


 @ELLENPAGE

## LITTLE VOICE

*Actress Ellen Page may be a reluctant A-lister, but she has no doubts about the powerful message she wants to send*

Interview **Eve Barlow**

Until 14 February 2014, Ellen Page, 28, was a rare thing in Hollywood: a young actress known solely for her work. Ellen, who grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia, had taken to acting 'by accident' at the age of 10, studied it seriously in Toronto and moved to LA at the age of 22 after the breakthrough success of movies *Hard Candy* and *Juno*. Her starring roles in blockbuster franchise *X-Men* and opposite Leonardo DiCaprio in *Inception* positioned her in a Hollywood set of smart, young women who could do both the indie thing *and* the blockbuster thing while keeping everything else out of the spotlight. Then, on Valentine's Day two years ago, everything changed.

The actress collected herself alone in a hotel room in Las Vegas, shaking with nerves, on the cusp of preparing to address the Human Right Campaign's Time To Thrive conference, where she came out as gay. It took eight minutes and 37 seconds to change her life forever, and five million YouTube views (and counting) later, the impact

of her words is still being felt. For Ellen, it wasn't until she came out that she could own her platform in the manner she always wanted: honestly, proudly, with the power to effect change. Her Oscar-tipped movie *Freeheld*, a love story and important civil rights milestone based on the Oscar-winning documentary of the same name, along >