

Mariah Carey had the hots for me?

Actor Max Loong only found out later. Unlike his TV character, he says he's no flirt

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THIS actor blushed during his interview. All because we grilled former MTV VJ Max Loong about his meeting with Mariah Carey.

Apparently, the pop star had the hots for Max during her MTV interview with him.

Said Max: "I was told by people that when they watched the show, a lot of them noticed that she was eyeing me and checking me out. But I didn't notice anything at all. We just had good chemistry."

But that wasn't the only time the 27-year-old actor blushed.

The amiable actor constantly blushes when talking about his looks or his playboy label.

All it took was a couple of lines from the trailer of his new TV series for people to brand him a "player".

On the latest Channel 5 drama *After Hours*, which premieres on Monday at 10pm, Max plays Danny, a flirt who dates a different girl almost every other day and whose mind is always on sex.

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— *After Hours* actor Max Loong on his interview with American songstress, Mariah Carey

But Max insisted that he's far from being like his onscreen character.

"I don't really bother about what people think. To me, it's work, and I know that I'm still the same guy. The image that people have of me does not matter to me," he said.

Since the trailers of the drama started airing, he said he's had strangers coming up to him and identifying him as the "After Hours guy".

"There was this girl who came up to me and asked me if I really behaved that way in real life after she saw the trailers."

But with his self-effacing nature, it's a wonder how he musters the courage to don such a playboy role on screen.

Max said it wasn't hard at all because "all of it was just acting".

He also clarified that he does not think about sex all the time.

In fact, Max hasn't always played playboys either. As an actor in Switzerland where he grew up, Max, who

is of Malaysian Chinese and Swiss parentage, has taken on villain roles and even that of a rapist. He recently returned to Singapore after a stint hosting a popular singing competition called *Music Star*, a Swiss version of reality series *American Idol*.

"Coming back here is a good thing for me. When I was doing *Music Star*, there was always the pressure of dealing with critics."

Max, who has been single for "quite sometime" because he has not met the right girl yet, said he is not really looking for love.

In all, he said he has had three serious relationships, the longest lasting three years.

Max said leaving Switzerland to pursue a career in Singapore was a tough choice.

"I knew that it would not be easy to build up everything here again. It took me almost seven years to get what I have in Switzerland but I like the challenge," he said.

At least some ground is familiar. His *After Hours* co-star includes good friend and MTV VJ Utt.

Other members of the cast include Taiwanese singer-VJ Linda Liao and Channel 8 actress Joanne Peh.



Picture: NG XINYAO