

Reunion at Homo High

Or, how to succeed in Hollywood by playing gay.

THE NUMBER OF ACTORS who have launched stellar careers with gay, lesbian, or transgender roles is the best-kept secret in Hollywood. Now we know why: A clandestine school for film actors called Homo High has been operating for years, grabbing the juicy queer parts for its students and, sure enough, turning their loser résumés into celebrity bios. The evidence: a program from a hush-hush Homo High reunion, excerpts from which are reprinted here, recalling graduates' yearbook entries and touting their subsequent successes. We hear another reunion is in the works, to honor James Duval, who recently went from *Totally F***ed Up* to *Independence Day*.—MICHAEL GILTZ



ANTONIO BANDERAS

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *Labyrinth of Passion* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Sadec ♦ **QUOTE:** "When I'm in love, the smell of that person saturates me. I can't smell anyone else." ♦ **VOTED:** Best Kisser ♦ **PROM DATE:** Tom Hanks (the happy couple were dressed as Ricky and Lucy Ricardo) ♦ **POST-GRADUATE WORK:** *Law of Desire*, *Philadelphia*, *Interview With the Vampire*, *Evita*



KENNETH BRANAGH

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *A Month in the Country* ♦ **NICKNAME:** James Moon ♦ **QUOTE:** "So many are gone. Chaps I cared for. Sometimes it seems like they were the lucky ones." ♦ **VOTED:** Most Ambitious ♦ **PROM DATE:** Stephen Fry ♦ **UNDERGRADUATE WORK:** Transferred in from the theater department ♦ **POST-GRAD:** *Henry V*, *Dead Again*, *Hamlet*



STEVE BUSCEMI

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *Parting Glances* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Nick ♦ **QUOTE:** "You know the difference between straight guys and gay guys? There isn't any. That's a scary and seldom understood fact. Straight guys are jerks. Gay guys are jerks." ♦ **VOTED:** Most Likely to Star in a Thousand Indie Films ♦ **POSTGRAD:** Barton Fink, Reservoir Dogs, Fargo, Trees Lounge



CHER

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *Silkwood* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Dolly Pelliker ♦ **QUOTE:** "Y'all, this here's Angela. She's a beautician." ♦ **AWARDS:** Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress ♦ **PROM DATE:** Lori Davis ♦ **UNDERGRAD:** Good Times; Chastity; Come Back to the Five & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean ♦ **POSTGRAD:** Mask, Moonstruck (Oscar, Best Actress), Mermaids



DANIEL DAY-LEWIS

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *My Beautiful Laundrette* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Johnny ♦ **VOTED:** Most Talented ♦ **PROM DATE:** Went stag ♦ **UNDERGRAD:** Sunday, Bloody Sunday; Gandhi; The Bounty ♦ **POSTGRAD:** A Room With a View, My Left Foot (Oscar, Best Actor), The Last of the Mohicans, The Crucible



RUPERT EVERETT

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *Another Country* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Guy Bennett ♦ **QUOTE:** "There's a hollow at the base of his throat that makes me want to pour honey all over him and lick it off again." ♦ **PROM DATE:** Cary Elwes ♦ **POSTGRAD:** The Comfort of Strangers, The Madness of King George, and the upcoming My Best Friend's Wedding



GINA GERSHON

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *Showgirls* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Crystal ♦ **QUOTE:** "I like nice tits. I always have. How about you?" ♦ **MOTTO:** I'm not a dyke, I just play one in films. ♦ **VOTED:** Best Smile ♦ **PROM DATE:** Jennifer Tilly ♦ **POSTGRAD:** Bound



WHOOPI GOLDBERG

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *The Color Purple* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Celie ♦ **QUOTE:** "Shug like honey and now I'se jus' like a bee. I'se follow her everywhere." ♦ **AWARDS:** Oscar nomination for Best Actress ♦ **VOTED:** Most Likely to Make Bad Movies ♦ **PROM DATE:** Couldn't decide ♦ **POSTGRAD:** Sister Act, Ghost (Oscar, Best Supporting Actress), Soapdish, Boys on the Side



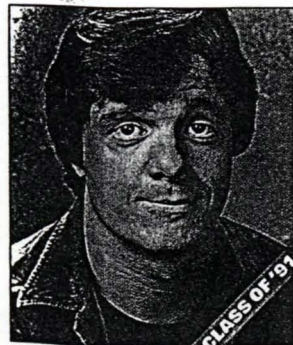
HUGH GRANT

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *Maurice* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Clive Durham ♦ **QUOTE:** "Think how easy life is for people who don't have to go through all this. This secrecy. Never being able to talk about the person whom you're in love with to anybody." ♦ **PROM DATE:** Divine Brown ♦ **POSTGRAD:** White Mischief, Four Weddings and a Funeral, Sense and Sensibility



MARIEL HEMINGWAY

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *Personal Best* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Chris Cahill ♦ **QUOTE:** "I bet my brothers would have called you the same thing they called me: a carpenter's dream—flat as a board and easy to nail." ♦ **PROM DATE:** Roseanne Barr ♦ **UNDERGRAD:** Lipstick, Manhattan ♦ **POSTGRAD:** Star 80, Falling From Grace, TV's Civil Wars



NATHAN LANE

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *Frankie and Johnny* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Tim ♦ **QUOTE:** "Have you met [my boyfriend] Bobby? We met at a Dr. Pepper audition. He was the big Pepper and I was the little Pepper." ♦ **VOTED:** Most Hammy ♦ **PROM DATE:** Terrence McNally ♦ **UNDERGRAD WORK:** Ironweed, The Lemon Sisters ♦ **POSTGRAD:** Jeffrey, The Birdcage, the upcoming Mouse Hunt



JOHN LITHGOW

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *The World According to Garp* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Roberta ♦ **QUOTE:** "I love kids. I didn't know I loved them so much until I became a woman. If I'd known, I would have had some while I was still a man." ♦ **AWARDS:** Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor ♦ **PROM DATE:** Terrence Stamp ♦ **POSTGRAD:** Terms of Endearment, TV's 3rd Rock From the Sun



BETTE MIDLER

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *The Rose* ♦ **AWARDS:** Oscar nomination for Best Actress ♦ **VOTED:** Most Likely to Become a Gay Icon ♦ **PROM DATE:** Barry Manilow ♦ **UNDERGRAD WORK:** Performing at Manhattan's Continental Baths ♦ **POSTGRAD:** Ruthless People, Beaches, The First Wives Club



SHARON STONE

♦ **SENIOR THESIS:** *Basic Instinct* ♦ **NICKNAME:** Catherine Tramell ♦ **QUOTE:** "I wasn't dating him. I was fucking him." ♦ **VOTED:** Most Glamorous ♦ **PROM DATE:** Arrived with Michael Douglas, left alone ♦ **UNDERGRAD WORK:** Irreconcilable Differences, Police Academy 4, Total Recall ♦ **POSTGRAD:** Sliver, The Quick and the Dead, Casino (Oscar nomination, Best Actress)