

Jack Noseworthy has an ear for RFK in 'Killing Kennedy'

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Boston native portrays president's loyal brother in National Geographic channel movie.



(Photo: National Geographic Channel/Kent Eanes)

Story Highlights

- Jack Noseworthy stars as Bobby Kennedy opposite Rob Lowe in 'Killing Kennedy'
- Noseworthy is originally from Lynn, Mass., near Boston
- Bobby Kennedy was sometimes torn between doing his job and protecting his brother

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PETERSBURG, Va. — His roles in *Encino Man*, *Event Horizon*, *Barb Wire* and *Breakdown* didn't allow Jack Noseworthy to really flash his Massachusetts accent.

Playing Robert F. Kennedy in *Killing Kennedy*, though? The Lynn, Mass., native says he brandishes "probably the most authentic Boston accent *evah*."

In the National Geographic Channel movie airing Sunday (8 p.m. ET/PT) and based on the Bill O'Reilly book, Noseworthy wears fake buck teeth to capture the look and essence of RFK, the 1960s-era attorney general and loyal brother to President John F. Kennedy (Rob Lowe).

The 43-year-old Noseworthy was born after JFK's 1963 assassination, RFK's rise to political prominence and then ultimately the brother's death, too, in 1968. Being raised by two native Bostonians, though, Noseworthy knew all about the Kennedys and their lore, especially JFK.

"He's in your social consciousness just from growing up and being from Boston," the actor says. "You don't even think about it. They represent Boston in so many ways." In doing research on his real-life role, Noseworthy discovered Bobby Kennedy to be sloppy. Born with a silver spoon in his mouth, he never picked up after himself, and would often hear about it from his mother and wife Ethel when he'd wear socks with his suits.

He also really worshipped heroes, according to Noseworthy. RFK saw his older brother as one, for sure, but also the people whom he brought into the attorney general's office with him, from football heroes to Harvard grads.

"He was always trying to get Jack's attention and the family's attention," Noseworthy says of the younger Kennedy brother. "He definitely felt like he had to earn his stripes with Jack, and it wasn't until Jack was campaigning for the senate, when he became his campaign manager, that he really showed Jack and his father Joe, especially, that he was capable."

In one scene in *Killing Kennedy*, Bobby confronts his brother in the Oval Office at a time when JFK's personal life is conflicting with RFK's job. Tongues are wagging that the president is having an affair with Judith Campbell, who's connected to Sam Giancana, a mobster whom the younger Kennedy is going after.

"You have a woman problem," Bobby Kennedy tells his brother.

There's a push and pull between siblings, and Bobby Kennedy feels like he's the one responsible for his brother's public image and taking care of the things JFK doesn't want to have to deal with.

"The father is the scary one," Noseworthy says. "If the father finds out that I haven't protected Jack, Jack's not gonna get it. I'm gonna get it."

Being from a blue-collar family himself, Noseworthy was most impressed by how tough Bobby Kennedy really was.

"He made you toe the line and he toed the line," Noseworthy says. "He was very philosophical. He asked a lot of questions before he made a decision, which is not how he started.

"He started sort of as a spitfire and went from punching people to becoming a person who had empathy for people who suffered on various levels, but with that fighter(instinct) still burning pretty brightly."

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