KENNY

[aka actor Shane Jacobson]

He doesn't like to think of himself as a hero. After all, Kenny is just a plumber, installing portaloos at outdoor events – albeit one made famous in the recent feature-length Australian "mockumentary" that bears his name. Even his own father reckons he is little more than a "glorified turd burglar".

"To be quite honest, I'm not extraordinary, I'm extra-ordinary, that's the difference," says the toilet technician. "I get up, I go to work, I struggle to make a buck just like everyone else does."

Kenny is, of course, a fiction; a celluloid character hilariously brought to life by Shane Jacobson, the 36-year-old actor and comic from Melbourne's western suburbs who co-wrote the box-office hit with his brother Clayton (who directed, co-produced and played Kenny's pompous older brother).

The two brothers had first-hand experience of the film's subject matter: Clayton cleaned toilets to pay his way through film school, while Shane once worked for an event management firm that hired Splashdown, the portaloo provider that both sponsored the film and features in it.

A week ago, at the Australian Film Institute awards, Shane won a best actor gong, over Heath Ledger and Gabriel Byrne. "It's like comparing Mr Ed to Phar Lap," he joked.

The impact of *Kenny*, like many of its scenes, is real indeed. "We get messages from cleaners saying they stand a little bit prouder now," says Kenny, staying firmly in character. "That's gold, mate."

KYLIE MELINDA SMITH