

## IN THE HOT SEAT

We talk to the people you'll be talking about tomorrow

# Funny guy James Snyder turns spoiler in 'She's the Man'

James Snyder is a funny guy. But the Rancho Murieta-raised actor plays a not-so-funny guy in his new movie opening today, "She's the Man" — a gender-bender teen flick based on Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" (or, for a reference you aren't just pretending to know, try recalling the 1985 gem "Just One of the Guys").

Snyder, 25, plays Malcolm, the thinks-he-smells-a-rat foil whom everyone loves to hate, and the movie provides the up-and-comer's biggest role yet.

He recently took time out from filming an episode of CBS' "Without a Trace" (where he plays the requisite missing guy) to take some random questions in the Hot Seat.

**Q:** What's your middle name?

**A:** Randall. It's a family name of some sort.

**Q:** What was your last meal?

**A:** The food on this set is unbelievable. For lunch, I had chicken in a honey mustard sauce with cauliflower and broccoli in, like, a cheese thing and a little bit of steak. It's my last day so I've been pigging out. I also had some Caesar salad and, for dessert, ice cream with fried bananas on top. They fry them right in front of you and just toss them on. Honestly, I think I've gained two pounds since I've been on set.

**Q:** Paris or Nicole?

**A:** I have been ignored by both.

**Q:** If you were stranded on a desert island with two other actors, who would they be?

### MORE COVERAGE

To read Bee movie critic Carla Meyer's review of "She's the Man," see Friday Ticket.

**A:** One of my idols has always been Hugh Jackman. I just like his work. And I just proposed to Lauren Graham. I worked on "Gilmore Girls" and never got to see her and I told all my friends that if I ever see her, I'm going to propose to her. She came to the opening night (of "She's the Man") and we were hanging out and I was like, "Lauren, I've got to tell you something." She did not say yes or no ... but I said I would do it, and I keep my word.

**Q:** What's your signature karaoke song?

**A:** "Try a Little Tenderness" by Otis Redding. I aim to bring the house down.

**Q:** What would you do with a spare \$100?

**A:** I'd pay off some credit-card bills.

**Q:** What was your childhood ambition?

**A:** To be an actor, actually. Either that or a soccer player.

**Q:** What was your first acting gig?

**A:** In high school (Christian Brothers), I played Jesus in "Godspell."

**Q:** Describe Sacramento in one word.

**A:** Home.



DreamWorks Pictures

Rancho Murieta-raised actor James Snyder plays Malcolm, the thinks-he-smells-a-rat foil whom everyone loves to hate, in the new movie "She's the Man."

— Lisa Heyamoto

Reach her at lheyamoto@sacbee.com