

Victor Rasuk

AGE: 22
LOCATION: NEW YORK
BIG BREAK: CAST FROM THE STREETS OF QUEENS TO PLAY AN OVER-SEXED TEENAGER IN *RAISING VICTOR KARGAS*.
NEXT UP: A TURN AS SURF'S BAD BOY TONY ALVA IN *LORDS OF DOGTOWN*.

One moment Victor Rasuk was another Lower East Side teen dreamer, taking bit parts in NYU student films. The next he's wooing audiences as the fast-talking, booty-chasing title character in the indie blockbuster *Raising Victor Kargas*.

"I was 14 years old, in one of the campus elevators, coming from an audition," says Rasuk. "I saw this flyer Peter Sollett [the director] had put up, looking for actors for his short film, 'Five Foot High and Rising.' And bam! Three years later, that film became *Victor Kargas*. And because of Pete, I got another dream job."

That would be *Lords of Dogtown*, a new film based on Stacy Peralta's nostalgia skate doc about the bunch of passionate shaggy haired surfers turned skate pioneers who birthed a multimillion-dollar sporting goods industry.

"I spent six months in Venice, California. Being taught how to surf by the same guy who taught Cameron Diaz. I haven't hard-core street skating with the Tony Avas, so I can play him; I was working alongside Heath Ledger, John Robinson and Johnny Knoxville, who is just the funniest guy in the world. And I'll never forget this one time Stacy came on the set. He was trying to show us what it felt like when they went from clay to these urethane wheels. He got up on the board, and the expression on his face was epic. It was like he was seeing God." Rasuk finally takes a breath. "All I had to do was do that. It was perfect."

Rasuk has also turned Hayden, "a sort of Amores Perveros in the Cayman Islands," into Orlando Bloom, which is ready to be reimagined; he also recently learned to drive, and moved back with his family to Hollywood. He laughs. "I know, when every artist has gone insane. But it's my time. I've got to give it a try, see what it's all about. I may be just this kid from New York. But I also know that to me, this feels like home."

TEXT: SHARI ROMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY: JASON NOCITO
STYLING: CELESTINE COONEY

VICTOR: HUGO JEANS BY MARK JACOB; T-SHIRT: LEATHER RUBBER JACKET FROM JIMMY CHAGLES; TRAINERS BY CONVERSE. BELT: VICTOR RASUK

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