



CURTIS HARRISON

NAME
Curtis Harrison
OCCUPATION
Actor
DATE OF BIRTH
December 31, 1978
BIRTHPLACE
Welland, Ontario
CURRENT RESIDENCE
Los Angeles, California



Ok, so what do sixteen year old post-apocalyptic rebel Zeus and twenty-four year old actor Curtis Harrison have in common? They are the same person. That's right, the Toronto based thespian stars as Zeus on YTV's youth drama 2030CE, and although his character may be young, Harrison is anything but a rookie to the biz.

Born in Welland, Ontario, Curtis began dabbling in acting at an early age. He spent some time abroad after high school and returned to Canada with aspirations of theatre school. However, in 1999 he landed a role in a stage play, toured across Ontario and never looked back on school.

Like so many other young actors, the next few years were a balance between tending bar and taking small rolls in commercials, music videos and other independent productions. This is usually the point in the story where we hear that fate

came knocking. But in a business that has more actors than lattes; big breaks are few and far between.

So how does a young actor go about getting people to notice him? I sat at my computer and submitted myself for thousands of roles. I would call people all over Canada and the US and try to get my foot in the door. I mailed everyone in North America that was in the biz and sent them my stuff, and after a while I started to get some gigs. And gigs he got.

In 2002, Harrison turned up as murder victim in the dumpster on the smash series QUEER AS FOLK. Shortly afterwards he was cast as Jonah on the MTV series UNDRESSED. Later last year, Harrison headed off to Winnipeg to film the second season of 2030CE, a futuristic, sci-fi adventure where kids run the world. The series has been doing well internationally and has attracted the interest of some major American broadcasters. Harrison laughs about the age gap between himself and his character. I've been out for roles that I am really ten years older than, so I sort of think that it's funny—all these people really don't believe that I'm 24.

We caught up with Harrison in Los Angeles where he is currently writing a screenplay and attending auditions.

Curtis on the biz in Canada: I think Canadian casting has to change. A lot of casting directors in the city <Toronto> are afraid to see new people because they think they will be wasting their time. We have to be open to discover new talent in Canada and not just base ourselves on American stars. We don't really recognize a Canadian actor unless they break in the states. I find America hypes up the industry much more and we just sit back and follow their lead. We have to command more of ourselves as Canadian artists and we need to interest all of those rich Canadians in our productions.

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By: Ryan Keller

