



Dressed as Superman, Christopher Dennis walks along Hollywood Blvd. to Grauman’s Chinese Theater, where he is one of dozens of people who dress up as stars to pose for photos with tourists for tips. Dennis says he has been working in dressed as Superman for 11 years.

– SPOTLIGHT ON –

Superheroes Hit the Street



Christopher Dennis gets ready for his day of posing as Superman on Hollywood Blvd. Dennis’s apartment is filled with Superman memorabilia.

‘We’re glorified beggars’

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HOLLYWOOD – Early morning breaks over the city of celluloid dreams. Superman fumbles for a cigarette. Flick. A long pull. Exhale. Smoke swirls around a one-bedroom apartment exploding with Man of Steel memorabilia. Walls, ceilings and floors have sprouted action figures, lunchboxes and movie posters, a genuine fortress of servitude. The phone trills.

“Yeah, I’ll be out there soon,” Christopher Dennis croaks. He eyes a box of Apple Jacks and a Twinkie. Nah, time to work. Through the doorway, down the stairs and into the sunshine strides Dennis, 39, a vision from another planet, from his red leather boots to his dyed black hair. With his loping gait, he can cover the two blocks to Hollywood’s Walk of Fame in a flash. But the cries start the instant the billowing cape comes into view: “Hey, it’s ... Superman!”

For the past 11 years, Dennis has made some semblance of a living posing for snapshots around the tourist magnet that is Grauman’s Chinese Theatre. But in the past few years, he has had a lot of company. The cast includes Charlie Chaplin, SpongeBob SquarePants and other pop staples. But adults and kids alike really give it up for the superheroes. Batman, Wonder Woman and three Spider-Men are just some of the iconic comic-book characters who ply this route, battling the heat and each other for hearts and tips.

The days can feel long for this crew, some of whom hope to catch a producer’s eye. Others are just trying to make ends meet. But over the course of a hot 12 hours pacing the starry sidewalk, Dennis’ Superman never sags.



Dennis as Superman and Maximus Allen as Batman wait in line for their order at McDonald’s during their lunch break while working for tips on Hollywood Blvd near Grauman’s Chinese Theater.



Dennis as Superman picks up tourist Tugce Sahin of Turkey for a quick picture in front of Grauman’s Chinese Theater on Hollywood Blvd.



Two young boys, Joel Zerihua, 4 and his brother Ezra, 3 have their photo taken with their favorite superhero, Superman while Marilyn Monroe twirls for tourists.



Dennis has an uncanny resemblance to actor Christopher Reeve who played the super hero on the big screen. Dennis dyes his hair to better look like the superhero.



While working, Dennis, age 39, takes a much-needed break to drink some lemonade in a Hollywood-inspired cafe nearby.