

# OUT... FOREVER

**N**ot since Daniel Day-Lewis played a punk in *MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE* and a prig in *A ROOM WITH A VIEW* has an actor played back-to-back roles so wildly divergent as Steven Mackintosh. In the most recent *PRIME SUSPECT* mini-series he gave Helen Mirren a run for her acting money as the charismatic villain Street, who becomes violently dangerous as the sun sets on his criminal empire. And in the touching new romantic drama *DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS*, directed by Richard Spence, Mackintosh limns the sweet and gentle Kim Foyle, a transsexual living a quiet, controlled, almost desperately normal life.

Speaking from his London flat the day after wrapping yet another movie (*LAND GIRLS*), the 30-year-old Cambridge-born actor talks about how

transsexuals like Kim are 180 degrees away from the flamboyant drag queens usually seen on screen. "There's something rather conservative about the image they portray as women... the distinct lack of glamour," Mackintosh says. "In being women, they want to be very ordinary and simple looking." Kim's staid life is upended when she runs into a raucous, immature bicycle messen-

ger named Paul (Rupert Graves). He was Kim's best friend at school (when Kim was Karl) and impetuously plunges into a friendship/romance that helps them both. He grows up and she learns to enjoy who she is. "By meeting Paul, Kim has to deal with a lot of things she's tried to forget about," says Mackintosh. "In some ways, while being preoccupied with the change, she's forgotten about actually having fun." Love scenes are rarely fun for actors, and it was no different for Mackintosh whose marvelous performance was abetted by "an extremely difficult day with prosthetics and very uncomfortable positions. It's

**"I think in some ways being a transsexual is a rather isolated experience," says Mackintosh.**

a day I don't really care to remember," he says, even as he quickly fills in details about a morning that began in makeup at

2 a.m. and required "standing for hours with people putting things all over my body." After that scene, anyone who hasn't looked at the credits would assume that Kim was being played by a woman (transsexual or not). "I must say," says Mackintosh with a laugh, "my wife had a few difficulties watching that."

BY MICHAEL GILTZ

# SCHOOL'S

