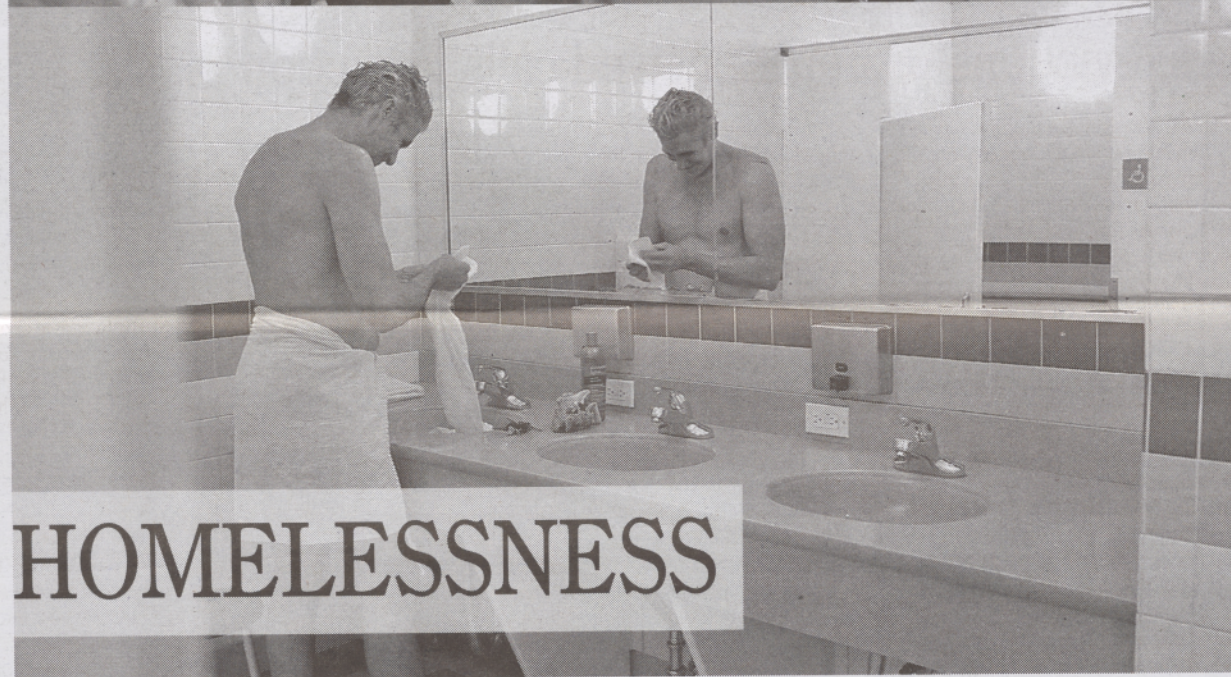


LIFE OF GLAMOUR



PHOTOS COURTESY SCHATZI PRODUCTIONS/FILMHAUS FILMS

AND HOMELESSNESS

Mark Reay is a fashion photographer in New York. He is also homeless and uses public restrooms to shave and wash up.

Mark Reay has lived an extraordinary life in New York City. He has appeared in 'Sex and the City,' modeled for Vogue and worked with Martin Scorsese. He is also homeless. His story is documented in the new film 'Homme Less.'

BY STEVEN MACKENZIE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A typical week for model, actor and photographer Mark Reay — a debonair, 6-foot-3, 56-year-old — is spent shooting at New York Fashion Week, appearing in Hollywood films and attending gallery openings. He has been snapped for Vogue. He has played a wealthy playboy in "Sex and the City" and an agent in "Men in Black III." He has worked with Woody Allen and Martin Scorsese. At the end of each day for the past six years, Reay has returned to his smart East Village apartment block, not to a flat inside but a tiny tarpaulin "nest" on the roof.

Reay is homeless. The reality of his glamorous world saw him sleeping tucked up in an 8-foot by 3-foot makeshift shelter, only accessible by climbing onto and over the ledge of the five-story building. He shaves in public toilets and irons clothes at his local YMCA, yet on the surface, he is the epitome of a wealthy silver fox.

Born in New Jersey, Reay has had a life checkered with highs and lows: after graduating from a university, he spent a decade modeling in Europe for Versace and Moschino — sporadic work with poor pay for all but the elite models. Then, after his modeling career slowed down, he took a series of dead-end jobs before turning his hand to photography.

Finding that commissions are hard to come by, while New York rents climb skyscraper-high, Reay decided the only way he could get by and still pursue his dream of working in fashion was to sleep rough.

His unusual background has been documented in a film directed by Thomas Wirthensohn, called "Homme Less," that follows Reay's daily routine. His story shows that anybody can be affected by homelessness and appearances can be deceptive.

Steven MacKenzie: *We know the stereotypes aren't true, but you certainly do not*

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