massive, but it's something I've always believed in — wanting to change people's perceptions and challenge myself as an actor.” – Elijah Wood*

One look at the IMDb page for IMTA alum Elijah Wood and it is clear that you are looking at one of Hollywood's busiest and most versatile talents who puts his philosophy to work. From voicing a character on the animated weekly series “*Tron: Uprising*” to promoting the slasher *Maniac* at its European openings, from filming — and executive producing — the thriller *Open Windows* in Madrid to preparing for the third season of the FX hit series “*Wilfred*,” the in-demand Wood apparently has found a way to successfully juggle what would appear to most people as an overwhelming schedule of “different” types of projects. Wood's IMDb page lists no less than 12 films — with which Wood is involved as an actor, producer or both — as “In Production” and an additional five as “In Development.”

One of the most anticipated ventures on Wood's list is, of course, his return to the role of Frodo Baggins in the upcoming *Hobbit* series of films, beginning with *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. While the character is not actually in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* on which the film is based, director Peter Jackson — who was also one of the writers of the screenplay — added Frodo to framing sequences that are set after the story of the book. Wood downplayed his part in the film during an interview with Collider.com earlier this year, saying “What's great is that, especially because my character is so small in this, I can be completely objective. So, I'm excited to see it, as a fan.” He continued, “I don't have the months and months of months of hard work and experience on the films, and deep knowledge as to what they're filming, on a day-to-day basis. I have my own little bit, and then everything is going to be a surprise.”



*An Unexpected Journey* follows Frodo's uncle, Bilbo Baggins, as he journeys to the Lonely Mountain with a vigorous group of Dwarves to reclaim a treasure stolen from them by the dragon Smaug. The group's journey takes them into the Wild, through treacherous lands swarming with Goblins and Orcs, deadly Wargs and Giant Spiders, Shapeshifters and Sorcerers. Although their goal lies to the East, first they must escape the goblin tunnels, where Bilbo meets the creature that will change his life forever...Gollum. In addition to Wood, *An Unexpected Journey* stars Martin Freeman, Lee Pace, Hugo Weaving, Ian McKellan, Kate Blanchett, Richard Armitage, Christopher Lee and Andy Serkis, along with many others.

Included among the numerous projects on Wood's calendar for 2013 are the aforementioned *Open Windows* which satisfies Wood's philosophy to seek “roles and films that are different.” The thriller unfolds in real time on the screen of a laptop computer connected to the Internet. Nacho Vigolando is directing the film which follows Wood on a desperate search for an actress who has been abducted by a vicious man named Chord. “I've wanted to work with Nacho since I first saw *Timecrimes* and his incredible short films,” said Wood. “We got to know one another at Fantastic Fest in Austin and when he approached me with this project, truly one of the most unique and exciting films I've ever encountered, I leapt at the chance to be a part of it.”