

L O T F C
magazine

Santa
Baby!

CHRISTMAS
TRADITIONS
FROM CPH

THE BUSINESS OF
BEING A WRITER

MISS STANLEY'S
GUIDE TO PERFECT PR

THE LOOK

THE CARRINGTON GIRLS!
(THESE TWO DISH ABOUT WORK AND PLAY)

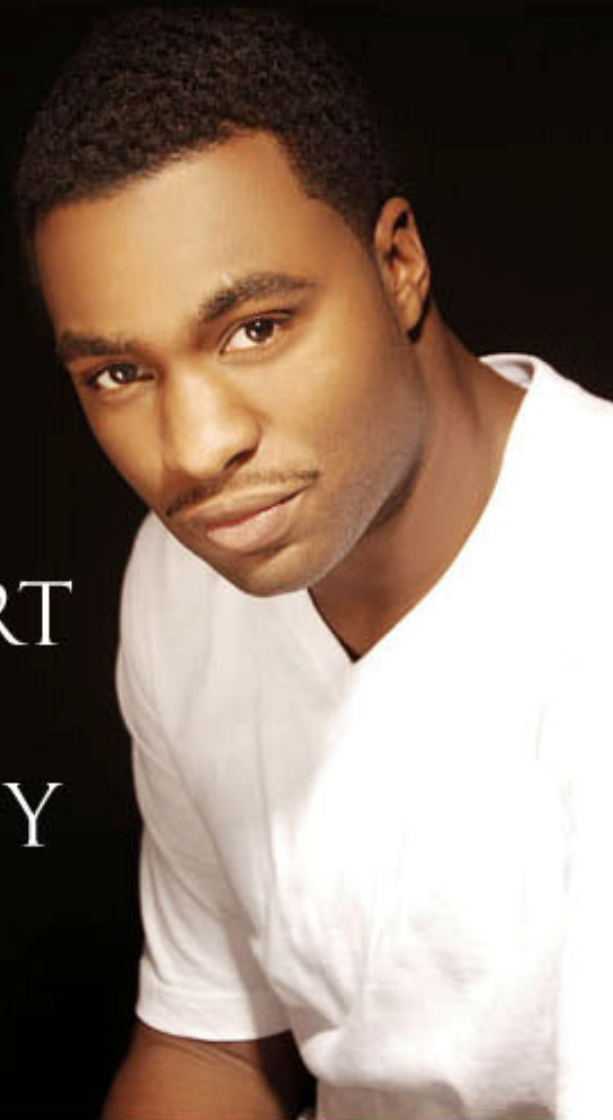
Jane's
PASSION
FOR FASHION

FOCUSED, FLY AND FIERCE:
Robert Lee Hardy

THE HOT SPOT
Featuring Leslie Martin

FOCUSED, FLY AND FIERCE:

ROBERT
LEE
HARDY



A few months ago during one of my recent feverish cleaning sprees (I am a notorious packrat) I happened across my High School Yearbook at the bottom of my closet. I quickly scooped it up and blew the dust off it to take the proverbial trip down memory lane (a welcome distraction from my daunting cleaning duties). As I began to look at the pictures of all my old classmates, and read all about our plans for our future I began to wonder just how many of us actually achieved these goals. I then ran across one particular classmate, my former school hooking partner (yes, I hooked school): Robert Lee Hardy. Roberts' primary goal was to be an actor; a goal that many thought was odd, especially being a kid from Baltimore city. I never felt that way, once you met Robert you just knew he was destined for greatness.

Even as a teenager his acting skills were amazing (which made convincing the teachers we BOTH had to leave school early so believable). It was at that moment I began to wonder if my old friend Robert had reached his goal. Therefore, after a little networking and research I found out that he had. Mr. Hardy has received his B.F.A. in acting from the SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Theatre Arts and Film; he has worked in film and television including HBO's critically acclaimed series "The Wire", and Films such as "The Weeping City", "Love is a Dog from Hell" and "Jazz in the Diamond District". He also has stage credits including his one-man show "Me, Myself and Us", Julius X, Flyin' West, and "The Three Sisters. I recently had the chance to sit down with Mr. Hardy discuss his careers past, present and future:

KD: How and why did you decide to become an actor?

