Porn star seeks fame with clothes on

By Richard Leong
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NEW YORK (Reuters) - Porn star Ron Jeremy wants to be taken seriously -- with his clothes on.

Dressed in a dark track suit with a protruding belly that shows he is past his physical prime, Jeremy hardly strikes you as one of the most successful American porn stars.

But Jeremy, 53, who claims to have been with more than 4,000 women during a 30-year career, is the first to admit that he is not your stereotypical sex star. He believes his average looks are a key to his success.

In a new memoir, "Ron Jeremy: The Hardest (Working) Man in Showbiz," he said audiences identified with him because he was just like them -- hairy, with a mustache and standing just 5 feet 6 inches tall.

"They look at themselves in the mirror and think, "Y'know, compared to Ron Jeremy, I'm not that bad looking at all," Jeremy says in the book released this month.

Jeremy, who was born Ron Jeremy Hyatt, can be seen in a spinoff of that series, "The Surreal Life: Fame Games," and had a role in the comedy "Finishing the Game," which...
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Surreal Life: Fame Games," and had a role in the comedy "Finishing the Game," which screened at the Sundance Film Festival in January.

In addition to his book, Jeremy is busy with other ventures -- his adult film company, speaking on television and college campuses about sex and pornography, and promotional appearances for products that carry his name.

But more than ever, he is driven to seize those elusive Hollywood roles. "It's a certain amount of ego," he said. "In my little cloud, I still think I'm an actor."

Would he like to do more reality television?

"To me, porn and reality TV are similar. I don't mind being in them," he said. "I just can't stand watching them."

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