



ROOMIE WITH A VIEW
Lamorne Morris plays
Winston on Fox's *New Girl*.

Meet the New Guy

Chicago native Lamorne Morris lives it up with Zoey. | *By Jessica Radloff* |

Considering Lamorne Morris grew up wanting to follow in Michael Jordan's footsteps, it's only fitting that the Glenbard South alum was cast as former basketball player Winston Bishop on Fox's *New Girl*. The sitcom, which returns Sept. 25 for its second season, is the perfect vehicle for the former Cartoon Network game show host and BET comic staple. Combine that with the training he received at Improv Olympic and Second City (as well as crazy antics while working at Ed Debevic's), and Morris is well on his way to TV stardom.

(MORRIS' CHICAGO FAVORITES)

SAY WHAT? I legitimately love going to Friday's. My friends are like, 'What the hell is your deal with Friday's?' I love Portillo's and Buona Beef. I also like Kingston Mines to go out and have a drink. **SPORTS MAN** I love seeing the Bulls at the United Center. I would wait outside with my buddies to get tickets in the wintertime. **LOVE FOR ALL** I love Chicago women. I love seeing shows at Second City. Plus, I'm able to perform now that I'm an alumni.

You and co-star Jake Johnson are both from Chicago. Did your paths ever cross?

We know some of the same people from Chicago, but we never met until *New Girl*. Now we're probably the closest on set.

Who is the bigger Chicago sports fan?

Jake. I'm a huge Chicago sports fan, but I'm loyal to players, while Jake is loyal to teams. When Michael Jordan left the Bulls, I became a Wizards fan, even though I still root for the Bulls. It would be the greatest thing in life if Michael Jordan could come on *New Girl*. I would forfeit a week's pay to have that happen!

Who is better with the ladies: you or your character, Winston?

Lamorne! Lamorne is much better. I'll read some of those scripts and go, 'What?! OK, all right.' We have to suspend disbelief here for a second. But I'm more successful in real life. Single, but open to ideas!

What was your worst audition ever?

I was auditioning for the role of Samuel on *Mike & Molly* in front of producer Chuck Lorre. My first audition went well, but for the callback, I was rushing and hot and sweaty and freaking nervous because Chuck Lorre is right there. As soon as I started talking, the wrong lines started coming out. I tried to backtrack, but then I screwed up that line too. I got it together at the end, but my agent had already called to say it was the worst audition they had ever seen.

How have you changed as both a person and an actor since *New Girl* premiered?

As an actor, I've gotten better at the business of it. I know what the grind is going to be like, so I know how to manage my time—even how much sleep to get. I've learned so much from Zoey, Max, Jake and Hannah—just being surrounded by such funny people. As a person, I've gotten worse [laughs]. No, I'm more responsible.

You just hosted VH1's *Do Something Awards*. What's your favorite charity?

I do a lot with my mom's church. I just shot a PSA for Keep A Breast foundation because I really, really enjoy breasts. Honestly, they're fun. I'm on the front lines, damn it. [Laughs]

What's your favorite thing to do in general?

I love naps and resting with my eyes closed.