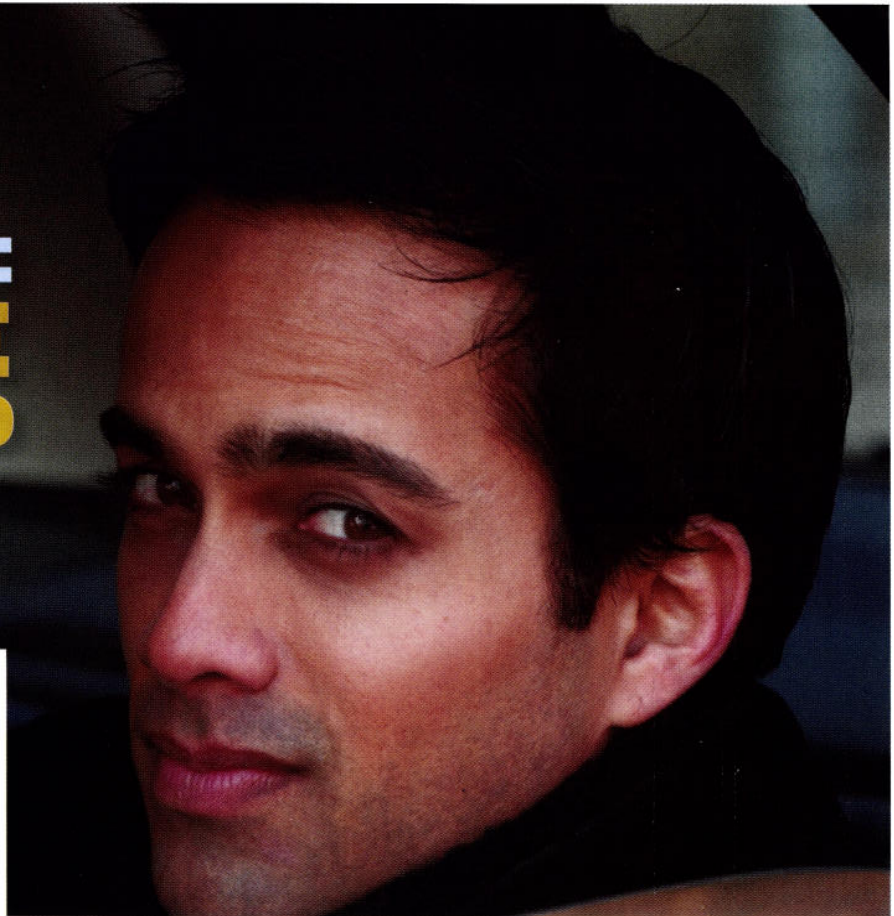


# CRUSH

MIXING UP THE FINEST FLAVOURS

## firstcrush :: VALMIKE RAMPERSAD

GET TO KNOW ME,  
URGES THIS HOTTIE IN  
HIS NEW MOVIE. WELL,  
IT'D BE RUDE NOT TO...



It's not every man that steps out of drama school and lands straight into a leading role, but Valmike is not any old man. On the contrary, this new kid on the big screen is so fresh and green that in his movie, that's precisely the backdrop he had to act in front of.

'If you've seen *A Scanner Darkly* with Keanu Reeves, you'd be on the right lines of what to expect from *Get to Know Me*. It was shot entirely on a green screen so the effect will be a futuristic mix of animated acting.'

In the film, Valmike's character can freeze time and see energy connections – oh what we wouldn't give to see how that works out in the bedroom...

We're hitting on him, but it's falling on deaf ears: 'To pay the bills while I was learning method acting, I guess I got a fair bit of female adulation working at Ralph Lauren, but that's pretty normal for an industry that's predominantly female! To be honest, I tend not to notice that kind of stuff unless it's right there in front of me.'

Hel-lo?

But Valmike wants to talk acting. We know he's good at it already. His stint with luvvie god Saeed Jaffrey in *Open Secrets* has just won Best Film at Buffalo-San Film Festival, and while we're sure his take on Lee Strasberg's acting methods make for riveting listening, we have deeper issues we want to discuss. Like how great a boyfriend he'd make for us, for instance.

'I'm fairly easy-going in relationships,' he promises, then goes and spoils it all by saying: 'The only thing is that work does come first. I will often cancel my social life for an audition

or film role. For *Open Secrets* I played a manic-depressive and I formed a little bubble around myself during the filming, and tend to stay in character even when I'm off set, which probably isn't too great for a girlfriend.'

You don't say.

Fine, seeing as he wants to keep the conversation firmly on acting matters, we'll respect that. So, seeing as movies are so

close to his bosom, is he going to maybe take his kit off for a role?

'As long as it's credible and necessary for the role. During nude scenes, I don't feel like it's Valmike doing it – the character who I'm playing is and it's him that's naked, so I just get on with it.'

Shh. Just picturing the mental image. Wait. Okay, carry on.

'I'm excited about the new year. *Get To Know Me* will be doing the rounds at film festivals and Right Hand Drive, an American production, is being released next month. Fingers crossed they'll do well.'

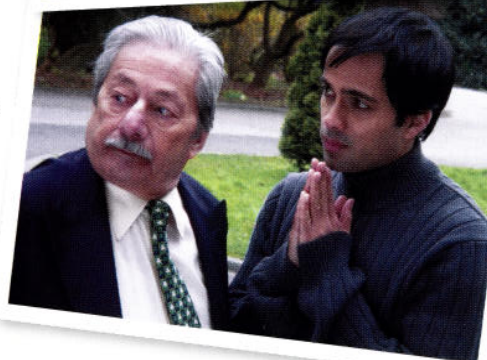
And we'll be keeping our legs uncrossed, just in case...

• *Get To Know Me* is showing in selected cinemas now.

For further info, log onto [www.valmike.com](http://www.valmike.com)



**Weird & wonderful ::**  
Valmike freezes time in *Get To Know Me* and (below) begs Saeed Jaffrey to spare him the harm in *Open Secrets*



**'During nude scenes, I don't feel like it's me – it's the character I'm playing that's naked'**