



CENTRE OF ATTENTION Margot Robbie and her boyfriend, Tom Ackerley; with Will Smith in *Focus*; dazzling at the Women of the Year Awards in November.

Skarsgård, 38. These are good examples of the enduring Hollywood dynamic of the older man playing the romantic lead opposite a much younger woman. Is that something Robbie's thought about? Does it concern her at all?

"Not... really," she says. "Because I didn't even know Alex's age until you just said it. I think when the dynamic works, it just works, and you can have two people at the exact same age and they don't have chemistry."

"If someone said, 'Margot Robbie and Will Smith,' you'd be like, 'No, that would never happen.' Then we go in the [audition] room and it's like, 'Oh, they've got a great rapport.' So who knows? But, no, it doesn't concern me specifically. I think, at the end of the day, age is just a number. It's like in real life, I've got friends who are dating someone their age or dating someone who's twice their age, and they're equally in love."

It could also be a testament to her maturity that she can pull it off convincingly, I suggest.

"Oh, well, I hope so," she says with a laugh. "Both Will and Leo said they read with a couple of other girls and they both said, 'The other girls seemed a little scared of me. You didn't seem scared.' And I was like, 'No, I just wanted to get the scene.'"



Robbie also slapped DiCaprio in her audition, which doesn't exactly scream intimidated.

"Yeah, I think that helped," she laughs. "And I called Will a dick in the middle of the scene [an ad-lib that ended up in the finished movie]. Acting 101: just abuse your co-stars and you'll get the job."

Another thing Robbie is going to have to get comfortable with is tabloid speculation about her love life. She's been linked to DiCaprio, took to Twitter to deny "ridiculous" rumours of an affair with Smith and, not long after our interview, *People* magazine asked, 'Is Romance Blooming Between Alexander Skarsgård and Margot Robbie?' after they

to avoid dating, not just actors, but anyone with a profile, because it's added attention. If people are talking about me, I want it to be because of the work I'm doing and not the person I'm seeing. Which sucks because it totally takes away the credibility of [the film]. For example, the rumours about Leo. We were making a really great film and it's overshadowed by the fact everybody's like, 'They're together.' Why can't you just say, 'They're making a really cool film?' Get excited about the film, you know? It sucks."

And, as she's not a model, it's very unlikely that he would date her anyway, I point out helpfully.

"Yes, exactly," she laughs. "I'm not a Victoria's Secret model, so it's a silly rumour to begin with."

"MY DATING LIFE IS NOWHERE NEAR AS EXCITING AS THE TABLOIDS MAKE IT OUT"

were pictured together at Sundance parties.

"And, recently, me and Orlando [Bloom]," Robbie adds when I mention DiCaprio and Smith.

"Honestly, my dating life according to the tabloids is very exciting, and the most hilarious thing is that it's nowhere near as exciting as the tabloids have ever made it out to be."

At least she can live vicariously through her tabloid self?

"Yes... That Margot in the tabloids, she is absolutely killing it in the dating world," she laughs. "No, I made a conscious decision

Rumours aside, the interesting thing about Robbie isn't who she is or isn't dating. It's the fact she can continually hold her own, both in auditions and onscreen, with some of Hollywood's finest talent. Often stealing the scene. She seems to have a knack for putting her stamp on things.

"I keep waiting for someone to pull me up and be like, 'You can't do that; you can't just behave like that and hit people and swear at them,'" she says, laughing. "[But] so far it seems to be working." 

Focus is in cinemas on March 5.

 FOLLOW ALICE ON TWITTER @ALICEWASLEY

SCAN THE PAGE 

► TO WATCH THE TRAILER FOR *FOCUS*. SEE PAGE 4 FOR HOW TO USE BLIPPAR