

It all started from a text message that said C U LATER. I still don't believe it while I am rushing to book a table that will keep my 'guest' away from other people. I am at The Newsroom, a famous vegetarian restaurant in Beverly Hills, both for its excellent cuisine and for the list of celebs that go there to eat. I knew beforehand that my actor is a vegetarian - I already had given up the idea of a stake - what I didn't know was that he was a complete vegan. Say bye bye to mozzarella and to any kind of scrumptious delicious smelly cheese that could come that way. «Already here?» as I turn my head and stare at the deepest blue eyes I have ever seen, framed by a transformer like helmet. Short hair, square jaw, Yankee doodle dandy alpha male sample putting some emphasis for the way I drove in and parked my 125 Vespa Primavera. «Very Italian, you just reminded me of those crazy Roman drivers. By the way, I love your Vespa» More than 50 films to his credit, Woodrow Tracy "Woody" Harrelson is an Emmy Award winning (Cheers) an Academy Award-nominated actor (People vs Larry Flint), a Screen Actors Award winner (No Country for Old Men), MTV (Indecent Proposal) & a Western Award (Hi-Lo Country) winner as well, even though he is best recognized for audience favorite films like White man can't Jump and Natural Born Killers. Who could have guessed that Woody not only would become one of the best actor of his generation, but also one of the most respected social supporter and activist – getting arrested for scaling the Golden Gate Bridge to protest the logging of California redwoods and he is also a supporter for the legalization of marijuana and clean oceans beside being an ethical vegan and a raw foodie. «I became a vegan when, after years of eating hamburgers and not feeling that good and experiencing some acne and a running nose, one day, an old lady, came up to me after she heard me coughing and told me that I was in all probability lactose intolerant. I didn't even know what that meant. Well, I stopped drinking milk and three days later I felt better, my whole face cleaned up and no more coughing. Not bad for a non believer. Little by little I started to give up certain things: red meat first, chicken second, fat third, cheeses, til one day I realized I had become a complete vegan. Activism and the philosophy of it, came later. Do you know that in order to produce half kilo of red meat, we need 9000 liters of water, while we only need 900 for the same amount of corn?» I watch him while he orders corn soup, a hot mate sweetened by agave – I couldn't believe how good it was, all of it, together with my tofunnaisé – mayo and tofu - sprouts with roots sandwich - after years of soul-searching and wandering, including a virtual five-year hiatus from movie acting, he's back with us, suggesting me to read anything from Dr Gabriel, the best alternative health guru in the world“. Then it's time to talk about his love of acting. «I started thanks to Elvis Presley. My mom took me to see him and I fell in love with his moves, his costumes, his voice. In High School, on a dare by some friends of mine, I kind of jumped on the library table and proceeded to sing All Shook Up, full volume. When Robyn Rogers, the cutest looking girl in school not only asked me out, but begged me to join the theater department, I kind of knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.” And with that, he starts singing in the restaurant. He is so good that if you close your eyes, you might be thinking you are in front of The King himself. ”Also, when you act, it is like having a bigger family, with director and actor who become fathers, brothers and sisters. I am still in close contact with a lot of directors with whom I worked: Milos Forman was the sweetest of them all, always a word of encouragement. He used to talk to me in a very very low voice, that I was afraid he wanted to hypnotize me!! The strangest family I had professionally, was Steven Soderbergh's Natural Born Killer,

because, those were the years in which Robert Downey Jr. and Juliette Lewis were... let's say... out of their freaking mind. Imagine this, I was the calmest of the group. Beside that, Oliver is the most political director of our time, the Coen brothers have the deepest understanding of «rural ad urban America, while Sean Penn... shoot, everyone is afraid of Sean Penn and what he can do when he puts his mind to it.» We catch up with him after having just finished a couple of movies, like The Messenger (the Iraq conflict) e most of all, with Seven Pounds directed by our Gabriele Muccino, with Will Smith and Rosario Dawson.”I play a blind pianist. I spent thee months with blind people, an experience in which i did get to use parts of my brains I usually don't use. I love working with Muccino, it is every actor's dream, because on set, he never give up, he never allow you to fail, he challenges you all the time. While we were shooting, I sucked so bad that I wanted to go get y SAG cards and burn it to the ground.... And you know what Gabriele was saying? You can burn it afterword, right now try again, concentrate. Get what I am saying?» Another subject close to his heart is the environment and what he has going on in Hawaii. «My journey led me to Maui, where I live with my wife Laura Louie -an environmental activist and his former assistant - and my three daughters. I live in a ecofriendly house, not just squatting in some vacation house; it's more like homesteading. We in a remote coastal town called Kipahulu, a place where there's no shopping other than an adjacent organic farm called Laulima, which has baked goods for sale. Residents make poi at a community center and allow no genetically modified organisms to cross the town's boundaries. Kipahulu is built, to some extent, as a primitivist denial of modernity”. Woody has been there about eight years now, after getting an introduction to Maui from his good friend Willie Nelson. “It's all his fault. No electricity, no gas powered cars. We are working with a scientist on a new invention that will revolutionize how we clean up sewage. It's pretty cool. Usually our government treats our toxic sewage waste with a bunch of even more toxic chemicals, and then declares it safe for drinking. The method we're developing does it naturally, with no chemicals, pretty similar to hog waste.” We talk for a while about this but with Woody the conversation inevitably turns back to the environment. “It's like we're all on the Titanic,” he says. “And it's a wonderful party and the violins are playing. Yeah, we feel a big bump, we may even have heard somebody shout, ‘We hit something,’ but it's the Titanic. We can't go down. Listen to some music, drink some more wine. And then its too late, and I wont just take it without a fight.” And then they come. The paparazzi and with them, our interview is over. While he puts his helmet back on, he says hi and leaves in few seconds, leaving me thinking. Til I get another text message “gd hanging bro, sorry 2 run out on u. Late”.