

REFN: "We didn't make a biopic - biopics need an answer and there's no answer to Charles Bronson. I was more interested in him as a concept than a person. He's like an artist searching for his stage. The movie became 50 per cent me, 50 per cent Charles Bronson."

The hard cell

The UK's most extreme prisoner enters stage left in Bronson...

 Charles Bronson, the man: fierce, fearsome, fanatical - a man who remains Britain's most infamous cellmate (35 years and counting, despite never killing anyone...) for his anarchic approach to prison life (3,000 push-ups per day, rooftop protests, guard bashing). *Bronson*, the movie: bruising, bracing and borderline camp, with *Pusher* director Nicolas Winding Refn polishing his tale with an arch theatrical gleam and a pumped-up Tom Hardy spinning fists of fury as the eponymous jailbird. Hardy to *Buzz*: "I loved the naked fighting." **MM**



1
HARDY: "A lot of the fights were full contact. They put lads in riot helmets and pads and I was allowed to hit them as hard as I wanted to. That pumped me up. I had punches land in my face. It's nice - strangely pleasant actually."

2
REFN: "We spoke to Jason Statham who unfortunately couldn't do it. But once that happened, Tom was just the perfect choice. He was obsessed with portraying Charles accurately and I used that to portray him as a human being."

3
REFN: "I stole everything I could from two films: Kenneth Anger's *Scorpio Rising* and *A Clockwork Orange*. I recently spent time with Kenneth. I said, 'I stole everything from your movie.' He goes, 'Be my guest.'"

