

HYPE

My Day as an Actress

RECRUITED FOR A PART ON THE BIG SCREEN, OUR INTREPID REPORTER GETS A TASTE OF LIFE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAMERA.

By Anna David

Those talent shows my parents endured and several high school and college musicals notwithstanding, I am not an Actress.

Still, when my independent producer friend Adrienne Gruben calls and asks me if I'm free the next night to play a part in *I Love Your Work*, Adam Goldberg's new movie, it takes me between two and three seconds to say yes. Then she tells me my scene will be with Giovanni Ribisi and Franka Potente. "You mean I have lines?" I ask, just as the cell phone cuts out.

I'd met Adam through Adrienne a few years before and thus already knew him to be one of the neurotically funniest people on Earth. The fact that he's cowritten a script about a movie star who stalks a fan is alluring in itself. The fact that he's okay with me playing a reporter who interviews the movie star on the press line of a premiere gives me the jolt of confidence I need. (The fact that I've participated in this activity in real life more times than I'd care to remember also helps.) "Adam gets migraines over parking spaces," I remind myself. "If he thinks I can memorize eight lines and repeat them without a stutter, then goddammit, I can."

The script is great. I'm ready for my close-up. The only problem is that the next morning I awake with a feeling of dread unlike anything I've ever experienced. All day long, I keep hoping to get a call from someone explaining that Jules Asner has suddenly become available, or that the need for the entertainment reporter has ceased to be. I drive to the downtown set secretly fantasizing about a time-consuming (yet not life-threatening) accident befalling me.

When I get there, I meet the second unit director, who says he'll show me to my trailer.

I Love Your Work stars Giovanni Ribisi, Franka Potente, Joshua Jackson, Christina Ricci and Marisa Coughlan. Jared Harris, Vince Vaughn, Jason Lee, Nicky Katt, Shalom Harlow and Elvis Costello also appear. Anna David was loath to discover that she's not listed on the movie's IMDB page.



Photographed by Greg Endries for www.gregendries.com.
Hair and makeup by Gabrielle Fitzpatrick.