

OTHER PASSIONS...

A walk on the light side

Grant Hayward is capable of 47 facial gestures every 35 seconds - or so he says.

The Crown Prosecutor was born on the same date that Oliver Hardy died (though 16 years later) and, perhaps unsurprisingly, has a passion for comedy acting.

In answer to an email request to talk about himself he said he is not into horse-riding and long walks by the beach, and he is not an Aquarius. His favorite colour is green and if he was given a \$50 voucher to spend, he'd buy a \$50 book voucher.

Balance Magazine caught up with dry-witted and somewhat shy Mr Hayward ("take a photo of the back of my head") and asked him: *Why Law?*

GH: For a bet. One of my friends at Uni said he didn't think I'd ever make it into law and was more likely to end up doing something 'artistic' like writing children's stories. I had to prove him wrong. I won about five dollars and a life of eternal grind as a result (*laughs*). I was also hopeless at maths. Then there's also all that 'social consciousness' stuff which I won't bore you with.

BM: So, how did you get into acting?

GH: Mostly through the NTU Review. Mostly as a result of having watched far too many Monty Python sketches.

BM: It's very common isn't it? Lawyers who've gone into comedy or acting via their uni experiences.

GH: Yeah. Most lawyers are failed actors really, aren't they?

BM: Have you ever called on acting in court?

GH: I have, but you will never find quite a painstaking or confronting a director on the stage that you'll find in court....but it's good for techniques like relaxation and nerves, diction, enunciation, stuff like that. (*He gestures and proclaims:*) Always enunciate to the back row!

BM: Do you actually enjoy the law though?

GH: Most of the time. Can't say I wake-up every day and think "Yippee,

time for another dose of the Magistrates Court, let's get down there"...

BM: So where would you like to go with acting? Would you like to be a professional actor?

GH: I'd love to be a professional actor. You know, emerge from my air-conditioned caravan, do five minutes on the set then complain to the producer that the Tim-Tams aren't quite the right shade of brown — it'd be fantastic!

BM: (*laughing*) And it's comedy you prefer?

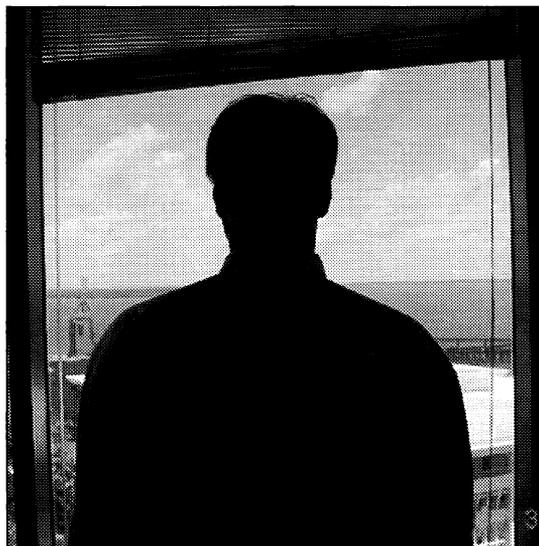
GH: Yeah. Like, I try to do serious stuff but it never comes out that way...

BM: I noticed you said that Shakespeare comes out as comedy with you.

GH: Yeah, I was playing the Prince of Morocco in the Merchant of Venice, that's probably supposed to be a slightly comic character but I'm not sure what the director thought of my interpretation of Morocco, which I played strictly for gags.

Grant prefers to perform material he's written and has won Triple J's Raw Comedy once and came second on another occasion.

GH: I've always had a good time and my comedy, when I do get to write for myself, has an emphasis on



practical jokes. You know, big props, things that explode, making people wet, stuff like that. Very, very heavily into slapstick.

BM: Is there an ultimate role you'd like to do?

GH: I've just recently seen Man on the Moon, Andy Kauffman, and he really does tickle my funny bone, it would've been great to play that role. But I don't think anyone could've done it justice except for Jim Carrey. I'm also a real Dr Who fan. So if they started making more Dr Who movies, I wouldn't mind doing that.

BM: What about singing, is that part of your repertoire?

GH: Not really, I've been described as not so much a crooner, but a croaker.

BM: And where do you see your career in 10 years time?

GH: Law will all be done by computers by then...

BM: And you'll continue with acting as a hobby?

GH: That's right. But you know, I fully envisage Oliver Stone will approach me one day and say: "Oh that's just the perfect face, look at the angles, that's it, you're in my next show — here's three million dollars." ①