



...Straight

Any gay man with a YouTube account has surely seen **LIAM SULLIVAN**'s viral sensation "Shoes," where the actor dons drag and, as his alter ego Kelly, raps about expensive shoes over a house beat. The short has such a gay sensibility that the most surprising thing about the clip may be that its creator is actually—*gulp*—straight. "When I met my girlfriend she was with her two gay male friends, and the guys were like, 'Oh, don't bother. He's totally gay!'"

Sullivan recalls. That he was dressed as Kelly at the time may have added to that perception. "We started flirting, and she said, 'You know, I've never wanted to make out with a woman more,'" he says with a laugh. While gay men might see his Kelly shtick as a drag act, Sullivan sees it as a character performance—albeit one that he's honed countless times in front of LGBT audiences, including a stint in Margaret Cho's *Sensuous Woman* live show and a cameo appearance on VH1's *I Hate My 30s*. Says Sullivan: "Margaret put it the best way—she said, 'You don't glam it up [as Kelly]. The wig you're wearing is all matted, you're not wearing makeup, you let your stomach hang out. There's no trying to look like a glamorous drag queen—you just look like a teenage girl who's trying to get some shoes.'"

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOKY

Assisted by Amber Cresce, grooming by Sundeep Morrison; shot on location at the Hillview Apartments, Los Angeles; shirt and socks by the Gap; boxers by Express for Men; dress shoes by Natha Studio; garters courtesy Ali Rahimi