

= Figwit =

Figwit is a fan @-@ created name for an unnamed Elven escort in Peter Jackson 's The Lord of the Rings film trilogy , played by actor and musician Bret McKenzie of Flight of the Conchords fame . The name Figwit derives from an acronym for " Frodo is grea ... who is THAT ? ! ? " [sic] .

= = Background = =

Bret McKenzie , half of the musical comedy duo Flight of the Conchords and a Wellington native , first landed a small role as an extra in The Lord of the Rings : The Fellowship of the Ring . He appears sitting next to Aragorn during the council in Rivendell scene . When it is decided that the Ring must be destroyed , Frodo offers to take the Ring to Mordor , and Elrond proclaims the formation of the Fellowship of the Ring . The elf was dubbed " Figwit " by Tolkien fan Iris Hadad ; after seeing Frodo agree to take the ring , saying " I will take it " , the film switches to a shot where Figwit can be seen standing on the far right , and Hadad 's initial reaction was " Frodo is grea ... who is THAT ? ! ? " Later , Hadad corresponded with her university friend Sherry de Andres , and the two created the first Figwit fan website , www.figwitlives.net , calling him " Legolas for the thinking woman " .

McKenzie appeared as Figwit again in the third film , The Lord of the Rings : The Return of the King , where he was credited as " Elf Escort " . He appears in the scene where Arwen is leaving for the Grey Havens and has a vision of her future son , Eldarion , this time with two lines warning her to not delay and then exclaiming as she turns around . Director Peter Jackson stated in the DVD commentary for The Return of the King that Figwit was called back and given dialogue in the third film " just for fun for the fans " because " so much fuss has been made about him over the last couple of years " .

In the film version of The Hobbit , McKenzie was cast as Lindir , an elf of Rivendell who appeared briefly in J.R.R. Tolkien 's novel , The Fellowship of the Ring .

= = Popularity = =

Though he only appeared for about three seconds in the first film , Figwit 's popularity soon blossomed , with Hadad stating that " [the fan site] got a lot of e @-@ mails from people who thought they were the only ones who had noticed that handsome , dark @-@ haired elf " . Figwit 's physical appearance and demeanor are the source of much of his popularity : he has been noted for his " lithe and graceful " movement , " enigmatic broodiness " , " haughty demeanor " , and " pouty " looks . His fan website proclaims him " in a word , gorgeous . Or another , stunning ... hypnotic ... stupendous ... captivating ... take your pick . "

McKenzie has stated that the Figwit obsession is " weird , " though he is " flattered . " He has remarked that " it 's so hilarious because it 's been propelled by so little ... I 'm famous for doing nothing . "

= = = In other media = = =

Figwit does not appear in Tolkien 's writings and was created exclusively for the films ; thus there is little authentic information regarding him , save that he was an escort . The only " official " place where the name Figwit is used is on several Topps trading cards , including a The Return of the King series card , titled " Return to Rivendell , " and an Authentic Autographs card featuring the signature of actor Bret McKenzie . In The Lord of the Rings Trading Card Game he was assigned the name of Aegnor , one of Galadriel 's brothers in The Silmarillion . A Figwit action figure was also created , though it was named " Elven Escort , " as in the film .

Figwit has been a subject of poetry , art , and fiction . He is also a subject in slash fan fiction , where he is named " Melpomaen " , a rough , literal Elvish translation of " fig " and " wit , " derived from melpo , the Quenya word for fruit (fig) , and maen , the Noldorin word for clever or skilled .

= = = Documentary = = =

In 2004 , a 57 @-@ minute documentary on the Figwit phenomenon was created by McKenzie 's fiancée (and now wife) Hannah Clarke and friends Stan Alley and Nick Booth . Entitled Frodo Is Great ... Who Is That ? ! ! , it premiered at the Auckland International Film Festival on July 23 . Meant to " [unravel] Bret 's identity " , it follows McKenzie to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe , where he meets the fans of his trademark pout and " elvish good looks " , and features extensive interviews with fans behind various Figwit fan sites as well as with Peter Jackson , Barrie Osborne , Mark Ordesky , Ian McKellen , and other cast members . Booth stated that their film was " much more irreverent and strange " compared to other behind @-@ the @-@ scenes documentaries of the film trilogy , which were " very much driven around the production and the cast and Tolkien " .