



# Canarsie Courier



2016-09-15 / Other News

## It's All Adding Up For Math Teacher On the Road To Fame

By Linda Steinmuller



**Keith Black (right) and his leading lady Jaclyn Sokol in a scene from "Celebrity Sex Tape."**

Keith Black is at it again! The Brooklyn math teacher, and part-time movie maker during his summer break, has been flirting with Hollywood for 20 years. His latest project – a PG-rated comedy called "Celebrity Sex Tape" might be the big break he's been waiting for.

Don't let the title of the movie fool you. "Celebrity Sex Tape" is actually a charming romantic comedy that pokes fun at the recent sex tape phenomenon. It's a fictitious – and hilarious - account of Black's own odyssey to attain fame by enlisting famous actresses to co-star with him in a sex tape – without sex, nudity or even kissing.

The movie features a nerdy, Woody Allen-like character (Black is obsessed with Woody Allen) who is desperate to be famous. Anyone who ever wanted to be famous can relate to this outlandish tale, as the movie explores just how far someone will go to reach fame and fortune.

The Old Mill Basin resident has had success with filmmaking in the past. The *Canarsie Courier* first met up with Black, a South Shore High School graduate, back in 2009. He won an award for his first short film, "Get the Script to Woody Allen" (see "Canarsie Resident Fulfilling His Dream Of Filmmaking," *Canarsie Courier*, January 1, 2009). Later, he convinced Mickey Rooney to co-star with him in "Driving Me Crazy" and somehow wound up in the actor's biography!

Black, who worked as an accountant before becoming a teacher, never went to film school. He made "Celebrity Sex Tape" for \$2,000 by cutting corners in his life, including his subscription to JDate. Now, Black says, he takes his dates to earlybird specials and has his mother do his laundry instead of going to the laundromat.

Black hopes to be the first filmmaker to make Hollywood movies after 3 p.m. – or after grading papers at 4:30 p.m. – and is fearless in his pursuit of stardom.

So how does a regular guy – who doesn't look like Brad Pitt – make it in the movie business? Persistence. Black doesn't take "No" for an answer. A good marketing plan helps too.



**Keith Black trying to recruit Beyonce to star in his new short film, "Celebrity Sex Tape."**

He created three comical “spoof clips” of famous actresses rejecting his offer to co-star with him in “*Celebrity Sex Tape*” to get the word out about his latest film.

How did he get Lana Wood (a James Bond girl), Audrey Landers (a former star of the TV show “*Dallas*”) and talk show host Sally Jesse Raphael to perform in his clips? He just asked them! Black told the *Canarsie Courier*, “As long as you’re nice, you can ask anyone anything. You never know. It’s better to ask than not to ask. I didn’t think I would get these celebrities!”

He even tried to recruit Marla Maples – he actually had lunch with her – but they decided she wasn’t the right fit for his movie.

Although “*Celebrity Sex Tape*” is an eight-minute short film, Black’s hope is that it will transition into a feature film and that his zany “spoof clips” – also known as “snippets” – of all those actresses turning him down will attract Hollywood producers to turn it into a feature film.

“*Celebrity Sex Tape*” was aired at the Long Island Film Festival in Bellmore and a theater in Los Angeles. Locally, it’s shown daily at the Kent Theatre, 1170 Coney Island Avenue, at 12 p.m. His snippets can be seen online during the film’s theater run.

Black’s friends tell him his everyday life is like a reality show. He tells his students that anything is attainable with the right attitude and hard work.

“Don’t listen to anyone. Throw the rules out the window. Follow your passion. The only failure is that you don’t try.”

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