

MERCURY Sevendays

OUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO SEE



ACTING UP: Jay Solomon in the short film *Love Funktion* (s)

Music man Jay takes on the role of an actor

A Hoddesdon man is starting to make waves in the film and television industry after deciding to strike out as an actor.

Jay Solomon, of Crossfield Road, who has been a music producer for eight years, wanted to try out another form of showbiz, enrolled at the Actors Studio in London and New York for a four-year course and was signed to an agency towards the beginning of last year.

By Sara Black

He is now set to star in two films, *Kings of the Park*, which explores racism in the 1980s, and *The Finest*, a crime drama that looks at people on both sides of the law.

Jay, who is in his early 30s, said of his career change: "Acting was always something I had wanted to do. I'm a huge film fan. Every time I watch a film I think it's really great and I wanted to see if I could do it.

"Maybe I also wanted a tough challenge."

Earlier this year he headed out to Los Angeles and was offered representation after performing a scene from *Raging Bull*, the biographical film of boxer Jake La Motta.

Jay, known as Sol by friends and family, has also appeared in an advert for the HSBC bank, the short film *Love Funktion*, and has recently finished recording a voiceover for a documentary on Antarctica.

He said: "Coming from a music

background I think I'm at an advantage. I've managed artists and have worked with a lot of people in the industry.

"I'm not the sort of person who will go into an audition and be nervous. I've got a clear mind and am quite relaxed. I prepare myself a few weeks before and get into character."

Jay, who is a former student of Hoddesdon's Sheredes School in Cock Lane, is still involved in the music business and retains his company Solomon Music Management.

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