

Talking with JOSE ORTEGA



His Character: Jose Reyes – a filmmaker who loves bikes and b-movies. He talks fast, makes movies fast and rides his retro banana seat Huffy with a dramatic flair. His latest epic, “Bike Girls From Mars,” is currently on hiatus because he’s building a “Flash Gordon” rocket ship out of recycled bike parts.

Prior to “The Bicyclist”: Who doesn’t dream of being discovered by a roaming talent agent? Jose’s over-the-top alter-ego on the show has also made him a comedic regular in numerous commercials.

How long have you been acting?

A little over two years now.

How did you break in?

I got scouted out of Fred Meyers [a popular Northwest chain], about five years ago.

What does that mean?

It was around Christmas time and I was there shopping for presents. I was looking at Barbie Dolls for my friend’s daughter, and all of a sudden I hear this voice behind me go ‘Hey, is that for you?’ And I turn around and there’s this lady who said she had been chasing me through the store. She’s like, ‘I’m so glad I caught up to you because I noticed as soon as you walked in that you have like a really good look. I think

you have potential to be like a model or an actor.' I'm like, 'Wow, thank you.' She's like, 'Well, hey, I'm having this meeting tonight at 7, if you're interested. Here's my card, here's the address, why don't you come by.' So I'm like 'OK, sounds good, what have I got to lose?' I went, and it kind of grew from there.

So why did it take three more years?

I went to the meeting, they took my measurements and stuff like that. But what they needed me to do was get some professional shots done, like a headshot. At the time, being 20 years old and working in a restaurant, I didn't really have a lot of money, so I couldn't really afford it. She said it would cost like \$500.

So what was your first job?

My first job was for American Teen TV. They had this show called "Teen Edition," and they were doing this reality-based episode in which they raised money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oregon. I went to the audition and the guy said he really liked my energy, so 'I gotta put you in this.'

Are you doing that much acting?

I am pretty busy doing commercials and short films.

Have people recognized you yet from your "Bicyclist" role?

Yeah. Actually recently. I went to an audition in January and the guy who was the director/producer and I walk into the audition, and he's like 'Omigod. Dude! It's Jose!' And I'm like, 'Oh, you know me?' 'Yeah! Jose from 'The Bicyclist!' 'Oh you watch the show!' And he's like 'Yeah dude! Every episode!'