



Photo courtesy of Mary Collins Agency

Ken Page in "ROBOCOP"

UNL theater grad gets started in Dallas

By Bill Allen
Senior Editor

Ken Page has proven that actors don't have to be in Hollywood to make it in the movies.

Right now he's off to a pretty good start in Dallas.

The 1985 University of Nebraska-Lincoln theater graduate had a part in the recently released "ROBOCOP," a futuristic science fiction film dealing with a half man-half machine policeman. Filmed in Dallas, the movie transcended the usual hokeyness of the genre by spoofing itself and contemporary society.

Page plays Mr. Kinney, a character with about two minutes total screen time, who gets blown away by machine gun fire.

But he looked good. And sometimes that's what counts.

"Sometimes you're picked for a part based on a lot of issues that don't have to do with talent or craft," Page said.

He said he looks like a "yuppie," and that's what a lot of filmmakers want right now.

In "ROBOCOP," Page plays a young executive working for a major corporation. He has short, stylish brown hair and wears a conservative suit.

Page also can be seen in the season opener of the TV series "Dallas," where he has a walk-on part. He can also be heard in a soon-to-be-released national radio advertisement for Oscar Meyer.

He is the voice of Superman's Clark Kent in the commercial.

Page said he is doing "anything I can get hired for at this point. Right now I'm just building up a resume and experience."

"Work generates work," he said.

After graduating from UNL, Page, the son of UNL psychology professor Monte Page, attended graduate school at Southern Methodist University, but left to go to work as an actor.

"I had my fill of school," he said.

Page said he has mixed feelings about his years at UNL. He said the theater program here was hurt by budget cuts.

"What I got out of UNL was an education," he said. "The theater training was OK, but I think a good education helped me with the things I have to deal with in life. I think their theater department needs more money," he said, "but it (being an actor) comes down to the desire and being able to use that."

With the film resume he puts together in Dallas, Page hopes to make the journey to Los Angeles. He said Christopher Darga and Chrystal Carson are two other UNL theater graduates who are working in films there. He said Darga is doing well in commercials and Carson had a small part in the new Madonna movie, "Who's That Girl." She was one of the bridesmaids who spent most of the movie tied up.

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