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new blood to pump into the stagnant well of overpaid talent that exists in Hollywood that's often fed by politics and nepotism.

In my opinion, it's easier as a director to get noticed than for an actor. We have festivals that we can go to and have our projects be seen on a broader basis. I think it's certainly a lot harder for an actor to break into the field.

Actors, to me are the unsung heroes of our industry. Especially when it comes to independent films or b-movies. They work on a project that more often than not has a tougher time getting noticed or picked up. Many times these small indie films go nowhere and their work is all for nothing - not even a reel to show.

I wish Mike and all the other struggling actors out there the best. One thing that I have learned is that you treat everyone the same in this business - with respect. That struggling actor, playing however small a part, might become famous one day and be the one to put you on the map instead of the other way around. At the very least, you gain a friend.

Logged

Glen Balsley  
Light & Dark Productions  
www.lightanddark.net

**Mike\_Lane**  
homo erectus  
★

Gender: ♂  
Posts: 25



Eat lead slackers!!!!!! !



**Re: Our unsung heroes**  
◀ Reply #1 on: 02/18/04 at 12:20:21 ▶

quote modify

Thanks Glen.

Hopefully someday you, I and everybody on this board won't have to worry about those pesky survival jobs.

In the meantime if anyone needs an actor....

Mike  
www.mikelaneonline.com

Logged

Check out [www.mikelaneonline.com](http://www.mikelaneonline.com)

**Andrew Shearer**  
motherloving  
pussbucket  
★★★★★

Gender: ♂  
Posts: 2975



aka "ediblemonster"



**Re: Our unsung heroes**  
◀ Reply #2 on: 02/18/04 at 18:56:56 ▶

quote modify

THE TENEMENT really is quite an achievement, you guys deserve lots of praise and recognition for all the hard work. i loved the movie, and i know many more positive words will come your way when it gets released.

Logged

<http://www.geocities.com/gonzoriffic/film-index.html>  
<http://www.angelfire.com/Indie/gonzoriffic>

**LightAndDark**  
homo erectus  
★

Gender: ♂  
Posts: 74

**Re: Our unsung heroes**  
◀ Reply #3 on: 02/19/04 at 00:21:36 ▶

quote modify

Thank you. It's tough trying to do the thing you love most and not really



Hey, **Mike\_Lane**, you have 0 messages.  
03/09/04 at 15:36:10

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**Author**

**Topic: Our unsung heroes** (Read 81 times)

**LightAndDark**

homo erectus



**Our unsung heroes**  
◀ on: 02/18/04 at 02:15:47 ▶

[quote](#) [modify](#)

Gender: ♂  
Posts: 74



Where there is light  
there is dark - heaven  
and hell entwined in  
eternal passion.



I could spend days ranting about how difficult it is making a movie on a low budget and trying to get your foot in the door. It's tough. Every aspect of this industry is so cutthroat. I hear it from actors, directors and musicians and I really feel for them all. It's tough getting that first big break.

Lately I've been thinking more about the people who have really helped me get to the point I am now. I've enjoyed some success this past year being in Fangoria and finally getting a distribution deal. I've seen a few actor friends throw in the towel because they can't pay the bills while they go after their dreams. My heart goes out to them. I've been in that boat and to some degree still am. There's a lot of hard working people that put a movie together but the stories I hear about struggling actors really really kills me. How many really bad actors are in major films enjoying the lime light and the red carpet while others are starving to be noticed and have more talent in their pinky than these big leaguers have in their whole body?

A good actor friend of mine, Mike Lane, in my opinion is one of these guys. This guy worked for me for nothing. He's one of the few who stuck by me thick and thin when I sank to the bottom financially because he shared the same dreams I do and believed in me. It's pretty hard to find people like that. Everything today is about the almighty dollar.

Mike moonlights as a bartender while he beats the street by day going from audition to audition. He's an amazing character actor. His sense of timing is impeccable. Whether it's improv or just delivering what's on the written page, he has come through for me everytime. I'm not going to sit here and say that I am by any means a writer of academy award winning stature. I'm far from it but certainly aspire to be that someday. My point being is that Mike has surpassed what I have written for him. He has outdone what has been on the written page. His performances in my movies have only been limited but what might have been limitations in my own writing skills.

What's the point of all this? Why slight myself and rave about a friend? That is the point. He is a friend. Sometimes you find them in the most unlikeliest of places. Mike showed up at an audition on an ordinary day like any other. He didn't know me nor did I know him. It's his dedication to his craft and his loyalty to the cast and crew, myself included, that has won me over. He's an actor with quiet dignity. He never complains whatever you throw at him. The money, if any, often sucks. Yet he perseveres. It's actors like this that are the true backbone of the movie industry. We need more like him - consummate professionals to carry out our vision. We need