

**ML:** I'm kinda in the same place. I'm in my final year of my quantity surveying degree. It has taken me like forever. I started in like 2006, took a year off, and then went back. So I've got one more subject to complete.

**JD:** You've just got to do it!

**ML:** Yeah, just to tie it up. Are you practising law now?

**JD:** I practised at Webber Wentzel. I was there for five years [but I still had to do my articles]. During my articles, I booked *Rhythm City*, so thank God I had a really cool firm that let me run around and do both. But jeez, the burnout is major. I thought that as I got older, the modelling and acting gigs would slow down, but that wasn't the case for me. I'm lucky. But I decided that I wasn't doing any services to my reputation in the firm or my reputation in the acting world by trying to give a half-hearted attempt to both. I had to respect both, because they command a lot of respect.

**ML:** And they are both really consuming. I had the same kind of vibe. I would get up at 6am, get to work at 8am, finish work at 6pm, go do a club gig, finish at 12am, drop my mates off, go get a dogwood at 1am, and repeat the cycle over and over.

**JD:** You feel a bit greedy.

**ML:** So living in multiple worlds is really cool, but it is hard for them to translate. That is what I wanted to ask you about, because you are doing all these things. Did you ever feel like an outsider in those worlds because of that?

**JD:** Ja. In the modelling world, I chose to stop telling

people that I was a lawyer, because people become afraid of you, they think this one is going to be difficult, and I would start losing jobs. Because I used to go into an audition and be like, yeah I'm smart, I'm a lawyer and I'm a model, so you should give me the job. Then the opposite would happen. People don't want to touch you, and a veil of almost unattractiveness comes over you when they learn that you are smart.

**ML:** Is it because they feel intimidated?

**JD:** It's not an attractive thing to be intelligent. You're a model; you shouldn't have strong opinions on things. You are a mannequin and you need to sell a

product. And then with law, you play the modelling down because they'll think you're stupid. So I stopped telling the one world about my other life and vice versa.

**ML:** Do you feel like the entertainment world is just about cloaks and daggers?

**JD:** The stuff you read about in the news, none of it is real. Everybody is hustling. Everybody is trying to get a job. Things are as you play them in the media. It's got nothing to do with what is going on.

**ML:** And it is a game you kind of have to play into to a certain extent, don't you think? Social media, for instance. That is something I am very hostile towards. But this is where people exist now.

**JD:** That is how you get gigs, basically, based on how many followers you have. If you've got a million followers on Twitter, then brands want your exposure, they want your platform. Now, people don't care what you do; if you have a million followers, then you can be the face of baby formula. We used to rely on platforms such as M-Net and SABC and various radio stations to give us the gig, and what I have noticed with social media is that people are totally doing their own thing now.

**ML:** Which is kinda cool, you know. You don't have to wait for someone.

**JD:** No, you've got to write it yourself. You have got to put yourself out there. That is your new platform, and it's free.

**ML:** It's an evolution.

**JD:** Ja, I know Hollywood studios who are scouring the internet for the next star. So put your acting monologues up. Jay Z just picked up one of our local rappers after finding him on YouTube.

**ML:** You heard her, people! Thanks for the chat, Jena, it was great.

**JD:** *Merci beaucoup* [laughs]. ■



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