

# DIRECTOR CUTS PLEA DEAL FOR DRAG RAP

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BY Michelle Caruso West Coast Bureau  
Chief

LOS ANGELES - Cross-dressing "Die Another Day" director Lee Tamahori, who was in full drag when he got pinched for prostitution last month, was sentenced to three years' probation yesterday after he pleaded guilty to a lesser charge, officials said. The 55-year-old New Zealand-born filmmaker didn't have to show up in court to cut the deal, which also requires him to perform 15 days of street cleaning or graffiti removal and attend an AIDS awareness class. "We are satisfied with the outcome," said Frank Mateljan, spokesman for L.

A. City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo. Tamahori, who helmed macho thrillers like "The Edge" and an episode of "The Sopranos," was on the stroll in a long black wig, a dress, girly makeup and accessories the night of Jan. 8 when he allegedly offered to perform oral sex on a male undercover cop, police said. Prosecutors opted for the plea deal because they believed three years probation was the maximum penalty Tamahori, as a first-time offender, was likely to receive if the case went to trial, Mateljan said. The "Mullholland Falls" director took the fall for one misdemeanor charge of criminal trespassing, while prosecutors dropped misdemeanor counts of soliciting an act of prostitution and loitering with intent to commit prostitution. Tamahori had been scheduled to be arraigned today, but his lawyer Lara Yeretsian, who works for celeb defender Mark Geragos, ducked into court unexpectedly yesterday and entered the plea. mcaruso@nydailynews.

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