RLH: I decided to become an actor to use my god given talent, to make people view different situations in life also to raise people's level of conscience and to make people see the human side in everyone

KD: Do you feel that professional training is necessary to excel in the entertainment industry?

RLH: I do not think that its necessary for everyone, training is great for versatility like voice and speech training something that you definitely need to progress as an actor. You can be trained in more than one style like contemporary and Shakespearean

KD: What has been most frustrating about breaking into the acting world?

RLH: Constantly hearing No when you know that you are capable of producing. I auditioned for "The Wire" for three years but didn't get a speaking role until 2005 which was only three lines, they were hiring New York actors to portray Baltimore actors while I breathe and

bleed Baltimore, always hearing you need more experience, how are you to get the experience if now one is willing to give you a chance.

KD: What has been the highlight of your career thus far?

RLH: Creating my one man show, co-writing another, working on "The Wire", and working on "Jazz In the Diamond District" with Wood Harris, but mainly my one man show because I was able to give myself the spotlight since nobody else would so that way I own it and produced its something that no one can take from me.

KD: How does it feel to have completed your first feature film?

RLH: Aw, man! It feels amazing! Its like a dream come true to see my name up on the Big screen because I remember when I was a kid used to stay up late and watch T.V and one night I saw my name on the screen so I would stay up late just to see my name. Even though I am not a millionaire, yet it still feels amazing!

KD: What actor had the most influence on you?

RLH: Robert Chew who plays "Prop Joe" on "The Wire" who was also my acting teacher has had a lot of influence on me. He actually was able to see my talent and helped me hone my craft as well as Jeffrey Wright who is also one of the most amazing and versatile actors I have ever seen. He completely has his own style

KD: What is you favorite Movie?

RLH: Wow! That list could go on forever but if I had to pick one, it would have to "Requiem for a Dream". It really touched my soul

KD: How much influence did your upbringing have on your career choice?

RLH: A great deal if not all because growing up in my family I was surrounded by many different characters, which I use in my show, growing up in Baltimore a City full of rich character and personality so I draw inspiration,

KD: Do you have a lot of family support?

RLH: Yes, I have a great family support system even though they do not always understand my decisions like when I dropped out of school and moved to L.A and stay for seven months but they are supportive

KD: Is acting just a job to you?

RLH: Acting is my life! I do not have any children yet, so acting is like my baby I have to take care of it and nurture it. I feel as god has given me a gift that enables me to touch the world. I live and breathe this every day

KD: Where do you see yourself in the next 5yrs?

RLH: I will be In L.A or Bi-Coastal doing film, Stage and television and definitely revamping my one-man show making it improved and living off my dreams

KD: Has there ever been a time when you just wanted to give up?

RLH: Oh My god! Has there ever been a time you should have asked me about a month ago! It is so hard to when you go to these casting calls, you give people your headshots, and

they tell you no it becomes frustrating sometimes and depressing sometimes. It hurts when you put your blood sweat and tears into something and it does not come to fruition it is difficult to have a regular job and still give your all to acting

KD: The holidays are upon us what are your plans for the Holidays?

RLH: I actually spent thanksgiving all alone! And that's my favorite Holiday! It is like everyone has there own agenda an family so they have plans so I spent the Holiday alone in my apartment flicking through the channels so Hopefully Christmas I will fair a little better

KD: I am sure people want to know are you single?

RLH: (laughing) Yes I am! Dating but still single

KD: What was your first job ever and do you think it had influence on your career?

RLH: Wow! My first job was actually at SHAKE &BAKE (a Baltimore roller skating rink) where I got to see lots and interesting people!

KD: What advice would you give some one trying to break into the field?

RLH: To have skin as tough as leather remain focused on why you want to become an actor and always remember that opportunity is right around the corner

KD: Where can your current and soon to be, fans reach you?

RLH: I can be reached at WWW.ROBERTLEEHardy.COM

KD: Thank you for your time

RLH: Anytime