

Talking with JAYME S. HALL



His Character: Conrad Miller – who is a few years out of college with an English degree, a few weeks out of a relationship, and has never had a decent job or direction until he reads about Portland in a magazine, gets in his car, and heads west from Middleton, Wisconsin, to become a bike mechanic.

Prior to “The Bicyclist”: You can catch him onscreen at upcoming film festivals as one of the three leads in ‘The Iconographer,’ and in small parts in “Feast of Love” and “Into the Wild.”

Did you always want to be an actor?

Deep down, yes. But I would never admit it. I was afraid. I played music, then got into screenwriting. Then finally took ‘the leap.’

What made you take the plunge?

I chased dreams of success, and actually caught some of them, only to wake up from those dreams and realize that I wasn’t chasing happiness. So where did that leave me? Somewhere between the aftermath of miserable success and the happiness of failure.

So, at the age of 26, stuck in dead-end jobs, I began thinking of stories in my head. Those stories turned into scenes, scenes turned into long, animated descriptive tales that took two hours to tell. After a lot of encouragement and constant prodding, I wrote my first script.

Thirty was rapidly approaching, the starting line getting farther and farther away. So I did the only thing anyone can do when they first discover they're lost: I panicked! I freaked out! I shaved my goatee, cut my hair, all fresh and spiked, wrapped my hands around my mortality, and really started evaluating what it was I wanted out of the time I had left.

So, I was 29, lost, pursuing a promising career in real estate and property management, but miserably successful. *What do I want? I want to have fun! I want to entertain.* But, most importantly, *I want to tell these stories that have now consumed my every thought.* Writing alone won't cut it. It's fun, and it's how I get to tell my own stories, but it's not good enough. So I couldn't take the burning question within any longer: *do I have what it takes to be what I truly dream? Am I good enough to be what I truly want to be?*

I called my daughter's talent agent and begged for an audience with them, just to answer my question, nothing more. I was granted some time. They asked me to prepare a monologue (which I performed, but to the wall), and when it was all over I got my answer. And Here I Am.

What other jobs have you worked while waiting for your big break?

Real estate, freelance remodeling, and clerical crap.

What's your day job now?

I work for a heavy machinery company in the service department, just doing miscellaneous office stuff. I get a lot of time to think about other stories and scripts.

Tell me about your character in the "The Bicyclist"

Conrad's a lot like me in that we basically just fake our way through life and hope that nobody notices. He's a guy who is searching for himself, a guy who can get away with stuff, because of his personality and good looks. He's fairly simplistic, but has a little bit of a complicated side to him. I think he surprises even himself. He's a lot of fun, always up for anything, not one to back down from a challenge. And he's a kind of a hopeless romantic.

We hear you're into boats. What kind do you have?

A 1979 Bayliner. I changed her name to the "Aglaia" (uh-glai-uh, meaning *beauty and splendor*), the youngest of three Charites from Greek mythology. I've done a lot of work to it to make it nicer

yet. It's 30 feet and moored in St. Helens, but I'm looking for a place to moor in Portland, to live on board. It's a lot of fun. I love boats, I love the water, always have.