

Former Clark student bent on acting success

Being on a show described as a cross between "American Idol" and "Survivor" didn't dull **Joseph James'** desire to be an actor, but it has disillusioned him.

Hollywood can be glamorous, but it's also competitive and humbling, which James learned after being eliminated from "Hellbent for Hollywood" last week.

The former Clark College student hopes to make his living as an actor, a dream that prompted him to try out for the reality show that takes a crop of actors trying to break into the business and whittles down the pack through a series of challenges.

The competition began with 100 contestants, and James made it into the top 22. Professionalism and ability, as well as popularity with online voters, will help determine the winner.

James, 28, doesn't know many details about the show. When it will air, on which network and what prize awaits the winner are all mysteries. That's to mimic the unpredictable nature of the entertainment business, James said.

"Part of the whole concept is keeping us in the dark as much as possible. Sometimes we don't know until 10 p.m. the night before a 6 a.m. call time that we have to be on set," he said prior to being eliminated.

James started thinking seriously about pursuing acting as a career after taking classes at Clark College. A few months ago he moved to Hollywood, transferring into the School of Media, Culture and Design at Woodbury University in Burbank, Calif. Before relocating, he worked as an extra on the film "The Untitled Crowley Project" and the television drama "Leverage."

James had been filming "Hellbent for Hollywood" for a couple weeks, up to 12 hours a day. That made it tough to balance his course load, as well as spend time with his wife, **Rebecca**, and 6-month-old son, **Micah**, but the sacrifices were worth it, James said.

And he's not giving up on his dream. James has been cast in the second season of "Coming 2 Hollywood," an online reality show similar to "Hellbent for Hollywood."



Joseph James
Former Clark College student was a contestant on "Hellbent for Hollywood"