

FILM

Extra! Extra!

Bit-part nerd Jesse Heiman is making himself a star out of non-starring roles, finds **Michael Adams**.

Who cares about the perks of being a wallflower when you can have the perks of being a celebrity? Specifically, the free swag in the MTV Movie Awards 'gifting suite' – that Hollywood ritual best known to merely mortal men as something that happens in *Entourage*.

It's fitting that Jesse Heiman, 35, – aka *The World's Greatest Extra* – has graduated from a brief part on that very show to this year being invited to avail himself of gratis gear.

"I got a watch – it was awesome," he says from Los Angeles.

"I definitely feel like I've made it. It's really cool to be a celebrity."

Hearing that from Justin Bieber or Kim Kardashian could induce vomiting but you can't help but cheer Heiman's red-carpet ride. He's an everyman who's worked with the biggest names in showbiz and whose new career is locking lips with the planet's sexiest women.

Entourage is just the tip of the Heiman iceberg. He's amassed 75 or so film and TV credits, including *The Social Network*, *Spider-Man* and *Old School*, plus TV hits like *Monk*, *Heroes* and *Bones*. But his biggest claim to fame is the *Go Daddy* 2013

Michael Douglas was particularly impressed with his exploits, asking "How are you pulling this shit off?"

How indeed? Born in Boston, raised in Austin, Texas, Heiman grew up idolising Michael J. Fox. After college, he moved to Hollywood to try writing. "It turned out I was better in front of the camera," he says.

In a city of ectomorphs, Heiman stood out at auditions and landed his first extra role in 2001's *American Pie 2*. Since then he's become the go-to-guy for the bit-part nerd, being directed by Tom Hanks in *Larry Crowne* ("It was cool having him tell me what to do") and Steven Spielberg on *Catch Me If You Can* ("He was one of the people who inspired me to write and to direct"). Michael Bay also asked him to appear in *Transformers: Dark Of The Moon*. "That was one of the coolest things," says Heiman. "I'd love to work with him again in any capacity."

Heiman's most recent film role was in James Franco's adaptation of William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*. "I had a lot of dialogue to learn. I hope it can lead to the next chapter."

Heiman reckons he's in demand because he's responsible and relatable. "I look like the average person," he says. "People can relate



ENTOURAGE



THE SOCIAL NETWORK



SPIDER-MAN



GO DADDY AD: 2013 SUPERBOWL



THE RULES OF ATTRACTION

Super Bowl ad in which he passionately made out with model Bar Refaeli. The TV spot was seen by 100 million people. Michael Buble liked it so much he got Heiman to recreate the pash with Jaime Pressly for the video clip to *It's A Beautiful Day*. Then Jay Leno sent Heiman to the Vanity Fair Oscars Party to collect kisses. He scored 21, including Judd Apatow ("You look 12"), Russell Brand ("I find you very comforting to be around") and Sarah Silverman ("You taste like milk").

to me when they see me on *Glee* or *The Big Bang Theory*. I have a good reputation in town. I always show up on time. I'm very professional on set. I always do what they ask of me."

Doing the *Go Daddy* ad meant a staggering 70 takes. Not that Heiman was complaining. But was he nervous going in for the pash? "I wasn't nervous, I'm a professional actor but...it's a little weird when you don't meet the person until you sit down next to them and they say 'Action' and you start kissing."

Since the *GoDaddy* ad, Heiman is recognised everywhere he goes. "People want a photo with me. It's nice they want an autograph and they want to meet me." There's also unwanted attention. At a recent event Heiman was licked by one of *The Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills*. "I didn't like that. I don't like aggressive types." He was even less amused by a porn company's offer to make him a 'star'. "I had no interest in doing that kinda scene."

Heiman is open to more PG-

action with leading ladies – "Kate Upton would be awesome. Or Katy Perry. Any girl named Katy, really." However, his sights are set on getting his name up in lights. Or, at least, farther up the credits.

"I'd like to be on a sitcom with my name in the opening titles," he says. "Or a superhero movie or franchise of comedy films. I'd like to produce and direct. Me and my friends are working on lots of ideas. I don't know where I'll be in 10 years but I'm sure it'll be really fun." **ms**

Main pic: Bobby Quillard www.quillardinc.com