

Me and my acting

EACH week we speak to a YA reader, who tells us about something special in their life or their favourite thing to do. This week, **Johnny Shingleton**, 26, from Moor Park Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, talks about his acting career

HOW DID YOU GET INTO ACTING? I did media studies at Southend College and caught the bug for acting there. I've been acting since 1998. The first production I was in was *Guys and Dolls* with the Southend Operatic and Dramatic Society.

One of the other cast members in the production was James Bourne from *Busted*.

My first bit of TV work was in *Dream Team* as a bar man, that was about three or four years ago now.

Since then I have had a lot of work as a stand-in for a variety of shows.

WHAT TV SHOWS HAVE YOU BEEN IN? Not that long ago I was in *Eastenders*. I was playing Bradley Branning's workmate from the city.

I've also been a hotel porter in *Miss Marple* with Martine McCutcheon.

One of my friends asked me to get a photograph signed for him. I was a bit worried about asking her to sign it but she was really nice about it.

The best job I've done was being a stand-in on the last episode of *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*. It was a

really hectic job because of all of the travelling that was involved.

I had to get to Pinewood Studios for 6pm then travel down to Dover where we all stayed for the night.

The next morning we had to get on the ferry and got to France to do the filming then make our way back to Dover. We got back to Pinewood studios at about 7pm that night.

WHAT'S THE STRANGEST ACTING JOB YOU HAD TO DO? The strangest one was definitely a *Comic Relief* job. I was with Dick and Dom doing a special sports event at Crystal Palace where we all had to dress up in animal suits.

People would pick what animals they wanted to see race around different courses and then we'd run them.

It got to the point where we were running the courses and just started to have a laugh by running past each other and gently beating each other up. A very strange job to do, but it was really good fun.

DO YOU EVER FACED ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH YOUR ACTING? Sometimes when you read a script its can be difficult to



interpret how a character should actually come across.

HAVE YOU EVER MESSED ANY OF

YOUR LINES UP? Yes, I have. It was my very first lines in *Dream Team*. I was concentrating so hard on getting it right I messed them up.

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