



REAL PEOPLE



continued from page 70

## Days of Drama

Erik Liberman's Broadway debut in the drama Desk-winning and Tony-nominated *LoveMusik* granted him accolades in the world of theatre. Liberman received credit from *The Washington Post* after recently playing Charley Kringas in Eric Schaeffer's revival of Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along* at Arlington's Signature Theatre. Soon he will join Tony-nominees Adam Pascal and Tovah Feldshuh, as well as indie film favorite Natasha Lyonne and TV's Amy Davidson and Cris Judd, playing Marvin in the feature film *Goyband*, slated for a Spring 2008 release.

interview by Fran Robbins  
photography by Dana Patrick

**What is your most obvious characteristic?**

My sense of humor.

**What is the quality you most look for in friends?**

Integrity...and humor.

**Which living person do you most admire?**

Oprah Winfrey—anyone using their resources that magnanimously tops my list. Could she, Al Gore, and Michael Moore run for President on a platform of “humanity” please?

**What quality do you wish you could attain?** Simplicity.

**What was it that last took your breath away?** Jonathan Tunick's orchestrations for *LoveMusik* and seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time last year. Marion Cotillard's performance in *La Vie en Rose* did a number on me too.

**What is the quality you most like in a man?** Balance.

**What is the quality you most like in a woman?** Bravery.

**What do you consider the most overrated virtue?** Kindness, when used to mask disdain.

**Which historical figure do you most identify with?**

William “Braveheart” Wallace and the archetype of “the sacred fool,” as embodied by everyone from Falstaff to Harpo Marx.

**Who is your favorite hero of fiction?** Haven't read fiction in years. I prefer biographies. Life is much more interesting.

**Who is your hero in real life?** My family and mentors who taught me we need to be our own heroes.

**Who is your favorite actor?** Just one? Judi Dench, Peter O'Toole, and Gena Rowlands. There's something to be said for longevity.

**What is your favorite play?** *Orpheus Descending* plus the movie version of it and *The Fugitive Kind*. Brando and Magnani, explosive. *Equus* also gets a nod.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?** I would see “the forest for the trees.”

**What is your current state of mind?** Serene and slightly mischievous.

**How would you like to die?** I wouldn't, but thanks for offering. I have too much to do.

**Which talent would you most like to have?** To play piano and violin and speak as many languages as possible.

**Which holiday is the most important to you?**

Thanksgiving—barring the historical repercussions—because it's a celebration of gratitude. Independence Day too, because it reminds me of the power of the individual (plus, nothing peps me up like green and purple fireworks).

**Which historical period of time would you most like to live in?**

The Renaissance. Man wasn't “cubiclized”—but prismatic—and in seamless relationship with nature. When a man grows his own food and tends to his own trash, he becomes an excellent steward of the Earth.

**What occupation would you never want?** Well, let's talk about what I actually have done and wouldn't want to do again—janitor, sandwich salesman, towel guy at a spa. Though, I wouldn't trust anyone who hasn't worked a job like this. ■