



Actor Julian Gil

Julian Gil has never had any qualms about taking off his clothes on camera.

In fact, he first became famous when his fine physique started showing up in daring date books and calendars in 1998 (the most recent came out in 2005).

Being a sex symbol is hard work, but someone's gotta do it, right?

Gil began modeling in Puerto Rico when he was 17. Since then, he's leveraged his physical attributes as an actor, television host, and entrepreneur.

"The physique is always a factor, that's why I take such good care of my body. It's a element of my career as an actor," Gil observes during a recess in the filming of the new telenovela he's recording in Miami, "Acorralada" (Corralled) for the Venezuelan production company Venevision. (Look for it beginning at 2:00 p.m. today on Univisión).

"I don't have any problem with [taking off my shirt or getting naked], as long as it's part of the story. That's why people will see that I'm growing with this role. I'm getting better and better parts," he continues, speaking of his starring role in the melodrama as a superficial and extroverted womanizer named Francisco "Pancholón" Suárez.

Gil describes himself as a Puerto Rican born in Buenos Aires. His father was Argentine. His mother was Chilean, but he was raised in Borinquen where his children, 19-year-old Nicole and 11-year-old Julian, still live. He moved from the island to Miami a little more than a year ago.

Since then, he hasn't stopped feeling a bit "corralled" himself. But in a good way, since he's been receiving offers for gigs here in Miami as well as in Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Colombia.

He's decided to stay here for the duration of Accorrolada, co-starring the Mexican actors David Zepeda and Alejandra Lazcano. After that, he says, "We'll see."

"This role [Pancholón] gives me the opportunity to appear in the American telenovela market, on an important network like Univisión," Gil says of his part as a "sympathetic villain."

"The story is really well written, very current, and it will draw the public with current issues," he enthuses. "There's love, vengeance, action scenes, and beautiful outdoor settings."

He couldn't resist taking the role, despite the fact that he was already involved in another production.

"I was in Venezuela for five months, until October, filming "Por todo lo alto" for Radio Caracas Television where I played a doctor in the jungle. El Halcón was a great role, says the 36-year-old hunk. "When [producers at] Venevision saw me in that role, they made me an offer. Left Venezuela on a Tuesday and the next day I was here," giggles the former host of such Puerto Rican hits as "Julián por la noche" (Julian at Night,



2003) and “Apartamento 52” (Apartment 52, 2004 – Gil won the Guinness world record for one marathon session hosting this talk show for 32-hours straight).

In 2006, he took on a number of other projects: starring in the feature film “El milagro de Coromato” (The Coromato miracle, part of a series of movies about saints and virgins called “Witnesses of Faith,” as well as several appearances in the television show “Decisiones” (Decisions) on Telemundo.

“Things are going my way,” he says, gratefully. “I’m letting destiny take me where it will.”